



## **MINUTES OF A REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF BROOKLYN COMMUNITY BOARD 14 April 8, 2024**

A meeting of Brooklyn Community Board 14 was held on Monday, April 8, at East Midwood Jewish Center, 1625 Ocean Avenue.

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Gregory Alvarez	Yvette Clairjeane	Nodica Johnson	Talisha Sainvil
Hindy Bendel	Marc Cohen	Donald Loggins	Joel Siegel
Binyomin Bendet	Steven D. Cohen	Sasha Maslouski	Gail L Smith
Christopher Bromson	Elizabeth Denys	Melissa Minnich	Deborah Valentin
Jo Ann Brown	Derrick Donald	Ephraim Nierenberg	Dawn-Marie Walker
Edward Cen	Sabina Dorvile	Ornella Parker	
Karl-Henry Cesar	Moussa Hassoun	Barden Prisant	
Florencia Chang-Ageda	Mordechai Husarsky	Nina Sabghir	

### **DISTRICT OFFICE**

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

### **DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

Nancy Lulu, Office of Kings County District Attorney Eric Gonzalez

### **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)

### **PUBLIC ADVOCATE**

Jacob Gold, Office of the New York City Public Advocate Jumaane Williams

### **STATE ASSEMBLY**

Tyasha Allen, Office of Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn (42nd AD)  
Sydney Renwick, Office of Assemblymember Brian Cunningham (43rd AD)

### **STATE SENATE**

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

## CONGRESS

Orlando Ross, Office of Representative Yvette Clarke (9th CD)

## OTHER GUESTS / REPRESENTATIVES

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

### I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Karl-Henry Cesar called the April meeting to order at 7:03 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 March 11, 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 community meetings and events. She reported that the Future of Community Boards Working Group will be collaborating with the Center for Urban Pedagogy to study the impact of term limits on CBs in the city. The DM met with the Department of City Planning to attend a training on their new platform for District Needs Statements and to discuss the City of Yes for Housing Opportunity zoning text amendment. The District Manager joined CM Farah Louis for a walk-through of Newkirk Plaza with Richard Davey, President of New York City Transit. She thanked Board Member Gregory Alvarez, former Fund for the City of New York Planning Fellow Lucy Phillips, and local historian Joseph Enright for their assistance in research and continued advocacy regarding Newkirk Plaza.

### IV. CHAIR REPORT – Karl-Henry Cesar:

The Chair recognized representatives from the offices of elected officials and city agencies (see pages 1 and 2). He wished joyful celebrations to those celebrating Ramadan and Passover. The Chair noted that there was no Borough Board meeting in April due to Primary Election Day.

The Chair reported on a public hearing held on April 4, 2024, regarding the Women's League Community Residences Inc., dba Makor Care & Services Network for a Potential Community Residence at 1328 East 17<sup>th</sup> St. A recommendation was made that the application be approved.

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

**RESOLVED (25-0-1) to recommend approval of Women's League Community Residences Inc., dba Makor Care & Services Network's application for a Potential Community Residence (Addendum 1).**

The Chair reported on a public hearing held on April 4, 2024, regarding a Landmarks Preservation Commission application for the renovation and restoration of 1100 Albemarle Road, a freestanding townhouse in the Prospect Park South historic district.

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

**RESOLVED (26-0-0) to recommend that the application to the Landmarks Preservation Commission be approved (Addendum 2).**

The Chair reported that he and Jo Ann Brown attended Brooklyn Borough Hall's biannual Community Board Chairperson workshop. The workshop addressed term limits, succession planning, the importance of committees, meeting facilitation, and procurement management. BP Reynoso acknowledged that the tone and intent of a letter sent to some longer-serving Brooklyn Community Board members regarding reappointments was not well received and Borough Hall would work on a revised letter. There was a wider discussion about applications, engagement, reappointments, and leadership.

The Chair also reported on a joint town hall held by Community Boards 9 and 17 regarding the planned closure of SUNY Downstate Hospital. Neighbors and elected officials in attendance expressed their dissatisfaction with the existing plan and emphasized that the hospital has not received adequate funding and investment. They argued that funding is needed to ensure that the hospital not only remains open but improves. Elected officials are investigating how to leverage existing state and federal funding to this end.

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

- A) **Youth Services, Education and Libraries – Co-Chair Ornella Parker** introduced herself in her new role and announced that the committee will meet next month.
- B) **Community Environment, Cultural Affairs and Economic Development – Co-Chairs Edward Cen and Melissa Minnich** announced the upcoming April 18 meeting. Agenda items will include a presentation on the Parks' Department's Lets Green NYC program. Paige Kloss, Fund for the City of New York Planning Fellow for CB14, will report on their work on flooding in the district.
- C) **Housing and Land Use – Co-Chairs Gregory Alvarez and Talisha Sainvil** reported on the March 18 meeting. Agenda items included a pre-certification presentation by the Department of City Planning on the City of Yes for Housing Opportunity zoning text amendment. The Flatbush Tenant Coalition presented on tenant organizing and housing issues and requested a letter of support regarding pending legislation on the Right to Counsel at the state level.

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

**RESOLVED (25-0-0) to write a letter in support state-wide Right to Counsel legislation for individuals in eviction proceedings in Housing Court (Addendum 3).**

- D) **Transportation – Co-Chairs Moussa Hassoun and Joel Siegel** reported on their March meeting. The MTA provided an update on capital projects and state of good repair projects. The MTA also discussed their Re-NEW-vations program, which uses planned service outages to renew stations. The Riders Alliance presented on the Fair Fares program for half-price MetroCards. Co-Chair Siegel also announced that the DOT is hosting a webinar on its outdoor dining program on April 15.
- E) **Community Safety – Co-Chairs Hindy Bendel and Barden Prisant** announced a committee meeting on May 22. FDNY will present on fire safety. The Human Trafficking Unit of the District Attorney's office will present on trafficking prevention and resources. *exalt youth* will present on their programs for youth. Co-Chair Bendel discussed a Mother's Day program for mothers in shelter.
- F) **Human Services – Co-Chairs Florencia Chang-Ageda and Yvette Clairjeane** reported on their April meeting. The Department for the Aging and New York Connects Brooklyn presented on their programs. The Committee also planned for the 2024 Nonprofit Roundtable, which will take place on May 9.

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

## **VII. PUBLIC SESSION**

1. Antonia Bramble, Brooklyn Public Library, Cortelyou Branch, announced upcoming events and services at the library and highlighted potential impacts of budget cuts on the libraries.
2. Nancy Lulu, Office of Kings County District Attorney Eric Gonzalez, announced upcoming events sponsored by the DA's office, including a prescription drug takeback event on April 26 and a youth essay contest.
3. Bessie and Alexander Kurvasky discussed the death of their child due to a malfunctioning steam radiator and requested support for mandatory radiator inspection legislation as a component of tenant safety.
4. Christopher Bromson encouraged attendees to apply for the New York Public Radio Community Advisory Board.
5. Orlando Ross, Office of Representative Yvette Clarke, announced the Congressional Art Challenge for middle- and high-school students.
6. Delon Chester, The League Center for Behavioral Health and Wellness, highlighted programs provided by the League clinic for youth.
7. Brian Grady, Office of Council Member Rita Joseph, announced upcoming events and services sponsored by the Council Member's office.
8. Jacob Gold, Office of the New York City Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, spoke about legislative developments, including action around the Worst Landlords Watchlist.
9. Avrohom Malachowski, Office of Council Member Farah Louis, announced upcoming events and services sponsored by the Council Member's office.
10. Tyesha Allen, Office of Assemblymember Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn, announced events the Assemblymember had participated in as well as upcoming events.
11. Lauren Collins, Church-Flatbush Community Alliance, announced the upcoming installation of tree guards and requested volunteers for a neighborhood beautification day.
12. Peter Maloney, South Midwood Residents Association, spoke about helicopter traffic in Brooklyn and legislative attempts to address it.
13. Paurcha Edwards, Office of State Senator Zellnor Myrie, provided a state budget update, spoke on SUNY Downstate, and announced upcoming events and services available at the senator's office.
14. Sydney Renwick, Office of Assemblymember Brian Cunningham, highlighted the Assemblymember's legislative priorities and announced upcoming events.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT – 8:26 PM.**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.