



## **MINUTES OF A REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF BROOKLYN COMMUNITY BOARD 14 March 11, 2024**

A meeting of Brooklyn Community Board 14 was held on Monday, March 11, 2024, at East Midwood Jewish Center, 1625 Ocean Avenue.

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Waqil Ahmed	Yvette Clairjeane	Shahid Khan	Nina Sabghir
Gregory Alvarez	Steven D. Cohen	Donald Loggins	Talisha Sainvil
Hindy Bendel	Elizabeth Denys	Melissa Minnich	Joel Siegel
Binyomin Bendet	Derrick Donald	Ephraim Nierenberg	Gail L Smith
Christopher Bromson	Sabina Dorville	Eric Ost	Deborah Valentin
Jo Ann Brown	Joseph Dweck	Ornella Parker	Corazón Valiente
Edward Cen	Lee Harman	Susan Phillip	Dawn-Marie Walker
Karl-Henry Cesar	Mordechai Husarsky	Tzvi Plotsker	Glenn Wolin
Florencia Chang-Ageda	Nodica Johnson	Barden Prisant	

### **DISTRICT OFFICE**

Shawn Campbell, District Manager  
Patricia Olender, Community Coordinator  
Sarah Sklaw, Community Coordinator

### **BOROUGH HALL**

Eileen Mullaney-Newman, Office of Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso

### **CITY COUNCIL**

Brian Grady, Office of Council Member Rita Joseph (40th CD)  
Avrohom Malachowski, Office of Council Member Farah Louis (45th CD)  
Izzy Weiss, Office of Council Member Inna Vernikov (48th CD)

### **DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

Nancy Lulu, Office of Kings County District Attorney Eric Gonzalez

### **STATE ASSEMBLY**

Tyesha Allen, Office of Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn (42nd AD)  
Mary Kay Seery, Office of Assemblymember Robert Carroll (44th AD)

### **STATE SENATE**

Paurcha Edwards, Office of State Senator Zellnor Myrie (20th SD)

## **OTHER GUESTS / REPRESENTATIVES**

P.O. Michael Joseph, 70th Precinct, New York City Police Department

### **I. CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair Jo Ann Brown called the March meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The Chair read the opening statement outlining the policies and procedures pertaining to Board meetings under the applicable statutes of New York State, the Charter of the City of New York, the Board's Bylaws and Robert's Rules of Order. Quorum was present.

### **II. MINUTES:**

Minutes of the February 12, 2024, meeting were approved. Copies are on file at the CB14 District Office and available on the CB14 website.

### **III. DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT – Shawn Campbell:**

The District Manager reported on her attendance at meetings and other events in the district. The DM reported on a Borough Service Cabinet meeting, the 70th Precinct Community Council meeting, and the Future of Community Boards working group. She reported on a hearing regarding the Prospect Park Lakeshore Project held during at the Borough Board meeting, at which the DM provided testimony regarding CB14's support for the project. The project was approved by the Borough Board. The DM highlighted the success of CB14's Annual Youth Conference, which was attended by hundreds of young people. She thanked those who participated in the mock interviews at the event.

### **IV. CHAIR REPORT – Jo Ann Brown:**

The Chair recognized representatives of elected officials and city agencies (see page 1).

The Chair recognized that March is national Women's Month and national Nutrition Month. She wished those celebrating Ramadan Mubarak and a happy Purim, Holi and Easter.

The Chair reported on the March 11, 2024, public hearing on the Citywide Statement of Needs for City Facilities for FYs 2025 to 2026. Board members in attendance recommended approving the comments and statement provided by DM Shawn Campbell.

**On a motion, duly made, it was:**

**RESOLVED (30-0-0) to approve the District Manager's response to the Citywide Statement of Needs for City Facilities for FYs 2025 to 2026.**

The Chair reported on the Borough Board meeting held on March 5, 2024, and thanked First Vice-Chair Karl-Henry Cesar for representing CB14 at the meeting. Business included a public hearing on the Lakeshore Waterfront restoration project in Prospect Park, for which the Board recommended approval. There was also a presentation from NYC's Independent Budget Office on the Mayor's FY 2025 budget.

The Chair noted that she approved the agency recruitment, retention, and merit fund available for managerial employees pursuant to the Mayor's Personnel Order 2024/1 and 2024/2.

The Chair announced her participation in the newly formed Brooklyn Needs Downstate Coalition, established to advocate against the closure of SUNY Downstate hospital. She signed a petition urging

Governor Hochul to reconsider the decision to close the hospital and work with stakeholders to solve the hospital's fiscal and facility problems.

The Chair announced the members of the ad-hoc Transition Committee authorized by the Board at the February 2024 meeting. The committee will be co-chaired by Ornella Parker and Steven D. Cohen and include Elizabeth Denys, Binyomin Bendet, and Jo Ann Brown. The newly elected chair shall serve as an ex-officio member. The Chair noted that there is additional room on the committee. She also announced that on March 21 the elected chair and past chair of CB14 and Brooklyn's eighteen other Community Boards will meet with Borough Hall to discuss best practices to ensure smooth transitions as board members approach term limits.

The Chair announced elections for the executive committee. The Chair spoke about her tenure, thanked Board Members, the District Manager and office staff, and reflected on achievements. She announced the following nominations: Karl-Henry Cesar, Chair; Edward Cen and Elizabeth Denys, First Vice-Chair; Hindy Bendel, Second Vice-Chair; Shahid Kahn, Third Vice-Chair; Florencia Chang-Ageda, Secretary; Deborah Valentin and Eric Ost, Members at Large.

An election was conducted via paper ballot for the role of First Vice-Chair. For all positions with a single nomination, the secretary cast a single vote. The Chair announced that the tally of paper ballots showed Edward Cen's election to First Vice-Chair (26-8). Copies of the vote tally and individual ballots are on file at the CB14 office. The new executive committee members took their seats at the front of the meeting.

Chair Karl-Henry Cesar thanked Jo Ann Brown and other former executive committee members and expressed his excitement for filling this position at the Board.

## **V. TOPICAL COMMITTEES – REPORTS AND ITEMS:**

- A) **Youth Services, Education and Libraries – Co-Chairs Karl-Henry Cesar and Eric Ost** reported on a successful 17th Annual Youth Conference. They thanked Board Members and office staff for their contributions to the event, as well as Mark Moss for video services and the family of Duane Joseph. The Chairs also announced the extended deadline for the Summer Youth Employment Program and open applications for the Summer Rising program.
- B) **Community Environment, Cultural Affairs and Economic Development – Co-Chairs Melissa Minnich and Edward Cen** reported on the February 27 committee meeting. The Department of Design and Construction (DDC) gave a presentation on the Gravesend Tributary project and plans to install green infrastructure in the District. The Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP) presented on free tax preparation programs. The Department of Sanitation (DSNY) announced mandatory trash containerization for businesses. The next meeting will be held on April 18, agenda items will include a presentation from the Parks Department on their volunteering program.
- C) **Housing and Land Use – Co-Chairs Gregory Alvarez and Talisha Sainvil** announced a committee meeting on March 18. Agenda items will include a pre-certification presentation on the City of Yes for Housing Opportunity as well as a discussion of neighborhood housing issues with representatives from the Flatbush Tenant Coalition.

District Manager Campbell noted that City of Yes for Economic Opportunity was approved by the City Planning Commission (CPC) with conditions.

- D) **Transportation – Co-Chair Joel Siegel** announced a meeting on March 26. There will be updates on capital projects and state of good repairs projects from the MTA and a presentation from the Riders Alliance on the Fair Fares NYC program.
- E) **Community Safety – Co-Chair Barden Prisant** provided a report on the 70th Precinct Community Council Meeting.
- Board Member Joseph Dweck spoke in memoriam of the late Police Chief Joseph Esposito.
- F) **Human Services – Co-Chairs Florencia Chang-Ageda and Yvette Clairjeane** announced a meeting on Wednesday April 3, at which there will be planning for the non-profit roundtable in May.

Chair Cesar thanked Wayne Rosenfeld and the East Midwood Jewish Center for hosting the board meeting.

## **VI. PUBLIC SESSION**

1. Madeline Brandfonbrener, New York Connects, discussed NY Connects' services for seniors and individuals with disabilities across New York City.
2. Nancy Lulu, Office of Kings County District Attorney Eric Gonzalez, reported on the DA's attendance at a pre-Ramadan event in the district and announced a Women's History Month Event on March 14.
3. Amanda Baker, Brooklyn Public Library, Flatbush Branch, highlighted actions that residents can take to support libraries in the face of budget cuts and announced library programming and services, including tax assistance.
4. Brian Grady, Office of Council Member Rita Joseph, reported on upcoming events and reminded homeowners about filing deadlines for tax exemptions.
5. Jay Taubman, Brooklyn Public Library, Cortelyou Branch, announced library programming and services, including the Browse the Branches challenge.
6. Tyasha Allen, Office of Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn, announced the annual Women of Distinction awards ceremony and the annual senior luncheon.
7. Paurcha Edwards, Office of State Senator Zellnor Myrie, reported on a rally to save SUNY Downstate and announced upcoming events including a housing resource fair.
8. Eileen Mullaney-Newman, Office of Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso, congratulated CB14 on the Youth Conference and relayed appreciation from Deputy Borough President Kim Council. She announced the new date for the Borough President's State of the Borough Address.
9. Avrohom Malachowski, Office of Council Member Farah Louis, reported on events held at the district office and announced upcoming workshops, information sessions and events, including the Shirley Chisholm Women of Distinction award ceremony.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT – 8:13 P.M.**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.