

# The QCB 12 Advisor

## View from the Chair

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Our Chairwoman, Adrienne Adams made some very important points in her opening address. We all strained forward as the various speakers came forth to take each salient point to task.

At the invitation of our Community Board Chairperson, NYPD Deputy Inspector Milt Marmara shared some encouraging news with the community; most importantly that crime has decreased overall by 15% in our area. He was able to offer actual figures of each criminal activity and

demonstrated how it related to the statistic. Even small steps are always encouraging, so this is welcome news.

The 113<sup>th</sup> Precinct offers programs to encourage local youth to develop positive relationships with law enforcement through Explorer events with Youth Officers Ramos and Gonzalez. Deputy Inspector Marmara also works to keep the lines of communication flowing by maintaining an open door policy with

Community Board leaders and the local clergy. He suggested that when the community has questions or information to communicate quickly, they email:

[CommunityAffairs113@gmail.com](mailto:CommunityAffairs113@gmail.com)

Madame Chair has expressed her hope to assist in this venture, by welcoming a representative from law enforcement at every CB12 meeting.

## In the Trenches

### Special points of interest:

- Spectrum Charter School
- Flooding Resolution
- Public Concerns
- Voice of Reason

Community Board 12 is home to some of the hardest working public advocates in the borough.

Deputy Majority Leader, Councilman Leroy Comrie offers; the services of an immigration lawyer on Saturdays from 10:30-12:30, assists the community by making those all important referrals to the Neighborhood Housing Services of Jamaica, offers informational classes for those seeking NYC funding for non profit organizations. As a result of growing wiser during the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy our Councilman

was working to see that a feasibility study is completed which addresses repair and replacement projects and the benefits of protecting our essential services as much as possible during future storms by burying the power lines in our area instead of placing them above ground again.

This and so much more information is available at the Councilman's office by calling 718 776-3700 during their normal working hours of 9-5 Mon-Fri or 10am-1pm every Saturday, and by visiting his website [www.LeroyComrie.com](http://www.LeroyComrie.com)

**Community Board 12 appreciates the many hours dedicated by its committees to hearing and responding to the many and very specific needs of this community.**

**The Committee Chairs Welcome the Partnership of the Community in the work of its Committees:**

**Good and Welfare      Land Use      Senior Citizens**

**Education      Health      Transportation**

**Communications and Technology      Sanitation      Youth Services**

**Economic Development      Parks      Blocks United**



## Adding Color to the Spectrum

In a time where charter schools are cropping up almost before our eyes, dotting the educational landscape like so many trees, the founder and director of the Black Spectrum Theatre company, housed in Roy Wilkins Park, brought a twist to this idea which he hopes will redefine the fruit borne by its graduates.

**The Spectrum Charter School** is designed to pique the interest of children who have been challenged, and not responded well, to the rigors of traditional classroom learning, but demonstrate an aptitude, or have an interest in the arts and theatre.

Mr. Carl Clay admits that he does not expect this or any school to be the definitive answer for children who struggle with what is required, but encouraging learning by utilizing the arts may offer a "hook" to regain interest in scholarly pursuits, much in the same way public schools used to offer dance, drama and music which taught many youngsters valuable skills which served them well later in life.

The NYS sponsored Spectrum Charter School expects to welcome children primarily from School Districts 27, 28 and 29, and is hoping to open its doors in 2014, filled with eager young minds who gained a place in this specialized learning environment by lottery.

## Job Fair and Empowerment Circle

The York College Male Initiative Program is working with many of our local elected officials, and the Unity in the Community effort to offer a variety of necessary and life enhancing information. For instance, workshops will be available to encourage entrepreneurship as an option to those seeking a second chance to improve their lives.

Information on how to find re-entry programs, employment opportunities, financial and healthcare resources are among the list of what will be available on

March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013 beginning at 10:00 a.m., at York College 94-20 Guy R Brewer Blvd in Jamaica, NY 11451.

The sponsors of this event are truly working together to build a better community.

You may find more information about this or similar resources by emailing: [mychance2013@yahoo.com](mailto:mychance2013@yahoo.com), or contacting one of the following:

**J. Quash, York College Male Initiative - 718.949.9500**

- or -

**Nat'l Action Network - 718.262.3772**

## Lest We Forget

NAACP-Jamaica Branch President and staunch ally in the protection of our civil liberties, Leroy Gadsden, spoke passionately to CB12 meeting attendees, regarding what has proven to be a scourge on our community. The ongoing closing of high schools has the very real potential of destroying the lives of our children, robbing them of the future that our forefathers fought and died for. We must remain mindful that life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness are not just a birthright, but a right of American

citizenship. It is for this reason that he asked for parents with their children, representatives of the community, AND members of the Community Board to accompany him to the DOE Panel for Educational Policy meeting, to be held on Monday March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 6 pm. President Gadsden encouraged the community to make a clear and decisive statement to these policymakers that we as a community are not satisfied with the manner in which their system determines how our schools are chosen for closure.

The NAACP- Jamaica Branch will provide bus transportation to the meeting and is scheduled to leave from the Branch Office: 189-26 Linden Blvd, on Monday March 11<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend, however seating on the bus is limited, so please do call ahead to secure a place for you, your guests and children.

**The Branch Office number is 718.723.3653**

## Public Concerns ~ the District Manager's Report

The NYC Construction Authority states that they will begin construction of a new 4 story elementary/intermediary school to be located at: 88-08 164<sup>th</sup> street. They hope PS/IS 314 will be the new home to students from Pre-kindergarten to 8<sup>th</sup> grade. It is expected to be completed by September 2015.

Qualified Community Board 12 residents have priority on the list being compiled for the Affordable Housing Project currently under construction on 90<sup>th</sup> avenue and 161<sup>st</sup> street.

Please contact the Community Board office for information on what the qualifications are to get on the list.

The following local businesses have applied for liquor licenses:

La Frontera Nightlife Entertainment Corp., City Ribs LLC, Beverage Town Inc., Liquor City Inc., Soho Bistro, Sangria Tapas Bar & Restaurant, Punto Rojo Bakery Coffee & Restaurant Corp., La Esmeraldita Bar & Restaurant Corp., and Proctor Hopson Post Memorial Assoc. Inc.

Demolition is scheduled for the following structures:

146-15 South Road, Block 10054, Lot 23; and a garage located at 147-41 Glassboro Avenue.

## The Community Board 12 Voice of Reason

***"Therefore be it Resolved that Community Board 12, Queens, New York supports our constituents (very reasonable) request for an IMMEDIATE comprehensive plan of ACTION to diminish the flooding in Southeast Queens..."*** These are the strong words presented in

Community Board 12's SEQ Flooding Resolution. Words that follow a list much too long and way too old for the residents of this water logged area. We feel that it is not too much to expect that the request of this action take place PRIOR TO the passage of any New York City OR New York State fiscal budget.

***"Whereas flooding conditions create health hazards, whereas residences, businesses and institutions of learning are experiencing irreparable physical damage to their foundations and structures, whereas the general condition of this area is detrimental at best, catastrophic at worse."***

***Whereas, enough already. Really!***

***"Community Board 12, Queens, New York requests the State's assistance with the necessary funding to rectify this issue."***

## Just So You Know....

### COMMUNITY BOARD 12

**90-28 161st**

**Jamaica, NY 11432**

**Phone:**

**718.658.3308**

**Fax:**

**718.739.6997**

**E-Mail:**

**pshawbilbo@cb.nyc.gov**

Community Board 12 meets  
at 7:00 PM on the third  
Wednesday of each month at  
the Robert Ross Johnson  
Family Life Center, 172-17  
Linden Blvd, St. Albans, NY  
11433

#### Membership

Community Boards serve as local representative bodies of City government. There are 59 Community Boards throughout New York City, consisting of up to 50 unsalaried members appointed by Borough Presidents in consultation with the City Council Members who represent the Board's districts. They are appointed with an effort made to assure that every neighborhood is represented. Community Board members are active, involved individuals who must reside, work, or have some other significant interest in the community.

#### Meetings

Community Boards meet once per month to address items of concern to the community. Board meetings are open to the public, and a portion of each meeting is reserved for Board Members to hear from members of the community. In addition, Community Boards regularly conduct public hearings on the City's budget, land use matters, and other major issues - to give the people of the community an opportunity to express their opinions.

#### Committees

Community Board committees do most of the planning and work on issues that are raised at Board meetings. Each Community Board establishes its committee structure and the procedures necessary to best meet the needs of its districts.

Non-Community Board members may apply to join or work on committees.



CELESTE E JAMES  
Community Board 12  
Communications and Technology Chairperson

Gregory Mays  
Community Board 12 Member

James Gantt  
Community Committee Member

### QUEENS COMMUNITY BOARD 12

90-28 161<sup>ST</sup> STREET  
JAMAICA, NY 11432

