Attendance of Community Board 11’s General Meeting

Held on Thursday, September 12, 2024, at the

Bensonhurst Center for Nursing, 1740 84th Street

Present: Ross Brady, Jay Brown, Angelo Bruno, Wai Yee Chan, Sal D’Alessio, Claudio DeMeo, Chung Dick, Leon Freu, Mel Garofalo, Jeffrey Harris, Ying Ko, Dr. Tim Law, Charles Lee, Donald Liao, Joseph LoMonaco, Joudi Menafah, Albert Milone, Georgette Neglia, Mohammed Nobi, Andrew Sgaglione, Barbara Shamah, Nancy Sottile, Sonia Valentin, Katherine Vero, Laurie Windsor, Yihe Zhao, Daniel Zurek, Marnee Elias-Pavia -District Manager

Absent: Victoria Cammarato-Curto, Aria Carluccio, Milly Choy, Angelo Cucuzza, Lining He, Hai Wen Huang, Roy Jung, Chi Por Li, Gabriela Lopez, Wanqiong Ruan, Sari Setton, Winton Tran, Ahmed Uzir, Raymond Wang, Robert Whittaker, Andrew Windsor, Chengghui Ye, Sai Chuen Yeung

Guests: Tambe John – New Utecht Public Library, Paul Laguerre – Brooklyn District Attorney, Patricia Capuano, Michael Chan, Thomas Hoefel – NIA, Jo Benson, Dennis DeBlasio, Carmine LoMonaco, Coleen Coccaro, Jessica Kallo – Brooklyn Borough President’s Office, Marco Errico – Rep. Malliotakis

Minutes of Community Board 11’s General Meeting

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Bensonhurst Center for Nursing, 1740 84th Street

Chairperson Laurie Windsor called the meeting to order at 7:02PM.

Captain Turner, the Executive Officer of the 62nd Precinct, had the honor of the pledge.

Public Portion

Coleen Coccaro, a resident of 81st Street, spoke regarding area residents parking their vehicles in front of the fire hydrants. She stated the cars are not getting tickets and she would like to see this issue addressed.

Carmine LoMonaco, a resident of 66th Street and 18th Avenue, stated that he uses the 311 app to call in commercial vehicles and blocked fire hydrants. He advised that he has been successful, and the precinct will respond when not on priority calls.

Jessica Kallo, representing the Brooklyn Borough President’s office, welcomed the board back from the recess. She advised that the Borough President over the summer broke ground on upgrades to the South Brooklyn Health and Hospitals Women’s Health Services Center, which he fully funded with $18 million in fiscal year 23.

She further announced the Community Baby Shower Fund which offers Brooklyn nonprofits  the opportunity to request up to $5,000 in reimbursed funding from the Community Baby Shower Fund for non-personnel expenses to host a community baby shower.

Paul Laguerre, representing Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez, advised that to provide support and resources to human trafficking victims the office will be hosting a toiletry and clothing drive on September 16-20, at 350 Jay Street. He further announced winter and spring session high school internships and upcoming events. Flyers are available and more information can be found at [www.brooklynda.org](http://www.brooklynda.org)

State Senator Iwen Chu welcomed the board back from recess and wished all who celebrate a happy moon festival. Moon cakes are a traditional food that families eat together to celebrate the mid-autumn festival, and she has brought for those who are interested.

Marco Errico, representing Rep. Malliotakis, introduced himself and advised that the office is available to assist with all types of federal assistance. Residents can visit the district office at 7716 Third Avenue or call 718-306-1620.

Win-Sie Tow, representing Councilmember Aviles, spoke regarding recently introduced legislation relating to language expansion for air complaints. She further announced that on September 14th, in conjunction with New Utrecht Library, they will conduct a community walk to identify quality of life complaints. Informational flyers are available.

Tambe John, representing New Utrecht Public Library, thanked elected officials and the community for their advocacy in reversing budget cuts. As a result, the library was able to restore all their regular service hours. She further announced programming that the library offers. More information can be found at [www.bklynlibrary.org](http://www.bklynlibrary.org)

Joyce, representing Councilmember Susan Zhuang, provided updates on scam prevention and workshops that were recently held in conjunction with the 62nd Precinct. She further announced free legal services will be held on October 1st, November 1st, and December 2nd. Those interested should contact the district office at 718-307-7131.

Captain Turner, the Executive Officer of the 62nd Precinct, addressed the illegal parking issue raised earlier and advised that officers are assigned to address these issues and will address this location.

Chairperson Windsor inquired if anyone else from the public sought recognition. Hearing none, a motion was made by Jeffrey Harris to close the public portion of the meeting. Seconded by Kathy Vero. Unanimously adopted.

Moment of Silence

Chairperson Windsor requested a moment of silence for Eileen LaRuffa, Howard Feuer, and those who lost their lives on, or from the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001.

Minutes

A motion was made by Angelo Bruno to adopt the minutes of the June 20, 2024, meeting. Seconded by Georgette Neglia. Unanimously adopted.

Chairperson’s Report

Laurie Windsor welcomed everyone back from the summer recess.  She advised that over the summer, committee assignments were made, and all board members should have received their assignments, which aligned with their areas of interest.

For planning purposes, members also received a list of the tentative dates of our monthly board meetings through June 2025.  A formal meeting notice will be sent prior to any meeting.

She reminded members of the importance of members to attend meetings; business can only be conducted in the presence of a quorum.

She sadly announced that in late June, our community suffered a great loss with the passing of Eileen LaRuffa.  Eileen was dedicated to this community and volunteered for many organizations.  We will miss her terribly.

With Eileen’s passing and the resignation of Ed Lai, pursuant to our by-laws, the Chairperson appointed Dr. Tim Law – Treasurer and Victoria Curto – 2nd Vice Chairperson to serve the remainder of their term.

Chairperson Windsor welcomed Jay Brown, who was recently re-appointed.

It appears that the Borough President revoked board member seats in the midterm due to redistricting and attendance.  Upon advice of the Law Department, those members with attendance as a factor are to be granted a fair hearing, those whose seats were revoked based solely on redistricting will be reinstated either immediately or soon as they work to resolve the matter.

Therefore, there will be changes to the committee assignments with reinstated members being onboarded.  In the next couple of weeks, we will resend the final committee roster.

District Manager’s Report

Marnee Elias-Pavia reported that she attended a multi-agency walkthrough led by the Mayor’s Community Affairs Unit, who oversees the Neighborhood Support Team program, to review the conditions on 86th Street. In particular, the oversized stoop line stands, blocked sidewalks and transit entrances, and unlicensed vending. She advised that the NST will formulate an action plan, which includes education, outreach and enforcement.

She further reported that the New York City budget cycle for fiscal year 2026 has begun with budget consultations. Preparations have begun for the capital and expense budget recommendations, and a public hearing will be held at the October meeting.

The District Manager reported that on Monday morning at about 4AM, the Department of Environmental Protection responded to a watermain break on Cropsey Avenue and Bay 37th Street and found extensive street damage and flooding. Water was shutdown and repairs were completed.

She further advised that she participated in a Community Board 10 tour of Owl’s Head Wastewater Recovery Facility, which treats our waste and stormwater. This facility treats 120 million gallons per day of wastewater and serves about 800,00 residents in its drainage area. She stated the process to treat wastewater is complex and undergoes may steps before clean water is released to the surrounding waterbody. She urged residents to not put cooking oil or flushable wipes into the system. These items create “fatbergs”, which are destructive to the system and costly to repair.

New Business

Sonia Valentin announced that the 62nd Precinct Community Council will be starting its monthly meetings in September with a date change to Tuesday, September 24, 2024, at 7PM, at the 62nd Precinct, 1925 Bath Avenue.

Chung Dick inquired if there were any updates on the 17th Avenue pedestrian bridge.

Marnee Elias-Pavia responded that no information or updates have been provided.

Ross Brady thanked the District Manager for her efforts in addressing the conditions on 86th Street. He raised a new issue of amplified sound being played on Sundays at the corner of 86th Street and 20th Avenue.

Dr. Tim Law announced that Chinese American Social Services would celebrate the mid-autumn festival on Monday, September 16th at 11AM, at 124 Avenue O. All are welcome to participate.

Sal D’Alessio inquired if there were any updates on the proposed homeless shelter at 2501 86th Street.

Chairperson Windsor advised that we sent a letter to the Commissioner requesting a public meeting, which they are required to hold. They have not responded.

Laurie Windsor inquired if there was any other new business. Hearing none, a motion was made by Chung Dick to adjourn. Seconded by Claudio DeMeo. Unanimously adopted.

Meeting adjourned at 7:41PM.