

**DECEMBER 13, 2016 MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING**  
**THE NEW TRUMP PAVILION, 89-40 135<sup>th</sup> STREET**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

**ABSENCES AS OF APRIL 2016-MARCH 2017**

**2<sup>nd</sup> # Represents Absences as of January 2016-December 2016 (Borough President's Attendance)**

Julio Batista	(3) (3)	Jan Fenster	(1) (1)	Regina Santoro	(1) (2)
D. Bhattacharjee	(0) (0)	Laraine Fletcher	(0) (0)	Jagir Singh	(1) (2)
Kamal Bhuiyan	(1) (1)	Sylvia Hack	(0) (1)	Jarnail Singh	(2) (3)
Latchman Budhai	(0) (1)	Joseph Iaboni	(1) (1)	Matthew Singh	(2) (2)
John Carter	(0) (1)	Mohamad Z. Islam	(3) (4)	Ragbir Singh	(0) (1)
Andrea Crawford	(1) (1)	Joel Kuszai	(2) (2)	Marie Turley	(0) (0)
Richard David	(1) (1)	Ivan Mrakovic	(1) (2)	Seth Welins	(0) (0)
Joan DeCamp	(1) (1)	Kevin O'Leary	(0) (0)	Naidoo Veerapen	(3) (4)
Stephen Esposito	(0) (0)	Rabbi D. Pollack	(0) (0)	Kenichi Wilson	(1) (1)

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

Inderpaul Ahluwalia	(2) (2)	Linda Fogal	(3) (4)	Mohamed Safie	(6) (7)
Alex Blenkinsopp	(2) (2)	Sherman Kane	(1) (1)	Maharani Singh	(2) (2)
Jim Coccovillo	(1) (1)	Priscilla Levine	(6) (8)	Mohinder Singh	(2) (2)
Nick Comaianni	(3) (5)	Marian C. Molina	(3) (3)	J. Richard Smith	(1) (1)
Sandra Datnarain	(1) (1)	Raj Rampershad	(1) (1)	Maria Thomson	(3) (3)

**ALSO PRESENT**

Lisa Gomes, District Manager; Irina Barayeva, Community Associate; Victor Ampuero, Community Assistant

**LEGISLATORS/REPRESENTATIVES, CITY AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES**

Council Member Koslowitz  
 Bruce Eiber and David Aronov Rep. Council Member Koslowitz  
 Mohamed Hack, QBPO  
 Senator Joe Addabbo; Carl Moore, Rep. Senator Joseph Addabbo  
 Carmela Isabella, Rep. Assembly Member Miller  
 Brendan Pillar, Department of City Planning  
 Daniel Blech, Rep. Assembly Member Simanowitz  
 Maricela Cano, Rep. Council Member Ulrich  
 Muhammad Rahman, Rep. Assembly Member David Weprin  
 Kevin Jean Baptiste, Rep. Senator Sanders

\*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.

*Guest sign in sheets are available upon request.*

Bruce J. Flanz, President and CEO of Jamaica Hospital wished all a happy and healthy holiday season.

Mr. Flanz gave a progress report on Jamaica Hospital for the year. He stated that in March, 2016 Jamaica Hospital had a survey by the American College of Surgeons to determine whether or not the hospital meets their standards to continue to be a Level 1 Trauma Center. Jamaica Hospital scored 100%.

In November, 2016 The Baby Friendly USA Organization conducted a survey to determine whether a Hospital meets the standards of being baby friendly. There are about 2,500 hospitals with maternity programs in the country and only 383 have achieved that recognition. The results of the survey will be known within a month.

Jamaica Hospital had a fundraiser to renovate its Hospice Unit in the beginning of last year. Over \$1M was raised most of which came from one of the hospital trustees Joseph Ferarra. His family has been very generous and this unit will be named in their honor. Tentative project completion date is April, 2017.

## **1. PUBLIC HEARING**

### **Liquor, Wine & Beer Licenses, Letters of Intent Received**

#### **a. Corporate Change**

New Talent Zone Corp.  
D/b/a Tikka Indian Grill  
119-30 Metropolitan Ave  
Kew Gardens, NY 11415      *no speakers*

## **2. PUBLIC FORUM**

Paul Hines, Richmond Hill Resident, brought up an issue regarding lack of parking spaces on 131<sup>st</sup> Street and Kew Gardens Rd.

Murray Berger, KGCA, stated that in the future DOT should coordinate its decisions to install a new speed hump with the local Civic Associations and community organizations.

## **3. Opening of Meeting & Reading of Minutes**

Executive Secretary Mrakovcic asked for any corrections or additions to November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016 minutes. There were none.

**Motion # 1:** To accept November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016 minutes as presented

**Vote # 1:** 24 in favor and 3 abstentions

4. **Monthly Update Report 102 Pct.** *not present to give a report*
5. **Chairperson's Remarks & Exec. Report – Raj Rampershad** *not present to give a report*
6. **District Manager's Report – Lisa Gomes:**

"Queens Boro President Melinda Katz Honored and recognized the men & women who served in our Military on Veterans Day. There is a Veteran's Office in Queens Borough Hall on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Rm. 222, where veterans can receive services. Sargent Rios is the Veterans' liaison.

#### Borough Presidents Cabinet Meeting

#### Department of Sanitation Draft Snow Plan

DSNY Inventory of Available Snow Management Equipment:

9 large spreaders, 39 plowable trucks, 61 plow blades (assigned), 3 front end Loaders The Department has new snow equipment including 80 Additional holsters which will limit the use of outside contractors. Sanitation has also purchased 21 new Front-End Loaders, which will replace mid-sized Front end Loaders. The Department prepares months in advance and has adequate equipment, parts and supplies to carry out this Snow Plan.

#### Home Stability Support- Andrew Hevesi

There are over 150, 000 homeless Children in NYS. More Than 80, 000 households are on the brink of homelessness in NYS. Shelter allowance is \$264 to \$447 per month. Cost of Housing is \$658.00 to \$1608 per month. 82, 000 households have rents 1.5 times or more than their shelter allowance. Homelessness has gone down nationally but has increased in NY.

The City is at maximum capacity of homelessness. Taxpayers fund over \$1 Billion for Shelters.

Current Shelter Allowance for 3 Person Household with children in NYC is \$400.00. 2016 UD Fair Market Rent for 2 Bedroom unit is \$1,571. 54, 013 families in NY struggling to make ends meet, can't pay their rents and are in danger of being homeless. There are over 150,000 homeless children in New York State and another 80,000 families on the brink of homelessness. Every year 19,000 more people become homeless than escape homelessness, according to New York State's report to HUD.

If you want a copy of the power point presentation I can email it to you.

#### Presentation on Bioswales/ Rain Gardens, DEP

Rain gardens (aka Bioswales) capture storm water runoff and help nourish hardy, absorbent plantings which both beautify and green the surrounding communities. Rain gardens reduce the amount of water that drains into the City's combined sewer system, which improves local waterways and Jamaica Bay. Each rain garden has the capacity to collect and absorb up to 2,500 gallons of storm water when it rains.

842 rain gardens will capture an estimated 113 million gallons of storm water each year, Subsequently reducing sewer overflows into local waterways, including Paerdegat Basin, Fresh Creek, Hendrix Creek and Betts Creek, and thereby improving the health of the Jamaica Bay watershed. Rain gardens capture storm water runoff and help nourish hardy, absorbent plantings, which both beautify and green the surrounding communities." Additionally, these rain gardens

reduce the amount of water that drains into the City's combined sewer system, which improves local waterways and Jamaica Bay."

## 7. Land Use Committee Report – Sylvia Hack & Sherman Kane, Co-Chairs

Sylvia Hack stated that the meeting with State Senator Addabbo will be re-scheduled for after the holidays. At that meeting CB9 Land Use Committee will discuss the record crisis in homelessness in the city and the 421a tax abatement. According to the New York Times, record number of people is seeking shelter. As per the Independent Budget Office the City of New York is losing \$1.5B to \$2B in revenue every year because of the 421a Tax Exemption. For example, one of the apartments in Park Slope was for sale for \$1.3M and the property tax because of 421a exemption is \$6 per month.

The Land Use Committee would like to get other Community Boards involved in resolving the issue.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair Wilson acknowledged Legislatives and their representatives.

**Council Member Karen Koslowitz** wished all a Happy Holiday Season.

**Mohamed Hack, Rep. QBP Melinda Katz**, invited all to the State of the Borough Address on January 27, 2017 at York College.

**Carmela Isabella, Rep. Assembly Member Miller**, wished all a Happy Holiday Season.

**Daniel Blech, Rep. Assembly Member Simanowitz**, wished all a Happy Holiday Season.

**Maricela Cano, Rep. Council Member Ulrich**, reported on the Participatory Budget Updates:

- Dog Park in Forest Park was budgeted for \$175,000; anticipated completion is spring, 2017.
- Baby Carriage Lane was budgeted for \$400,000; design to begin in April.
- Lt. Clinton Whiting Square was budgeted for \$250,000; anticipated design is in spring, 2017.
- Forest Park repairs and resurface to pathways adjacent to Schaefer Memorial was budgeted for \$150,000; anticipated construction is spring of 2017.

Ms. Cano stated that the Council Member's office is working with Queens College to bring a program that will prepare adults to take TASC test, formerly known as GED. This program is designed to prepare adults to take and pass this test. Council Member Ulrich has designed this program so all students receive textbooks, instructors and a coach. The office is looking to launch this program in March, 2017.

**Muhammad Rahman, Rep. Assembly Member David Weprin**, stated that the Assembly Member is sponsoring an annual Toy Drive at the Assemblyman's office on 111-12 Atlantic Ave, Richmond Hill, NY 11419. All donations must be received by December 16, 2016.

**Kevin Jean Baptiste, Rep. Senator Sanders Jr.**, stated that Senator Sanders Jr. is sponsoring a Housing Conference on Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Constituents can get important updates

about affordable housing, learn how to apply for affordable housing in NYC and understand their rights as tenants.

**Brendan Pillar, Department of City Planning**, stated that he was the Queens/CB9 planner for the past six years. He spoke about the successful operation of Richmond Hill and Woodhaven rezoning in 2009 and introduced Breyonne Golding as a new CB9 liaison.

**State Senator Joe Addabbo** thanked all board members for their services and wished all a happy holiday season.

## 8. Transportation & Traffic Committee Report – Kenny Wilson, Chair

Mr. Wilson stated that the request for an additional lighting underneath the LIRR trestle on Hillside Ave, between Lefferts Blvd. and Jamaica Ave was approved.

Speed Humps on Park Lane South:

Between Forest Park Drive & 85<sup>th</sup> Street  
Between 86<sup>th</sup> Street & 87<sup>th</sup> Street  
Between 89<sup>th</sup> Street & 90<sup>th</sup> Street  
Between 91<sup>st</sup> Street & Woodhaven Blvd

**Motion # 2:** To send a letter of support to DOT for speed hump installation

**Vote # 2:** 24 in favor and 3 opposed

Speed Hump on Park Lane South between 88<sup>th</sup> Street & 89<sup>th</sup> Street

**Motion # 3:** To send a letter of opposition to DOT for speed hump installation

**Vote # 3:** 26 in favor and 1 opposed

Speed Hump on Audley Street between Abingdon Rd & Metropolitan Ave  
(Meets Criteria for 2 Speed Humps)

**Motion # 4:** To send a letter of support to DOT for speed hump installation

**Vote # 4:** Unanimous

Speed Hump on 96<sup>th</sup> Street between 89<sup>th</sup> Ave & 91<sup>st</sup> Ave (P.S. 306)  
“” “” “” “” on 96<sup>th</sup> Street between 91<sup>st</sup> Rd & 91<sup>st</sup> Drive

**Motion # 5:** To send a letter of support to DOT for speed hump installation

**Vote # 5:** Unanimous

Speed Hump on 118<sup>th</sup> Street between Atlantic Ave & 95<sup>th</sup> Ave

**Motion # 6:** To send a letter of support to DOT for speed hump installation

**Vote # 6:** Unanimous

**9. Public Safety & Consumer Affairs Committee Report – M. Singh & J. Coccovillo, Co-Chairs**

Rabbi Pollack announced that the next Public Safety & Consumer Affairs Committee meeting will take place on Monday, December 19, 2016 at 7 p.m. at the district office.

**10. Ad Hoc Committee Report – John Carter & Rabbi Daniel Pollack, Co-Chairs**

**Proposed New By-Laws**

**Motion # 7:** To adopt the proposed, revised by-laws for Community Board 9

**Vote # 7:** Unanimous

**11. Health & Social Services Committee Report – Marian C. Molina, Chair *not present to give a report***

**12. Education & Youth Services Committee Report – Seth Welins, Chair:**

“The Every Student Succeeds Act was enacted by Congress in 2015. It replaces the 2001 No Child Left Behind law. The NCLB Act centralized many educational policies in the Federal Government. The current ESSA law authorizes each state to develop its own academic rules and regulations. In effect, the ESSA ends federal interference in state standards and ends the federal mandates to adopt the Common Core State Standards.

New York State is now responding to parent and teacher concerns about many of the more onerous Common Core Standards, (standards that are not age-appropriate, for example) and the methods currently being used to assess whether students, schools and teachers are meeting these standards. Commissioner Elia formed a task force which will recommend modifications in the current Common Core Standards and in the testing procedures. These changes will allow schools to significantly reduce testing time and preparation. Schools will be allowed greater flexibility for assessing English language learners and students with disabilities.”

**13. Parks, Environment & Sanitation Committee Report – J.R. Smith & R. Santoro, Co-Chairs *no report***

**14. Economic Development Committee Report – Richard David & Matthew Singh, Co-Chairs**

Richard David made an announcement about CB9’s Toy Drive.

**15. Old Business *no speakers***

**16. New Business**

Joel Kuszai raised a question of forming a new committee that will deal with veteran’s services, homeless crises, etc.

**17. Public Forum**

Parbati Motiram, Woodhaven Resident, spoke in favor of traffic calming devices and requested additional receptacle baskets.

Rabbi Pollack made a motion to adjourn, Andrea Crawford seconded the motion.

The meeting ended at 9:15 p.m.