

**Community Board 9
890 Nostrand Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11225**

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING
HELD ON OCTOBER 24, 2017
AUDITORIUM, MIDDLE SCHOOL 61
400 EMPIRE BOULEVARD, BROOKLYN, NY 11225**

Board Members Present

Taunglea Ambroise
Stuart Balberg
Fred Baptiste
Rabbi Yaacov Behrman
Simone Bennett
Warren Berke
William H. Boone, III
Ben Edwards
Rosemarie Evering
Tessa Vieira- Hackett
Bishop S. Gonzales-Hamilton
Aron Hershkop
Olushegun Holder
Louis Johnson
Linda Lawson
Francisca Leopold

Board Members Present

Michael Liburd
Mattijs Limberger
Carmen Martinez
Scott Novelli-Matthews
Musa Moore
Vivia Morgan
Patricia Moses
Beverly Newsome
Riel Peerbooms
Rashidah Siddiqui
Rabbi Joseph Spielman
Joyce Stewart
Debbie Timothy
Jacqueline Welch
Eve-lyn Williams

Board Members Absent

Rev. Douglas Banks
*Patricia Baker
Augustine Blackwell
Rev. Phyllis Brown
*Greg Darby
Henry Greenidge
Rabbi Nochum Gross
Daniel Ingvaldstad
Pia Raymond
Unella Rhone-Perry
Rabbi Menachem Shagalov
Aishah Smith
Rabbi Chanina Sperlin
*Ada Terry
(*Excused)

Elected Officials / Agency Representatives Present

Hon. Diana C. Richardson - NYS Assembly Member, 43rd AD
Hon. Mathieu Eugene - Council Member, 40th CD
Shirley Patterson - State Committee person/District Leader, 43rd AD
Karen Chambers - Kings County District Attorney Eric Gonzalez
Ryan Lynch – Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams
Matthew Pitt – Council Member Laurie Cumbo
Joshua Board – Assembly Member Walter T. Mosley
Gale DeGale – Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke, 9th CD
Karl Cohen - President, 71st Precinct Community Council
Primavera Vasquez, Civilian Complaint Review Board
Amanda Ritchie, Co-Founder, Brooklyn Voter Alliance

PUBLIC SESSION

Call to Order

Chairman Musa Moore called the meeting to order at 7:10PM, welcomed attendees and read the Community Board 9 Rules of Conduct into record.

Presentation: Assembly Member Diana C. Richardson

Assembly Member Richardson addressed a number of issues facing the community, including:

- Vital Brooklyn, where there is billions of dollars available to Brooklyn communities, especially housing.
- Bedford Union Armory sale, including affordability to senior citizens and the barriers in the decision-making process. The Bedford Union Armory issues ties into the increased homeless shelters in the area.
- Shop local, where businesses within CB9 will have access to resources and a directory. This is in hopes of improving on the 20% empty storefront rate.
- Civic Minded, a community event hosted by the Assembly Member, is the 4th Saturday of the month.
- The annual Thanksgiving turkey event on November 18th.
- Assembly Member Richardson open-office hours on Monday.

Public Comments on CB9's FY 2019 Community District Needs Statement and Budget Requests

Chair Moore presented the CB9 needs statement, and then offered the floor to the public for speaking.

Audience: Criticism that CB9 is still asking studies regarding upzoning where there will be increased development without complementary infrastructure (Section 7).

Chair Moore clarified that the Section 7 request has to do with addressing need generally and not for upzoning specifically.

Audience: Upzoning will lead to more difficulties for emergency service vehicles to access as well as worsening the quality of life. It is important to understand how CB9 can prevent this.

ULURP Committee Liburd stated that many of the studies and work as to do with zoning and community needs have to do with downzoning. The area is under zoned, which

results in developers finding units to legally exploit. Rezoning (especially from R6) and landmarking are the primary ways to prevent this.

Applications for NYSLA Licenses

D Avenue, LLC (dba Westbury Inn); 673 Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11225

Board Introduction: Renewal application for a liquor, wine, beer and cider license. The established was once known as D Avenue, but has changed its name to Westbury Inn. There have also been a rebrand to a 70s motif at a local bar as opposed to the promoter-oriented model in the past. There may be live music, comedy and karaoke, but it will be based on future demand. Food and delivery is also a new point of emphasis. There are a number of crimes committed inside and outside of the establishment, but they were not directly connected to the establishment and have been confirmed with NYPD.

The applicant was not present at the meeting.

Presentation on the Constitutional Convention by Ms. Amanda Ritchie, Co-Founder, Brooklyn Voter Alliance

Amanda Ritchie: The organization generally aims to increase access to voting through improving turnout and easing access to voting. Considering the following regarding the November 7th election:

- *Absentee voting*: To vote absentee, there must be a stated excuse that falls within specific categories. Disabled people, caregivers, may apply for an absentee ballot. People may apply for absentee ballots in-person via the Board of Election Office or online application. Applications must be submitted by October 31 and voting must be mailed before November 6.
- *Constitutional Convention* (ballot initiative): Whether there should be a constitutional convention to reconsider its current form. Reasons for voting in favor include easing the process for “amending” the existing constitution, which can lead to important protections. Reasons against voting in favor include greater insider access to influencing the constitution.
- *Pension Forfeiture* (ballot initiative): Should elected officials convicted of certain felonies be denied their pension.
- *Land Use* (ballot initiative): Public control to land.

Public Comment Period

Public Comments

Primavera Vasquez, Civilian Complaint Review Board: Mediates disputes between the public and law enforcement. There were 49 complaints brought within CB9 against law enforcement. The public is encouraged to remain calm when having issues with police, then report to the Civilian Complaint Review Board.

Eve-lyn Williams: The lack of CB9 representation at local events is due to there being no District Manager. This needs to be rectified. Carmen Martinez's steadfast volunteer work while there has been the hiring dispute in court should be commended. There must also be more voting engagement in general elections, especially to vote against the constitutional convention.

Elected Official & Government Agency Comments¹

Chairperson Moore recognized the elected officials, agency officials and representatives present at the meeting.

Karen Chambers, representative of the Kings County District Attorney's Office

- Hurricane Drive: Working with FDNY to collect clothing and supplies donations 350 Jay Street on Fridays (and local firehouses).

Joshua Board, representative of Walter Mosley, 57th New York State Assembly District

- There is proposed legislation to further regulate bump stocks / firing accelerants and legislation to improve cyber security.

Matthew Pitt, representative of Laurie Cumbo, NYC Councilmember, 35th District

- Participatory budgeting: contact the office to become a budget delegate with regards to \$1MM in capital funding.
- Immigration assistance is available at the District Office on Wednesdays. Contact 718-260-9191 to make an appointment.

Dale DeGale, representative of Yvette Clarke, New York's 9th U.S. Congressional District

- Diversity visa applications are now available.
- Medicare open enrollment is throughout November into December.

Mathieu Eugene, NYC Councilmember, 40th District

- Regarding affordable housing, all levels of government should cooperate to address affordable housing issues.
- There is legal assistance available at the district office.
- Regarding the Bedford Union Armory, the Council has not considered the matter yet and does not have a position on the matter. City property should be used for community housing.

¹ Elected Official & Government Agency comments are only included in the minutes when speakers discuss matters involving the agenda, specific issues in the community or events taking place following the passage of these Minutes at following month's meeting.

BUSINESS SESSION

Roll Call

Roll was duly taken, with 30 Board Members present, comprising a quorum.

September 26, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Motion to *approve the September 26, 2017 Community Board 9 meeting minutes* was duly made, seconded and unanimously approved. Motion passed.

Committee Reports

Economic Development Committee – Riel Peerbooms, Chairperson

- Shop Local: planning to work with Board Members and elected officials on the 4th annual event. Goal is for 100 businesses to participate. There will be events from late November until late December. The Committee is still looking for sponsors, partners and volunteers.

Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee – Vivia Morgan, Chairperson

- There are 19 parks in the District. The Committee would like to assess each park to determine needs.

Housing Committee – Beverly Newsome, Chairperson

- The Committee will visit the 267 Rogers shelter to see what needs they may have.
- The Committee is asking the public for ideas on upcoming housing forums and a possible housing needs directory.

Education Committee – Simone Bennett, Chairperson

- The Committee met with local schools in a principal luncheon and they have a number of budget and support requests.
- Medgar Evers Preparatory Academy is dealing with admission issues, where they may be forced to change successful existing standards. They want to maintain their current standards and regimes. The Committee plans to write a letter of support for maintaining its current practices.

Transportation Committee – Debbie Timothy, Chairperson

- Committee members discussed the half marathon that will take place in the spring and would like to reach out to New York Roadrunners to discuss community concerns.
- Design work will begin to improve the Washington-Flatbush intersection.

ULURP Committee – Michael Liburd, Chairperson

- No changes to the Bedford Union Armory. It is currently with City Planning in its current form. The Board will publish its most recent environmental study.

Health & Social Services Committee – Francisca Leopold, Chairperson

- There will be a senior symposium on March 8, 2018. The venue is pending. Topics will include safety, transportation, scam protection and access to general services.

Voting on Agenda Items

Applications for NYSLA Licenses

Motion that *the Board support D Avenue LLC's application to the New York State Liquor Authority* was duly made, seconded and approved by a vote of 23 in favor, 2 opposed and 2 abstained. Motion passed.

Chairman's Report

Chair Moore presented the following report:

- Regarding the District Manager hiring dispute, the presiding judge requested that the Board reopen the hiring process for not following proper procedure. The position has been unfilled for over 14 months. A new search committee will convene in the coming weeks and will transparently operate as appropriate.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to *adjourn the Board Meeting* duly made, seconded and unanimously approved. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Scott Mathews-Novelli
Executive Secretary
October 29, 2017