

## **CBID February 25, 2021 Meeting**

Link to recording of meeting: <https://www.facebook.com/8640614098/videos/819594522101665>

### **Last Meeting Recap: Elections!**

#### CBID Club Officers

- President: Rich Bennett
- VP of Political Strategy: Erica Cohen
- VP of Membership: Allison Mingus
- VP of Communications: Ben Theodore
- Treasurer: Marty Bernstein
- Recording Secretary: Nicole Catá

CBID Executive Committee: Mary Beth Carroll, Joe Criscione, Diana González, Sharon Harkey, Nicole Hunt, Julie Kerr, Cheryl Krauss, Asher Novek, Alice Ott, Amanda Ritchie, Joy Romanski

CD39 endorsed candidate: Shahana Hanif

Comptroller endorsed candidate: Brad Lander

### **Peter Weiss Remembrances**

- Rich, Jack Carroll, Bobby Carroll, and Alice Ott memorialized Peter as one of the moving voices in reform politics in Brooklyn, a grassroots organizer, an adviser, someone who immensely enjoyed doing reform political work, and an invaluable member of the climate committee
- All were sorry we had lost him and will miss him

### **Committee Updates**

- Nicole Hunt on Womxn's Caucus: March 16 event to support Shahana Hanif and Jo Anne Simon
- Joe C. on County Committee Committee:
  - o Looking at working with other groups to figure out how to accomplish more with respect to reform and Kings County politics
  - o Petitioning for CC will begin around this time next year, but we should start preparing
  - o Briefly recapped the undemocratic way the recent county committee judicial endorsement meeting transpired
  - o Julie Kerr dropped this link in the chat:  
<https://www.thecity.nyc/2021/2/24/22300392/brooklyn-democrats-furious-judge-accused-cheating-wages>
- Climate Committee:
  - o Joanne Boger: North Brooklyn Pipeline
    - Shared a map showing how the NBP project would harm Black and brown neighborhoods
    - Trucking gas: hazardous and explosive procedure
    - National Grid is hoping to get a waiver from the fire department for the plant they want to build
    - Neighborhood originally caught unawares

- NG tried to avoid having to conduct an environmental impact study
- Neighborhood residents protested
- There is a website where we can register our feedback on this plan  
<https://actionnetwork.org/letters/dec-national-grids-proposal-for-liquefied-and-compressed-fracked-gas-expansion-breaks-our-law/>
- Alice Ott: Fight for Sunlight in Brooklyn Botanic Garden
  - Incidental Community Board 9 meeting on February 24
  - Developer's building proposal went from 39 stories to 17 stories
  - Concerns about affordable housing
  - <https://alignny.org/resource/call-your-state-legislator-stop-part-r-and-save-green-jobs/>
  - <https://therealdeal.com/2021/02/24/apartment-project-near-brooklyn-botanic-garden-is-shortened/>
- Rachel Eve Stein: Local Law 97
  - LL97 = Cap on emissions
  - Governor is trying to cut landmark law
  - This would be bad for the planet and jobs (lots of people have retrofitting jobs)
  - Bobby Carroll spoke out against this attempt to undermine LL97
  - Governor is trying to push this into the budget rather than making it standalone legislation
  - <https://alignny.org/resource/call-your-state-legislator-stop-part-r-and-save-green-jobs/>

### Judicial Endorsements

- Surrogate's Court endorsed candidate: Hon. Rosemarie Montalbano
- Countywide Civil Court endorsed candidates: Hon. Heela Capell and Hon. Sharen Hudson
- Judicial Forum recap: <https://bklyner.com/reform-judicial-candidates-brooklyn-kings-county/>

### Upcoming Events

- Shahana phonebank this Saturday from 12-2pm and all Saturdays going forward until the primary <https://www.mobilize.us/shahanafrombk/event/375892/>
- Fundraiser for Jo Anne Simon on March 2  
<https://www.nycvotes.org/campaigns/josimon/events/671/contributions/new?iframe=true>

### CD33 Candidates

- Elizabeth Adams
  - Opening remarks
    - Lifelong renter, worked in bars and restaurants
    - Advocate for social justice with Planned Parenthood
    - Appointed by mayor to taskforce on education and served LGBTQ youth
    - Works on city council and effects change legislatively
    - Helped constituents navigate public benefits like SNAP
    - Organized mutual aid efforts during the pandemic
    - Running because she has a plan to do things differently

- Prioritizes
      - Pandemic relief
      - Local Green New Deal that centers resiliency and creates new job corps
      - Divest from policing and invest in a care economy
    - Will take vision from the community and a collaborative approach to governing
      - Current administration has operated in silos and has failed to create transparent public engagement when we need it the most
      - Wants to bring participatory governance to the council
      - Background is in community organizing
      - Directly impacted people should drive policy and budgetary work
    - This is a change election
    - First candidate in the district to receive public matching funds
    - Endorsed by Freelancer's Union, which has a significant membership in the district, along with Brooklyn Young Democrats, 21 in '21, KIDS PAC, Jewish Vote, New York Immigration Coalition, and community endorsements from the NYCHA Tenant Association president and head of North Brooklyn Open Streets Coalition
  - Q&A
    - Gowanus Rezoning
      - Stands with the Gowanus Neighborhood Coalition for Justice, especially re: NYCHA tenant involvement in creating an environmental justice special district with clear local oversight
      - Grew up in rent-stabilized housing
      - Having stability and affordability in housing are core tenants
      - We need deeply affordable housing in the city to get people out of the shelter system and into permanent housing
      - We need NYCHA residents at the table
      - We need to reduce CSO overflows
    - Women leaving the workforce during the pandemic – how would you address this disparity during a COVID recovery and jobs plan?
      - Core to one of the reasons she is running
      - Women and people of color and lower-income people have been hit the hardest and yet have not been brought to the table when it comes to childcare and a jobs plan
      - Wants universal childcare – must be a core part of any recovery
        - People are not able to work and take care of their kids during the pandemic
        - We have put people through far too much strain
        - Current system is not working for anyone, especially domestic workers
        - At the city level, supports Stringer's 0-3 childcare plan – tax credit for domestic workers and childcare providers and increased funding for universal childcare
        - Need to expand 3K to the continuum of care



- Building an awesome coalition as reflected through numerous endorsements of progressive elected officials and organizations
  - Q&A
    - Borough-based jails
      - Clear trajectory from slavery to Jim Crow to mass incarceration
      - Imperative that we do whatever we can to end scourge of mass incarceration
      - Rikers is a stain on our city
      - Rikers is the largest jail complex in the country and must be demolished
      - Borough-based jails plan approved by mayor and speaker and council reduces jail capacity but not by enough
      - We need next council to prioritize alternatives to incarceration
      - We should see much smaller jails built at the four sites
      - The jails off Rikers Island are just as horrible
      - Cited the Barge and Brooklyn Detention Center
      - We should drive down jail capacity but have humane facilities
    - Gowanus Rezoning
      - Does not support the plan as proposed
      - To add 8,000 units of housing to Gowanus area but fail to address conditions for the 12,000 residents currently in deplorable developments in NYCHA doesn't make sense
      - We have a nearly \$300,000,000 needs assessment
      - If city wants to move forward on a rezoning, they need to deliver for people in public housing who are struggling
      - That is his sine qua non
      - Conversed with NYCHA leadership to understand priorities going forward
      - Concerned about progress w/r/t superfund cleanup being lost to population being added
      - Gowanus rezoning could add socioeconomic and racial diversity to D33, which has merit
      - Wants to mitigate environmental impacts w/ right amount of density
- Stu Sherman
  - Opening remarks
    - Background
      - Living in Greenpoint with wife, four-month-old daughter, 14-year-old cat
      - Running because of inequities in healthcare system
      - Type-1 diabetic
      - Still struggled even with mother's union health insurance
      - Had to go to Canada to get help he needed
      - Dedicated life to public service
      - Works as attorney at NYLAG

- Helps people get benefits they need
- Combination of direct service and policy experience
- He knows where things fail re: implementation of policy
- Sees it firsthand in hospitals, health centers, in people's homes
- Priorities
  - Housing
    - Historic moment in NYC history: worst housing crisis since Great Depression
    - Number of evictions will be astronomical
    - Need to create more affordable housing and convert existing units into affordable housing
    - Supports Scott Stringer's plan
    - Need to take advantage of as-of-right
  - Healthcare
    - More community pharmacies
      - Has struggled to get insulin
      - Clients have gotten medication turned down at the counter
    - Healthcare for all
      - Cited nursing home crisis
      - Need more at-home care
  - Small business, rent assistance/relief
- Q&A
  - Voting rights – registration high, turnout low – what steps will you take to investigate gap and reduce barriers?
    - BOE has had one of the worst failures in recent history
    - People removed from voter rolls and lost ballots
    - Distrust in voting system in New York because of BOE failures
    - BOE should be staffed by civil servants and should not be a political entity
    - Concerned about ranked-choice voting – he supports it but we need much more education around it
    - Troubling that BOE are the ones implementing RCV
    - We need a BOE audit and need to do more to ensure people in the organization are representative of communities they serve
    - People who benefit from low voter turnout would like the system to remain the same
  - What is your opinion of the RAD program? What do you think about the infill program that has taken place in NYCHA?
    - Does not support privatization of NYCHA
    - We've seen residents lose rights
    - Number of evictions in converted facilities is sky-high compared to rest of NYCHA

- Privatization is the city giving up its responsibilities to its own tenants, to whom it owes the most
    - Privatization takes it off the public books, takes away legal responsibilities, and creates less accountability
  - NYPD – how do you propose to restore civilian authority?
    - Need elected civilian review board that has final say in determinations
    - Now, appointed, and determinations can be overruled by commissioner, and most are
    - Not enough accountability and oversight by trusted entity that can implement changes and hold people to account
    - Only because of cell phones are we aware of so many horrific incidents
    - Elected CRB → accountability, reform, get bad officers out
    - Need to get police out of a lot of situations where they don't belong in the first place
    - Need to defund NYPD and fund social services – mental health, caseworkers in schools
- Ben Solotaire
  - Opening remarks
    - Condolences re: Peter Weiss
    - CBID = political home
      - Two years as CBID president
      - Traits: building consensus with lively discussions and building coalitions
    - Started career in the arts as a freelancer, designer, technician, producer
    - Those jobs had people working together to achieve a common vision
    - Serves as community liaison for Councilmember Levin
    - Be a Good Neighbor program
      - Approaches developers with set of conditions
      - Community contact
    - Children should have a shot at a fair education
    - Has hosted community forums on the food system and the arts
    - We need to look at our justice system – current NYPD is out of control and we need to bring it under civilian control, we need police officers to live in the city
    - Jail system – we need to close Rikers – would have preferred Lipton recommendations rather than the four borough-based jails
  - Q&A
    - Do you have a commitment to diversity and inclusion and how would that be represented in your decision-making team?
      - Part of public service journey has been embedded in participatory budgeting
      - Wants Polish, Yiddish, and Spanish speakers in the D33 council office
      - Wants people of all gender identities represented
    - What powers does the NYC Council have to change the NYC BOE?
      - BOE needs to be professionalized, not politicized
      - They cannot do the job they are tasked with doing

- Wants to reform from the ground up
  - They need a bigger tech budget and more community outreach
  - Wants to do more research on this question
- Gowanus Rezoning
  - Lives a block from the Gowanus
  - Served on CB6 for a while when they were making the superfund designation
  - Huge rezoning with major impact
  - Wants to fight for deeper affordability
  - GNCJ goals are necessary
  - We need NYCHA to benefit
  - Capital funding
  - No CSOs
  - Governance: Direct connections to the community
- Victoria Cambranes
  - Opening remarks
    - Native Greenpointer
    - Daughter of immigrants
    - Local community activist
    - First-generation American
    - Father from Guatemala was an electrical engineer and a union member of DC37
    - Mother from Poland was a cleaning lady and mother has continued to do her job as an essential worker in Brooklyn Heights and clean houses
    - Parents came here to pursue the American dream, yet Greenpoint has seen decades of degradation and displacement due to neglect followed by gentrification
    - Went to school in Greenpoint and Williamsburg
    - Career in digital marketing
    - Decided to come home from London after 2016 election and fight for her hometown
    - Systemic problems call for systemic solutions
    - Guiding principles rooted in community and ensuring next generation of D33 residents can thrive
    - This council will create legislation, approve the budget, and make land use decisions
      - Land use is central to social justice and quality of life issues
      - Land use creates our lived environment
      - Decisions rest in hands of councilmembers
      - “Why council and why now?” is very easy question to answer
      - Skin in the game when it comes to protecting this community – has been here, is here, and will continue to be here
      - That aspect of “why council?” is so important and vital in creating landscape and protecting future is why she’s running



- We must ensure the traditional way of electing people in D33 is not the trend we're trying to follow this time around
  - We've done wealthy white men owning this district for many years
  - Communities she comes from have been disparaged and disillusioned by politics because people in D33 political realm assume they are not educated, not able to speak for themselves, not able to represent themselves
  - CBID and all D33 residents must recognize that fact
  - Politics as usual is not how this community can thrive or how we can amplify the voices of those closest to the hurt and pain so they can finally have their voices heard
- Q&A
    - BQE Redesign
      - North-south divide on the BQE in the district
      - Triple cantilever and problem of promenade being protected
      - DOT plan blindsided the community
      - Community-led designs
      - Wants to create something beautiful, sustainable, park-led
      - North: greening the BQE
      - Utilizing space under BQE for further greening projects, community-led events, something other than abandoned carparks
      - Believes any infrastructure project is an opportunity for equity, recovery, and jobs
    - Do you have a litmus test for future developments that addresses sustainability?
      - Green gentrification – use of environmental movements to promote development
      - Stands against that because has seen it happen
      - Against GG schemes where developers throw small parks in the middle of huge tower development
      - Need to start mandating these things as opposed to developers using them as carrots
    - What kinds of BOE reforms will you promote?
      - Need to become professionalized not politicized
      - Vehicle for insider trading
      - Early voting is one of the best recent reforms and RCV is amazing
      - RCV in this race = four fabulous women running
      - Long way to go
      - Happy to put those on her agenda