



Eric Adams
Borough President

THE CITY OF NEW YORK COMMUNITY BOARD 12

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Yidel Perlstein
Chairperson



Barry Spitzer
District Manager

COMMUNITY BOARD 12 MINUTES

HELD ON
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2019
AT
AMICO SENIOR CENTER
5901 13TH AVENUE, 3RD FLOOR
BROOKLYN, NY 11219

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

AARON KOHN
ADAM COHEN
AKIVA KIZELNIK
ALAN DUBROW
ANNA CALLI
ANNIE FERDOUS
AVI GREENSTEIN
AVROHOM WOLFSON
DAVID FRIEDLANDER
DAVID SHLOMOVICH
EDGAR GLUCK
ELLIE KASTEL
JACOB ASKAL
JACOB HASS
JACQUE FRIEDMAN
JULES FLEISHER
LILY MARINELLI
MAMNUNUL HAQ
MORDECHAI KATZ
MORRIS SENDEROVICH
MORTON PUPKO
MOSHE WEIDER
PETER RUBENWURZEL
ROCHELLE ZAMI
SAM STOBER
SHARON FUCHS
SHLOIMIE RIEGER
SOL WAHBA
YAAKOV KAPLAN
YAAKOV SCHAPIRO
YIDEL PERLSTEIN
YOEL VIZEL

STAFF PRESENT

BARRY SPITZER - DISTRICT MANAGER
ANN MARIE HONAN - COMMUNITY ASSISTANT

LIASON'S PRESENT FROM 66th PCT

PO KUKLA

CAPTAIN, ROBERT DANTONE

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

ABUL HASNAT
BERNARD FREILICH
DOUGLAS JABLON
HERSH DEUTSCH
JACOB DASKAL
JACOB EISDORFER
JEFFREY DWECK
JOSEPH GROSS
LARRY JASON
MAYER WEBER
MENDEL REINER
MONIQUE WALLACE
MYDIA DAVILA
SHLOMO HELLER
YANKY SCHIFF
YECHIEL MALIK
YERUCHIM SILBER

COMMUNITY RESIDENTS

APPOXIMATELY 22 RESIDENTS PRESENT

ELECTED OFFICIALS

TONYA L. CANTLO, REP. BP ADAMS
PINNY RINGEL, REP MAYOR DEBLASIO
PINCHUS HIKIND, REP. COMP. STRINGER
ALEX GUREVICH, REP DA GONZALEZ
ELI SLAVIN, REP. CONG. YVETTE CLARKE
YIDEL SCHONFELD, REP. CM YEGER
SHARON FUCHS & JOSEPH LANGSAM REP.
SENATOR FELDER
SHLOMO RIEGER, REP. ASSEM. EICHENSTEIN

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS – YIDEL PERLSTEIN:

- Requested everyone remain standing to hold a moment of silence for Detective Brian Simonsen from the 102nd Precinct, a 19 year veteran of the NYPD. He was killed in the line of duty on Tuesday, February 12th while responding to a call of an armed robbery in progress. Deepest condolences to his family and friends during this extremely difficult time. He will be kept in the thoughts and prayers of the board. This terrible incident serves as a reminder that the men and women of the NYPD risk their lives daily to serve and protect. The board is most grateful for that.
- The Chairman issued the following statement:
This Community Board, like the district it represents, is diverse in its membership. We reflect the people we represent and have a duty to act graciously in this spirit.
As part of our duties as an advisory and advocacy group we need the input of all our Board Members. Our Board Members come from all walks of life with ties to different interests in the district. All members volunteer because they want to make the lives of the district's residents better. And while this goal, to make things better, is the same all across the board, the ideas on the best way to achieve it is sometimes different within the membership of the board. Our diversity is one of our greatest attributes. It allows us to engage in dialogue where we need to consider different opinions. This allows us to come to a consensus that reflects the diverse needs of our district to improve the quality of life for our residents.
But, dialogue is only effective when it is open, honest and respectful. We pride ourselves on our inclusion and ability to work together, as we have done for so many years. We want to reaffirm our commitment to maintain a respectful place for open dialogue that addresses diverse needs.
To that end, Akiva Kizelnik issued an apology.

Akiva Kizelnik - Board member

- Mr. Kizelnik stated: At last month's meeting there was a heated discussion and some things were said that some members got offended by. I am truly sorry.

Anna Cali - Board Member:

- While Ms. Cali appreciated the apology, she had some remaining concerns. The January Board meeting was not heated, rather there was a civil conversation with a difference of opinions. Mr. Kizelnik stormed at the table, pointed and accused Ms. Cali of an anti-Semitic comment, therefore the apology should be directed to the person who was accused with a disgusting accusation. There were many people who stated their opinions and Ms. Cali was singled out, the disagreement had nothing to do with diversity. There was a disagreement and Mr. Kizelnik tried to shut Ms. Cali up by calling her, or the situation, anti-Semitic. If the comment was seen as saying the situation was anti-Semitic, it was still addressed to Ms. Cali. Therefore, Mr. Kizelnik at the very least should have apologized to Ms. Cali directly, not the whole board. Accusations of anti-Semitism aren't taken lightly in this time of divisiveness. Ms. Cali pointed out her long history of advocacy with Mr. Perlstein and Mr. Spitzer that has broken barriers in our neighborhoods. For someone to stand up and direct a comment like that at her is not only disgusting, it also divides people. A general statement on how the board is diverse and things are said during heated conversation is not accurate because the conversation last month was not even heated.

Yidel Perlstein - Chairman Cont.:

- Replied that the board should try to keep away from being personal in the future. He informed those present that Mr. Kizelnik spoke to him before the meeting and said he wanted to do a more extensive apology in person to Ms. Cali in private after meeting
- Informed the Board that in an effort to address the recent rise of anti-Semitic attacks in NYC and beyond, Mayor de Blasio held a rally against anti-Semitism on February 14. The gathering was attended by many elected officials, community activists and high ranking police officials, including Councilman Kalman Yeger and Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein. Hate crimes are up 81 percent from last year. There have been 49 hate crime complaints as of February 12th throughout NYC, of which two-thirds have targeted the

Jewish Community. The Mayor said “New York City will never be silent in the face of hatred.” Councilman Kalman Yeger & Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein both applauded de Blasio for all his efforts on condemning anti-Semitism. Community Board 12 would like to thank the Mayor, Councilman Yeger and Assemblyman Eichenstein for all their support and especially for being so vocal in the fight against anti-Semitism.

Jacques Friedman - Board Member:

- Proposed a motion to say the statement the Chairman made is from the whole board, not only from the Chairman. The intent was to show Anna Cali that the whole board backs up the statement and was happy to discuss this. Everyone on the board was concerned and Mr. Kizelnik understood what happened and that he felt bad about. And sometimes a few words can slip out that shouldn't be said.

Yidel Perlstein - Chairman:

Motion made by Jacques Friedman for Board-Wide approval and support of the chairman's statement.

Motion seconded by Moshe Weider.

VOTE TAKEN: UNANIMOUS

MOTION PASSES

- Informed the board of the sad news of former Board Member Dr. Stanley Sussman's passing. Community Board 12 sends condolences to his loved ones.

PUBLIC SESSION:

Piera Jimenes - Resident:

- Expressed concern about what is happening to the beautiful city of New York.
There have been issues with the MTA trains and buses, but lately there has been outright abuse. On the F line, during non-rush hour 5-6 F trains have been observed passing by empty, one after another. Then last Sunday on a visit to her grandchild she waited over 35 minutes for the N train as 3 other trains passed by empty. The station was crowded with commuters waiting for trains.
- The buses have the same situation. In Boro Park on Sundays, which is quiet, the buses are empty and continue to run. The MTA wants to raise the fare, instead they should stop wasting money in extra transit during non-rush-hours.
- The drains at 48th street and 19th Avenue are clogged. This leads to ponding and mosquitos in the summer.

Richard Navas - Resident:

- Followed up on old business he brought up at last month's meeting regarding a high rise building in development at 43rd street and Ft. Hamilton. The January minutes did not mention the request for the board to notify the neighborhood at least 30 days prior. The request should be sent to city hall at least when there is construction of an 18 story building.
- Advised the Board that if a gentleman makes some remark to lady in open forum he should be man enough to apologize in front of everyone.
- Requested information on how to sign up for notification regarding vehicle towing, per the discussion at the last board meeting that such notification be provided. Perhaps this information can be provided at the next meeting.

Yidel Perlstein - Chairman-

- Replied to Mr. Navas that in past instances of increased enforcement, whether for Vision Zero or otherwise, NYPD would send out a tweet. Residents wanting information should follow the 66 precinct on twitter.

Kate Ustrzycki - Resident:

- Apologized for missing the previous month's meeting.

- Ms. Ustrzycki said the reason she keeps talking about the school is because the residents have no access to the school. They can't address the issues directly with the school because it is not open to the public. Regarding the garbage situation, they are asking to move garbage from the residential street to the commercial street. The fence the school put up doesn't work because it doesn't cover the stink. She compared to the situation to one where you take shower and dress in same cloths, you'll still stink. Therefore, she wants no trash at all on Clara Street, not only during pickup days.
- The kids were throwing things from window. There is nothing the neighbors can do. The super of her building showed her pictures of piles of garbage behind her building. He doesn't want to clean the yard anymore because of this.
- The school buses from the school were still problematic. It should really be easy to fix, but apparently not. Sometimes 2-3 times a day they block the streets for 15-25 minutes. The engines are running and residents can't move out their cars. They shouldn't be able to close the streets they don't understand that others need access.
- The school leaves buses parked overnight which doesn't leave parking for others.
- When there is snow no one will clean Clara Street.
- The entrance for the kids is next to people's apartments. It was supposed to be in the front of the school like the plan was all along. This is especially problematic. Sunday morning at 7 AM the kids make a lot of noise. The neighbors spoke to Rabbi Welz and he promised to keep buses away, but they must also change entrance.

Barry Spitzer - District Manager:

- Pointed out that Ms. Ustrzycki did not call the office when she noticed these occurrences. Residents are advised to call the office every time something happens so we can try to help. Georgette has called and we tried to help her.

If there is problem every day she can call every day. The problem may be over by the time the meeting takes place. If a bus is blocking the street we can take care of it in real time. We know of this ongoing issue, but calling right away allows us deal with it in real time.

Michael Fox - Resident:

- While Mr. Fox didn't know the previous resident he came regarding the same issue, which is truly a daily problem.
- The problem of busing has become pervasive these last 10 years he has been living on Chester Ave. The amount of buses on the road has exploded. Chester Avenue is a residential street; the difference between residential and commercial is distinct. NYC public schools pick up students at designated bus stops and the students walk to it. On his street students get picked up and dropped off at their door. That means that on any day, including Sunday morning, these diesel engines are roaring, the doors fly open and the kids scream. There is a lot of noise pollution and diesel pollution. Safety is also an issue. The vast majority of kids on buses are standing up; it is so unsafe for the kids on the bus. They blow the stop sign at Chester Avenue routinely. They come around to Chester and zoom around. It's dangerous for the kids on the bus and the people in the street. Mr. Fox was emphasizing the quality of life issues. The noise pollution and diesel fumes. He hopes the board can help regulate school bus stops. Students should be picked up on the main streets; 12th Ave, 36th street, Dahill Road and McDonald Avenue where public school kids walk to. This is something that is achievable with private buses. He hopes it will be considered.

Anthony Loum- on behalf of the Brooklyn Public Library:

- There is a Multi- branch exhibit on the Jewish Refugees in Shanghai. Participating Locations are: Central Library, Mapleton Branch, Borough Park, and Kensington.

This exhibition includes images and ephemera of European Jews who were displaced during the war, films and lectures about their time in China, and a discussion about their eventual emigration to the United States.

When Adolf Hitler came to power in Germany in the 1930s and 1940s, he issued a series of anti-Semitic decrees, depriving Jews of their civil rights. With the outbreak of WWII, many Jews chose to flee their hometowns and a considerable number of them took refuge in Shanghai, China – a city they could travel to without a visa. Around that same time, students from the Mir Yeshiva in Vilna, Lithuania, also made their way to the Far East to escape the Nazi regime, setting up yeshivas in their new home. These same students – and their families – immigrated to Brooklyn, NY, following Japan’s surrender in 1945.

This exhibit is part of the multi-branch Jewish Refugees in Shanghai Incubator program series, and is put on in collaboration with the Amud Aish Memorial Museum and the Shanghai Jewish Refugees Museum.

Flyers were available for those interested

- There will be free online tax help. The Food Bank, in partnership with the NYC Office of Financial Empowerment and the Brooklyn Public Library, can help file taxes electronically for free.

Participants must have:

- A valid email address and basic computer skills.
- Social security number or an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number for all the names on the return. This includes dependents.
- Birth dates for everyone on the return.
- Wage and earning statement form employers: This is Form W-2, Form W-2G, 1099-R
- Proof of any other income, e.g. lottery winnings.
- Total paid for childcare provider and the provider’s taxpayer identification number or SSN
- Bank account and routing numbers if directly depositing refund. These numbers can be found at the bottom of checks.
- If health insurance was purchased through the Marketplace, bring Form 1095-A and dependents proof of income, if applicable.

Georgette Conroy- Resident:

- The other gentlemen spoke very eloquently regarding the Clara Street School, she also lives nearby. The bottom line is the school is not receptive and is not a good neighbor. When one problem is resolved they get into another problem. At the end of the day the garbage and the buses are problematic. She called because it continued to be a problem, not every day but intermittently. The school says that there are people who block their designated parking spot. It’s the schools problem to have these cars ticketed and towed. They have the responsibility to make their system work.

Barry Spitzer- District Manager:

- The school has reported this to the police.

Georgette Conroy- Resident:

- Every day there are cars parked at the school. And the garbage is still a problem with being in the wrong spot. It just goes from one problem to another. The school does not care about the neighbors
- While Georgette doesn't know what the answer is, there must be other people that do as this is a quality of life issue.

Grace Genko- Resident

- Commented regarding the video of car in sidewalk that was passed around, she felt bad that it happened because she said at many meeting that cars will drive on the sidewalk and cut cars off. She said that cars park horizontally and go in between spaces. She keeps saying this and nothing gets done. Now there is a second video of a car driving on the sidewalk. In the first video those kids almost got hurt even though there was a man there trying to help them. The use she is also bringing up isn’t an issue that we can try to be politically correct about, but some people drive cars and don’t speak or read English. Some post office workers don’t either. How can someone drive without reading English and not knowing what traffic signs say? They don’t realize that by Shop Rite there are 3 way traffic stops. Just because the lights turn green you still need to delay a bit. And some drivers will just keep right on going. When she tries to tell them to wait because there is a kid or a mom they’ll just stare uncomprehendingly.

- Another thing Ms. Genco is concerned about is the project in the ShopRite parking lot where condos are being built. There was an ownership change midway and now they are building from 19th Ave all the way to the end of ShopRite over 100 apartments. There are at least 3-4 little girls and boys schools in the area. And with all these new children there will be new bussing for these over 100 apartments. There will be extra cars that need parking spaces. Was the water and sewer addressed? And the electricity? Can the infrastructure contain a building like that? And who in their right mind would allow such a project in the parking lot of ShopRite? There is a little girls' school on 51st Street. And a boys' school down the street. Can somebody stop them? At least until they complete all the thing proper sewage, proper electricity. (Ms. Grace's time was up)
- Complained that she comes to meetings every month and repeats herself. The Community Board is in charge, and the development project will continue onto another stage.

Yidel Perlstein- Chairman:

- Replied to Ms. Genco that the project was approved over 15 years ago. She can reach out to the Department of Buildings. The plans must have had proper approvals and proper guidelines in order to get approved by the building department. This can be discussed after the meeting.
- On February 20th a car drove on the sidewalk where small children were getting off the school bus and could have been injured. NYPD has towed the vehicle and is still investigating this issue. Members should please pass around the message to friends, family and neighbors that it doesn't pay to be a few minutes early by endangering the lives of children. Everybody just needs to calm down a little. Everyone should also remember that almost everything is on camera today.

Avi Greenstein - CEO of Boro Park Jewish Community Center

- Informed all present that the Boro Park JCC, currently located at the Boro Park Y on the 3rd floor has many services available to anyone, as indicated in flyers at the table. There are many services, and it is open to anyone. JCC is eager to help all.
- HEAP assistance is available until April and can help with heating bills and emergency heat.

Ellie Kastel - Executive Director on behalf of the Boro Park Y:

- Ellie Kastel introduced herself as the executive director of the Y
While there were many blogs and rumors floating around that the Y is closing down, she is here to set the record straight. The Boro Park Y is not closing. The Boro Park Y was first opened in 1908. The building is over 100 years old and serves all members of the community. This space is a voting center. It is the home of two senior centers. Mr. Greenstein has space in it for the JCC.
But the building is quite old. And while many use the building, not many support it. The only way to upgrade the building to a state of the art facility is to do a property swap. Therefore the Y is in negotiations with Bobov 45 – Machna Shalva, to swap spaces so the Y can build a state of the art facility.
- Ms. Kastel will advise the board when the time is closer and negotiations are complete.
- Ms. Kastel opened the floor to questions.
- A Board Member requested the site of the New Location:
- Ms. Kastel advised that the proposed location is at 52nd Street and new Utrecht Avenue where the former Armon Terrace was located.

ELECTED OFFICIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES:

Tonya Cantlo Representing Boro President Eric Adams:

- Ms. Cantlo let the Community Board Members know that applications were due February 15th and anyone needing to see if there application has been approved can discuss this with Ms. Cantlo after the meeting.

- There will be an interagency council on Aging to educate seniors on how to protect themselves from potential Medicare and Medicaid abuse. The event will take place on February 27th, at 10 am, at the Brooklyn Shore Front Y.

Elected officials and Representatives Cont:

- The Mayor's Office was represented by Pinny Ringel.
- Comptroller Scott Stringer was represented by Pinny Hikind.
- Representative Yvette Clarke was represented by Eli Slavin.
- Councilman Kalman Yeger was represented by Yidel Schonfeld.
- Senator Simcha Felder was represented by Sharon Fuchs and Joseph Langsam.
- Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein was represented by Shlomie Reiger.
- The 66 precinct was represented by Captain Dantone.

Captain Dantone Representing the 66 precinct:

- Notified the Board that there were lots of reports of property crime. No one should leave property in their cars. No jewelry, credit cards or large amounts of cash.
- There are lots of new cars with keyless entry. Anyone with such a car should be cautious not to leave the key in their car. There is a rash of vehicular theft with these cars as they are easily stolen. The keys should be brought inside.
- There is an issue with burglary particularly along Ocean Avenue. Mind your neighbors and you're your windows, especially near a fire escape.

Elected officials and Representatives Cont.:

- The 66 precinct was represented by Community Affairs Officer Kukla

Yidel Perlstein - Chairman Remarks Cont.:

- Issued a reminder to turn clocks ahead one hour because Daylight savings time starts Sunday, March 10th. Batteries in smoke detectors & carbon monoxide detectors should be switched as well. Batteries were available at the Community Board office for free.
- The Chairman wished everyone who celebrates a Happy Purim. Advised that all agencies were instructed not to work during Purim, especially National Grid.
- The next board meeting will be Tuesday, March 26th

Elected officials and Representatives Cont.:

Alex Gurvich Representing District Attorney Eric Gonzales:

- Mr. Gurvich Followed up on what the Chairman said regarding the rally the mayor held against anti-Semitism. This issue is very important and is taken very seriously at the Brooklyn DA's office. At the end of 2018, DA Gonzales announced the expansion of the Hate Crimes Unit. He allocated a number of new ADAs to respond to hate crimes and to work with the hate crimes task force of the NYPD in order to prosecute hate crimes as they arise. The DA remains committed to this issue.
Unfortunately there were a number of incidences so this is an initiative the DA remains focused on going forward. Unfortunately anti-Semitism and other issues of race exist and the Hate Crimes unit office will continue to handle these.
- Mr. Gurvich opened the floor to questions.

Jacques Friedman- Board Member:

- Asked how to get a response for a letter sent to the DA's office addressed to a specific person. Mr. Friedman addressed a letter to Mr. Gurvich and when he called the office nobody could figure where that was.

Mr. Gurvich Representing District Attorney Eric Gonzales:

- Advised Mr. Friedman to use his personal contact information to reach him directly.
- Mr. Gurvich asked if there are any questions regarding the Hate Crimes Bureaus.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT - SHLOMIE REIGER:

- The Nominating Committee met within the prior month to discuss the nomination of a slate to serve as the executive officers of the board for the next 1 year term. Before meeting the committee was informed by Mr. Moshe Weider that he will not be seeking reappointment to the position of First Vice Chair. After discussions, the committee agreed that the current executive officers were doing an excellent job and so voted unanimously to reappoint them for the next term.
- Committee member Yaakov Kaplan asked the committee to consider him for the vacated position of First Vice Chair. The committee agreed. Mr. Kaplan left the room while the committee discussed his nomination. Afterward the committee voted unanimously to nominate Mr. Kaplan as the First Vice Chair. Mr. Kaplan recused himself from that vote.

The slate presented was:

- Chairman: Mr. Yidel Perlstein
 - First Vice Chair: Mr. Yaakov Kaplan
 - Second Vice Chair: Mr. Yeruchim Silber
 - Secretary: Ms. Anna Cali
- Mr. Reiger opened the floor for nominations.
 - Being that there were no nominations from the floor the nominations were closed. Article 8 Section 3 of the Board's bylaws states: In the event the slate or anyone on the slate is unopposed, the chairperson shall direct one vote to be cast to elect the unopposed slate or nominee.
 - The Chairman directed Moshe Weider to cast a vote.
 - Mr. Weider voted for the approval of all nominees.
 - The motion passed.
 - Mr. Reiger thanked all his colleagues on the committee: Yaakov Schapiro, Motty Katz, Monique Wallace and Yaakov Kaplan for their work on this committee and congratulated the re-elected and newly elected executive officers and wished them success on their new term.

Yidel Perlstein- Chairman:

- Thanked all his colleagues and congratulated his colleagues. He expressed appreciation for the chance to serve another year. He asked that he be contacted if there is anything he can do. He hoped every year should be like the first year.
- Moshe Wieder is declining reappointment to the Board after 22 years of service. He will be missed and leaves behind big shoes to fill.
- Mr. Weider was presented with a citation from the city for perfect attendance for last year.

Moshe Weider - Board Member:

- Expressed gratitude to the Chairman, Yidel Perlstein, the entire executive committee and to the entire board. It's been an honor and pleasure to have served and he wished the rest of the board continued success
- The reason he requested non-reappointment is because he will be moving to Nassau County at end of year and wanted the new year to begin with an appropriate slate to serve with continuity.

Yidel Perlstein- Chairman:

- Polls will be open until 9 so anyone who has not voted can and should still vote.

ADOPTION OF JANUARY MINUTES:

MOTION TO ADOPT JANUARY MINUTES
MINUTES ADOPTED

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REMARKS:

Barry Spitzer- District Manager:

- Informed all present that upon the Board's request, due to Grace Genco's request, the Community Affairs Division of the Department of Sanitation (DSNY) would send a representative to the March Board Meeting. Board Members and residents will have the opportunity to have their concerns addressed. DSNY does not usually attend board meeting because of different scheduling. DSNY does not work at night. But they did offer a community affairs liaison. This liaison won't be from local garage but from main garage.

Grace Genco- Resident:

- Wanted to know if he will know issues.

Barry Spitzer District Manager:

- Replied that the intent of the representative coming to the board meeting is to address issues. The Community Board office routinely works with DSNY, which responds to concerns. This liaison will be a direct contact from DSNY.

Morty Pupko - Board Member:

- Asked if according to the city charter every agency needs to have a presence in the Community Board and must have someone attending the District Services Cabinet Meeting.

Barry Spitzer- District Manager's Remarks Cont.:

- Advised Mr. Pupko that he is correct that agencies are obligated to have representation at the District Services Cabinet Meeting, but not at the monthly Board Meeting. The DSNY policy is not to attend public meetings. Only a community affairs liaison can attend because others are not authorized to speak on behalf of DSNY. The District Services Cabinet meeting is not open to the public or to Board Members.
- However, any concerns can be brought to the district manager who will bring the concern to the District Services Cabinet Meeting.
- The MTA re-vocalized their intent to make the subway system more accessible following the tragic death of a mother who fell down stairs at a Manhattan subway while pushing her child in a carriage. The Community Board embraced this opportunity to push for something it has been actively fighting for many years: accessibility on 50th Street D line station & 18th Avenue F line station. The MTA as part of the Fast Forward program has plans to make the subway system more accessible starting with the 100 key stations. These key stations were categorized in 1994 based on 5 categories: ridership level, transfers between lines, transfers between different modes of travel, proximity to major activity centers, and whether the stations were at the end of a subway line. Unfortunately, none of the stations in our district were categorized as a key station in 1994. But with this opportunity we have successfully advocated accessibility in our district. The timeline depends on funding, but the MTA has agreed to include our district in the next 50 stations to make accessible once they are done with the Key Stations. The MTA is currently making the 62nd street station, with access to the D line and the N line, accessible.
- The Board advocated for the 50th street station because of its proximity to Maimonides Medical Center (MMC). The MTA advised that the 62nd street station has 5200 daily riders and the 50th street station has 2100 daily riders. The MTA has said they would take the proximity to MMC into account. The MTA has a long term plan to not have any 2 consecutive stations without an elevator.
- Mr. Spitzer thanked the Board Members who have been consistently approving the District Needs that included the need for accessibility.

- The accessibility is something that has been an active advocacy project for years it is gratifying to see some real movement in the right direction that will have a positive influence on the quality of life of our residents.
- Community Board 12 will be featured in the Boro President's quarterly paper, **One Brooklyn**, everyone should look out for it.
- In previous years there has been a scramble to the last minute to finish up all permits for Passover containers. This year, in order to avoid the scramble, the Board Office sent out an email in December to every merchant who in the past applied for permit. They were advised that applications submitted after January will not be. Therefore, all permits are filed and the process is running smoothly now. So now we will have a complete list of who filed for a container rather shortly.

OLD BUSINESS:

Jacques Friedman- Board Member:

- Pointed out previously that a judge can have no stenographer to keep record in court and can deny the right to a litigant in a case to speak. The district manager mentioned at the last month's Board Meeting that he would be in contact with the Borough President via letter about this. Mr. Friedman would like an update on what has been done.

The District Manager replied that no letter was sent because he reached out to the Borough President's office. The Borough President's office, as a city agency, has no jurisdiction over the Courts, a state agency. Mr. Spitzer is waiting on more information and will inform Mr. Friedman when he gets it.

NEW BUSINESS:

MEETING ADJOURNED.

Respectfully submitted by: Gittel Fekete