

**SEPTEMBER 9, 2014 MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING &  
REGULAR MEETING VILLA RUSSO IL PALAZZO  
101-12 LEFFERTS BLVD**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

**ABSENCES AS OF APRIL 2014-MARCH 2015**

**2<sup>nd</sup> # Represents Absences As of January 2014 (Borough President's Attendance)**

David Adorno	(0) (1)	H. Singh Duggal	(0) (0)	Rabbi D. Pollack	(0) (0)
Inderpaul Ahluwalia	(0) (1)	Sam Esposito	(2)*(3)	Raj Rampershad	(0) (0)
Cheryl Alexander	(1) (1)	Dr. V. Evangelista	(0) (0)	Mohamed Safie	(1) (2)
Julio Batista	(0) (0)	Laraine Fletcher	(0) (0)	Regina Santoro	(0) (1)
D. Bhattacharjee	(0) (1)	Linda Fogal	(0) (1)	Jagir Singh	(1) (1)
Alex Blenkinsopp	(1) (1)	Ralph Gonzalez	(0) (0)	Jarnail Singh	(1) (1)
Latchman Budhai	(1) (2)	Sylvia Hack	(1) (1)	Ragbir Singh	(1) (2)
John Carter	(1) (2)	Joseph Iaboni	(0) (1)	Dr. Stephen Sofer	(0) (0)
Jim Coccovillo	(0) (1)	Sherman Kane	(1) (2)	Maria Thomson	(1) (1)
Andrea Crawford	(0) (0)	Joel Kuszai	(0) (1)	Marie Turley	(0) (0)
Sandra Datnarain	(0) (1)	Priscilla Levine	(0) (0)	Seth Welins	(0) (0)
Richard David	(0) (0)	Ivan Mrakovic	(0) (0)	Naidoo Veerapen	(1) (3)
Joan DeCamp	(0) (0)	Kevin O'Leary	(0) (1)	Kenichi Wilson	(0) (0)

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

Kamal Bhuiyan	(1) (0)	Scott Jordan	(1) (1)	J. Richard Smith	(1) (1)
Nick Comaianni*	(1) (3)	Marian Molina	(1) (1)	Patrick Khan	(2) (2)
Stephen Esposito	(2) (2)	Maharani Singh	(1) (1)	Clark Whitsett	(1) (1)

**ALSO PRESENT**

Mary Ann Carey, District Manager  
Lisa Gomes, Office Manager  
Irina Barayeva, Staff

\*Absences from a meeting shall mean physical non-attendance and /or failure to be present for voting on two or more agenda items marked "Vote to be Taken" at any regular or special meeting of the Board.

## Legislators & Legislative Representatives

Melinda Katz, Queens Borough President  
Elisa Velazquez, QBPO  
Assembly Member Mike Miller  
David Renz, Rep. Assembly Member Mike Miller  
Angel Vazquez, Rep. Assembly Member Mike Miller  
Senator Joseph Addabbo  
Carl Moore, Rep. Senator Joseph P. Addabbo  
Assembly Member David Weprin  
Council Member Eric Ulrich  
R. Haskins, Rep. Council Member Ulrich  
Chris Kaznowski, Rep. Assembly Member Andrew Hevesi  
Bruce Eiber, Rep. Council Member Karen Koslowitz  
Dev Awasthi, Rep. Comptroller Scott Stringer  
Scott Wolf, Rep. Assembly Member Michael Simanowitz  
Mohamed Hack, QBPO  
Deputy Inspector Hank Sautner, 102 Pct.  
P.O. Jose Severino, 102 Pct.

Guests' sign-in sheets are available upon request.

## **REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

### 1. District Manager's Report- Mary Ann Carey

District Manager Mary Ann Carey gave her parting remarks. (Copy attached)

### 2. Elected Official Recognition for Mary Ann Carey, District Manager. DM Carey was honored with proclamations from following guests:

Deputy Inspector Hank Sautner, 102 Pct. Recognition  
Queens Borough President Melinda Katz Recognition  
NYS Senator Joe Addabbo Recognition  
NYS Assembly Joint Recognition-Assemblyman Mike Miller, NYS Assemblyman Goldfeder,  
NYS Assemblyman Hevesi-Chris Kaznowski  
NYS Assemblyman David Weprin  
Comptroller Scott Stringer-Dev Awasthi

### 3. CB9 Community Recognition- Sandra Datnarain

*Mr. Mohammed Hack*

S. Datnarain read M. Hack's bio. BP Katz presented Mr. Hack with the CB 9 Recognition Award for his years of service to New York City.

Mr. Hack then gave a speech thanking all the members for their consideration.

4. Guest Speaker- DOT Deputy Commissioner Nicole Garcia, Juan Martinez, Commissioner Trottenberg's Office, Sean Quinn Pedestrian Projects Group.

► Vision Zero, Safety Improvements on Hillside Ave, Kew Gardens Rd & Metropolitan Ave

The power point presentation for the above mentioned location stressed on the following improvements:

- Shortening pedestrian crossings
- Building concrete extension/islands
- Reducing vehicle conflicts
- Simplifying traffic network.

This presentation had two main changes that were done after hearing the community's concerns at the June 10, 2014 meeting presentation:

- Left turn restriction from Hillside Ave onto Kew Gardens Rd is no longer proposed.
- Head-on condition at 131 St & Hillside Ave was taken into consideration; therefore, 131<sup>st</sup> St will be converted to a northbound operation from Metropolitan Ave to Kew Gardens Rd and will improve this condition greatly.

Question & answer period followed.

5. Public Hearing

1. Safety Improvements on Hillside and Metropolitan Avenues and Kew Gardens Rd.

**Joe Sinisi**, Richmond Hill Resident, talked about his concerns and gave recommendations re: Hillside Ave, Kew Gardens Rd & Metropolitan Ave traffic study.

2. Speed Hump Request: Park Lane South, between 102<sup>nd</sup> & 104<sup>th</sup> St.- *No speakers*

3. Liquor, Beer, & Wine Licenses, Letters of Intent Received

a. **On Premise Liquor License Application- New**

Chimi Mundo & Restaurant Corp.

98-05 Atlantic Ave

Woodhaven, NY 11421

*No speakers*

Whiskey Bar Inc.

105-13 Jamaica Ave.

Richmond Hill, NY 11418

*No speakers*

**b. On Premise Upgrade from Restaurant Wine to On Premise Liquor License-New**

La Negra Restaurant Corp.  
102-03 Jamaica Ave.  
Richmond Hill, NY 11418  
*No speakers*

**c. Reconsideration of On Premise Liquor License Application- New**

Dhyana Hibachi Lounge, Inc.  
117-15 101 Ave  
Richmond Hill, NY 11419  
*No speakers*

**d. On Premise Liquor License Application-Renewal**

Keds I Corp.  
D/b/a The Nest Restaurant & Bar  
125-17 101 Ave  
Richmond Hill, NY 11419  
*No speakers*

Shots Pool Hall Inc.  
87-50 Lefferts Blvd.  
Richmond Hill, NY 11418  
*No speakers*

Hermes Billiards & Café, Inc.  
102-14 Jamaica Ave.  
Richmond Hill, NY 11418  
*No speakers*

Starz Princess Inc.  
107-11 101 Ave  
Ozone Park, NY 11416  
*No Speakers*

Envy Café Inc. D/b/a FLIRT  
94-02 80<sup>th</sup> St.  
Ozone Park, NY 11416  
*No Speakers*

Karen Deli & Grocery, Inc.  
86-02 101 Ave  
Ozone Park, NY 11416  
*No Speakers*

Arising Banquet Hall  
127-07 94 Ave  
Richmond Hill, NY 11418  
*No Speakers*

6. Public Forum

**Catherine Asti, Richmond Hill resident**- complained about there being too many bars on Jamaica Ave, and stated that the situation is getting out of control.

**Karl Baker, Ozone Park resident** – complained about loud noise and loitering at the Ozone Park Kiwanis Street Fair. He suggested shortening the hours of operation and having police enforcement present for future events.

**Murray Berger, KGCA** – stated that, in the future, he would recommend that the Chair speaks to the community prior to taking a position on an issue, i.e. the Austin Ale House.

**Mr. & Mrs. Vittore, Ozone Park residents** – asked for the board’s help re: an abandoned factory at 102-27 84 St infested with roaches, rats, raccoons and bats.

**Robin Abdul, Ozone Park Resident**, also complained about an abandoned factory, stating that she is a mother of seven and can’t let her children go outside because she is afraid of what kind of insects and animals live there.

**Michael Butler, Richmond Hill East Business Association**, gave his suggestions for the traffic safety study at Hillside Ave, Metropolitan Ave & Kew Gardens Rd.

7. Transportation Committee Report-Kenichi Wilson, Chair

► Safety Improvements on Hillside and Metropolitan Avenues and Kew Gardens Rd **VOTE TO BE TAKEN**

**Motion # 1:** To support the DOT’s Proposal to make Safety Improvements on Hillside Ave, Metropolitan Ave & Kew Gardens Rd

**Vote # 1:** 35 in favor, 4 opposed, and 1 not present

► Speed Hump Request Park Lane South between 102<sup>nd</sup> & 104<sup>th</sup> St **VOTE TO BE TAKEN**

**Motion # 2:** To support the speed hump installation on Park Lane South, btwn 102 & 104 St

**Vote # 2:** 35 in favor, 4 opposed, and 1 not present

8. Reading of Minutes

With reference to item number 16, Seth Welins stated that when Maria Thomson made a motion not to send a letter regarding a Charter school in Woodhaven, actual votes of recorded members need to be reversed. All yes votes will become no votes and all no votes will become yes votes. Then the vote tally will make sense.

**Motion # 3:** To accept minutes as amended.

**Vote # 3:** 39 in favor, 1 not present

9. Chairperson's Remarks & Exec Report – Ralph Gonzalez

Chair Gonzalez stated that a memo was sent to all board members outlining an overview of a proposed plan for a District Manager Search Committee (DMSC). The plan provided for the CB 9 executive committee to be joined by eight additional board members to compose the DMSC. Two board members from each geographical section of the district- Woodhaven, Ozone Park, Richmond Hill and Kew Gardens would be appointed by the Chair. The DMSC would then have twelve members total.

The members of the DMSC were chosen because they do not currently serve in the role of committee chair or committee vice chair, and they welcomed the opportunity to be of service to CB 9. If the full board has no objection to any proposed DMCS member, they will be asked to convene within ten days after the September 9<sup>th</sup> board meeting to begin formulating a detailed search process.

Discussion followed.

Chair Gonzalez also talked about a memo that was sent to all board members with information regarding creating a Community Recognition Committee which will establish criteria for CB 9 recognition awards.

10. Public Safety & Consumer Affairs Committee Report- Joe Iaboni, Chair

**On Premise Liquor License Application- New**

Chimi Mundo & Restaurant Corp.

98-05 Atlantic Ave

Woodhaven, NY 11421

**VOTE TO BE TAKEN**

**Motion # 4:** To send a letter of no opposition to the SLA

**Vote # 4:** 2 in favor, 37 opposed and 1 not present

The motion failed.

Whiskey Bar Inc.  
105-13 Jamaica Ave  
Richmond Hill, NY 11418

*VOTE TO BE TAKEN*

**Motion # 5:** To send a letter of no opposition to the SLA

**Vote # 5:** 39 opposed, 1 not present

The motion failed.

**On Premise Upgrade from Restaurant Wine to On Premise Liquor License-New**

La Negra Restaurant Corp.  
102-03 Jamaica Ave  
Richmond Hill, NY 11418

*VOTE TO BE TAKEN*

**Motion # 6:** To send a letter of no opposition to the SLA

**Vote # 6:** 39 opposed, 1 not present

The motion failed.

**Reconsideration of On Premise Liquor License Application- New**

Dhyana Hibachi Lounge, Inc.  
117-15 101 Ave  
Richmond Hill, NY 11419

*VOTE TO BE TAKEN*

**Motion # 7:** To send a letter of no opposition for reconsideration to the SLA

**Vote # 7:** 1 in favor, 37 opposed, 1 abstention and 1 not present

**On Premise Liquor License Application- Renewal**

Hermes Billiards & Café, Inc.  
102-14 Jamaica Ave  
Richmond Hill, NY 11418

**Motion # 8:** To send a letter of opposition to the SLA

**Vote # 8:** 39 in favor, 1 not present

Dr. Sofer made a motion to institute a moratorium on all liquor licenses approved by the board for three months until the board finds out how many bars and nightclubs are operating in the area and if any of them are in violation of laws, such as the 500-foot rule from schools.

Sam Esposito seconded the motion.

The owner of Elixir Lounge and Restaurant said he felt legitimate business owners were being punished for the actions of others.

Dr. Sofer later withdrew his motion without a vote being cast.

**11. Budget & Finance Committee Report-E. David Adorno, Chair reported to following:**

**Item 1:** Before beginning my report, I would like to give thanks to Mary Ann Carey, for her over 30 years of dedicated service to community board 9 and the borough of Queens. Such dedication should be applauded and I am grateful to have served in the same community board that Mary Ann has worked in for so many years. She has gone above and beyond her responsibilities and I am sad to see her go but happy that she is leaving on her own terms and leaving as a champion of Community Board 9.

**Item 2:** Since Mary Ann will no longer be our district manager as of October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014, our budget will see some savings, which have yet to be determined. Consequently, we will have to distribute the responsibilities of the district manager amongst the two remaining employees of CB9, Lisa Gomes and Irina Barayeva. Since they are going to have more responsibilities, it is only fair that they receive more compensation.

During the meeting it was brought to my attention that the discussion of raises for employees of CB9 will have to be done during an executive session. This item was tabled until the next community board meeting with the agreed upon understanding that during the next meeting, if the raises are approved, that they will be retroactive from September.

**Motion # 9:** To table the raises for CB 9 employees Lisa Gomes and Irina Barayeva until the next Community Board 9 meeting.

**Vote # 9:** Unanimous

**Item 3:** Before our summer recess, we had all voted on a list of items to be purchased with the remaining funds left in the budget for FY 2014. At that time, the amount was thought to be greater than what was actually available and as a result, we were not able to purchase all of the items on the list. The remaining items that were not purchased will be purchased in the coming fiscal years.

**Item 4:** The last item is the capital and expense priorities list for CB9. The finance committee will be creating a list of recommendations for projects to be funded within the CB 9 district. We will be having a public hearing on this list during our October meeting; any recommendations can be emailed directly to me at [CB9BUDGETCHAIR@AOL.COM](mailto:CB9BUDGETCHAIR@AOL.COM).

**12. Land Use Committee Report-Clark Whitsett, Chair**

Sylvia Hack stated Clark Whitsett was not present and there is no land use committee report. She raised concerns regarding the letter that went out from the Chair to the MTA concerning an issue voted on a year ago about Austin Ale House request for outdoor seating and service.

**13. Education & Youth Services Committee-Seth Welins, Chair**

Mr. Welins stated that NYC has implemented the universal Pre-K program by creating seats for over 50,000 four year olds. There are some problems: contracts with CBOs have not all been vetted by the NYC Comptroller, some spaces are not up to safety codes and some spaces



are not very appropriate for young children. One class of 18 four year olds will be held in the Woodhaven Library, as soon as the space is ready for use. Unfortunately, some important library programs will have to be eliminated, including a well-attended class for English-language learners. Hopefully, these issues and problems will get resolved during the coming months.

**14. Health & Social Services Committee-Joan DeCamp, Chair**

No report.

**15. Parks, Recreation & Environment Committee-Nick Comaianni-not present**

Jim Coccovillo requested an update on the condition of the sites that underwent a recent reconstruction.

**16. Economic Development Committee-Richard David, Chair**

Mr. David stated that it is illegal to place bins for the drop-off of clothing or other items in New York City property, therefore the City accepts requests for the removal of clothing bins from a public street. The Department of Sanitation must give at least 30 days' notice to the owner of the bin before it can be removed.

**17. New/Old Business**

Dr. Sofer asked the board members for clothing donations for those in need.

Harjinder Singh Duggal spoke about parking issues in his area.

Maria Thomson stated that a Metro Van will be on Forest Parkway, off Jamaica Ave on Sept. 29, 2014.

Ivan Mrakovcic made an announcement about the RHBA annual Park Fair on Saturday, September 13, 2014.

Richard David made an announcement about a major Climate March on Columbus Circle on Sept. 21, 2014. He also suggested publishing CB 9 guidelines for restaurant owners.

**18. Public Forum-no speakers**

David Adorno and Maria Thomson made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting ended at 11:30 pm