



Chairperson, Martha Taylor

*The City of New York  
Borough of Queens*

**Community Board 8**

197-15 Hillside Avenue  
Hollis, NY 11423-2126  
Telephone: (718) 264-7895  
Fax: (718) 264-7910  
qn08@cb.nyc.gov  
www.nyc.gov/queenscb8



District Manager, Marie Adam-Ovide

Minutes of Community Board 8 Board Meeting held on Wednesday, June 8, 2016 at the Hillcrest Jewish Center, 183-02 Union Turnpike in Flushing, New York.

**Attendance:**

**Board Members Present:**

Carolyn Baker-Brown, Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Robert H. Block, Susan D. Cleary, Maria DeInnocentiis , Allen Eisenstein, Mary Maggio Fischer, Florence Fisher, Carolann Foley, Kevin Forrestal, Howard A. Fried, Bhitihara-Martha Fulton, James Gallagher Jr., Joshua Glikman, Marc A. Haken, Robert Harris, Sylvia Hernandez, , Fakrul “Delwar” Islam, Steven Konigsberg, Bright Dae-Jung Limm, Paul S. Lazauskas, Mark J. Lefkof, , Mitch Lisker, Elke Maerz, Frank Magri, Jennifer Martin, Rabbi Shlomo Nisanov, Tamara Osherov, Frances Peterson, Charlton Rhee, Steven Sadofsky, Seymour Schwartz, Douglas Sherman, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin, Rachele Van Arsdale, Jacob Weinberg and Albert Willingham.

**Board Members Absent:**

Dilafroz Ahmed, Jagir Singh Bains , Edward Chung, Kenneth Cohen II, Monica Corbett, Michael Hannibal, Tami Hirsch, Simon Pelman, Jesse Rosenbaum, Harbachan Singh, Stanley Weinblatt.

**Others Present:**

Alexander Bennett representing Congresswoman Grace Meng, Susie Tanenbaum representing Borough President Melinda Katz, Yan Chin-Muniz representing Councilman Barry Grodenchik, Masis Sarkissian representing Councilman Rory Lancman, Matt Bayley representing State Senator Tony Avella, Muhammad Rahman representing Assemblyman David Weprin, City Planner, Stephen Everett, Marie Adam-Ovide, CB8 District Manager and Jatnna Pimentel, CB8 staff member.

**Call to Order:**

Chairperson Martha Taylor called this Board Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**Public Participation:**

**Rachel Mendes** – Ms. Mendes is a social worker from self-help community services. Self-help has a new program called NY Connects. This program is sponsored by the State. NY Connects is a trusted place that gives you information about available options whether you are paying for services yourself, through insurance, or are eligible for a government program. NY Connects provides information about: home care, caregiver support, care coordination, respite care, transportation, home delivered meals, housing information, health insurance information, and more. For more information, please call (718) 559-4400 or visit their local office located at: 45-35 Kissena Boulevard.

**James Gallagher Jr.** – Mr. Gallagher invited everyone to the Fresh Meadows Homeowners Civic Association meeting on Thursday, June 30, 2016 at 8:00 p.m. at the Utopia Jewish Center [64-41 Utopia Parkway]. They will have two outstanding guest speakers: Marie Adam-Ovide, CB8 District Manager and Anthony Iuliano, Community Liaison for the Department of Buildings.

**Masis Sarkissian** – Mr. Sarkissian informed us that Councilman Rory Lancman is having two Movie Night events for the month of June. On Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at the Manton Playground basketball courts [Manton Street near 83<sup>rd</sup> Avenue]. On Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup> at the Utopia Playground [Utopia Parkway and 73<sup>rd</sup> Avenue]. Both movies will begin at 8:40 p.m. They will also have three family day events. On Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup> at the Electric Playground [164<sup>th</sup> Street and 65<sup>th</sup> Avenue], Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup> at the Mauro Playground [Park Drive East and 73<sup>rd</sup> Terrace] and Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup> at the Pomonok Playground [Kissena Boulevard and 65<sup>th</sup> Avenue]. All events will be held from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

**Salute to the Flag**

Chairperson Martha Taylor led the salute to the flag.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Dr. Allen Bennett made a motion to approve the minutes of May 11, 2016, seconded by Frank Magri.

**Count in favor**    28                      **Opposed:**    0                      **Abstained:**    0

**Board Members who approved the minutes:**

Carolyn Baker-Brown, Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Robert H. Block, Susan D. Cleary, Maria DeInnocentiis, Allen Eisenstein, Mary Maggio Fischer, Florence Fisher, Carolann Foley, Kevin Forrestal, Bhitihara-Martha Fulton, James Gallagher Jr., Sylvia Hernandez, Steven Konigsberg, Bright Dae-Jung Limm, Paul S. Lazauskas, Mark J. Lefkof, Elke Maerz, Frank Magri, Tamara Osherov, Frances Peterson, Charlton Rhee, Steven Sadofsky, Seymour Schwartz, Douglas Sherman, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin, Rachele Van Arsdale.

**Board Members who did not approve the minutes:**

None

**Guest Speakers:**

**Joseph Marziliano – DOHMH** – Mr. Marziliano made a presentation regarding the Zika Virus and the travel warnings related to Zika and Pregnancy. These are some of the main highlights of the presentation:

- People usually get Zika through a mosquito bite – but not a bite from any mosquito. *Aedes aegypti*, bites aggressively during the day and early evening. It is only found in certain parts of the world: tropical climates and parts of southern United States.
- A different mosquito that can carry Zika is sometimes found in New York City during the summer: *Aedes albopictus*. This type of mosquito is able to spread Zika to people.
- Zika is affecting parts of Central and South America, Mexico, the Caribbean and other places listed by the centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Find the latest Zika-affected locations at [cdc.gov/zika](http://cdc.gov/zika).
- Most people (80%) who get infected with Zika do not get sick. Most common symptoms are: fever, rash, joint pain and conjunctivitis (red eyes).
- It is rare but possible for Zika to spread through sexual contact. Sexually active, non-pregnant people should use birth control during and eight (8) weeks after travel to a Zika-affected area.
- Zika has been linked to birth defects. Pregnant women, women who might be pregnant soon, and their male sex partners should avoid the virus.
- Microcephaly is a birth defect that is linked to Zika. It causes a smaller than normal head compared to infants of the same age, it is also associated with developmental and functional delays.
- It is rare but possible for Zika to spread through blood. It is recommended to wait four (4) weeks after returning home from a Zika-affected area before donating blood.
- Testing is available for NYC residents who traveled to a Zika-affected area while pregnant or had symptoms within four (4) weeks of travel to a Zika-affected area. Testing is also available for fetuses and infants who have a birth defect linked to Zika.

- Prevent mosquito bites while traveling. Use insect repellent containing DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus (not for children under 3 years old). Use repellents approved by the EPA. Wear long sleeves and pants, stay in places with air conditioning or window and door screens, use a mosquito bed-net if you cannot keep mosquitoes out of your residence.
- Get rid of standing water that collects in and around your residence, since standing water attracts mosquitoes. Standing water complaints should be reported to 311. Homeowners can get notice of violation from the City if standing water is found on their property between April 1 and October 31 each year.
- More information about Zika, including travel warning and alerts, please visit; [nyc.gov/health/zika](http://nyc.gov/health/zika).
- Mr. Marziliano submitted a copy of his power point presentation. It is available at the CB8 office upon request.

*Mr. Marziliano opened the floor for Q&A.*

**Rachele Van Arsdale** –

*What percentage of mosquitoes in New York City and New York State are infectious species?*

**Answer:** [Joseph Marziliano] – That is a good question. I do not know. I am going to find out and get back to Marie on this.

*I'm having a baby, so that's why I am asking. I am very curious about the Zika spreading in New York City.*

**Answer:** [Joseph Marziliano] – Congratulations!

**Mark Lefkof** –

*I would like to know why every year DOH sprays Cunningham Park and they stop in 188<sup>th</sup> Street and then continue west of Utopia Parkway? They do not spray the area between 188<sup>th</sup> Street and Utopia Parkway, which is Jamaica Estates.*

**Answer:** [Joseph Marziliano] – We make a determination in terms of what area gets sprayed based on the areas that have tested positive for the West Nile Virus.

**Susan Cleary** –

*I would like to ask about preservatives? Is the Department of Health giving them out?*

**Answer:** [Joseph Marziliano] – DOH does give out preservatives. I will attend the health fair and I will be giving quite a few preservatives.

**Maria DeInnocentiis** –

*I called 311 and their statement on Zika was that you cannot submit a complaint on Zika on any property except in City owned property.*

**Answer:** [Joseph Marziliano] – A Zika complaint or a standing water complaint?

[Maria DeInnocentiis] – A standing water complaint.

**Answer:** [Joseph Marziliano] – All standing water complaints can be submitted by calling 311 or 311 online. Sometimes we have standing water on a property and it's a City owned property. Any City owned property we receive complaints about gets referred to the corresponding agency. For example, if a property is owned by NYCHA it will be referred to NYCHA.

**Kevin Forrestal** –

*The City stated that standing water in the streets is considered standing water after 48 hours. How does that deal with ponds and mosquitoes?*

**Answer:** [Joseph Marziliano] – We receive these types of complaints commonly in the Rockaways. We send our inspectors to larvacide the ponds and the ponding condition gets referred to DOT.

*Chairperson Martha Taylor thanked Mr. Marziliano for joining us tonight and giving such a great presentation.*

**Chairperson Martha Taylor made a couple of announcements:**

- Chairperson Martha Taylor informed everyone that Community Board 8 has been receiving an outstanding number of speed hump requests. She mentioned that we have received about 23 requests thus far. Not all of them will be granted. She mentioned to everyone that those who are requesting speed humps should be mindful that even though speed humps can be considered as a benefit to the community, they can also be dangerous. She also added that once a speed hump is installed it cannot be removed.
- She wished a Happy Birthday to Board Members Elke Maerz and Mohammed Tohin who are celebrating their birthdays this month.

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**District Manager’s Report, June 2016**

**NYPD**

The 107<sup>th</sup> Precinct stated that crime is still high; however, major crimes decreased about 5% from the previous month. The Precinct will participate at the health fair by providing crime prevention information.

**DOB**

Most of the CB8 complaints received were for illegal conversions. The Department of Buildings received an increase in complaints for work without permit. It is important to note that not all work being done requires a permit. Usually replacement work does not require permits (*i.e. roof, windows, driveways etc.*) Electrical work always requires a permit. Most plumbing work do require permits as well. When residents notice work being done against a Stop Work Order, they should file a complaint immediately. These complaints are triaged and inspectors usually get there within 24 hours. For vacate orders, the agency usually notifies the precinct informing them that they are going to inspect.

**DOH & MH**

The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene’s travel warnings in regards to the Zika Virus remain the same. The agency will participate at our health fair.

**DOT**

There is still no contract to replace curbs. They will provide traffic safety and Vision Zero information at the health fair.

**DFTA**

There will be a “Newcomers to Medicare” event scheduled for Tuesday, June 14, 2016 at 2 Lafayette Street in Manhattan. We are still waiting for events to be scheduled for the fall at Queens Borough Hall.

**DEP**

We had 362 noise complaints for the month of May. There were 190 complaints for noise relating to alarms. The other noise complaints were mostly for construction.

**HRA**

From June 1<sup>st</sup> to June 15<sup>th</sup>, the Department of Social Services will match child support debt payments of \$1,000 or more. This was also done last year and the average of child support received was \$2,300. Parents can go to the Customer Service Walk-In Center located at **151 West Broadway, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor in Manhattan** (*Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.*) They accept payments by credit card, debit card, certified check, personal check and money order. For more information, parents can call 929-252-5200.

*Happy Birthday to Board Members **Elke Maerz** and **Mohammed Tohin** who are celebrating their birthdays this month!*



*Marie Adam-Ovide*

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*DM Adam-Ovide invited everyone to attend Community Board 8's Sixth Annual Health Fair on Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup> from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Cunningham Park.*

**Borough President's Representative – Susie Tanenbaum**

- Ms. Tanenbaum informed us that Borough President Melinda Katz cordially invites everyone to celebrate the Philippine-American Friendship Day event on Tuesday, June 21, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at Queens Borough Hall [120-55 Queens Boulevard]. Space is limited and RSVP is required. Please go to [www.queensbp.org/rsvp](http://www.queensbp.org/rsvp) or call 718-286-2661. Light refreshments will be served!
- She reminded all the Board Members that are new or re-appointed that the swearing-in ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday, June 22, 2016 at 6 p.m. at the NY Hall of Science [47-01 111<sup>th</sup> Street]. She stated that all Board Members should have already received an invitation.
- Borough President Melinda Katz is sponsoring the “Only in Queens Summer Festival” on Sunday, June 26, 2016 at 1 p.m. at Flushing Meadows Corona Park. Everyone is invited!
- She wished a Happy Ramadan and a Happy Shavuot for those who are observing these religious holidays.

**Office of City Planning – Stephen Everett**

- Nothing to report.

**Committee Reports:**

**Special Citizens Futures Unlimited (SCFU):** Proposed Group Home – 84-40 150<sup>th</sup> Street (*Informational Only*).

**Kevin Forrestal, Area 3 Committee Chair:**

- Mr. Forrestal informed everyone that there was an informational hearing held on Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> at the CB8 office regarding a proposed group home on 84-40 150<sup>th</sup> Street. SCFU is looking to establish a community residence for four (4) developmentally disabled persons at the above address. This will be a 24-hour Supervised Individual Residential Alternative (IRA) for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder.
- There were three (3) residents that raised concerns about their security, property values and the upkeep of the property. Included in the packet is a copy of a letter that is being sent to the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities stating what the Community Board expects from the agency.

**Adjournment**

Carolann Foley made a motion to adjourn this meeting at 8:16 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Jatnna Pimentel, CB8 staff  
June 10, 2016*