

**COMMUNITY BOARD 9
890 NOSTRAND AVENUE
BROOKLYN, NY 11225**

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING
HELD ON JUNE 28, 2011
MIDDLE SCHOOL 61 AUDITORIUM
400 EMPIRE BOULEVARD, BROOKLYN NY 11225**

Board Members Present

Pastor Robert Ambrose
Dion Ashman
Stuart Balberg
Gwen Carter
Michael Cetera, AIA
Negous Clark
Aldith Clarke
Veta May Clarke
Josette Coicou-Brioche
Edmund Fanning
Shelia Foster-Golding
Rabbi Jacob Z. Goldstein
Theopia Green
Rabbi Gross
Tessa Hackett-Vieira
Ruby Hodge
Maurice Jean-Baptiste
Samuel Marmulzsteyn

Board Members Present

Carl Morgan
Frank Nicholas
Dwayne Nicholson
Rosemarie Perry
Gerald President
Myrtle Roberson
Karlene Robinson
Eleanor Rollins
Roosevelt Rose
Brenda Scott
Rabbi Joseph Spielman
Victoria St. Clair
Yvonne Straker
Denise Thomas
Timothy Thomas
Jacqueline Welch
Evelyn Williams

Board Members Absent

Robert Agyemang
Rev. Phyllis Brown - Sick
Julian Daniels
Brian Dean
Geraldine Dease
Shawn Francis
Charlene Gayle
Sylveta Hamilton-Gonzales
Edu Hermelyn
Aron Hershkop
Brenda Hutto-Lucas
Yaakov Katz
Demetrius Lawrence
Mary Rollerson-Blackett
Chanina Sperlin

Elected Officials/Agency Representatives Present

Hon. Eric Adams
Hon. Karim Camara – Samuel Light
Hon. Eric Adams – Reuven Lipkind
NYC Comptroller's Office – John Berman

Medgar Evers College – William Boone
Brooklyn Public Library – Gladys Scott
Hon. Letitia James – Alfred A. Chiodo
Hon. Darlene Mealy – Arna Lipkind

PUBLIC SESSION

Mr. Chris Hrones, Dept of Transportation will present the planned safety enhancements to Grand Army Plaza to improve conditions for pedestrians, motorists and cyclists.

Mr. Steve Hrones and Wendy Wade presented the project. Mr. Hrones informed that they had a joint meeting with Community Board 6, 8, 9 in April where they discussed the plans. There are a few changes in the plan.

Ms. Wade identified the traffic improvements: There will be crosswalks from the subway to the oval, to the park, and to the library; concrete ornaments with landscaping; a new signal will be added to make sure Flatbush

Avenue is not delayed. It will be coordinated with southbound Vanderbilt Avenue where it comes down the loop and empties out. There will be some greenery and some landscaping; five new crosswalks will be added.

Concrete work has already begun. Work will be done at nights so as not to impede traffic. In August the whole area will be milled and repaired between the arch and the fountain. The goal is by September to be in and out and be done (the job will be completed). The islands are in progress, the project is going smoothly. For further details go to DOT's Website: www.NYC.GOV/DOT.

Chairman Goldstein – I never thought the day would come when I would see this corrected; is a dangerous place, especially for bikers. He thanked DOT for the project is finally being underway.

Questions and Answers

Ed Fanning – Would like to know about bike paths. How will these changes impact bikers?

Stuart Balberg – Inaudible

Rosemarie Perry – Will DOT be using solar raised dots on the solid white line areas? Answer: What does that mean? What are solar raised dots? **Ms. Perry:** Like what they use in California. Answer: Is this the vacated airplane hangars where they have the solar panels? Everyone is always interested in new technology; that could be expensive.

Ms. Lindsey Ganson, Transportation Alternatives, will be presenting on a piece of legislation that would permit the City of New York to install a limited number of traffic cameras for the purpose of recording and ticketing speeding cars. Transportation Alternatives is seeking Community Board 9's support for the legislation.

Ms. Lindsey Ganson informed that she presented the legislation to the Transportation Committee; she is here tonight to bring the legislation to the entire board. The organization she represents "Transportation Alternatives" works to reclaim New York City's streets from automobiles, and advocates for pedestrians, for walking, and for the public transit system, as the best means of transportation. There are about 800 members that pay forty dollars a year in dues, and thousands of volunteers.

Ms. Ganson gave an overview of traffic safety: on an average one pedestrian is hit every hour. A New Yorker dies in traffic every 35 hours. The majority of people dying in traffic are pedestrians. Not only are people dying but also over 7,000 are injured every year. Brooklyn has had the most pedestrian accidents in New York since 2005. The accidents are happening on the wide signalized streets. The number one factor of death is unchecked speed. The Dept. of Transportation has ads running which are very effective. Ms. Ganson is here to speak about speed cameras. This is new technology in New York City that when you drive over it, it will record. It is a radar device mounted on a pole that checks your speed. It takes a picture of your license plate, it goes to the DOT and if you travel 5 miles over the speed limit a ticket will be sent to the owner of the car. This technology is being used in 13 states.

The red light camera has been successful. What she thinks is interesting is the impressive reduction in collisions, as well as the decrease in the number of tickets issued over the years. She has been visiting Community Boards regarding this piece of legislation. Transportation Alternatives works to get local laws passed. They worked to

have crash data available to the public: the number of people in the crashes, the factors, the number of violations issued, all these are now on the NYPD website.

Questions & Answers

Rabbi Goldstein – If someone is driving my car and gets a ticket speeding and a ticket is given to my car what happens? Answer: the violation is downgraded from a moving violation to a parking violation. There will be no points on the license. The maximum fine is \$150.00. Right now the maximum fine for speeding is \$600.00, plus 15 points on your license.

Rabbi Spielman – Obviously not everyone is in favor of this law for the installation of cameras.

Tim Thomas – I would like to remind everyone here that we are talking about the law.

Dwayne Nicholson – Inaudible. Answer: Yes, I mean this is only one small 40-camera demonstration to see if this technology works.

Community Resident – What about jay walking laws? Answer: **Chairman Goldstein** – In Europe especially Germany and Italy there are warning signs about a half a mile away. There is the picture of the cameras flashing. He has had experience with their cameras, he went through the signs and about two months later he received a ticket from there. He called up someone he was told that they had an agreement with the U.S. Embassy. He received a speeding ticket for \$180.00. He learned his lesson.

Chairman Goldstein thanked Ms. Ganson for her presentation.

Public Hearing on Application to the NYS Liquor Authority for a Wine and Beer License, for the following locations within Community District 9:

Midwood Angel International, Inc., 615 Midwood Street, Brooklyn, NY 11203

District Manager Pearl Miles-Lee informed the meeting that when the Board receives notification from a business in the community that they are applying for a liquor license, the board makes recommendations to the NYS Liquor Authority about the premises, whether negative or positive.

We received this application for 615 Midwood Street. The location is a two-family house situated between two buildings and is attached. The location for the planned activity is in the basement of the house. This is not the place for a wine and beer license. Over the years the location has had illegal parties that disturbed the community and residents have complained. The location has also been referred to the MARCH program. This program usually responds to complaints in a restaurant or some commercial facility. This location being a house did not fit the criteria for the program so was not investigated.

The conclusion is this: this is not the place for a liquor license. My recommendation to the Board is to deny the issuance of this application.

Mr. Godfrey October is the owner. The use is contrary to what has been said. The building is a two-family house. Some of us have gotten together to form a Caribbean organization to give scholarships to kids on the block and in the community. When the members get together which is not every night, we meet one day a

week, it is not partying every night. I would like you guys to come by. I will invite you when we have meetings to see what we have going on.”

Officer Ramos, 71 Precinct Community Affairs

Police Officer Ramos informed us that as the Community Affairs Officer his job is geared towards breaking up house parties and social clubs. He has been to 615 Midwood Street personally. It is a two-family house, there is a second private house and at the back there is a church. It is a private home why do you need a wine and beer license if you are offering children scholarships? Albany Avenue and Midwood Street is not the best place to be hanging out two and three o'clock in the morning. I would recommend that this license should not be approved.

Chairman Goldstein, I have a personal question, as a father why would I as a parent allow my children to go to a place that is doing social work and at the same time serving wine and beer? Secondly, it is a residential block, why would I as a resident on the block want my children to go there? Thirdly, the basement that people congregate can be dangerous. We hear horrible stories of fires and all kinds of things that happen in a basement. Personally, as Chairman of this Community Board, I do not think that this is the right place for such activities.

Ruby Hodge, I am a mother and grandmother, it should be written in the by-laws not to have liquor on the premises especially where children are involved.

Pearl Miles, this is not an issue of by-laws or not, this is the law. You can't have that kind of activity in a basement.

Jannie Johnson, It is against the law to have children in a basement. It is against the law to have spirits, liquor, where children congregate. You said that children come by when you have meetings that is a no, no. Take it from me it will not come through because it is bad vibes to have children and liquor in a basement.

Veta May Clarke, (a new member of Community Board 9) I have lived in the area from 1979 to the present. When I think of the basement I am sick and tired of the crowd that goes in and out of it. "Hell no!" We have an organization; we meet in a church hall every first Sunday of the month. There should be no children in the basement.

La Nueva Estrella Del Castillo Restaurant, 948 Nostrand Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11225.

District Manager Pearl Miles-Lee reported that a letter as well as a phone call was communicated to the owner regarding his/her presence at tonight's meeting. This location has had several incidents. It is a restaurant and it sells beer. There have been incidents of assault, robbery, aggravated harassment. There are too many incidents, too recent to approve the licensing of the location.

Police Officer Ramos - In the past 36 months there has been six incidents: robberies, lost credit cards, assault with a baseball bat and lost property. At the end of the night everybody gets drunk, then things happen.

Chairman Goldstein - years ago almost everyone could get a liquor license, today it is different.

Community Resident - Why do you need a license to sell beer? Do they have a license to sell beer? **Ms. Miles-Lee** – yes, they have a license; now they are renewing it, they are re-applying.

Tim Thomas - If they have a license, why are they applying for a license? **Pearl Miles-Lee** – Some premises are licensed for two years, some for one year. They are re-applying to renew their license. The first location was applying for a new license. The second one is re-applying for the license.

Tim Thomas - How much weight does the board have in all this? **Ms. Miles-Lee** said that the Board had a lot of weight, as well as the Police Department. The NYS Liquor Authority has only eight inspectors for the entire region, which includes Long Island, parts of upstate NY, all of New York City - they depend heavily upon the police and the community board for their recommendations.

Community Resident – You as the owner try very hard to prevent these occurrences at your place of business but things happen beyond your control. Should you be responsible for it? **Chairman Goldstein** - You have to create the environment for your business.

Mr. Gregory Director, Literacy Advisor, Eastern Parkway Learning Center will share information about the Brooklyn Public Library's Adult Literacy Program.

Ms. Gladys Scott advised that the Adult Literacy Program incorporates:

1. The GED program for those who did not finish high school and need the GED to get jobs, to get a promotion, or to improve their lives.
2. The Reading Program for people who want to improve their reading skills. Too many people have left the public schools and are unable to read and write. Some come to NYC unable to read & write. Too many people go unnoticed being unable to read and write.

All services are free. The problem is we are facing tremendous budget cuts. If the cuts go through we will be losing \$25 million. If the cuts go through we will lose 15 branches, in Brooklyn alone, we have 60 branches. Just think what that would mean. We will lose 800,000 computer hours that are now free. We will lose 10,000 activities for children and 10,000 events for adults. We have free health education programs, HIV, Diabetes, High Blood Pressure; these will no longer be available. Every day we are thankful for those programs. What we need you to do is to go online www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org and give your opinion to the elected officials.

Presentation of Award

Senator Eric Adams Informed that you will rarely see him at Community Board meetings and Precinct Council meetings. He receives so many letters and emails from people who can't get out that he has made it his business to visit them when he is in his district. If he is needed at a meeting, please summon him. When he knocks on people's doors they are surprised that government would take the time to visit them. People are hurting, when government officials interact with people it gives them hope. If I am not here, know that I am not on the beach somewhere; I am doing your business. The email is voiceofconcern@aol.com. I read every email, it comes directly to me, it doesn't go to the staff.

The Senator is concerned that Governor Cuomo did not pass the Millionaires Tax. There was no reason why the Millionaires Tax did not go through; this would have meant more money for New York State. Everyone else has to pay taxes except the millionaire. We got the Affordable Housing Law passed; it was extended for one year.

At this time he would like to pause to pay tribute to our District Managers from the various Community Boards. Public officials depend a lot on their District Managers. From the time he took office as State Senator he relied a lot on Pearl Miles and she reached out to him and helped as needed. Tonight he is here to present her with a proclamation for exemplary service, dated February 27, 2011. The District Manager, in thanking Senator Adams said "It is a pleasure to do my job, I enjoy it. I think it is a privilege."

BUSINESS SESSION

The business session began at 8:30 pm with 33 members present.

Chairman Goldstein acknowledged the new Board Members and asked them to stand.

Minutes of the May 2011 Meeting

The minutes of the May 24th 2011 Community Board meeting was presented for correction and adoption. Dwayne Nicholson – correction on page 2 paragraph 7 – Ingrid Martin lives on Montgomery Street. The minutes were adopted with the necessary correction on a motion by Dwayne Nicholson seconded by Ruby Hodge.

District Manager's Report

District Manager Pearl Miles-Lee reported the following:

- The building at 801-815 East New York Avenue that will provide affordable housing for special needs clients, which the Board voted on in 2008, is being constructed. It is 80% completed; the completion date is targeted for the middle of October. 60% of the apartments are for special needs and 40% for affordable housing open to people within the community. They will be doing outreach for staffing, for example: case managers, social workers, etc.
- CAMBA – the organization that will be building housing on the grounds of Kings County Hospital – will be having their closing soon.
- Nostrand Avenue Select Bus Service – The agencies would like to hear from the community. In our district the routes are on Nostrand Avenue and on Rogers Avenue, from Eastern Parkway to Clarkson Avenue. The agencies would like to know if there are any problems which the community would like to be addressed
- The post office is extending its hours from 1:30 – 3:00 pm on Saturdays for persons needing to pick up packages only.
- The Census Bureau has free computers for not for profit organizations. Contact www.computersforlearning.gov for details. For further information contact francis.e.fanning@census.gov or call 301-763-6066.
- Smokey the Bear turns 67 years old. There will be a party in Staten Island on August 7th from 1:00 to 3:00 pm at 6460 Hyland Blvd. in Staten Island. All are welcome. The party is free.

- Parks Dept is looking for volunteers to come out and keep the parks clean. There will be a meeting tomorrow night June 29th at Prospect Park Picnic House from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm.

The District Manager wished everyone a safe summer.

Committees' Reports

Transportation Committee - Edmund Fanning - (see written report)

Health and Social Services - Dwayne Nicholson - (see written report)

Youth Services - Dion Ashman (see written report)

Chairman's Report

Chairman Goldstein reported the following

- July 4th is coming up there will be fireworks; if there is a problem please call the police immediately.
- A free 4th of July Barbeque will take place at the Full Gospel Assembly, 131 Sullivan Place, Brooklyn. For further information contact Rev. Ambrose at 718-940-9687.

The Chairman acknowledged the following elected officials and/or representatives: Senator Eric Adams; Rueben Lipkind representing Senator Eric Adams; Alfred Chiodo representing Councilwoman Letitia James; Arna Lipkind representing Council member Darlene Mealy; Samuel Light representing Assemblyman Karim Camara; John Berman representing Comptroller John Liu; William Boone representing Medgar Evers College; and Richard Anderson a former member of Community Board 9.

Chairman Goldstein introduced board member, Timothy Thomas, as Chairman of the Environmental Committee.

The Chairman announced that Jannie Johnson, a former board member and Member-at-Large would be having surgery next week. Please keep her in your prayers.

The Chairman also reminded all that if there were street lights out in the community, to please call the Board Office. You may save a life.

Voting Items

Midwood Angel International, Inc., 615 Midwood St, BK 11225 Application to the NYS Liquor Authority for a Wine and Beer License.

Motion to recommend disapproval of the application was made by Samuel Marmulzsteyn and seconded by Veta May Clarke. Vote: 30 No's, 1 Abstention. The application was disapproved.

La Nueva Estrella Del Castillo Restaurant, 948 Nostrand Avenue, Brooklyn NY 11225. Application to the NYS Liquor Authority to renew a Wine and Beer License.

Motion was made by Eleanor Rollins and seconded by Edmund Fanning to recommend approval of the application to renew the Wine and Beer License. Vote: 2 – Yes; 28 No's; 2 abstentions. The application was disapproved.

Transportation Alternatives – Lindsey Ganson – Legislation to install Speed Cameras

The proposal is for CB #9's to support the resolution calling on the City to install a limited number of traffic cameras for the purpose of recording and ticketing speeding cars. Chairman Jacob Goldstein read the resolution

Stuart Balberg The speaker said the Mayor and the Police Dept are in favor of it. Listening to the resolution it said nothing about the Mayor's and the Police approval of the resolution. "I can't accept dishonesty".

Pearl Miles This is about saving lives. It is not about whether you own a car or not. You don't have to be a pedestrian to get killed by a speeding vehicle. This is not about Transportation Alternatives, it is about saving lives.

Vote: Yes – 26; No's – 6, Abstentions – 1. The resolution has the support of Community Board 9.

Nominating Committee - Maurice Jean Baptiste, Chairperson

Mr. Jean Baptiste informed that the only position to be contested in the Community Board election is the Office of Treasurer. The incumbent Treasurer Mr. Carl Morgan is being opposed by Roosevelt Rose. Mr. Jean Baptiste asked the candidates to introduce themselves and to make a brief statement as to why they were running for the position. Ballots were distributed and counted. Vote: Carl Morgan 24 votes; Rosevelt Rose 8 votes. Mr. Carl Morgan is elected Treasurer of Community Board 9.

The two Members-at-Large were asked to present themselves: **Ms. Eleanor Rollins and Ms. Karlene Robinson** are the Board's Members-at-Large.

The Nominating Chairperson cast one vote for the election of the Secretary, Shelia Foster-Golding. The Secretary then cast one vote for the election of the incumbent Chairperson, Rabbi Jacob Goldstein; one vote for Gwen Carter, First Vice Chairperson; and, one vote for Demetrius Lawrence, Second Vice Chairperson.

Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Carl Morgan and seconded by Jacqueline Welch.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shelia Foster-Golding
Secretary
September 23, 2011