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# Canarsie Blue Jays Are Back!



Photo courtesy of P.S./I.S. 66  
Story on page 6



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An Independent Newspaper Since 1921

*We are not affiliated with any other news organization or publication.**Established by Walter S. Patrick and Lester J. Stillwell on April 22, 1921  
Reorganized by Walter S. Patrick in 1923*

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Photographers**Join The Community Board!****By Jibreel Jalloh**

As residents of Canarsie, we are at the heart of an ever-evolving community, rich in diversity and spirit. Our neighborhood, like many others, faces its unique challenges and opportunities. One of the most powerful ways we can influence the direction of our community is through active participation in local governance. This is where the role of community boards becomes crucial, and right now, there's an open invitation for each of us to step up and make a difference.

Community boards are the grassroots level of city government. They play a pivotal role in shaping decisions on local development, budget allocations and community welfare. From street cleaning to rezonings, these boards have a say in almost every aspect that affects our daily lives. Yet, many of us might not be fully aware of their impact or how to get involved.

The application season for community boards is upon us, and the process is more accessible than you might think. There's no need for political connections or specific expertise – just a genuine care for our community and the willingness to dedicate some time each month. Whether you're a public school parent, a renter, a young person or someone who simply wants to see positive

change in Canarsie, your voice is needed.

The diversity of our community board should reflect the diversity of our neighborhood. Every perspective, from every walk of life, enriches the board's understanding and decision-making. It's especially important for underrepresented groups to be heard, ensuring that decisions made are inclusive and beneficial for all.

Joining a community board might seem daunting at first, but it's an enriching experience. It's where you learn about the intricacies of city governance, advocate for necessary changes and, most importantly, meet and work alongside fellow community members who share a similar passion for making Canarsie a better place.

If you're considering applying, I encourage you to attend a board meeting (the next Community Board 18 meeting will take place on Wednesday, December 20th, at 1097 Bergen Avenue). Witnessing the discussions and decisions firsthand will give you a clearer picture of what to expect. Remember, this is more than just a voluntary position – it's a chance to shape the future of our neighborhood.

As we look forward to a brighter future for Canarsie, let's take this opportunity to become active participants in shaping it.



Your involvement in the community board can lead to meaningful changes and a stronger, more united community.

The deadline for this cycle is February 19, 2024. You can find more information and the application at [www.brooklynbp.nyc.gov/community-boards/](http://www.brooklynbp.nyc.gov/community-boards/)

Jibreel Jalloh created a Canarsie-based advocacy organization that has fought for a range of investments, including ferry service and anti-gun violence programs. Jibreel graduated from Baruch College (CUNY) and is currently pursuing a master's degree at New York University. He's worked in the office of multiple elected officials including Public Advocate Jumaane Williams and Congressman Hakeem Jeffries. Jibreel is a member of Community Board 18. Learn more at [theflossy.org](http://theflossy.org) or send him an email at [team@theflossy.org](mailto:team@theflossy.org).

**Second Shooting in Canarsie Within One Week****By Lloyd Mitchell**

A female gunshot victim is recovering after being struck by a stray bullet that pierced the window of her Canarsie home Tuesday morning.

Officers from the 69th Precinct arrived at 923 East 102nd Street, between Flatlands Avenue and Avenue J, where they found the 29-year-old victim with a gunshot wound to the right leg and left arm around 7:15 a.m. The Canarsie mom was getting her daughter ready for school when she heard three gunshots, one of them striking her. She

was taken to Kings County Hospital in stable condition, police said.

Members of the Evidence Collection Team processed 12 shell casings at the scene. Detectives are looking for an unknown male who was wearing a red hoodie and gray sweatpants at the time of the shooting. He fled in the alleyway behind the CVS store located on Flatlands Avenue.

No arrests have been made, and an investigation is ongoing.

Anyone with information regarding this shooting is asked to call the

NYPD's Crime Stoppers Hotline at 800-577-TIPS (8477) or for Spanish, 888-57-PISTA (74782). The public can also submit their tips by logging onto the Crime Stoppers Website at [crimestoppers.nypdonline.org/](http://crimestoppers.nypdonline.org/), or on Twitter @NYPDTips. All calls are strictly confidential.

**What's Happening!****Thursday, December 14th**

69th Precinct Sector B Build the Block Meeting  
Consuming Fire Ministries, 9623 Avenue L – 7 p.m.  
Discuss public safety concerns affecting Sector B.

**Saturday, December 16th**

69th Precinct Community Council Toy Giveaway  
69th Precinct, 9720 Foster Avenue – 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

**Saturday, December 16th**

Off the AVE Foundation Annual Toy Giveaway Party  
Hosted by Black Chip Kin Clothing  
Canarsie Library, 1580 Rockaway Parkway – 1 to 5 p.m.  
Call 929-340-0082 for more info.

**Saturday, December 16th**

Kings Plaza – Canarsie Kiwanis Presents Winter Wonderland  
Bayview Community Center, 5955 Shore Parkway – 4 p.m.  
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[rich@urgly99@aol.com](mailto:rich@urgly99@aol.com) or [Terri@tdonald@milldev.org](mailto:Terri@tdonald@milldev.org).

**Sunday, December 17th**

Senator Roxanne Persaud Toy Distribution and More!  
1222 East 96th Street – 2 to 5 p.m.  
Ages: Toddlers to 14 years old  
Child must be present – while supplies last.  
Bring your camera and take a picture with Santa!

**Tuesday, December 19th**

John Malone Community Center Holiday Lighting  
2331 Bergen Avenue – 3:45 p.m.  
Caroling, ornament decorating, hot chocolate and refreshments.  
Performances by P.S. 312, P.S. 236 and I.S. 78 students

**Tuesday, December 19th**

Christmas Tree Party for Ukrainian Refugees  
3586 Nostrand Avenue – 7 p.m.  
For children 3 years and older  
For more info, call 917-586-1167

**Keep Us In-The-Know!**

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## Mural of Slain Rapper Pop Smoke Defaced



Artist Kenny Altidor receives help from Police Officer Woods to restore vandalized mural.

**By Brenda Cox**

Anyone walking along the East 80's on Flatlands Avenue is bound to notice the artwork of muralist Kenny Altidor whose creations grace the exterior of several businesses along the bustling shopping strip. One of his masterpieces, a mural of slain hip-hop rapper, Pop Smoke, is emblazoned on the exterior of a CTown supermarket located at 7924 Flatlands Avenue.

Pop Smoke, whose actual name is Bashar Barakah Jackson, was born and raised in Brooklyn but moved to Los Angeles to pursue his career as a hip hop artist. That dream was cut short on February 19, 2020, when he was brutally slain in a home invasion. Altidor painted the mural of the slain rapper, alongside that of DMX's and George Floyd's, three years ago. Sometime on Friday, December 1st, the mural was defaced. Authorities are not sure how many vandals



Sue Koush, owner of CTown Supermarket, speaking with police.

were involved in smearing blue paint and scribbling profanities on the face, neck and chest of Pop Smoke's mural but hope that surveillance footage from nearby businesses will provide them with a clue.

"This is part of Pop's legacy!" said Socrates Jeangilles, a community activist and fan of the slain artist, who seemed disturbed by the incident. Pointing to the vandalized mural, he added, "We have to figure out a way to do something different."

Altidor devotes much of his time to painting murals of "fallen NYPD officers, FDNY, hip-hop artists and African-American leaders all over the city" as a tribute to them, their grieving families and fans. On December 5th, with a little help from some fans, including 69th Precinct Community Affairs Police Officer Woods, he restored Pop Smoke's defaced mural.

## Man Shot in the Back Near Home on East 96th Street



**By Lloyd Mitchell**

A victim of gunfire is expected to recover after being shot in front of 1570 East 96th Street last week.

Police said a 34-year-old Hispanic male was shot once in the back outside the home, located off of Avenue N, around 3:55 p.m. on Thursday, December 7th. Detectives from the 69th Precinct could be seen canvassing the area for evidence of gunfire.

The victim was taken to Brookdale Hospital in stable condition.

No arrests have been made, and an investigation is ongoing.

Anyone with information regarding this shooting is asked to call the NYPD's Crime Stoppers Hotline at 800-577-TIPS (8477) or for Spanish, 888-57-PISTA (74782). The public can also submit their tips by logging onto the Crime Stoppers Website at [crimestoppers.nypdonline.org/](http://crimestoppers.nypdonline.org/), or on Twitter @NYPDTips. All calls are strictly confidential.

### East New York

## Firefighters Quickly Douse Kitchen Fire

**By Lloyd Mitchell**

Firefighters quickly snubbed out a fire in a private dwelling on Tuesday, December 5th.

Units responded to 1036 Barbey Street, between Wortman and Cozine Avenues, just after 7:25 a.m. About 50 Fire Department personnel fought a fire that started in the kitchen area of the home's second floor, using one hose line to knock down the main body of fire. Searches throughout the building were negative. One resident suffered minor injuries. The blaze is under investigation by the FDNY Fire Marshal's office.



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# Capital Improvements, Curriculum Update and Attendance Discussed at CEC18 Meeting

By Amanda Salazar

With one of the biggest shows in attendees yet this school year, Community Education Council 18's (CEC18) December 4th meeting included a visit from the School Construction Authority (SCA), which handles the Department of Education's (DOE) construction budget and planning.

CECs are education policy advisory bodies that review and evaluate their district's educational programs. CEC18 is made up of parents of District 18 students, which includes Canarsie and East Flatbush. Monthly meetings are held at the District's office at 1106 East 95th Street.

Yvette Knight, director of external affairs for the SCA, presented the current 2020-2024 five-year fiscal plan and then the next five-year plan for 2025-2029. The current plan's budget is \$19.4 billion.

The money in these plans is broken into three overall categories. Capacity includes projects that create more seats for students. Capital improvements include exterior masonry work, accessibility upgrades, playground redoes and more. Mandated programs deal with compliance and insurance.

As of February 2023, School District 18 has had 55 completed capital improvement projects for the 2020-2024 plan. These included auditorium upgrades, flood elimination, roofing and more.

The 2025-2029 fiscal plan is being proposed at \$17 billion and will include a fourth budget category: healthy schools. This category will include electrifying schools and moving away from boilers, improving nutrition and making schools more environmentally-friendly.

Following Knight's presentation, District 18

Superintendent Celeste Terry gave her monthly report.

As was first discussed during previous months' meetings, the DOE is doing a curriculum overhaul and allowing districts to choose one of three curriculum providers to transition to: Wit & Wisdom, Expeditionary Learning and HMH.

Terry said the district plans to move away from HMH, its current provider, in favor of something new. She visited Baltimore last month to see how that city has rolled out its new Wit & Wisdom curriculum to help her better make a decision for her own district. The final choice should be released soon.

She also announced that Assemblywoman Monique Chandler-Waterman awarded Rick Romain, principal of P.S. 268 Emma Lazarus, as one of her educational superstars.

"So, yesterday, when [Romain] was talking, he got teary-eyed and everybody in the room stopped and watched this man just talk about the trajectory of his school coming from the bottom, now at the top because of the work that he's put in," Terry said.

Attendance in the District has also improved, Terry said. The District has about 91% attendance on average, higher than the citywide average, with most District 18 schools reaching at least 90%. The schools with the lowest attendance are tied at 88%, with the highest attendance rate being 95%.

"We're below where we were in chronic absenteeism last year so that's always a great thing," District Attendance Coordinator Nadya Laborde-Williams said. "Our schools are committed to working on that, and their rates are lower than they were last year."

The days with the lowest attendance come right before holidays and school breaks. To combat this, the district has been pushing schools to incentivize students to attend the day before vacations by hosting holiday parties, contests and other fun events.

The meeting ended with a birthday celebration for Ann Browne Caesar, CEC18's beloved administrative assistant, complete with food and cake.

The next CEC18 meeting will be on January 8, 2024, at 7 p.m.

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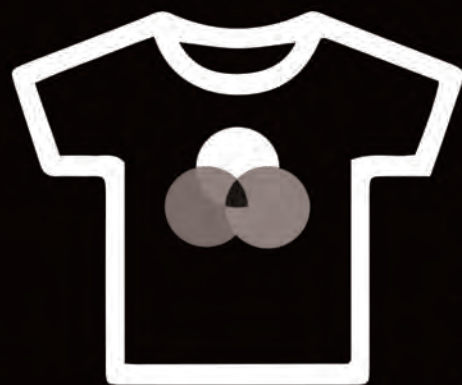


School Construction Authority Director of External Affairs Yvette Knight presenting.



District 18 Superintendent Celeste Terry discussing curriculum changes.





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## Basketball's Back at P.S./I.S. 66: Go Canarsie Blue Jays!

As of December 5th, basketball is finally back after a four-year hiatus due to COVID-19. Like many parts of our life that we took for granted, the sound of squeaking feet and cheering students has returned to P.S./I.S. 66 here in Canarsie. Thanks to newly installed Principal Krystle Charlemagne and a generous Parent Association, the Canarsie Blue Jays have rejoined the NYCMSBL and will start their 2023-2024 season against M.S. 581.

Students are overjoyed that varsity basketball has resumed in the school. Eighth-grader and team Captain Andy Arris said, "We feel grateful that the basketball team has come back to 66 because it was hard times during COVID, and many kids had difficulties. We look forward to competing for and winning the school championship this season." Eighth grade guard Isaiah Giles said, "We have a great opportunity to have a team again, and we are going to try and win a championship for the school and Coach Weiss."

Principal Charlemagne said, "The revival of the Canarsie Blue Jays basketball team at P.S./I.S. 66K is more than just a return to sports; it represents the resilience and unity of our school community in overcoming challenges. Witnessing our students' enthusiasm and determination to excel both on and off the court is a testament to the enduring spirit of Canarsie. We are immensely proud to support their athletic and personal

growth, celebrating each dribble and dunk as a step toward our collective triumph."

"We also want to thank the Parent Association Executive Board, President Maria Rivera, Vice-President Fran Diaz, Treasurer Rajini D. Ramsukh and Parent Coordinator Ms. Brown for helping organize our doughnut sale to help raise funds to order jerseys this year," said student Aurian Polius. In addition, the Parent Association purchased a new scoreboard for the gym which will allow the school to host home games this season.

The Canarsie Blue Jays Varsity basketball team is made up of 7th and 8th grade students from P.S./I.S. 66. They are: Landon Hayes, Andy Arris, Takai Campbell, Savion Gibbs, Khaydin Rodrigues, Jayden Robinson, Jaden Ellis, Jacob Clarke, Veyonte Borden, Zachary Malcolm, Jahmar James, Levi Ridgeway, Ben Ridgeway, Isaiah Giles, Togamar Wilson, Jarred Lissade, Darryl Brisbon, Aurian Polius, Head Coach Seth Weiss and Assistant Coach Nasier McKenzie.

*Courtesy of P.S./I.S. 66*



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## Homicides and Shootings Down, But Petit Larceny and Youth Crime on the Rise in Sector David

By Linda Steinmuller

Neighborhood Coordination Officers (NCOs) Gunvinder Singh and Takeya Peterson briefed residents of Sector D on crime and quality of life issues at their quarterly Build the Block meeting, held at the Hebrew Educational Society, 9502 Seaview Avenue, on Thursday, December 7th.

Singh said that crime is down this year in Sector D, which spans Avenue L to Seaview Avenue, including Canarsie Park, and East 94th Street to Paerdegat Avenue North, especially auto theft and burglaries. Two juveniles that were responsible for 62% of the auto thefts have been locked up, and one individual who committed a majority of the burglaries was arrested and will be behind bars for decades.

A tracking device, like an Apple air tag, can track the location of your car if it is stolen if you have an iPhone or other Apple product. Singh said that the city has a pilot program, where they provide air tags for free. The first one was

held in the Bronx the prior day, and the program should be coming to Brooklyn soon. The air tag will also work with an Android phone by downloading an app.

Although homicides and shootings are down across the precinct, there was a shooting just a few hours prior to the Sector D meeting. A male Hispanic, in his 30s, was shot once in the back on East 96th Street and Avenue N.

One crime on the rise is petit larceny – a lot of packages are being stolen from people's porches, especially at this time of the year. Another problem is phone scams, where people pretend to be IRS agents, mainly targeting the elderly. "The government will never call you; they will never come to your house. They must contact you by U.S. mail," Singh explained. Other scams include people posing as Con Ed and FedEx workers.

The NCOs also warned that youth crime is on the rise and spoke about some recent incidents in Canarsie Park. While



Neighborhood Coordination Officers for Sector D Takeya Peterson and Gunvinder Singh leading Build the Block meeting.

youths are playing basketball, they leave their belongings on the side and other kids steal them. If you see any suspicious activity in the park, residents are advised to call 911. And, as gas-powered vehicles are not allowed in the park, residents should also call 911 to alert police of the illegal action.

Once the warmer weather is here, people flock to Canarsie Park and park on the medians along Seaview Avenue. Singh said they have a good plan to deter illegal parking, which will involve placing large, orange barriers filled with water on the medians to prevent vehicles from parking there. Because of the heavy weight of the barriers, they cannot be moved.

Singh advised attendees that six cars with no license plates, all owned by the same person, were recently removed from East 87th Street, between Avenues M and N. He said that their next target will be Paerdegat Avenue North, from Paerdegat 7th Street to Seaview Avenue, where some abandoned cars have been at that location for years.

Although there are 11 smoke shops in Canarsie, there were none in Sector D; however, that will change as there are plans to open one on Canarsie Road and Avenue N.

East 85th Street is a busy street, but it only has stop signs at Avenues K through N. Singh said that traffic lights will be added at each of those intersections.

He also told the small group of attendees that he is the Graffiti Coordinator for the precinct. If you know of a location in Canarsie that is filled with graffiti, call the precinct directly. They have brushes and paint to remove the graffiti and usually enlist the Explorers to help.



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## District 22 Schools See Stable Enrollment and High Retention Rates Despite Citywide Deficits

By Angela G. Nannetti, M.S. Ed.

Members of the school community gathered at the District 22 office, located at 5619 Flatlands Avenue, on Tuesday evening, December 5th, for Community District Education Council 22's (CEC 22) monthly meeting, which was also streamed live via Zoom.

Jyoti Folch, the Department of Education's (DOE) Associate Director of District Planning, was present at the meeting and shared a wealth of pertinent data with the group, all of which translated to good news. She explained that citywide enrollment has definitely taken a dive over the past five years, largely due to the pandemic, during which some families relocated or chose to take their children out of public school in favor of private, charter or home schooling. She noted, however, that District 22 in particular only saw a 12% decrease during that time, which, compared with other districts, was not significant. Broken down by education level, Pre-K enrollment was down 14%, elementary school enrollment was down 19%, mid-

dle school enrollment was down 14% and high school enrollment was down just 1%.

Over the past year, Folch said that enrollment in District 22 has remained relatively stable and that the District's elementary school student retention rate of 53% places them fourth highest in the city. She discussed how desirable many District 22 schools (like P.S. 195 Manhattan Beach and M.S. 890 Cunningham) are. They have more students applying each year than there are open seats available for them. The group considered the benefits of expanding such successful schools to accommodate more students as well as emulating their success by implementing similar programs in other schools to reach more students.

As if all that good news wasn't enough, CEC 22 President Tracy Jordan announced that students will be offered jerk chicken for lunch, starting in February. The new and exciting addition to the current menu is expected to delight many hungry kiddos.

The next meeting of CEC 22 will be held on Tuesday, January 9th, at 6:30 p.m.

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## Congressman Jeffries Announces Funding for Fresh Creek Ecosystem Project

Congressman Hakeem Jeffries (District 8) announced that he secured \$500,000 for the Hudson Raritan Estuary (HRE) project, at a Community Funding Check Presentation held on Monday, November 27th, at the Canarsie Pier. The federal money, which was secured in partnership between Jeffries and Senator Chuck Schumer, will be used for planning, engineering and design for the Fresh Creek portion of the HRE project, providing ecosystem and coastal storm risk management benefits.

Rep. Jeffries was joined by State Senator Roxanne Persaud and representatives from the EPA, the DEP, Hudson River Foundation, Coney Island Beautification Project and Fresh

Creek Civic Association President Maria Garrett.

The restoration of more than 24 acres of wetlands at the Fresh Creek site will improve connectivity of currently fragmented vital nursery, nesting and feeding habitat from adjacent marsh islands for hundreds of migratory birds – including the federally listed, threatened piping plover and endangered roseate tern.

Restoration of Fresh Creek will also create a sustainable and resilient shoreline within the perimeter area of Jamaica Bay, providing a natural buffer from waves, tides, winds and floods, helping to reduce coastal shoreline erosion and property damage during storm events.



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## Spring Creek

# Chabad Celebrates First Night of Chanukah with a Grand Celebration

By Linda Steinmuller

The Chabad of Canarsie and Starrett City held a Grand Chanukah Party on the first night of the holiday, also known as the Festival of Lights. Chanukah began at sundown on Thursday, December 7th, and runs through Friday, December 15th. The eight-day Festival of Lights commemorates the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem and celebrates the triumph of light over darkness.

The Chanukah Party took place at 671 Louisiana Avenue, with lots of good food, like pizza, latkes and donuts. There was a magic and ventriloquist show that kids and adults alike enjoyed.

*Photos courtesy of Chabad of Canarsie and Starrett City*



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## Sheepshead Bay

## Trana Relief Association Hosts Heartwarming Thanksgiving Celebration for Ukrainian Arrivals

By Robert Pearl

In a heartwarming event at Wise Bar and Grill, Trana Relief Association, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity organization, orchestrated a spectacular Thanksgiving celebration for Ukrainian arrivals settling in America due to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. The event, held on Tuesday, November 23rd, was a resounding success, marked by an outpouring of community support, informative forums, cultural performances and a festive Thanksgiving feast.

The event drew notable figures, including Natalia Travilina, President and Founder of Trana Relief Association; and Robert Pearl, Liaison to Ukrainian-American Cultural Affairs and Chief Volunteer. The



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program featured a lineup of speakers, including local elected officials such as Councilwoman Inna Vernikov, Councilman Ari Kagan, Assemblyman Michael Novakhov and Representative Barbara Feldman from Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton's office.

The highlight of the evening was a captivating performance by Miss Shanis, the official *Disney* voice of *Frozen* and *Eurovision* finalist. Shanis, now a proud New Yorker, shared her journey as a Ukrainian displaced by war and delighted the audience with her musical talents.

The celebration began with a sense of unity as attendees stood proudly for both the U.S. National Anthem and the Ukrainian National Anthem, paying respect to their new home and expressing solidarity with their native country.

The event also featured an informative forum, where local organizations and businesses provided essential details on legal services, medical benefits, housing, schooling, career opportunities, English classes, vocational/technical schools and more. In the spirit of Thanksgiving, attendees were generously gifted with sweets, clothing, toys and a special food distribution giveaway that included over 40 turkeys and produce, thanks to support from local council members.

In a special holiday slide presentation, Pearl provided insights into the history of the First Thanksgiving in America and shared tips on preparing a traditional Thanksgiving feast. Attendees,





eager to embrace American traditions, later shared their holiday tables via a special Telegram group chat and social media.

Trana Relief, an all-volunteer organization, has been tirelessly working since the beginning of the war in Ukraine to assist refugees settling in the U.S. Recognized with various awards and even presented on the floor of the NYS Assembly, the organization runs a *Telegram* channel with over 12,000 subscribers, offering support, information and guidance to Ukrainian arrivals 24/7.

Mayor Eric Adams' office honored Trana Relief Association with a recognition award, acknowledging the organization's significant contributions. Trana Relief continues its mission to provide support, assistance and a sense of community to refugees and newcomers in the U.S. As they navigate the challenges of cultural adaptation, the organization remains dedicated to helping individuals and families build safe, healthy and prosperous lives.

Trana's many projects include past events and participation in resource fairs, such as informational in-person and Zoom sessions, educational forums, job expos, as well as organizing cultural experiences and group excursions to classical concerts, ballet, NYC tours, art exhibits and international auto show. Other events to welcome them and integrate them into American society include a recent Halloween "trick-or-treat" walk through Marine Park, charity Christmas shows, special Mother's Day celebrations with families and children, and fundraisers.

Despite their impactful work, Trana Relief Association faces ongoing challenges and is actively seeking benefactors, sponsors and donations to sustain their crucial mission. To learn more about their efforts or to contribute, visit Trana Relief Association's website at <http://www.tranarelief.org>.


**MISSION STATEMENT:** We are a volunteer-based Organization, helping people in need and ones who have newly arrived to the U.S. to build safe, healthy and prosperous lives by supporting basic humanitarian needs, connecting them to relevant resources and assisting in integration to the society and adapting to the new culture.

Main *Telegram* Chat/Help Channel for U4U/Humanitarian Parole for Refugees: (24/7) <https://t.me/myassistance>

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*Photos courtesy of Trana Relief Association*





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## “City of Yes” Will be the “Death of the City”

By Linda Steinmuller

A group of community and civic leaders, spearheaded by Assemblywoman Jaime Williams, have joined together to say “No” to Mayor Eric Adams’ “City of Yes” proposal, which they say will ruin the suburban feel of the southern Brooklyn neighborhoods they represent, live in and have raised their families.

They held their second “Joint Community Council of Southeast Brooklyn” meeting on Monday, December 4th, at the Midget Squadron Yacht Club in Canarsie, where Paul Graziano, a lawyer, urban planner and land use/zoning expert who has been fighting to protect neighborhoods across the five boroughs for 30 years, broke down the City of Yes proposal piece by piece, calling the plan the “death of the city.”

City of Yes has three major focuses: 1) carbon neutrality, 2) economic opportunities for small businesses with “flexible” zoning and 3) housing opportunities to ensure all communities are meeting the need for housing.

The carbon neutrality proposal was approved by Community Board 18 (CB18) on June 21st (see “Board Says ‘Yes’ to ‘City of Yes’ Carbon Neutrality Proposal,” *Canarsie Courier*, July 6, 2023).

At the November 15th CB18 meeting, three representatives from the Department of City Planning (DCP) gave a poorly planned presentation, fraught with technical difficulties, on the economic opportunity portion of the City of Yes. The team was asked to return in December with a more thorough presentation (see “‘City of Yes’ Proposal Put on Hold,” *Canarsie Courier*, November 23, 2023).

Graziano said that the housing part of City of Yes is supposed to be certified in April and called both the economic and housing plan “crazy.” “What I am going to show you tonight I hope will be something that is not only taken very seriously but is an immediate call

to action because this is do or die – that’s the best way I can describe it,” he said.

“There are five major pieces in housing. Remember, this is not coming up for certification until April, but our goal is to have it killed before it gets out of the gate!” he said.

“The zoning proposal is focused on low-density neighborhoods,” Graziano explained. “According to the mayor, low-density neighborhoods are ‘the reason for the housing crisis.’”

The neighborhoods in CB18 – Canarsie, Bergen Beach, Flatlands, Georgetown, Marine Park, Mill Basin and Mill Island – are considered low-density neighborhoods, consisting of one- and two-family homes. In all of New York City, only 15% of the homes are zoned as one-family, and about another 8 or 9% are zoned for two-family.

“We [low-density neighborhoods] are the focus of this entire effort. This is what they want to get rid of,” Graziano warned.

There are several ways the city plans on doing this. New zoning resolutions would allow ADUs (Accessory Dwelling Units) – secondary housing units to be built on a single family lot. A new house behind your existing house can be up to 800 square feet – taking up 50% of your backyard. ADUs also include basements and cellars (known flood issues) and attics and garage conversions (fire hazards). “This would affect huge portions of CB18,” Graziano said. Apartment buildings would also be allowed in one- and two-family zones.

Graziano suggested that the plan is a “developer’s wish list.” “It’s not coming from civic or neighborhood organizations but rather the biggest real estate developers, construction companies and advocacy groups.”

The affordable housing plan would also establish “town center zoning,” allowing for four stories of resi-

dential units above all commercial strips.

“Transit-Oriented Development” (TODs) would allow big apartment buildings in low-density neighborhoods, on wide streets (75 feet or wider) or narrow streets on the corner. “Some of these neighborhoods are nowhere near transit,” Graziano explained.

If approved, *all* parking requirements for all new residential developments will be *eliminated*. “It doesn’t matter if it is a single-family home or a 300-unit apartment,” Graziano said.

“This plan is a plan to remove ‘owner-occupied communities’ and replace them with renters!” Graziano said. One-third of the city is owner-occupied, but CB18 has the highest percentage of owner-occupied housing in all of Brooklyn, at almost 60% owner-occupied, while the city average is 33%.

“If the goal is to get rid of the middle class, this is the way you do it,” Graziano warned.

All of this “upzoning” would drastically change the suburban feel of the neighborhoods within CB18 by increasing traffic, pollution and potentially crime, while also reducing parking spaces.

Another issue is that Canarsie is built on marshland and parts of it are sinking, making it unwise to upzone (see “*Canarsie Homeowners Turn to Elected Officials For Help With Sinking Homes*,” *Canarsie Courier*, December 7, 2023). On September 11th, the floor of Alvin Henry’s home “opened up,” and he was forced by the Department of Buildings to vacate.

Williams said the entire plan will cripple middle-class communities and forever change suburban communities in CB18.

An example is a vacant site at 5602 Flatlands Avenue. A rezoning proposal for the property would enable a seven-story, mixed-use building to be built on the empty lot. The site would have 174 dwelling units and 137 parking spaces. Parking is also required for commercial space at the lot, and no one is quite sure of the breakdown. If a space has more than 10 units, then 50% parking is required, meaning that there could only be 87 parking spaces for residents and the remaining spots would be for commercial use.

Flatlands Avenue is already heavily trafficked, and parking is scarce.

“Once you set the precedent, that’s when the next one comes,” Graziano said.

As the next CB18 meeting will take place on Wednesday, December 20th, Williams said, “We have to act fast,” advising that a letter with everyone’s signature should be addressed to CB18’s district manager and the borough president.

A press conference at 5602 Flatlands Avenue has been scheduled for Saturday, December 16th, at 11 a.m. Please show your support by attending and say “no” to the overdevelopment of our neighborhood.

*Photo by Loretta Chin*



This vacant site at 5602 Flatlands Avenue could become the home of a seven-story building if the mayor’s disastrous “City of Yes” plan is approved.



**Spring Creek****Annual Menorah Lighting Celebrates the Festival of Lights**

By Lloyd Mitchell and Linda Steinmuller

The Chabad of Canarsie and Starrett City celebrated the third night of Chanukah on Saturday, December 9th, as members lit a large menorah during an outdoor ceremony at 1390 Pennsylvania Avenue.

Chanukah, the eight day Festival of Lights, ends on December 15th. Chanukah means "dedication" and celebrates the miracle of the oil that was used to purify the Temple in Jerusalem. The Jewish people only had enough oil for one night, but the oil lasted for eight days. This past weekend's event brought the Jewish community together, in unity. Rabbi Levi Tzfasman said, "It is now more important than ever that we lean into our faith. We are under a lot of stress, but the menorah signifies an area of light."

Photos by Lloyd Mitchell

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## Marine Park

### Rain Won't Stop the Lighting of the Menorah

By Brian Moreno

Over 100 attendees gathered outside the Carmine Carro Community Center in Marine Park on Sunday afternoon, December 10th, to celebrate the third day of Chanukah and the lighting of the menorah.

Organized by Chabad of Marine Park Synagogue, the celebration of Chanukah is part of Marine Park Alliance's Festival of Lights, a series of observations on holidays and cultural gatherings celebrated in the last months of the year that focus on lights.

Chanukah's origins are set in the 2nd century BC as it commemorates the Maccabean Revolt against the Seleucid Empire in which Jewish rebels, known as the Maccabees, fought against their conquerors, reclaimed Jerusalem and restored the Second Temple. In the aftermath of the conflict, the warriors lit a menorah with enough oil for a day, but miraculously, it lasted for eight. As such, the holiday is observed for eight days.

The celebration started with children reciting verses, or as it is known in Hebrew, pesukim, from the Torah to mark the celebration as holy. Afterward, Nussi Friedman of the *Nussi Show* gave a performance, including illusions, juggling and other tricks. Eventually, after dealing with technical difficulties as the rain wet the matches, Rabbi Mendel Hendel lit the menorah, and the attendees celebrated with dancing and singing.

"It's important [to celebrate] because it's important that all Jewish people are proud of their heritage," said Rabbi Hendel. "That all Jewish people are proud of who they are and of their holidays. The story of Chanukah happened 2,200 years ago, and we celebrate it today because it's one continuation of the Jewish people. It's especially important now as you could see the rise of the antisemitism around New York City. Our response to that is by being stronger, expressing more inner strength, pride and happiness."



The celebration starts with the reading of a verse from the Torah.



Despite the rain, Rabbi Hendel lights the menorah.



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# LEGAL NOTICES



## NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of COHEN FASHION OPTICAL STORE NO. 330, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/30/23. Office location: Kings County. Princ. office of LLC: 146 Montague St., Brooklyn, NY 11201. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to c/o Richard Winter, Chief Executive Officer, Cohen Fashion Optical, LLC, 100 Quentin Roosevelt Blvd., Ste. 400, Garden City, NY 11530. Purpose: Any lawful activity.



## NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

A Notice of Formation of BAY RIDGE 12 LLC, Art. of Org. filed Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/13/2023. Office location: Kings County. SSNY Designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: The LLC, 1222 Bay Ridge Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11219. Purpose: any lawful activity.

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## NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of DRW 84 ST LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2023-11-14. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to The LLC: 4205 8th Ave Brooklyn NY 11232. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

## KINGS COUNTY NOTICE OF APPLICATION OF A LIQUOR LICENSE

Notice is hereby given a license, NYS Application ID: NA-0267-23-149971 for beer, wine and cider has been applied for by the undersigned to sell beer, wine and cider at retail in a tavern at a recreational facility under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 616 Scholes Street, Brooklyn, NY 11237 for on-premises consumption. Area 53 LLC

## NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of Patsy P Juices. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2021-05-11. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Patsy P Juices: 899 east 58 street Brooklyn NY 11234. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

## NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of CHINO PRODUCE LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2023-12-07. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to CHINO PRODUCE LLC: 273 EAST 2ND STREET 2FL BROOKLYN NY 11218. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

## NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

A Notice of Formation of MLSS LLC, Art. of Org. filed Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/15/2023. Office location: Kings County. SSNY Designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: The LLC, 1075 71st St, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: any lawful activity.

## KINGS COUNTY FORECLOSURE NOTICE NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT.  
COUNTY OF KINGS.  
ANNETTE RENAUD, Pltf.,  
vs. LISA A. RENAUD,  
Deft., vs. CHASE BANK,  
N.A., Counterclaim Deft.,  
Index #3189/2016. Pursuant  
to interim judgment of  
partition and sale, I will sell  
at public auction in Room  
224 of the Kings County  
Supreme Court, 360 Adams  
St., Brooklyn, NY on  
January 4, 2024 at 2:30 p.m.  
prem. k/a 80 Hancock Street,  
Brooklyn, NY 11216 a/k/a  
Block 1837, Lot 23. Said  
property located at the point  
on the southerly side of  
Hancock St. distant 290 ft.  
easterly from the corner  
formed by the intersection of  
the southerly side of  
Hancock Street with the  
easterly side of Bedford  
Avenue; being a plot 100 ft.  
x 20 ft. The property is being  
sold pursuant to the interim  
judgment of partition and  
sale. BERNARD M.  
ALTER, Referee.  
ROTTENBERG LIPMAN  
RICH, P.C., Attorneys for  
the Defendant-  
Counterclaimant., The  
Helmsley Building, 230 Park  
Avenue, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor, New  
York, NY 10169. #100935

## NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of Chasing Serenity Psychotherapy PLLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2023-07-11. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of Professional Limited Liability Company (PLLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Mavis Smith: PO BOX 300196 Apt. 1B Brooklyn NY 11230. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

## NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of SLIM ASTORIA 2468 LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 07/03/23. Office location: Kings County. Princ. office of LLC: c/o Wilk Auslander LLP, 825 Eighth Ave., 29th Fl., NY, NY 10019. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Attn: Stephen A. Albert, Esq. at the princ. office of the LLC. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

## KINGS COUNTY NOTICE OF APPLICATION OF A LIQUOR LICENSE

Notice is hereby given a license, NYS Application ID: NA-0340-23-146486 for beer, wine, cider and liquor has been applied for by the undersigned to sell beer, wine, cider and liquor at retail in a restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 67 35<sup>th</sup> Street, Building No. 5, Space No. 5-01-C29, Brooklyn, NY 11232 for on-premises consumption. Confidant Hospitality LLC d/b/a Confidant



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## FREELANCE WRITERS WANTED!!!

We are looking for **EXPERIENCED WRITERS** to cover meetings, events and human interest stories in Canarsie and surrounding areas!

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E80/Ave N: X- LARGE unfurnished room, private bathroom, share dining area, living room w/1 other person, large closet, hardwood floors, mint condition, near transportation, \$1,050. Curtis Chance Realty (718) 859-7300 (917) 679-3017

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E 54/Ave T & U: X Large Studio, mint condition, closet galore, all utilities included, \$1,600. LIC RE Broker (646) 515-4794

Canarsie: 1 BR WI, near transportation/shopping. (347) 567-5146

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Canarsie: 2 BRs, newly renovated, \$2,400. Exit All Seasons RE (347) 782-8571

Canarsie: 2 BRs, very good condition, HWFS, throughout, nice kitchen/bath, \$2,400. LIC RE BROKER (917) 371-7384

Church Ave/E35: Completely renovated 2 BRs, large living room, new kitchen, hardwood floors, large closets, close to transportation/shopping, near B35, B44, B46 buses, few short blocks from #2 & #5 trains, \$2,200. Curtis Chance Realty (718) 859-7300 (917) 679-3017

Canarsie: 2 BRs, 2 full baths, near transportation, \$2,600. D V Allen RE (718) 210-9727

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Foster/E15: 2 BRs, newly renovated, near all, \$2,500. Instant Realty (718) 941-7480

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Crown Heights: X large 3 BRs, 2 full baths, near transportation, \$3,500 negotiable. D V Allen RE (718) 210-9727

E Flatbush: Renovated 3 BRs, near transportation, \$3,200. Citadel Circle Realty (347) 481-8898

Foster/E15: 3 BRs, newly renovated, freshly painted, near all, \$3,000. Instant Realty (718) 941-7480

E86/Flatlands/Ave J: 3 BRs, split level, near all, Asking \$2,600. Broker (917) 889-1800

Flatbush/Brownsville: Newly renovated 3 BRs, no pets/smoking, close to transportation, \$2,700, Programs Accepted. M P Realty- Leonard (646) 474-6640

Flatlands/E52/Ave J: 3 BRs, w/balcony, near transportation/shopping, \$3,200. (347) 785-3778

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