



December 2020

## Staten Island Democratic Association

*est. 1961 as Staten Island's reform Democratic Club*

*www.sidems.org*

At our Next Meeting:

- **Eric Adams**  
Candidate for Mayor



- **Presentation of Executive Committee Candidates**
- **Proposed Amendments to S.I.D.A. Constitution**

Tuesday, December 15, 2020, 8:00 P.M.

**Via Zoom, see page 2**



## Instructions for Monthly Meeting via Zoom

*Due to COVID precautions in New York State the December 15 General Membership Meeting will take place via remote conferencing. The instructions are listed below.*

**Staten Island Democratic Association  
General Membership Meeting  
Tuesday, December 15, 2020  
8:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

This meeting can be attended audio and video by computer, audio and video by cell phone, audio only by landline phone.

**AS A SAFEGUARD AGAINST THE ZOOM MEETING BEING HACKED, THE ACCESS INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE E-MAILED TO THE MEMBERSHIP AND THE INVITEES THE DAY BEFORE THE MEETING.**



## Editorial Policy

Items for publication should be submitted to the newsletter no later than the last Friday of the month before the meeting. Please send items to: [cmaxbauer@yahoo.com](mailto:cmaxbauer@yahoo.com).

Unless explicitly stated, the views herein are those of the authors and not of S.I.D.A.

*Chris Bauer, Editor*  
(917) 576-9248

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*“I hold it, that a little rebellion, now and then, is a good thing, and as necessary in the political world as storms are in the physical.”*  
*- Thomas Jefferson*  
1787

## Newsletter Submission Deadlines

January .....	January 4
February .....	February 1

### S.I.D.A. Executive Committee

President..... Radhakrishna Mohan	Member at-Large .....	Olusoji Oluwole
Vice President .....	Member at-Large .....	Jill Pincus-Latman
Executive Secretary .....	Member at-Large .....	Jasmine Robinson
Corresponding &	Member at-Large .....	Charles Roland
Recording Secretary .....	Member at-Large .....	Sharon Santana
Treasurer .....	Member at-Large .....	Tom Shcherbenko
Social Secretary .....	Ex Officio.....	Bobby Digi
Member at-Large .....	Ex Officio.....	Joann Olbrich

**A New Dawn of Hope  
All Set For Transition to Begin for Biden-Kamala Team  
The American People Spoke – Change is Coming for a Better Tomorrow!**

As President Trump clings to his hope to prove that there was election fraud, the results that are coming out are proving the opposite. Trump's legal challenges have failed in Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada and Pennsylvania. The latest blow to his hopes are the results from Wisconsin, where President Trump spent about 3 million dollars for the recount which resulted in 87 more votes for President-elect Joe Biden. President Trump-- by indicating that he may go along with the Transition after the electoral votes are certified-- gives a solid indication that he has no other way except to accept the results and move on. The sooner that happens the better, as the nation is reeling under an uptick in COVID19, and all Federal agencies require leadership at the helm for our nation's affairs.

It will be a tough start for Joe Biden, who is no stranger to difficult situations, but with a great team that he puts in place, he may come through it successfully. Immediate challenges could be the Iran situation (whether the US will renew the Iran Nuclear Agreement, establishing a strong presence in the European Nations league, Relations with China and Russia along with pressing domestic issues, with the COVID-19 uptick and the very bad economy with more than 25 million unemployed, will certainly fill his plate at the start with his presidency. It remains to be seen how his reaching across the aisles will bring the results that Joe Biden is hoping for, especially with the Senate majority in a cliff-hanger situation. If the Republicans retain the Senate majority, Joe Biden will have an uphill task in his policies having smooth sailing in the Senate.

With all that's going on at the National scene, a brighter picture evolved in Staten Island, with Assemblyman Michael Cusick prevailing over his Republican opponent, with mail-in ballots coming to his aid. This came as a big relief for the Staten Island Democrats. Staten Island retained all Democratic incumbents except for the Congressional seat. To take that seat back in the next two years, the Democrats have some work to do, starting with unity. At SIDA's last General Meeting, our Guest Speaker Carmen Cagnetta mentioned that Staten Island Democrats were only able to muster about 600 people registering as Democrats while Republicans registered more than 4000 Republicans. That speaks for itself, the lack of initiative on the part of Democrats. Unless the Democrats show some discipline and focus, getting our Congressional seat back will remain just a pipe dream for some time to come. It's time for the Democrats to do a reality check so we can get back seats lost to the Republicans.

As predicted, the COVID-19 situation is turning bad with the South Shore maybe falling into the Red Zone with a substantial increase in COVID-19 cases. Our New York State Governor and New York City Mayor are doing all they can to get the schools, businesses and government agencies running as normal, but they are facing a tough task. With the announcements by Pfizer and Moderna of possible vaccines coming out with 95 percent success rates, hopes are rising for everyone to get through this pandemic in the next couple of months. But all the same, everyone needs to follow all safety protocols, not only for the sake of oneself but for the safety of their family, friends and neighbors, until things get to complete normal.

Hoping you all stay healthy and safe, I remain,

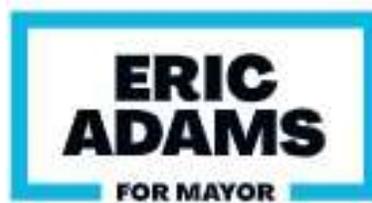
*Radhakrishna Mohan  
S.I.D.A. President*

*"Ask not what your country can do for you,  
ask what you can do for your country."  
- President John F. Kennedy*



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## Eric Adams



*Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams is a candidate for Mayor and will be a guest speaker at our December 15 General Membership Meeting. His campaign provided the following statement for publication in the newsletter.*

### **Eric Adams**

**L**ike so many New Yorkers, Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams grew up with adversity—and overcame it. As one of six children, born in Brownsville and raised in South Jamaica by a single mom who cleaned houses, Eric and his family did not always know if they would come home to an eviction notice on the front door or food on the table. And when he was beaten by police in the basement of a precinct house at 15, Eric faced a life-changing act of injustice.

But instead of giving into anger, Eric turned his pain into purpose and decided to change the police department from within. He joined the N.Y.P.D. and became one of its most outspoken officers, calling out racism and bias in the department and pushing for major reforms.

Eric would often police the streets in a bulletproof vest one day during the high crime 1980s and 1990s and protest bad behavior by cops the next, marching side-by-side with civil rights advocates. He rose to the rank of captain, helping to build the first computerized system for tracking crime in the city, which led to historic gains in public safety.

Eric's efforts to change policing began his lifelong work to improve and protect New York. From the N.Y.P.D., he moved on to the State Senate, where he represented sections of central and Brownstone Brooklyn. In Albany, Eric built winning coalitions to advance New York City's values and goals, helping to push through measures to protect tenants and workers, improve public safety, and advance human rights, including marriage equality. He also became the first person of color to chair the Senate's Homeland Security Committee.

Eric was then elected Brooklyn Borough President in 2013 by putting together a diverse coalition of Brooklynites to become the borough's first Black leader. As the representative of one of the nation's largest counties, Eric fought tirelessly to grow the local economy, reduce inequality, improve public safety, and advocate for smart policies and better government that delivers for all New Yorkers.

In addition to continuing to fight for struggling New Yorkers and a better quality of life for all, Eric became a national leader on public health policy after learning he had developed Type 2 diabetes. Following his diagnosis, Eric completely changed his diet and his body, reversing the disease and launching a personal mission to educate New Yorkers about preventative care and wellness. His work has already led to successful proactive public health efforts across the city and increased education in schools and with high-risk populations in lower-income areas, partnering with civic organizations and health experts.

Eric is a lifelong New Yorker. He received his master's degree in public administration from Marist College, and is a graduate of New York City Technical College and the John Jay College of Criminal Justice. He is also a proud product of New York City public schools, including Bayside High School in Queens. Today he lives in Bedford-Stuyvesant, where he has resided for over 20 years.

The website for the campaign is [www.ericadams2021.com](http://www.ericadams2021.com).



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## Proposed S.I.D.A. Constitution Amendments

**T**he S.I.D.A. constitution has the following process for amending the constitution:

### ***Article XIV - Amendments***

*Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by the Executive Committee or by written petition signed by 15 members or 15% of the membership, whichever is the greater, and submitted to the Executive or Corresponding and Recording Secretary. To become effective, any amendment so proposed must be approved and adopted thereafter by two-thirds of the members present and voting at a single meeting of the club. The substance of the change (s) to be effected by such proposed amendment (s) must be included in the notice of the meeting.*

In accordance with the above, at its November 25 meeting the Executive Committee voted to approve the following to proposed amendment. They are being published in this meeting notice and will be voted on at the December 15 General Membership Meeting.

**Constitutional Amendment 1:** A motion will be made to amend the S.I.D.A. Constitution in order to adopt a "Procedure to conduct vote-counting for S.I.D.A. elections and proper protocol for the disposal of Ballots:"

*"Before the ballots in an S.I.D.A. election are to be tallied, the ballots, blank tally sheets and sign-in sheets will be numbered by the Recording and Corresponding Secretary, or in whose absence the Executive Secretary, or in whose absence the Vice President, or in whose absence, finally, the President, overseen by the Election Committee which will be elected on the floor, on the day of the election at the beginning of the meeting. These papers are then given to the official Counters of the ballots, after the election, so that the official count can commence.*

*The Counters then ensure that the sign-in sheets' number of signatures matches the number of ballots cast. Once counted and tallied, the ballots are to be turned over, as above, to the Recording and Corresponding Secretary or the Executive Secretary, or the Vice President, or the President, to be secured. These election documents will be kept for ten (10) days, to allow an appeal for a recount. The procedures specified in the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order, as per the S.I.D.A. Constitution, Article XIII, should be followed if there is a request for a recount, and to carry out said recount. After the 10 day period has expired, the ballots are to be destroyed."*

**Constitutional Amendment 2:** A motion to amend the S.I.D.A. Constitution in order to be able to conduct meetings during a Pandemic, or other very serious emergency, which would not allow the Association to conduct in-person Monthly General Membership Meetings and Executive Committee Meetings:

*“Due to the pandemic, or other very serious emergencies, S.I.D.A. shall be able to conduct its Monthly Meetings and Executive Committee Meetings virtually, in order to meet the requirements of Monthly Meetings and Executive Committee Meetings, as noted in the S.I.D.A. of Constitution, until such time as the situation allows for resuming normal in-person meetings.”*



## Nominating Committee Report

*Nominating Committee Chair Tom Shcherbenko provided the following report at the November 17 General Membership Meeting.*

**T**he Staten Island Democratic Association Nominating Committee was established in Article VIII, Section 2, of our constitution.

Our 2020 Nominating Committee was elected at the October 20 General Membership Meeting. At the meeting it was announced that the following members were elected: myself, Liz Price, Marie Dwyer, Mohan, Dennis Brown, Nick Popolo, Dr. Chatterjie, Joann Olbrich, Bobby Digi Olisa, and Richard Reichard. President Mohan took the ballots and tally sheets home and sent an e-mail at about 3 a.m. to the Executive Committee stating that, “I am providing the list of 10 candidates who secured enough votes to become eligible to be part of the Nominating Committee.” On Mohan’s list he included Charles Roland and wrote, “Not sure how Richard Reichard’s name showed up with 20 votes as the result count sheet shows only 8 votes listed.” At about 7 pm, Mohan called an emergency half hour Executive Committee meeting for 8:45 pm and wrote, “Please keep any discussion until the meeting tonight.”

At the emergency meeting, Mohan reiterated that the committee would include Charles Roland and not Richard Reichard. I stated that in compliance with Mohan’s directive, that I would include Charles Roland and not Richard Reichard on the Nominating Committee.

I reached out to every member in good standing of the club, based on the September 2020 Membership spreadsheet, by e-mail and asked for nominations. Using the responses that I received, and confirmation from all of those nominated that they would be willing to run for office, I called a meeting for Friday, November 6, and put these nominations before the committee:

For President, Liz Price; for Vice-President, Jasi Robinson; for Treasurer, Sharon Santana, as our incumbent Treasurer announced that she was not seeking re-election. For re-election to their incumbent positions: for Corresponding and Recording Secretary, Marie Dwyer; for Executive Secretary, Dennis Brown; for Social Secretary, Pearl Minsky. Five incumbent Members-at-Large were nominated for re-election: Clara Ogburn, Olusoji Oluwole, Jill Pincus, Charles Roland, and myself. Nominated to run for position of Member-at-Large were: Afzal Ali Ansari, Amoy Barnes, Dan Chilton, Nana Chilton, Anne Fanciullo Cala, Luis Hernandez, Servete Kolar, Diana Shcherbenko, Michael Sirotta, and Cindy Voorspuy.

I then called for additional nominations from the floor, and the following club members were placed into nomination:

For President, Michelle Akyempong; for Vice-President, Peter Killen; for Treasurer, Nana Chilton. For Member-at-Large: Reuben Adeshuko, Nithiananda Chatterjie, Phillip Coard, Jean Mary Kidert, Troy McGhie, Dami Ojo-Powerson, Bonnie Rothman, and David Wynyard.

Following the meeting, I reached out to every person that was nominated and provided them with this information, consistent with past club practice: “Please prepare a brief presentation of no more than 2 minutes for the General Membership meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 15t and a written statement of no more than 200 words for publication in the January edition of our newsletter, the deadline for which is January 1.” Nana Chilton said, via telephone call, that she preferred not to run against an incumbent member of the Executive Committee for Treasurer. [In a subsequent phone call to the newsletter editor Chris Bauer Nana Chilton decided to keep her name in nomination for Treasurer.]

According to our constitution, “additional nominations may be made by petition signed by 15% of those members in good standing or 15 members, whichever is the fewer, as of the final date for the submission of such petitions namely, the December meeting at which all candidates shall be presented to the membership as an order of business. Nominating petitions shall be submitted to the Corresponding and Recording Secretary, or, in his or her absence to an officer designated by the President or the Acting President.”

*Respectfully submitted,  
Tom Shcherbenko  
Nominating Committee Chair*



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## November 2020 Minutes

### **General Meeting November 17, 2020 Via Zoom**

**P**resident Mohan called the Zoom meeting to order at 8:06 p.m.

#### **President’s Report**

President Radhakrishna Mohan spoke about recent election results hoping for a smooth transition of power in the White House. He mentioned that Congressman Max Rose, Brandon Patterson and Allyn Crawford ran good campaigns. President Mohan was happy to see Diane Savino, Michael Cusick and Charles Fall all get re-elected to office. President Mohan urged members to continue to do their best to help future candidates with their campaigns. He spoke briefly about COVID-19 statistics. He hopes there will be a vaccine soon and in the interim urged members to take the necessary precautions to stay safe and healthy.

President Mohan mentioned that he feels we should do more to help the Democratic Party including finding ways to bring in younger people. He shared a short video clip of former President Barack Obama doing phone banking for Presidential candidate Joe Biden.

#### **October Minutes**

President Mohan made a motion to accept the October minutes as published in the newsletter. Charles Roland seconded the motion. The motion carried.

President Mohan reported that the Printer wasn’t able to finish the newsletter on time, but planned to finish by the following week. President Mohan reminded members that we follow “Robert’s

Rules of Order". He also mentioned that Charles Rolland is Sargent of Arms and he will give members a chance to speak. Members will have to unmute themselves.

President Mohan reminded members that the annual club election will be held in January. He also announced that he appointed David Wynyard to serve as Parliamentarian for the next two months.

### **Nominating Committee Report**

Chair Tom Shcherbenko gave the Nominating Committee Report. [The report can be found in this newsletter on page 6.] After Tom presented the report, President Mohan reported that when he looked at Results sheet from the Nominating Committee election, he saw that Richard Reichard and Bobby Digi both received the same number of votes (20). He told members that he took the ballots and tally sheet home and he discovered that there was an error in reporting the results. President Mohan felt this mistake should be corrected. He told members that he sent an e-mail to the Executive Committee members to purportedly show the error. The purported error showed that Richard Reichard didn't get 20 votes as had been reported at the meeting. Richard Reichard said he didn't even vote for himself and he wasn't upset that he wasn't on the Nominating Committee. President Mohan told members that at the last Executive Committee meeting a motion was passed to change the by-laws for that section.

After Nominating Committee Chair Tom Shcherbenko's, nominating committee report, President Mohan corrected the statement of Tom Shcherbenko, that Executive Secretary Dennis Brown has put the ballots in President Mohan's bag while everyone was leaving for home as he had no intention of taking any ballot papers home. President Mohan, after reaching home, took a quick glance at the top data sheets that showed the scoring of each candidate and found that there was error in reporting the winners of the election, as Charles Roland received 20 votes and Richard Reichard received 8 votes. The next day morning, President sent an email with the correct result of the election, which was subsequently ratified in the emergency meeting that evening with the Counting Committee accepting that it was an error.

### **Guest Speaker**

Carmen Cognetta gave an analysis of the November 3 elections. Carmen told members that he didn't have the final numbers but expected them to be available by the end of the week. He spoke about election results and mentioned that a lot of people came out to vote on Staten Island this year. He feels we need to work on new infrastructure, we need to go to where Democrats are registered and keep constant contact with Democratic voters not just on election day. Carmen told members he would come back when he had exact numbers. Mr. Cognetta took questions from several members in attendance.

### **Vice President's Report**

Vice President Liz Price provided members with important highlights from the recent Executive Committee meetings, the emergency meeting on October 21 regarding the problem that President Mohan said he discovered with the Nominating Committee ballots and the regular October 29 meeting.

Richard Reichard mentioned that he sent an e-mail to President Mohan and the Executive Committee members asking them to schedule city council and Mayoral candidates to speak. Joann Olbrich mentioned that there is pending legislation to do away with the petition process. Jasmine added that the approval has to come from New York State. Jasmine suggested we hold a forum for

candidates running for City Council on Staten Island. President Mohan said he is working on these plans for speakers and will send Richard an update. Bobby Digi suggested that President Mohan set up a committee for this purpose.

President Mohan mentioned that there was too many chats going on at the Zoom meetings and Charles took the liberty to stop this. He urged members to share information whenever they want.

### **Executive Secretary's Report**

Executive Secretary Dennis Brown thanked Carmen for his analysis. He feels we need to identify constituencies and their issues, and to find out what each constituency wants. Dennis added that we have to listen to the people on Staten Island and we have to continue to work on efforts to end systemic racism. He feels we need to bring progressive reform forward.

### **Social Secretary's Report**

Sharon Santana reported on behalf of Social Secretary Pearl Minsky, who was not at the meeting. Sharon mentioned that Pearl was celebrating her birthday with her family.

### **Treasurer's Report**

President Mohan provided an up-to-date report for Treasurer Bonnie Rothman, who was not at the meeting. Jasmine brought up the topic about paying dues and accepting donations electronically. President Mohan mentioned that this needs to be discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting.

### **By-laws Committee**

Chair Joann Olbrich reported that at the October Executive Committee meeting there was a request to change by-laws Article 8 Section 4. She read the current by-law and she read the proposed change.

The section of the S.I.D.A. Constitution (bylaws) to be amended:

Existing

Article VIII Elections

Section 4: Voting Procedure. Voting shall be by secret written ballot, except when there is no contest for an office.

a) Officers. There shall be a separate vote for each office in the order listed in the constitution. Each member entitled to vote shall have one vote for each position to be filled, and a majority of votes cast shall be necessary for election. If no nominee receives a majority on the first ballot, additional ballots shall be had between the nominees having the two highest numbers of votes until one such nominee obtains a majority.

b) Executive Committee. After the officers have been elected, there shall be a single ballot for members-at-large of the Executive Committee. Added to this ballot shall be the name of any person nominated for an office who shall have failed of election. Each member entitled to vote shall have one vote for each position of member-at-large of the Executive Committee, and the seven nominees who receive the highest number of votes shall be declared elected. In the event of any tie which makes it impossible to determine which seven nominees are elected, all those nominees tied for 7th place shall be deemed elected.

Proposed amendment to be added:

c) After the ballots in an S.I.D.A. election have been tallied, the ballots, tally sheets and sign in sheets shall be numbered and turned over to the Recording and Corresponding Secretary to be secured. These election documents will be kept for ten (10) days, to allow for a recount. The procedures specified in the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order, as per SIDA Constitution Article XIII, should be followed to request a recount and to carry out said recount. After the 10 day period has expired, the ballots are to be destroyed.

She added that this will be printed in the newsletter and then voted on at the December General meeting, adding that it requires 2/3 vote to pass. Joann mentioned that she prepared this but feels it is superfluous because we follow Roberts Rules and that this change isn't necessary.

### **Human Rights Committee**

Jill reported on behalf of Chair Clara Ogburn that the committee hasn't had a meeting. But plans to meet with Steve Harrison.

### **Issues Committee**

Co-chairs Richard Reichard and Jasmine Robinson had no report.

### **Old Business**

There was no old business.

### **New Business**

Chris Bauer made the following motion:

*The Staten Island Democratic Association censures its President Radhakrishna Mohan for violating club rules in the October 20, 2020, Nominating Committee election, thereby casting doubt on the election results and harming the reputation of the Association.*

*In its September 7, 1997 Executive Committee meeting the Executive Committee established the following procedure for counting paper ballots in club elections:*

- *At the beginning of the meeting the President will appoint three people to a committee to count the votes.*
- *The membership will agree on a time when balloting will be closed.*
- *Ballots will be handed out to members in good standing.*
- *Members will have until the closing time to cast their ballots with the committee.*
- *At the agreed upon time it will be announced that balloting is closed.*
- *After balloting is closed, no further ballots will be accepted from anyone for any reason.*
- *The committee will tally the results.*
- *The committee will announce the results, including number of votes cast for endorsement, against endorsement, and invalid ballots, to the general membership.*
- *The results will be recorded into the minutes, and the ballots will be destroyed.*

*In addition to being followed in every election in the 23 years since, these procedures were published in*

*the June 1998, January 1999, October 2000, January 2001, January 2003, October 2003, January 2004, February 2004, and August 2004 newsletters.*

*Because no ballots can be accepted after balloting is closed, and because Association members can observe the work of the counting committee to ensure its accuracy, there is no reason to keep*

ballots after the results are tabulated because there is no need for any recount. The rule to destroy the ballots after they are recorded into the minutes was specifically instituted because there is no way to guarantee the integrity of the ballots after they have left the collective eye of the meeting.

President Mohan broke the Association's rule by not allowing the ballots to be destroyed but instead commandeering them into his sole custody, after which the ballots' integrity could no longer be guaranteed. President Mohan then e-mailed the Executive Committee in the middle of the night announcing that the Nominating Committee results were wrong and maintaining he had the corrected results, which, in addition to breaking Association rules, cast the integrity and competency of the counting committee into doubt.

The Association Constitution has no procedures for censure, so by Article XIII of the Constitution the Association refers to Robert's Rules of Order. According to Robert's Rules of Order 61:2n1, "It is also possible to adopt a motion of censure without formal disciplinary procedures."

Tom Shcherbenko seconded the motion. Bobby Digi, Michelle Akyempong, David Coleman, Paul Scublinsky and Clara Ogburn spoke against the motion. The Parliamentarian, David Wynyard, pointed out that a motion to table the motion is in order and he made a motion to table this motion. The motion to table passed with 29 in favor, 10 against and 3 abstentions.

Jasmine said she takes issue and is greatly disappointed by how people are spoken to at the meetings.

Dan Chilton mentioned that it is very difficult to vote at on-line meetings and feels a committee should be created to explore this issue. Helen Settles mentioned that she knows someone at the NAACP who can assist.

President Mohan announced that the next Executive Committee meeting will be held on November 25 instead of the 26 since its Thanksgiving. He also reminded members that the deadline for newsletter items is November 30. President Mohan also told candidates running for club election that they need to submit a statement of 200 words or less to Chris Bauer by January 1, 2021. President Mohan thanked Chris for his work on the newsletter. The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 p.m,

*Respectfully submitted,  
Marie Dwyer  
Corresponding &  
Recording Secretary*



## Letters

*We in S.I.D.A. like to make our views known. The following are some of the letters written by S.I.D.A. members that have appeared in print. Unless otherwise indicated, all letters were in the Staten Island Advance and/or posted on the Advance's website [www.silive.com](http://www.silive.com). Unless explicitly stated, the views herein are those of the authors and are not the views of S.I.D.A.*

*On-line November 14, 2020*

*Printed November 23, 2020*

### **Liberty Towers Housing Not Affordable Enough**

Developers are proposing to install Mandatory Inclusionary Housing Option 2 (MIHO2) at Liberty Towers in St. George, Staten Island. We should ask the developers to improve their proposal, by emailing our comments to City Planning and our representatives: [20DCP0140R\\_DL@planning.nyc.gov](mailto:20DCP0140R_DL@planning.nyc.gov)

Firstly, the developers are not proposing enough affordable units. Their proposal prioritizes market-rate housing. MIHO2 would provide a minor portion – 30% – of residential units at affordable rates. Out of 750 residential units, 225 units would be reserved as “affordable units,” and 525 will lease at market rate.

Secondly, the affordable units would be too expensive for minimum wage constituents. The proposal would make “affordable” apartments extremely expensive and unaffordable for very low income constituents. MIHO2 would lease the 225 affordable units at the rate of 80% of the AMI. That means, a single adult earning approximately \$63,000/year, or a two-member household earning \$72,800/year, would have access to a \$1,250 studio and a \$1,570 one-bedroom apartment. The proposal is out of reach to a significant portion of Staten Islanders.

According to pre-COVID-19 pandemic data, nearly 35% of constituents are rent-burdened, paying more than half of their income in rent. Nearly 35% have starvation wages, probably earning the minimum wage, which is less than the official living wage of \$15/hour, which itself is still too little to make a stable and healthy living on Staten Island and in New York City.

The developers should propose to reserve a majority of the 750 residential units for “affordable” rates. The more affordable apartments available to the Staten Island residents, the more likely low-income earners may find an apartment that is less than 30% of their income.

The developers should also propose an “affordability” rate that is approximately 30% of the minimum wage. The minimum wage in New York City is \$15/hour, or approximately \$28,000/year. The reasonable affordability rate for minimum wage earners should be no more than 30% of their income – that is, no more than \$720/month.

Mandatory Inclusionary Housing Option 1 (MIHO1) may be a fairer alternative. Under MIHO1, 25% of the 750 units would be reserved for affordable housing at 60% of the AMI, and at least 10% would be reserved for affordability at 40% of the AMI. That is, 188 units would be reserved for an adult earning \$47,760/year, or a two-member household earning \$54,600/year, and they would have access to \$909-studio and \$1,143 one-bedroom units. Also, at least 75 units would be reserved for single adults earning \$31,840/year, or a two-member household earning \$36,400/year, and they would have access to \$567 studio and \$717 one-bedroom apartments. If MIHO1 is chosen, then the developers should reserve 25% of units – not 10% – for affordability at 40% of the AMI.

*- Phil Marius*

On-line November 14, 2020

### **Herd Immunity isn't the Answer**

Staten Island has the highest positive coronavirus numbers in the city.

Who is to blame for Staten Island's high positive coronavirus numbers?

Why are the positive coronavirus numbers higher on the South Shore than they are on the North Shore?

The first place to look is how elected officials are reacting to the advice from medical experts on how to slow the spread.

The Democratic elected officials on the North Shore have been promoting the advice of medical experts.

The Republican elected officials on the South Shore have either been silent or have ridiculed the advice. They are more concerned about a tweet ending their political career than they are about the health of their constituents.

These Republican elected officials should no longer use the elephant as the symbol of their party and should now use the lemming because they are leading their followers over the COVID cliff.

The other cause for the spike is the belief by some that the only way to address the pandemic is through herd immunity.

They believe people should go about life as they did before the pandemic. Proponents of this approach point to Sweden's approach to the coronavirus. However, Sweden has now changed its coronavirus policy. It has banned gatherings of more than eight people and has banned the sale of alcohol at restaurants and bars after 10 p.m. Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Lofven said: "Don't go to the gym, don't go the library, don't have dinner out, don't have parties — cancel!"

It is estimated that reaching herd immunity in the U.S. would result in more than 2 million deaths. Following current guidelines, it is estimated that the U.S. would see over 400,000 deaths. Why should we follow a healthcare policy that will result in five times as many deaths?

I guess those who believe in herd immunity don't believe that "all lives matter."

- Richard Reichard



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## **Ad Rate Card**

The S.I.D.A. newsletter takes ads.

This is the rate card:

Full -page .....\$85  
1/2 page.....\$45  
1/4 page.....\$25  
Booster .....\$5

To place an ad, please contact newsletter editor Chris Bauer at 917-576-9248 or [cmaxbauer@yahoo.com](mailto:cmaxbauer@yahoo.com).



## **Elect Liz Price for President of S.I.D.A.**

Liz has served S.I.D.A. for two terms as Vice President, five terms as Social Secretary, and two terms as Member-at-Large. First elected to our Executive Committee in 2009, she has helped organize every banquet, holiday party, and picnic since then. Liz is indisputably the most experienced club member seeking the position of President.

### **Liz has been endorsed by**

- S.I.D.A. Presidents Emeriti John Soldini, Cindy Voorspuy, John Lavelle, Joy Robins, Chris Bauer, Joann Olbrich, Chris Benbow, Shawn Dwyer, Nick Popolo, and Tom Shcherbenko
- S.I.D.A. Vice-Presidents Emeriti Jeff Stonehill, Rosemary Palladino, and Bryan Ellicott
- Belinda Dixon: Advance Woman of Achievement, Past District Leader AD 61, DC 37 Delegate, local NAACP Executive Board member, and multiple Democratic National Convention (DNC) Delegate
- Stephanie Shavuo: Secretary, Staten Island Political Action Club (SIPAC)
- Selina Grey: Interim President, SIPAC, and 2021 City Council candidate 49<sup>th</sup> District
- Phil Marius: S.I.D.A. Member-at-Large Emeritus and 2021 City Council candidate 49<sup>th</sup> District
- Moumita Ahmed: co-founder Bangladeshi Americans for Political Progress, 2016 DNC Delegate, and 2021 City Council candidate 24<sup>th</sup> District
- Rajiv Gowda: 2009 City Council candidate 49<sup>th</sup> district and 2020 State Senate candidate NY-23
- David Goldfarb: S.I.D.A. Vice-President and Social Secretary Emeritus, St. George Civic Association President Emeritus, and Elder Law Attorney of the Year 2010
- Nancy Myers: 2020 Democratic National Convention Delegate
- S.I.D.A. 18-Term Recording Secretary Marie Dwyer
- S.I.D.A. Social Secretary Pearl Minsky
- S.I.D.A. Treasurer Emeritus Ralph Dickar
- S.I.D.A. Social Secretary Emeritus Sharon Santana
- S.I.D.A. long time members Mary Kain, Marianne Brennick, Susan Rappaport, Cindy Lowney, Roe McAllister, and Anne Fanciullo
- District Leader AD 62 John Mastellone
- DORC President and 2020 DNC Delegate Laura Sword
- DORC President Emeritus Steve Higgins
- DORC Vice-President Steve Schwall
- South Beach Civic Association President Joseph McAllister
- Staten Island Democratic Pathway founder Michele Karlsberg
- Council of the Arts and Humanities for Staten Island award winner Michael Sirotta

**EXPERIENCE \* ACCOUNTABILITY \* TRANSPARENCY \* INTEGRITY**

## **Elect Liz Price for President of S.I.D.A.**

Here's what some of Staten Island's Democratic Party leaders have to say about Liz:

- **Belinda Dixon, Secretary Emeritus, County Committee:** "Liz is that kind of political organizer that everyone should aspire to be – always on the side of the underdog, and a woman who won't be remembered for keeping her mouth shut!"
- **S.I.D.A. President Emeritus John Soldini:** "Add my name to the list of Past Presidents of S.I.D.A. who are supporting Liz Price to become its next president. Her hard and efficient work on various tasks and in different S.I.D.A. capacities clearly indicate she is highly qualified to fill the position. I look forward to her excelling in that capacity."
- **S.I.D.A. President Emeritus Chris Benbow:** "Liz Price has been a longstanding and active officer and member and, as a past president of S.I.D.A., I am pleased to support her candidacy."
- **S.I.D.A. President Emeritus and District Leader A.D. 64 Joann Olbrich:** "Liz has been one of the most effective and hardest working members of the S.I.D.A. Executive Committee for many years. I have been on the Executive Committee over 20 consecutive years and I have enormous respect for Liz and confidence that she can be an outstanding president. It is particularly important that the person elected to be President of S.I.D.A. has enough time serving on the Executive Committee to have a thorough knowledge of the club's bylaws, longstanding policies, and Robert's Rules of Order. Liz Price has all of that and more."
- **S.I.D.A. Vice-President Emeritus Bryan Ellicott:** "Liz was super helpful to me in my time as both Social Secretary and my term as Vice President!"
- **S.I.D.A. and DORC Secretary Marie Dwyer:** "Liz has many years of experience serving in different positions in the Executive Committee. She has always done a great job and I know she will be a great President."
- **DORC President Laura Sword:** "I'm so excited that Liz Price is running for S.I.D.A. President. Liz is brilliant, hardworking, fair-minded, and has always been supportive of me and of DORC. We have been working very closely with the other clubs on the Island and have lots of plans for joint events next year. It would be such a pleasure to be able to do that with Liz at the helm of this great organization! As we want to work very closely with the other clubs, I can't think of another person I'd rather work with than Liz. I know that her past dedication is indicative of her future commitment. And, that commitment, from what I've seen is not just *TO* S.I.D.A., but to making the world a better place *THROUGH* and *WITH* S.I.D.A."

**Five Decades of Dedication and Experience to Progressive Causes**

**Five terms as S.I.D.A. Social Secretary \* Two terms as S.I.D.A. Vice-President**

December 15, 2020	January 19, 2020
<b>General Meeting, 8:00 p.m.</b> <b>Via Zoom, see page 2</b>	<b>Annual Meeting, 8:00p.m.</b> <b>Venue T.B.D.</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mayoral Candidate Eric Adams</li> <li>• Presentation of Executive Committee Candidates</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speaker T.B.D.</li> <li>• Executive Committee Election</li> </ul>

**It's Time to Join or Renew Your S.I.D.A. Membership!**

To become a member, renew membership, or make a donation, call Bonita Rothman at (917) 596-3724, or complete and return the coupon. Voting privileges begin 45 days after joining.

✂

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2021 DUES	DONATION
_____ \$25 - Family	_____ \$5
_____ \$20 - Individual	_____ \$50
_____ - Senior, Student, or	
_____ \$15 Unemployed	_____ \$100
	_____ Other _____

\_\_\_\_\_ Check (payable to: S.I.D.A.)    \_\_\_\_\_ Cash

I understand SIDA is a Democratic Party club. I (or we, if this is a Family Membership) am (are) at least 17 years of age and an enrolled Democrat, or intend to enroll as a Democrat upon becoming eligible.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt # \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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