

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
AND  
PUBLIC HEARING**

**OCTOBER 1, 2015**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

B. Braton, A. Gellineau, F. Dardani, A. Antonino, D. Gilmartin, J. Patron, P. Baumann, E. Holland, J. Caruso, C. Malizia, M. Finnerty, D. Quintana, M. Vecchio, J. Ariola, B. Ramsundar, A. Bellantoni, H. Kamph, J. Quijano, N. Santiago, D. Mitchell, I. VanPutten, L. Amorim, P. Lynch, J. Fazio, I. Dimoh, P. Granickas, L. Gerardi, L. Walker, S. Pace, M. Ali, A. Cosentino, G. Duldulao, R. Ciulla-Frisone, R. Martinez, S. Sookram Singh

**BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

N. Beneduce, J. Calcagnile, J. Cavanagh, P. Ellison, R. Ferrara, R. Hitlall, G. Russo, M. Salim

**COMMUNITY BOARD 10 STAFF PRESENT:** K. Petersen, DM; M. Cirilli-May

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Hon. D. Weprin; Hon. P. Goldfeder; L. Savinkin, Rep., Hon. H. Jeffries; P.J. Baptiste, Rep., Hon. J. Sanders; L. Fogal, Rep., Hon. M. Miller; A. Siegel, Rep., Hon. D. Weprin; A. DuBose, Rep., Hon. L. James; G. Mitchell, Rep., Hon. E. Ulrich; J. Rose, Rep., Hon. R. Wills; L. Patterson, Rep., Hon. R. Wills; D. Brown, QBPO; D.I. J. Schiff, C.O. 106 Pct.; P.O. B. Reddick, 106 Pct., S. Austrie, Resorts World; D. Figueroa, Sr. V.P. SUS DD Services; C. Lopez, V.P. SUS Residential Services; J. Jackson, SUS

The Chairperson opened the meeting at 7:45 p.m. and asked that everyone stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chairperson then opened the first Public Hearing for the evening regarding the Capital & Expense Budget for Fiscal Year 2017 and asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to speak with regard to any item they would like to see included into the Capital & Expense Budget for the Board to consider in formulating its FY2017 priorities. There were no speakers or comments from the public. The Chairperson closed the Public Hearing.

The Chairperson informed members that this year's budget consultations with agencies have not yet ended. The Budget Committee will meet with the DM after the consultations conclude to develop the Board's budget priorities. Vote will be taken on the priorities at the Nov. Board meeting.

The Chairperson then opened the second Public Hearing for the evening. As per Section 41:34 of the Mental Hygiene Law, under the auspices of the NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities, Services for the UnderServed has notified the Board of SUS's intent to establish a community residence for persons with developmental disabilities at 89-14 South Conduit Avenue in Howard Beach, NY 11414. She indicated that representatives from Services for the UnderServed were present to provide further information and introduced Ms. Doris Figueroa, Senior Vice President of Developmental Disabilities Services, who then invited members of her team to introduce themselves. Also present from SUS were, Ms. Judith Jackson, Chief of Staff, and Carmen Lopez, Vice President of Residential Services. (P. Granickas arrived at 7:47 p.m.)

Ms. Jackson thanked everyone for the opportunity to be able to speak about the SUS organization and the services it provides. SUS is a 37 year old non-profit which serves 25,000 people in four NYC boroughs (Queens, Brooklyn, Bronx, Manhattan). They are in 69 different communities, and of the 25,000 people they serve, 1,600 are people with developmental disabilities. They provide residential care; integrated care, employment and other support services, all with the aim of helping individuals obtain independence and reach their full potential. Individuals are engaged in contributing what they can, to the degree to which

they can, to their communities. SUS employs about 1,800 people. 250 of their staff, including her, live in Queens, ten of whom live in CB10. They consider themselves to be good neighbors in the 69 different communities where they operate. They are involved in community activities such as organizing job fairs before they open a residence, conducting community days, hosting health clinics, etc.

(L. Gerardi arrived at 7:50 p.m.)

Ms. Carmen Lopez stated that the apartment they propose to open at 89-14 South Conduit Avenue is for two elderly, intellectually and physically disabled individuals, both of who are in wheelchairs. This will be a 24-hour residential setting with two staff present at all times. That staff will be assisting each resident with activities of daily living, maintaining their homes, going shopping, etc. The residents will be going out on a daily basis five days a week (Monday thru Friday) to a day program. A nurse will be visiting once a week, in addition to a psychologist, and Clinical Staff. The individuals will be participating in volunteer work and recreational activities in the community as much as possible. There is a program director, who makes sure the individuals have everything they need on a daily basis for the program. There is also a Regional Director, who is overseeing the program and will go unannounced to make sure everything is o.k. Additionally, both Ms Lopez and Ms. Figueroa would be going out periodically to make sure the residence is doing well. Also, annually the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities sends out a surveyor to make sure the apartment is being maintained according to their standards and specifications.

The Chairperson asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to comment or ask a question. No one wished to comment. The Chairperson informed Board members that written notification of tonight's public hearing had been delivered to the other homes on the block where the site is located. The Chairperson closed the public portion of the Hearing.

(L. Walker arrived at 7:53 p.m.)

The Chairperson asked if there were any questions or comments from the Board Members. She raised a question in reference the clients who are both wheelchair bound, as to whether there is access to the driveway for van pickup and discharge as the location fronts on an arterial highway with heavy traffic where stopping to pick-up and discharge would be hazardous. SUS responded that one of the reasons the apartment was chosen was because it was readily accessible on either side.

(M. Ali arrived at 7:54 p.m.) (S. Pace arrived at 7:54 p.m.)

The President of the Civic in the area welcomed SUS and indicated they certainly want to be good neighbors and stressed the importance of an open line of communication with the civic and the community board. A member asked if the apartment will be on the ground floor, and it was confirmed that it would be. There were no further questions or comments. The Chairperson thanked the representatives from SUS for their presentation.

The Chairperson then reminded Board Members, as per Section 41:34 of the Mental Hygiene Law, we are required to forward our comments within 40 days. We may either approve the site recommended, suggest one or more alternate sites, or object to the establishment of a residence at the site, because to do so would result in such concentration of residential facilities that the nature and character of the neighborhood would be substantially altered. The Chairperson asked for a motion to approve. The motion was made by Mr. P. Lynch and seconded by Ms. A. Antonino. All were in favor, with zero opposing and zero abstaining. The motion carried. The Chairperson welcomed SUS to the community and asked that they remain in contact with the office.

(A. Cosentino arrived at 7:57 p.m.)

Chairperson Braton acknowledged the presence of Assembly Member Goldfeder and invited him to speak. The Assemblyman commented on the expected Hurricane Joaquin and stressed the importance of being prepared. He indicated that as the storm is being monitored, NYCEM is conducting daily conference calls, which he, the Chairperson and the District Manager are actively participating in. He commended NYC Emergency Management and Commissioner Esposito for doing a great job and for providing good communication. He said the reconstruction of the JFK Airport runway has been completed and area residents should see air traffic return to pre-construction levels.

A member asked for an update regarding the parking issue around the Howard Beach area, which he had addressed with Councilman Ulrich and Assemblyman Goldfeder. Assemblyman Goldfeder indicated that

in the past, the focus has been on TSA, however, TSA only has 5% of the entire workforce at JFK. Therefore, the Assemblyman said almost every airline had been reached out to. Six have responded they will send a memo to every employee telling them not to park in the neighborhood. Most airlines do provide on-airport parking and will urge their employees to make use of the lots. In addition, TSA is in Union negotiations, which will include on-site free parking for all their employees in their contract, which should be available in the next two to three months. He indicated he would continue to push for resident-only parking near major hubs.

(G. Duldulao arrived at 8:02 p.m.)

The Chairperson thanked Assemblyman Goldfeder for his comments then continued with the regular order of business by asking if there were any additions or corrections to the September minutes. There were none.

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

The Chairperson reviewed incoming correspondence for the month of September 2015, which included:

- Letter from Services for the UnderServed as notification of intent to establish a community residence for people with developmental disabilities at 89-14 South Conduit Avenue.
- Letter from NYC DDC with preliminary contract drawings regarding School Safety Program 4, Project ID HWCSCH4C2, for Our Lady's Catholic Academy at 125-18 Rockaway Blvd.
- Request for a letter of no objection from Cross Bay Car Service for base license renewal.
- Request for a letter of no objection from Fanny Radio Dispatcher Service for base license renewal. The Chairperson indicated that both of their off street parking locations are in order and there are no issues with either of those companies.
- Dept. of Sanitation Draft of the Queens Borough Snow Plan for FY2016.
- Notice from DOT regarding Coordinated Street Furniture Franchise Notice of Public Hearing.
- Notice regarding the ongoing renewal work on the "A" Train.
- Communication from NY Airports Community Roundtable, which met earlier this week, regarding presentation of their by-laws - which the Chairperson attended.
- Communication from NYC Office of Emergency Management to inform that CB 10 is to be honored at their Partnership Reception to be held at 6pm at NY Public Library in Bryant Park on Thursday, October 22. Unfortunately, since they cannot accommodate all 43 board members, the Officers of the Board and the Chair of the Public Safety Committee have been invited to attend. The award is honoring the contributions that Queens Community Board 10 has made in partnering with NYCEM in preparedness efforts. The Chairperson thanked all the board members who assisted her for the information they provided about their specific areas, when it was requested so that the Board was better able to work with NYCEM on matters relating to preparedness in all of our Board communities.
- Communication from NYS DEC that site work for the Spring Creek Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Project will begin in early October, continuing through January 2016. Investigatory fieldwork, part of Phase 1, Engineering Design and Permitting, will include soils and water sampling. The project goal is to reduce damages to the Howard Beach community future storm events.
- Notice from NYC Dept. of City Planning regarding the Quality and Affordability Text Amendment that is out for public review. The Land Use Committee has had a presentation regarding it.
- Notice from NYC Dept. of City Planning regarding the Mandatory Inclusionary Housing Text Amendment that is out for review.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The Treasurer reported the expenditures for the month of September 2015.

**BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S LIAISON REPORT:** D. Brown indicated copies of the new edition of the Borough President's newsletter are available and anyone who is interested can also sign up for their e-mail blasts. The newsletter gives updates on what the Borough President is up to, as well as listing of events in Queens.

(R. Ciulla-Frisone arrived at 8:12 p.m.)

He announced the Borough President's annual Veteran's Day Observance Ceremony would be held on November 6 at 11 a.m. at the Veteran's Garden in front of Borough Hall. A copy of the official flyer will be provided, when it is available. He reported that in an effort to create a better relationship between the community residents and the National Parks Services and Charles Park, he has met, along with the Board Chairperson, with the new Superintendent to discuss issues relating to possible programs, maintenance and upkeep, and even larger capital projects. He reported the playground equipment at West Hamilton Beach Park donated by Resorts World that had been vandalized has been repaired/replaced. As the Borough President's Liaison for Hurricane Relief, he offered his assistance to Build it Back applicants who are still having issues and offered to speak with the Program Director on their behalf. He also indicated to contact him if you dropped out of the program, and you wish to get back into the program, as the policy may have changed. He can be reached at (718) 286-2853 for any concerns. He extended well wishes on behalf of the Borough President.

(R. Martinez arrived at 8:15 p.m.)

**DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING REPORT:** - no report

**DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT:** The District Manager reported that at Budget Consultation Session, the Parks Dept. advised the following planned improvements in Community Board 10:

- The reconstruction of the Judge Playground Basket Ball Courts is 19% complete. The anticipated completion of this construction will be spring 2016. The Borough President and the City Council provided funding for this project.
- At P.O. Demutiis Park, the reconstruction of the handball backstop, existing chain link fence and mesh is expected to start spring 2016. The anticipated completion of this construction is fall 2016. Mayoral funding was provided for this project.
- At P.O. Demutiis Playground, the anticipated design for the playground was completed late September 2015.
- The contract for the planned work for Frederick B. Judge Playground is currently being rebid and may delay the project.
- Parks will begin pruning trees within the area from Rockaway Boulevard to 135 Avenue/ Nassau Expressway and from the service road of the Van Wyck Expressway to Hawtree Street.
- In CB10 2,010 Street Trees and 1,395 Park/Playground Trees were pruned during F.Y. 2015 and 550 stumps were removed.

The DM announced the MTA Metrocard Mobile will be in front of the Foch Post Office at 126-15 Foch Blvd. on Tuesday, October 27 from 1 to 3 pm.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:** The Chairperson reported on the preparedness effort currently underway regarding Hurricane Joaquin. Briefings with NYCEM started this morning and will continue every day, including through the weekend. She along with the District Manager, and all of the Elected Officials representing CB 10, has participated in these conference calls. These briefings will provide updated information as it becomes available, and also serve as a point of contact so that any issues and concerns can directly get to NYCEM immediately. All of the city agencies, utilities, Port Authority, etc. are gearing up and preparing to respond. Resorts World has indicated to NYCEM that their parking lot by Home Depot

has been cleared and will be made available for emergency purposes should it be needed. The Chairperson relayed the information provided by NYCEM and NOAA as to expected tidal departures and rainfall expectations, but reminded all that the situation could change and all should follow news reports regarding Joaquin's movement in the coming days. The Chairperson informed that important information would be relayed to members via email.

(Dip. N. Singh arrived at 8:20 p.m.)

The Parks Dept. is requesting all tree related issues be reported to 311, as they will be responding to those calls as they come in. NYCEM is on Facebook and Twitter, and everyone can access updated information on [www.nyc.gov/severeweather](http://www.nyc.gov/severeweather). The Chairperson reported creating a temporary "Community Board 10 Queens" Facebook Page where information will be posted and also a Twitter Account "CB10Betty" for any information which needs to go out immediately. She reminded Board Members that her cell phone number is on their list if there is a need to reach her if the storm materializes and indicated that she will send time sensitive things out to members by text and e-mail. She and the City are urging everyone to follow the weather reports, and be prepared. She stated that there is no need to be in a panic mode but rather in a "get ready mode" as we are not dealing with a "Sandy." Current evacuation zone maps for CB10 are in the Board Member folders; red, orange and yellow designations are the at risk areas. There are no evacuation orders at this time.

The Chairperson acknowledged the presence of Deputy Inspector Schiff and invited him to speak. He reported he also has been having meetings and conference calls relating to the storm. He suggests that people follow the evacuation orders when they are given and discourages people from staying behind as subsequent evacuation from that location becomes almost impossible for the NYPD and FDNY. He reviewed some NYPD preparations that are in progress which include: big trucks with a very high wheel base have been ordered to enable them to go deeper into flooded areas to help people evacuate; coordination with the NYPD Harbor Unit to have some of the zodiac boats operate here; johnboats with manual oaring with assignment of volunteers from the 106; hip waders for areas where there is massive flooding; and help from the Auxiliary. He indicated he is in talks with the Borough to hopefully get more personnel allocated here to help during the storm and to help patrol the areas after the storm.

The Chairperson followed up by saying that everyone needs to be prepared to evacuate if evacuation orders are given, and said that John Adams is a shelter of last resort. Everyone should have a plan for where they can go outside of the evacuation area other than to a city shelter where creature comforts will be minimal.

D.I. Schiff added that the precinct is compiling a current listing of names and addresses of people who are homebound, invalid or who may need medical assistance; so assistance can be provided in case there is a loss of power, particularly if they are on ventilators or using some other type of medical equipment, which relies on power. He asked that this info be provided to the local civic association, the Precinct, or the Community Board.

The Chairperson urged everyone to check on their neighbors who may need assistance, especially the elderly, to make sure they have adequate emergency supplies and food.

The Chairperson interrupted her report to acknowledge the presence Assemblymember David Weprin and invited him to speak. He stated that although most of his district is in eastern Queens, it does also include Richmond Hill and South Richmond Hill, thereby incorporating a portion of Community Board 10. Their main office is on Union Turnpike and a second district office has been opened on Atlantic Avenue, which is staffed five days a week from 9 - 5. He expressed his thoughts and prayers for the people of Oregon and the victims of the shooting at the community college. Although there was a big legislative battle, with the Senate opposing and the Assembly supporting, tough gun control laws were passed in New York State after the last large incident in Newtown, Connecticut three years ago. He stated this is a national issue which needs to be dealt with at the national level and there needs to be sensible and reasonable limitations on assault weapons. He is proud of his Safe Act Vote and of New York State, which enacted a very comprehensive package to deal with assault weapons. He introduced Aaron Siegel, his staff member who is in the Richmond Hill Office. Assemblymember Weprin added that in Albany he is part of the New Speaker's Leadership Team as Secretary to the Democratic Conference; and is Chair of the Committee for People with Disabilities. He indicated he is leaving his cards with all the contact information.

The Chairperson Braton continued with her report and made reference to the two pages of “Emergency Tips & Hints” info, which were included in last month’s board member folders, suggesting it be shared with friends and neighbors. Included in this month’s folders are some selected statistics from Mayor’s Management Report, which was issued last week and is based on Fiscal Year 2015 - not calendar year. The Chairperson reported the updated information regarding the two Spring Creek resiliency projects as follows:

South of Belt Parkway

Spring Creek South area (Federal Land)

Site work for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Spring Creek Hazard Mitigation Grant Program project will begin in early October, continuing through January 2016. Investigatory fieldwork, part of Phase 1, Engineering Design and Permitting, will include soils and water sampling, subsurface testing, and biological, topographic, aerial and bathymetric surveying. The data collected will inform the design for the project. Community residents can expect to see equipment such as a mobile geotechnical drilling rig and survey tripods in the park. DEC’s project contractor, the US Army Corps of Engineers, awarded the contract for Phase 1 to environmental consulting and engineering firm Princeton Hydro on September 2, 2015. Subcontractors include Parsons Brinckerhoff, HDR, and Rogers Surveying. The \$3.34 million (Phase 1) DEC project is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). The project goal is to reduce damages to the Howard Beach community from future storm events. Upon Phase 1 approval, Phase 2, Construction, is tentatively scheduled to begin in 2017. Funding for Phase 2 totals \$65.8 million. Spring Creek south of the parkway is part of Gateway National Recreation Area, managed by the US National Park Service.

North of Belt Parkway

Spring Creek North Area (City Land)

USACE is currently completing the feasibility study for the site. The final study is expected to be released in December with planning and engineering to begin in February 2016. Planning and engineering is expected to be completed by March 2017 and construction is anticipated to begin in May 2017. Concurrent to USACE planning and engineering, DPR Forest Restoration will undertake clearing and invasive plant removal on portions of the project site. The contract will be submitted for legal review shortly with work expected to begin May/June 2016. DPR Green Infrastructure will also begin work on clearing and berm construction on portions of the project site. Survey and design of the Green Infrastructure project areas should be complete by January 2016 with construction to begin in April 2017. Spring Creek north of the parkway is part of Spring Creek Park Addition, managed by the NYC Dept. of Parks.

The Chairperson indicated that a number of Howard Beach residents might have been contacted regarding two surveys, both of which are legitimate. One from the Rand Corporation, a non-profit research firm, is on behalf of the NYC’s Office of Recovery and Resiliency and its purpose is for an insurance affordability study for one to four family properties. Participation is by invitation only and is limited to 700 households. She stressed the importance of participating if you were selected. The second survey also regarding flood insurance is from NYU, notification was sent in the form of a post-card, and is to be done on-line.

The Chairperson further reported that the Port Authority has approved the redevelopment of the former TWA Terminal Building at JFK by MCR Development as the TWA Flight Center Hotel at JFK Airport. The JFK Committee Chairperson has provided further information in the Committee report.

The Chairperson Braton introduced Jahai Rose, Director of Constituent Affairs, representing Councilman Wills who spoke regarding issues the Councilman was working on.

The Chairperson acknowledged the presence of L. Patterson, representing Council Member Wills; L. Fogal, representing Assembly Member Miller; G. Mitchell, representing Councilmember Ulrich; P. J. Baptiste, representing Senator Sanders; and L. Savinkin, representing Congressman Jeffries.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**SANITATION** - The Committee Chairperson indicated he received the DOS draft of the snow plan and will have more details by the next meeting.

**CONSUMER AFFAIRS** - The Committee Chairperson advised the report was in the board folders.

**TRANSPORTATION** - The Committee Chairperson announced DOT's participation in the Fall Harvest Festival, sponsored by Councilman Ulrich, at Forest Park's Victory Field, on Saturday, October 17 from noon - 3:00 p.m., which will feature a traffic safety program.

**PUBLIC SAFETY** - The Committee Chairperson advised the report was in the board folders.

**JFK INTERNATIONAL** -The Committee Chairperson advised the report was in the board folders.

**AQUEDUCT** - The Board Chairperson acknowledged the presence of S. Austrie from Resorts World, and extended thanks for making their space available to NYCEM.

**OLD BUSINESS** - none

**NEW BUSINESS** - none

**PUBLIC FORUM** – The Chairperson asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to speak. No one wished to speak.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by  
M. May

Draft. Subject to Approval