

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

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING  
HELD ON JULY 21, 2016  
CROWN GARDENS COMMUNITY ROOM  
1185 CARROLL STREET, BROOKLYN, NY 11225**

**Board Members Present**

Patricia Baker  
Fred Baptiste  
Warren Berke  
Augustine Blackwell  
Ben Edwards  
Shelia Foster-Golding  
Dr. Zorina Frederick  
Maria Hernandez  
Demetrius Lawrence  
Linda Lawson  
Francisca Leopold  
Michael Liburd  
Carmen Martinez  
Scott Mathews-Novelli  
Patricia Moses  
Beverly Newsome  
Unella Rhone-Perry  
Mary Rollerson-Blackett  
Menacham Shagalov  
Ada Terry  
Jacqueline Welch  
Eve-lyn Williams

**Board Members Absent**

Stuart Balberg  
Rev. Douglas Banks  
Yaacov Behrman  
Simone Bennett  
Rev. Phyllis Brown  
Veta May Clarke  
Jillian Drummond  
Rosemarie Evering  
Rabbi Nochum Gross  
Tessa Hackett-Vieira  
Sylveta Hamilton-Gonzales  
Kyra-Lee Harry  
Aron Hershkop  
Daniel Ingvaldstad  
Louis Johnson  
Mattijs Limberger  
Denise Mann  
Maria Molina  
Musa Moore  
Riel Peerbooms  
Pia Raymond  
Hector Robertson

**Board Members Absent**

Menachem Roitblat  
Roosevelt Rose  
Chanina Sperlin  
Rabbi Joseph Speilman  
Lorraine Thomas  
Debbie Timothy

**Elected Officials / Agency Representatives Present**

Jamal Pollard – Hon. Eric L. Adams  
Karen Crawford – Hon. Kenneth P. Thompson

Matthew Pitt – Hon. Laurie A. Cumbo  
Benjamin Azinge – Hon. Jesse Hamilton

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**PUBLIC SESSION**

**Call to Order**

Chairman Demetrius Lawrence (DL) called the meeting to order at 7:17, welcomed attendees, and read the Community Board 9 Rules of Conduct into record.

**Discussion on P.S. 221 School Safety Project**

Pat Baker (PB): The question of whether to offer a letter of support for modifications to the road near P.S. 221 has been with Transportation Committee since January. In January, the Department of Transportation presented to the Committee regarding improvements to the intersection of Troy Avenue and Empire Boulevard. The project would reconfigure the intersection for student and community members and pedestrians who are now at risk of injury from cars. This matter was on the Board agenda in February, but there was an issue regarding meeting minutes to verify the vote and it was not addressed in June

because of more pressing matters that had to be addressed. Now, the matter is up for Board discussion and vote.

PB: P.S. 221 sidewalk and road reconfiguration will create a safety zone for school area. This project is part of B41 bus route improvements to create a slow-turning lane. The Department of Transportation wants a letter of support from the Board to move forward with improvements. The Transportation Committee voted on the matter and approved.

Audience Question: Is this the improvement project for Washington/Utica transportation project?

PB: No. The plan is similar in form, but it is not related.

Karen Fleming: Against Motion. Reconstruction project will result in moving bus stop and only allowing one lane for traffic where there are now three lanes in heavy use. Today, at 2:00PM, there were traffic jams from Empire Blvd. to Lefferts Ave. Back end parking that is completed will be incorporated to solve parking issue for that block, but there is still a problem with parking scarcity due to displacement and traffic issues concerning the greater neighborhood. .

Rabbi Jacob Goldstein: Against Motion, though originally in favor. This will create increased traffic. With neck down, there is already a problem, but it will be worse with proposed changes.

ZF: I drive for a living and agree that there are already traffic issues, especially in the morning. Traffic exists all day and project will make things worse. If going up Troy with neck down, there will a great deal of traffic, more than there already is.

PB: The Transportation Committee voted for this at the beginning of the calendar year and has discussed it at a few different Committee meetings over the year. There has always been support until now.

Rabbi Shagalov: Between 12:00PM and 2PM, with no traffic, it takes about 11 minutes to get through area in question to Atlantic Avenue. When there is traffic, which is often, it can take upwards of 50 minutes to one hour.

Warren Berke: What about considering the improvements in regards to child safety?

PB: You can refer to the Department of Transportation report.

PB: At the Transportation Committee meeting, there were issues with some aspects of the project (B46 select bus service) while other aspects were supported.

Board Member Comment: There was a discussion about bringing other community board transportation committees into the conversation to have a more holistic view on how the improvements affect the community.

## **Public Comment Period**

### Public Comments

Karen Fleming: People have to stand up for their convictions and are responsible when they do not defend those things that the Board considers.

Alicia Boyd: The original and second District Manager Search Committees had different outcomes, which brings into question the process. There was an insufficient discussion about salary merits at the Executive Committee meeting this week.

## Elected Official & Government Agency Comments

DL recognized elected officials and representatives present.

New York City Councilmember Mathieu Eugene, 40<sup>th</sup> District

- Thank you to all of those who are present – members of the Board and members of the community.
- Congratulations to the new District Manager and Chair of the Board. All need to be on the same side.
- Recent Activities: Attaining funding for youth summer programs. 135,000 applications for youth in the past for only 35,000 jobs. After first year, in office, it increased 12,000 and now has 60,000 jobs. Able to create 3000 year-round jobs for youth as well.
- Last weekend, hosted picnic event and outdoor movie night.
- \$500,000 for acquisition of Maple St. Garden. It's important to allocate money for constituents.
- Applications for affordable housing are becoming available. Fighting for more equal affordable housing allocations between salary groups is vital.
  - o Audience Question: Bedford Union Armory – concerning about what is being done to create more jobs as part of the project. Based on your chairmanship, it is an issue where you could become active, even if it is not your district.
    - Response: Happy to discuss, no matter the district.
  - o Audience Question: Regarding affordable housing, can senior citizens apply for specific housing allocations where senior citizens are not?
    - Response: Happy to assist you with specific question at a later time.

## **BUSINESS SESSION**

### **Roll Call**

Roll was duly taken, with 21 Board Members present, not comprising a quorum. Due to there not being a quorum, the Board cannot vote on Board business.

DL: Because Carmen Martinez (CM) applied for the District Manager position, she cannot remain as a member of the Board and thus can no longer be counted towards reaching a quorum on any matters.

DL: Disappointed that many Board Members are not present for vote. Given CM's volunteer work at the office, we should feel an imperative to support her in earning a salary. The Board must also hire assistants to and establish office duties. Hiring is essential for the Board to function. In the meantime, I will contact OMB to see if there is way to compensate CM for her time as a volunteer. I will also see what powers there are to compensate CM.

ZF: CM has been essential in the Board operating day-to-day. Not completing the hiring process is disrespectful.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 8:25PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Scott Mathews-Novelli  
Acting Secretary  
July 25, 2016