

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

ABUL HASNAT
ADAM COHEN
ANNA CALI
AVI GREENSTEIN
AVROHOM WOLFSON
BERNARD FREILICH
CHESKY BLAU
DAVID SHLOMOVICH
EDGAR GLUCK
ELLIE KASTEL
JACOB ASKAL
JACOB DASKAL
JACOB HASS
JACQUE FRIEDMAN
JEFFREY DWECK
JOHN TALMADGE
JOSEPH GROSS
LILY MARINELLI
JULES FLEISCHER
MAMNUNUL HAQ
MIRIAM HERSKO
MORDECHAI KATZ
NAFTALI TESSLER
PETER REBENWURZEL
ROCHELLE ZAMI
SAM STOBER
SHARON FUCHS
SOL WAHBA
YAAKOV KAPLAN
YECHIEL MALIK
YERUCHIM SILBER
YIDEL PERLSTEIN
YONAH MOSES

COMMUNITY RESIDENTS

APPROXIMATELY 5 RESIDENTS

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

ALAN DUBROW
ANNIE FERDOUS
DAVID FRIEDLANDER
DOUGLAS JABLON
JACOB EISDORFER
LARRY JASON
MAYER WEBER
MENDEL REINER
MONIQUE WALLACE
MORRIS SENDEROVICH
MORTON PUPKO
SHLOMIE RIEGER
YAAKOV SCHAPIRO

STAFF PRESENT

BARRY SPITZER – DISTRICT MANAGER
GITTEL FEKETE- COMMUNITY
COORDINATOR
ANN MARIE HONAN- COMMUNITY
ASSISTANT

ELECTED OFFICIALS

COUNCILMAN KALMAN YEGER
ASSEMBLYMAN SIMCHA EICHENSTEIN
TONYA CANTLO, REP. BP ERIC ADAMS
PINNY RINGEL REP. MAYOR DE BLASIO
PINNY HIKIND REP. COMPTROLLER
STRINGER
SHARON FUCHS, REP. SENATOR FELDER
GABI FRIEDLANDER, REP. CM LANDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ATTENDANCE BY DM BARRY SPITZER

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS- YIDEL PERLSTEIN:

- The city requires community boards meet once a month, except for the months of July and August. Community board meetings are subject to open meeting laws, they are open to the general public. In light of the Coronavirus pandemic, the Governor issued an executive order that substantially expands the authority of public bodies on the open meeting laws, including community boards. This allows the board meetings to be held via WebEx, zoom or any audio or visual means. So long as this order remains in effect CB12 will meet through these means at its discretion.
- Thank you to the Board Members and the community for adapting to this online format. A lot of things have changed due to this pandemic. And while we hoped this pandemic would have subsided by now, unfortunately that has not happened. So the meeting today is to inform, support and conduct necessary business.
- Happy Ramadan to all who celebrate.
- The chairman took a moment to acknowledge the incredible pain that is felt by everyone. This disease did not and does not discriminate. We are all in mourning now. We all know some who have succumbed to this disease. But we will get through this. We need to keep being safe and staying home as much as possible. This disease is still contagious. It is slowing only because we are careful. We cannot become complacent. It is very hard to stay home when we are used to going out to worship, to work or even just to be with family and friends.
- He took a moment to honor the memory of two prominent individuals lost, the Novominsker Rav and Judge Noach Dear who have had significant impact on this community board.
- The Novominsker Rav was the leader of The Agudath Israel of America Organization. The Novominsker Rav, Rabbi Yaakov Perlow, was renowned for rebuilding the Jewish Community and leading it with presence of mind into the thriving community it is today. The last public statement the Rav gave was on the importance of following the rules to combat COVID-19. We must honor him by following them. The second vice chair Rabbi Yeruchim Silber, the Director of Government Relations at the Agudah will say a few words later to pay tribute to this great man.
- Judge Noach Dear was an icon who was instrumental in shaping the political landscape of the Boro Park area into the powerhouse it is today. He held many positions in his long and illustrious years of public service. He was a district leader, a board member, the District Manager of our Board, a Councilman and ultimately a Judge. One continuous trait was evident throughout- he was committed to doing the right thing. He was known to be fair and unbiased. And would risk his own political career to combat social injustices. All in public service owe him a debt of gratitude for paving the way. His memory is honored by continuing his legacy of public service with grace and dignity. Councilman Yeger will pay tribute to him during his remarks.
- The chairman reviewed the up to day coronavirus numbers released by the Governor. Today, 933 new confirmed positive cases were reported in NY, which is slightly down from the day before. And 306 New Yorkers have succumbed to this disease.
The total number of reported Coronavirus cases in NYC is 159,865, and the total number of deaths is 12,287.

The numbers are definitely down from the peak recently experienced. What a sad situation it is that we are hopeful that only 335 people lost their lives in one day to this disease.

But the numbers are trending down. New COVID Hospitalization are down.

People currently in ICU's are currently down.

People testing positive for COVID-19 are down.

These numbers are an indication that the measures taken to flatten the curve are effective. We cannot become complacent this early. We need to follow the guidelines set forth by the government, Gov. Cuomo and Mayor de Blasio. There is hope that the NY on PAUSE will begin loosening on May 15. But, this decision will be guided by science and hard facts. There needs to first be a 14 day decline in all relevant COVID numbers. The un-pause will be determined region by region and only in phases. PHASE 1, the resuming of Construction /Manufacturing. PHASE 2 is opening certain business. More information will become available as the reopening gets closer.

- In the meantime, the fines for social distancing increased from \$500 to \$1,000. 100% of a non-exempt essential service business's workforce should stay home. A halt on all non-essential public gatherings remains in effect.
- Please follow the instructions issued by the government. We will get through this. And when we do we will honor those who died. But for now, the best way to honor them is by staying home.
- We must take a moment now to applaud the healthcare workers and other essential employees. They don't have the ability to work from home. These are the grocery workers and police officers, transit employees and firefighters, teachers, sanitation workers and of course EMS who keep our city running. They enable all of us to have food on our table and stay safely home. They kept us safe and kept the city running.
- We must acknowledge the healthcare workers who sacrifice their time, their health and in some cases their lives, to care for our sick. These doctors, nurses and all other healthcare workers deserve our utmost gratitude. We will honor them by a moment of applause.
- As government is talking about reopening, or reimagining. We hope this pandemic will lead to some positive lasting changes. We have all gained compassion. We have seen the incredible kindness in all areas. From caring for the sick to providing food and virtual company to the elderly, to donating plasma from those who mere weeks ago were ill with this disease. When we look back at this hopefully we will remember the kindness and compassion humanity has displayed.
- The organizations I am mentioning are by no means an exhaustive list. But if we were to take the time to mention every organization, school, and charity that dedicated itself to helping us cope- we would be here until tomorrow. So only a few will be mentioned
 - Hatzolah: we all know the dedication and hard work Hatzolah does year round. The lives they have saved. Now, during COVID-19 they have been on the front lines. During the peak they were responding to more than 550 calls a day. They needed to call in resources from the Catskills for support. Their hotlines were fielding more than 1000 calls a day. Thank you also to Hatzolah wives who gave up their spouses for the duration of this crisis.
 - Shomrim: for distributing oxygen concentrators that saved 100's of COVID infected patients from needing to be hospitalized. This reduced the risk to the infected and eased, just a bit, the overwhelming of the hospitals and healthcare workers. This also gave people a chance to not have to go to the hospital.
 - Met Council – under the leadership of our former councilman David Greenfield, stepped in early to fill a void. And has been on the front lines in provided crisis intervention and ensuring food security to all needy new Yorkers. David Greenfield was raising awareness early on and demanding that food banks be filled for the many new Yorkers who depend on this food. Take a moment to visit their website. It is a great resource.
 - Chessed Shel Emes- This is one of the organizations we hope never to need. Unfortunately this pandemic had them working round the clock in providing Kavod HaMes.
 - Misaskim- Thank you for helping out the thousands of mourners.

- Yachad D'Bobov for delivering oxygen concentrators. For coordinating plasma testing and for helping out in any way they could. This organization is incredible and R' Chaim Fleischer deserves a standing ovation every day. This was especially relevant to the Chairman whose mother had double pneumonia and R' Fleisher made sure she had an oxygen concentrator and had a doctor checking in on her every day. This enabled her to stay home from the hospital, even in her condition.
- Masbia- the amount of food they distributed this year Pesach cannot be quantified. This year they distributed to a lot of to families who never needed assistance before. They continue their food distribution now and many, many families owe them a huge debt of gratitude. So thank you Sendy Rapaport and the entire Masbia Team.
- BPJCC- Rabbi Avi Greenstein will talk about the resources BPJCC has for those with financial hardships due to COVID. But I want to recognize their hard work and quick actions.
- Chaveirim- Thank you
- Bikur Cholim- Thank you.
- All of the schools that provided food and home schooling, thank you. Shout out to our very own board member Joe Gross who was at Beis Yaakov making sure the food sent to families went smoothly.
- Thank you to all the mothers and fathers who found themselves filling the roles of teachers. I think I speak for all of us when I say- I think all teachers deserve a raise.
- The chairman took a moment to acknowledge the cooperation the community. This year Pesach was not celebrated the way it usually is. The plans for sreifas chumets kept on changing as the pandemic was spreading up until the last minute. Finally, we came out with a plan that this year there will be no public sreifas chumets and the entire community cooperated. Our district manager got a report from the chief of FDNY that there were no incidents at all.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REMARKS:

Barry Spitzer- District Manager:

- The district manager added on to what was said about Rabbi Chaim Fleisher, Mr. Spitzer's father was in the hospital and Rabbi Fleisher was there every step of the way. No one was allowed into the hospital and Rabbi Fleisher was the only connection the family had. Rabbi Fleisher does not stop at all. He is there 24/7 helping navigate doctors and giving reports. He was really phenomenal. And our entire family owes him a debt of gratitude.
- He wished a big Mazel Tov to the Chairman, Yidel Perlstein, on the birth of his first grandchild.
- The district manager shared some resources that the public might not be aware of. The board will share some guides that others published - that are clear, comprehensive and concise, in a separate resources page. A few COVID related resources were briefly touch upon.
- One of the biggest impacts of the pandemic is the financial difficulties it presents. NYC Comptroller, Scott Stringer, published an excellent resource guide on his website at comptroller.nyc.gov/services that details many resources and accommodations the city enacted to combat the financial hardships.
All levels of government implemented policies to ease the financial burden. Some will be highlighted. As always, any questions can be directed to the Community Board office at 718-851-0800. The staff is working from home and will gladly point you in the right direction. We are very proud to say that our office has not been closed one day from the start of this to this day. This is a tribute to Ann Marie and Gittel who both have children and sat at home with their phones handling things. Please be patient and leave a message if your call is not immediately answered. Other boards that we tried reaching out to are closed, this board is proud to have adapted to the changes in a way where we can still serve our residents.

- NYC implemented a 90 day eviction moratorium effective until at least June 20th. This means your landlord cannot evict you even if you don't pay rent. This also means that HRA will not be processing applications for emergency rent arrears until after June 20th. But- the rent still has to be paid. We don't know yet how the courts will handle proceedings post pandemic for those who were unable to pay rent.
- There is a 90 Mortgage suspension in effect. Talk to your accountants and/or bankers. While there are limitations, this 90 days suspension can be tacked on the back end of your mortgage. We have gotten reports back from constituents who were successful with this.
- There are stimulus packages available for personal, as well as for business use. Under the CARES act, the federal government is distributing \$1,200 which is the base. \$2,400 for a couple and every child an additional \$500. You need to have filed either your 2018 or 2019 tax return. That is all you need to do to get this payment.
- There are different programs available to provide financial assistance to business. There are federal government programs such as the PPP (payment protection program) designed to help businesses keep employing their employees.
There is also the EIDL Loan (Economic Injury Disaster Loan) which is a \$10,000 loan that doesn't have to be repaid. This program is not accepting new applications but will continue to process previously submitted applications on a first come first serve basis.

- There is a wealth of privately funded and administrated financial assistance.

Facebook is offering \$100 million in cash grants and ad credits to help small businesses during these challenging times. The grant opened on April 18 for NYC small businesses and is due by May 2 for the NYC area. The link for this is available on our resources guide: <https://www.facebook.com/business/boost/grants/application-guide>

- To help small businesses deal with the impact of COVID-19, the City has launched the NYC Small Business Continuity Loan Program. This program is available to New York City businesses with fewer than 100 employees that can demonstrate at least a 25% decrease in revenue as a result of COVID-19. Eligible businesses can apply for an interest-free loan up to \$75,000. This program is also at capacity- but you can sign up to get more information. Again the link is on our resources guide. <https://www1.nyc.gov/nycbusiness/article/nyc-small-business-continuity-loan-program>
- One very important program to highlight is unemployment insurance. The most common misconception we hear is from people who think they can't apply because they own their own businesses or are gig workers. Because of the unique situation brought about by this virus, unemployment insurance is open for self-employed and gig workers who are out of work or whose work is significantly reduced. Please visit the DOL website. They are not accepting applications over the phone. There is a great flyer available that clearly explains who and when someone can qualify and can expect to receive. This benefit is retroactive so don't worry that you are applying so late.
- Late payment fees and ATM overdraft fees are also suspended. All federal student loan interest have been suspended.
- Another difficulty from COVID is the food insecurity it brought about. People are not earning enough money to provide food for themselves and their families. Aside for emergency Food Stamps that our social service organizations or Access HRA can help you with, there are many options to get actual food.
- Thanks to the dedication of our elected officials (Senator Simcha Felder, Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein, Councilman Chaim Deutsch, Assemblyman Daniel Rosenthal and Councilman Kalman Yeger), the grab and go meals provided by the Department of Education were expanded to include kosher meal options for both breakfast and lunch. The locations in Community Board 12 are: P.S. 160 at 5105 Fort Hamilton Pkwy and P.S. 192 at 4715 18th Ave.

There are various food options available.

- The Met Council Food Pantry is open.
- Masbia is also open and has been providing food for countless New Yorkers, both before Pesach and now.
- NYC is delivering food to New Yorkers who cannot leave their homes, either due to COVID infection or for any other medical reason. The City has streamlined the home delivery of meals to seniors. Key resources are available at nyc.gov/GetFood or by calling 311 and saying "Get Food."

A few more things to note:

- Alternative Side Parking continues to be suspended until May 12th. It will likely be extended if NY Pause continues beyond it.
- All Schools remain closed. Many schools have teleconferencing options. There are also really great resources available online at the Brooklyn Public Library and various other educational websites. While all [Brooklyn Public Library](https://www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/) branches are closed until further notice, services and programming are still available online at their website.
- The District Attorney's office reminds everyone to please be mindful of fake text messages and emails about checks from the government. Clicking on links in these messages can expose you to scams or download malware onto your device. Delete unsolicited texts or emails, and do not click on any embedded links. For trusted information on government checks or payments, visit [IRS.GOV/CORONAVIRUS](https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus). You can also report any suspicious messages to the Federal Trade Commission at [ftc.gov/complaint](https://www.ftc.gov/complaint).
- COVID 19 testing is free and available in numerous locations throughout the city. A link with locations will be available upon request. If you do not have a primary care provider, please call the 24-hour state hotline at (888) 364-3065 or 311 to receive assistance. You can get care in NYC regardless of immigration status or ability to pay.
- NYC is sending updates via a dedicated NYC COVID texting number. Sign up at 692-692 to get these updates.
- All publicly permitted events for May and June have been cancelled by the city's Street Activity Permit Office. This includes all the Lag B'Omer events. We are still approving mobile units as needed. For example for Shavuot the city is allowing those to go further.
- Beginning May 4th, the New York City Department of Sanitation (DSNY) will suspend its curbside composting program. During the suspension, any food scraps and yard waste set out for composting will be collected as trash. Residents with brown bins should store their bins in a safe location for the duration of the suspension.
- The New York City Department of Buildings (DOB) is fining and shutting down non-essential construction sites. Only essential construction may continue, such construction includes roads, bridges, transit facilities, utilities, hospitals, or health care facilities, affordable housing, and homeless shelters.
- The New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG) launched the NY COVID-19 Legal Resource Hotline to help New York City residents impacted by COVID-19 get answers to their legal questions on issues such as unemployment benefits, employee rights, housing, public benefits, consumer debt, advance planning, stimulus payments, and special education issues. The phone number to call is 929-356-9582 Monday-Friday 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM or you can visit nylag.org/hotline.
- The Trump Administration is moving to delay some deadlines for the 2020 Census due to the coronavirus, including delivering data to states for congressional redistricting. The delay would accommodate social distancing guidelines for workers to prevent the spread of the disease and extend the deadline from December 2020 to April 2021. Please use this stay at home opportunity to fill out your census. It's been said many times before, but bears repeating. Boro Park had only a 49% participation rate in 2010. We cannot afford to allow this to happen.

- NYC Parks has closed playgrounds. Parks will remain open for the time being. Please remember to wear a mask when and if you visit a park.
- The stay at home can be very taxing on mental health. There are mental health professionals who are volunteering their services. Call (844) 863-9314 for a free appointment.
- It is unfortunate that we need to mention this, but domestic violence incidences are increasing during this time when people are together more than usual. If you or anyone you know is in a dangerous situation you can reach out to Met Council's dedicated DV Unit at 212.453.9618. Or you can reach out to the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1 (800) 621-4673, or chat online at thehotline.org.
- Tax Day has been postponed to Wednesday, July 15th. As per Mayor de Blasio, all tax lien sales will be postponed from May until at least August.
- All HRA appointments can now be held over the phone or postponed. No one should be going down to HRA or doing reapplications now. Most recertification can be done online or through the Access HRA app. There will be no sanctions resulting from missed appointments.
- There are significant cuts to budgets as a result of the economic impact on the city budget. We will keep you apprised of changes that will impact the community. As of now we know that graffiti free NYC program was cut.
- The MTA is working on a limited schedule for the purposes of getting essential employees to where they need to go. Please only use NYC transit for essential travel. And check on mta.info to see if the trains you are looking to take are available. The City will also begin cleaning the subway system every night starting May 6th.
- The IRS update their stimulus website so if anyone is looking for information it's irs.gov/coronavirus/getmypayment

Nominating Committee Report- by Miriam Hersko- Chair of the Nominating Committee:

- The nominating committee met earlier in the month via WebEx to discuss a nomination of a slate of executive officers for a one year term. After discussion by the members, the committee agreed the officers are doing an excellent job and especially in these trying times it's important to keep this leadership intact.
- The committee voted unanimously to nominate the current slate of offices to continue for the next one year term. The slate presented was as follows:
 - Yidel Perlstein for Chairman
 - Yaakov Kaplan for First Vice Chair
 - Yeruchim Silber for Second Vice Chair
 - Ana Cali for Secretary
- Mrs. Hersko asked if there were any nominations from the floor.
- Being that there were no nominations from the floor, the nominations were closed. Article 8 Section 3 of the bylaws states that 'In the event the slate, or any candidate on the slate is unopposed, the chairperson shall direct one vote to be cast to elect the unopposed slate or the nominee'.
- The Chairman directed Board Member Sol Reiger to cast a vote.
- Mr. Reiger affirmed the Committee's nomination.
- Mrs. Hersko thanked her colleagues on the committee: Naftali Tessler, John Talmadge, and Jonah Moses for their work on this committee. She congratulated the reelected and newly elected executive officers, and wished them success on the new term.
- She further congratulated the Chairman upon the birth of his granddaughter and wished him lots of nachas from his entire family.

Yidel Perlstein- Chairman:

- Thanked Mrs. Hersko as well as the rest of the committee for volunteering their time.
- He congratulated his colleagues, Yaakov Kaplan Yeruchim Silber and Anna Cali on their reappointment. And expressed gratitude to the entire board for providing him an opportunity to serve another year

PUBLIC SESSION:

Terry Silverman- Resident:

- Questioned why there were still gatherings going on at 1453-55th Street. She filed numerous complaints and at one point saw patrol car pass by making announcement. But there were still 20-30 people in this parking lot gathering there. There are also people hanging out in the backyard which is private property, so maybe for that there is nothing to be done.
- She asked why numerous complaints ignored and these men were are still allowed to gather when they're being asked by the rabbis constantly on robocalls all day long not to continue to gather.

Yidel Perlstein- Chairman:

- Since more than one person asked about this topic, the chairman offered some clarification. Over 99% of the community and people residing in CB 12 are following the rules and taking this virus very seriously.
Further, the Governor's executive order did not state that synagogues have to be closed, which means that although you cannot hold any lectures or services, if one chooses to go into a synagogue and keep a six foot social distancing, then there's nothing that can be done about it, according to the law.
So, whenever a 311 complaint is filed, police always follow up and go in there. And if they find that people are following social distancing at the time of the visit, then there's not much by law that can be done.
It's important to remember that 99% of the community are following the rules. People are praying in their houses, people are staying away from social gathering. In general all of CB 12 is doing a pretty good job.

John Talmadge- Board Member:

- He agreed with certain things the Ms. Silverman said. He has been in this neighborhood every day for years. He is in Community Board 12 and 11. Mr. Talmadge lost his partner's father the day before the board meeting. The sad part is the Board leadership is trying to do what they could to inform the neighborhood and to keep everyone safe. He wishes the public would listen more. His own daughter is a nurse at NYU and she tells every day of what goes on. It's for the peoples own benefit to listen to these rules.
There has to be a different way to get the community at large to follow the rules.

Yidel Perlstein- Chairman:

- Reiterated that 99% of shuls are closed because rabbis gave orders to close them.
- The problem is that we can try our best to talk common sense, but there's always going to be that 1% that won't listen. And the NYPD is working to enforce the rules. The way the governor wrote the executive order is kind of vague which gives very little enforcement power. The NYPD still visit those sites every day, and the board keeps on trying to speak to the leaders. Majority of the synagogues are closed.

John Talmadge-Board Member:

- The people breaking the rules need to understand the effects. For example, the district manager mentioned previously there are budget cuts. Certain departments, like DSNY are losing manpower. Some workers died and many are out sick for weeks at a time. DSNY won't be able to service corner baskets.

Mr. Talmadge had one of the men he worked with daily in the hospital with COVID. The workers in the streets get nervous. They do not want to be around people, because they don't want to catch COVID.

There are a few locations DSNY is servicing more in light of the pandemic, such as 61st street. This is to maintain the cleanliness there, since it's an area with a large homeless population. They even have a portable bathroom there to try to conserve people from doing things they shouldn't do industry. The DSNY is trying to work together with the neighborhood.

Yidel Perlstein- Chairman:

- Thanked the DSNY. The employees are out collecting garbage twice a week and it's appreciated.

Rabbi Yeruchim Silber- Second Vice Chair paid tribute to the Novominsker Rebbe:

- The Rabbi was born 89 years ago in NYC, went to school here, and yeshiva here.
- He moved to Chicago for a time during the sixties. He came back to NYC when his father passed away in the 80's and took over his father's congregation, and the yeshiva, which is one of the most prominent Yeshivas in the neighborhood.

The Rabbi had a thriving congregation, a very prominent yeshiva, and besides that was always there for every individual. Twenty two years ago when the late president of Agudas Israel, Rabbi Moshe Sherer, was niftar, he was asked to take on that role. People wondered how he was going to do it, because he had so much on his plate already. He never turned away any request.

Rabbi Silber saw this personally many times, the Rebbe was always around and had such a warm heart. He got involved in so many issues and brought them to the forefront.

Rabbi Perlow spent 22 years as the head of the Agudas Israel. When Rabbi Silber was the CEO of BPJCC, the rabbi would call him constantly to try to help various families who were going through very hard times.

- The rabbi was very humble, he lived in a simple apartment on 48th Street. There wasn't a lot of fanfare, but his address, his home was the address many turned to.
- What is interesting is that in other circumstance there would have a funeral that would have shut down the whole city. But the levaya had exactly 10 people, in keeping with the rabbis wishes
- What's ironic is the very last week of his life, right before Passover he was asked to write a message to the community. He addressed the importance of following laws and fighting the pandemic and how critically important it was to stay indoors and stay safe.

He wrote the last message on a Friday, it was circulated among different Agudah members for revision on Sunday. The final draft was finished and distributed on Monday That night he passed away. That was his final message of encouragement to all of us before he passed away.

He really was one of the great, great leaders of our time.

May his memory be a blessing to all of us.

ADOPTION OF FEBRUARY MINUTES:

Adopted without changes.

ELECTED OFFICIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES:

- The Chairman introduced CM Yeger who has done a lot of hard work before Passover and also now on various matters including sanitation, police work, security and lots of other different things. He was working with his colleague, former Councilman David Greenfield, now the CEO of Met Council on many different issues.

Councilman Kalman Yeger:

- The Councilman wished a personal Mazal tov to Chairman Perlstein.

- The Councilman recognized his colleagues in service and expressed appreciation for the ability to meet in such a forum while self-isolating at home.
- He recognized the attendees and their children. And recognized his colleague, Simcha Eichenstein, whom he speaks with every day. And the rest of his colleagues, Senator Felder and Assemblyman Eichenstein. They have a running joke that they're working harder now at home than any other time. They really are putting in incredible work.
And he also acknowledged the chairman and the district manager, Barry Spitzer, who in the midst of his own personal crises did so much for the community to keep us afloat and strong and to keep us moving. He also thanked Ann Marie and Gittel for keeping the operations going.
- He echoed what his friend Yeruchim Silber said about the incredible heart wrenching loss to our community. Rabbi Perlow was a neighbor, a neighborhood resident, and a CD 44 constituent. The video of the Rabbi was a message, the way that the funeral was conducted was a message. It's hard to imagine a world that he's not there to guide and to give us strength.
- The Councilman paid tribute to Mr. Spitzer's predecessor and his own predecessor, Noach Dear. Councilman Yeger knew him since he was a little child and never dreamed he would sit in his seat in his office. He was a giant and a passionate human being. He was an incredible person, an incredibly decent human, and an incredible public servant of great wisdom.
There are still today members of the board who were appointed by then Councilman Noach Dear. He was the first person to hold the seat, the 44th district was created while he was in the City Council.
He was the first person in the seat, and he left giant shoes to fill. Three great people held office before Councilman Yeger, after Noach Dear, Simcha Felder and then David Greenfield.
It's hard to imagine a world and without Noach Dear in it, but such is life, and he's going to be missed by more people than we can imagine and by the lives that he touched in his time in public service.
There's not a person in our community who didn't know of Noach Dear. They may not have known what he did or what his job was. But everyone knew his name.
We're not going to do the traditional moment of silence, he was recognized on the floor of the city council at the zoom meeting of the council a few days ago.
The councilman has spoken with Judge Noach Dear's wife and with the sister, and the loss is not going to be one that we recover from any time soon. I know that he touched every single one of us. I hope will continue to guide me and all of us in our service.
- The councilman will talk about the budget a little bit, per what the district manager said, and it's not any less depressing news than what was expected. Even though it's a recorded broadcasted meeting everybody at this board knows the councilman's stance on the city's fiscal prudence and fiscal governance. The city spent too much money when it had it. The city was spending far more than it ought to have. A few months ago the mayor proposed a \$95 billion dollar budget. In his first year in office, six years ago, was \$74 billion dollars. Twenty billion dollars here and there adds up and pretty soon were talking about real money.
- Now, we're talking about holes in funding, the conservative estimates of 5, 6, even 7 billion dollars. The Councilman suspects it's more than that. But at the same time, we have to recognize that the city of New York is our city. We are stockholders in the city, but we're also the customers of the city, we're paying the bills. The city is supposed to provide the services for us because we are paying for it.
- Taxes have gone up every single year. Although the city claims not to have raised property tax rates, the property assessment goes up, which means everybody gets a higher tax bill. So this claim is a farce. The city council has been having hearings on this the last few days.
The councilman has been advocating for the much needed renter relief. A lot of people can't pay their rent a lot of people have lost their jobs and lot of people have added expenses. But, another

item that goes hand in hand with tenant relief is the need to provide relief for property owners, because they will not be able to pay the bills otherwise.

- The Councilman acknowledged the partnership, incredible dedication, and devoted leadership of his colleagues who worked on the food program. The Councilman takes no credit for the food program, although his name is on the flyer, since his incredible partners did the work: Senator Simcha Felder, Assemblyman Danny Rosenthal, Assemblyman Eichenstein and Councilman Chaim Deutsch. He is grateful that they were able to create this program that's been providing kosher food for all children and families out of public schools in Boro Park and Flatbush, as well as in other districts, Crown Heights, Staten Island, Kew Garden Hills, Williamsburg and starting Friday in Washington Heights and the Lower East side.

- The Councilman thanked Mr. Ringel for his incredible work on the food program. As well as in general whenever assistance is needed in city services.

- As mentioned previously, we talk about social distancing and about masks and gloves and things like that. But it's also important to remember that even before the notion of social distancing, the first rule before that is stay inside. If you do not have a reason to go outside, you ought to be inside. That's how we beat this. If you have to go outside, you must wear a mask, you must wear gloves. You must not participate in large gatherings.

You must be careful when you go to a store. Please don't bring children to a store with you. Please don't do things that aren't necessary. Make one shopping list and get it done in one shopping trip. There's so much that we can do. And we rely on everyone's cooperation to get this over as quickly as possible. We've seen the numbers, we've heard the governor talk about it the numbers are dropping, just not fast enough.

There's not a family in our community who hasn't had a loss. It is not a myth, we are one community. If we don't actually know each other. We know the brother in law, we know the neighbor, and we all will have family who we lost. The Councilman's grandmother passed away on Yom Tov, his mother's first cousin passed away during Yom Tov as well. We all will have friends who we lost. We have made many Shiva phone calls.

The loss is tremendous. The hurt is tremendous. We can beat this back if we do what we're supposed to be doing.

- Everybody who knows the Councilman, knows he is now privileged to serve for twenty eight months on this day. He loves his job. He loves the service. He loves the people in the community and every single block in the district. And he misses it. He is missing the stores and just walking the streets and his office where Noach and David Greenfield sat, but we can beat this crisis. We do it by staying home and doing what were supposed to do. Mr. Spitzer is doing it by coming into the office by himself. The Assemblyman is doing the same thing as his office is closed. If we really are serious about it, we can get our footing back and we can recover our community.

Keep strong for our community and let's get together again in person soon.

Cont. Elected Officials and Representative:

- Mayor Bill deBlasio was represented by Pinny Ringel.
- NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer was represented by Pinny Hikind.
 - Mazel Tov to Yidel Perlstein on the birth of his granddaughter.
 - He thanked Barry Spitzer for acknowledging the Comptroller's COVID 19 resource guide. In the coming days it will be sent out to all community based organization.
- The Chairman, Yidel Perlstein, introduced Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein. He thanked him for his work on the food program and for his tireless advocacy on the hospital visiting program.

Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein:

- The assemblyman thanked the chair for his efforts and for bringing everyone together under these circumstances.
- He acknowledged the efforts of Councilman Yeger, who was being very humble when he said he had nothing to do with the food program. They spent many hours together working on this program. The elected officials in this area talk almost every day. But when everyone is in town they also see each other almost every day, except for Shabbos. Because they attend events together, and hopefully soon will be able to get together again.
- This pandemic is not easy, but as a community we all have to do our individual parts in ensuring our families and our neighbors' safety.
- As everything has already been said by the previous speakers, not much will be talked about. Generally, when the Assemblyman gets to attend this board meeting he'll give everyone an update from Albany but not today. Not because the reports are good, he is not pleased with the budget. The budget passed is a horrible budget, but that's for a different day. In short, similar to the city finances, the state budget is also facing a huge hole. Conservative estimates are about \$16 billion dollars, and when the state is in a hole that trickles down to local municipalities. It is not certain yet what the state will get from the federal government, which will have a huge impact on the deficit.
- The Assemblyman congratulated the Chairman and the entire executive committee on their reappointments.
- He further wished a Mazal Tov to the chairman on becoming a grandfather,
- Assemblyman Eichenstein highlighted the kindness seen over the last six weeks in this community. He is proud to represent its people. Everyone knows front line workers, doctors and nurses are all risking their own lives in order to help save a fellow neighbor. The press may not notice it, or perhaps they choose to intentionally ignore the amount of chessed that is happening here.
- The Chairman briefly mentioned his own food distribution before Pesach, and the Assemblyman highlighted a few points on the importance and timeliness of it. Many previously scheduled distributions were canceled due to the pandemic on top of many new people who needed help because of changed economic circumstances. Hundreds of people signed up, and the chairman from this sickbed, and the District Manager while handling family illness, set this up. This distribution was up and running within forty eight hours. Over two hundred and fifty people signed up, which was over capacity. But the organizers wouldn't turn people away who need assistance with basic food.
- The assemblyman wanted to highlight the generosity of those signing up to donate plasma. He attended the testing event. People were willing to travel hours to other states if they would be a viable candidate.
- Thank you to all the teachers and rebbeim who do the lessons over live conference. His own children's teacher call each child every night.
- The press universally decided to focus on the negative and so everyone should also please look at the positive as well. With God's help, we're going to get over this. We don't know how long but when it's over, we'll be looking back at the Chessed that came out of this.

Avi Greenstein CEO of Boro Park JCC:

- Stated the current pandemic situation is a global one and we'll be judged in the future based on how we deal with it. And in the years to come people will look back at this crisis and see the incredible people dedicating their lives to help others survive this and will see the leadership of Councilman Yeger, Assemblyman Eichenstein, the Chairman and all the others.

It's important for the community to come together and do their part, whether it's social distancing, or, for those who have resources, coming together to help out during these times. The Boro Park JCC has social services experts working from home ready and able to take calls and try to help people with resources such as unemployment help throughout this crisis.

- Anyone in need of assistance should please call the office and will be directed to a social service representative who will try to help.
- The JCC also set up a website which has been people helpful according to the feedback. This can be accessed by going to tobpjcc.org and clicking the COVID-19 help link. There are all types of forms and resources and applications.
- Census 2020 is ongoing and the BPJCC is working around the clock on this. The census director Miriam Hersko, who is also a board member, will discuss this what the BPJCC has been doing. Especially the event planned for Sunday
- Boro President Eric Adams was represented by Tonya Cantlo
Tonya Cantlo, representing Boro President Eric Adams:
 - Ms. Cantlo attended via audio because there was a problem with WebEx.
 - She hoped everyone was remaining safe.
 - The Boro President has been busy distributing PPE throughout Brooklyn every day during this crisis.
 - The Boro President had a lot of resources available on his website, such as locations of COVID-19 testing sites. There was also a link if you need cleaning supplies.
 - Hearings can be responded to online. The governor executive order 2.15 postponed all hearings scheduled for the month of April, and May until June.
 - The Board members appointments and reappointments are in the process of being finalized.
 - The messages of the month that are usually distributed via hardcopy are on the website
- **Senator Simcha Felder was represented by Sharon Fuchs:**
 - She congratulated Yidel Perlstein on his becoming a grandfather.
 - She expressed amazement at all the organizations and leaders banding together to help the community in this great time of need.

Yidel Perlstein- Chairman:

- Naftali Tessler from Hamaspik wanted to say some words but had technical difficulties, therefore the Chairman highlighted some of the work Hamaspik has been doing. They helped out a lot of families before the holiday by sending toys to keep the kids busy occupied.
- Hamaspik usually does some type of carnival around this time of year, they couldn't do it, because of the pandemic, so they gathered the toys and distributed them.
- **Miriam Hersko representing the Boro Park JCC:**
 - The United States government counts citizens once every ten years, and by law, every household member needs to be counted. In the past the community has not been counted properly and in return ended up losing out in services and funding.
 - The count determines how the federal government will distribute funds, allocate services and determine population based representation.
 - The survey consists of nine short questions. It is very simple to complete either online at my2020census.gov or by phone at 844-330-2020. The census doesn't ask for any personal information. Any questions on how to fill out the survey can be directed to Mrs.

Hersko at 718-972-6600 ex 633 or by email at census@jcc.org. Due to COVID-19, the number of people who filled out the census is very low and this can be a problem.

Therefore, the BPJCC will hold a 2020 census drive through event on Sunday, May 31 from 12- 5 pm on 18th Ave. and 55th Street. There will be volunteers to help fill out the survey with strict adherence to social distancing guidelines.

- It is important to remember: If we don't respond, we don't count. And if we don't count, we don't matter.
- Brad Lander was represented by Gabi Friedlander.

NO NEW BUSINESS/NO OLD BUSINESS:

- The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and wished everyone remain healthy and safe.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Respectfully submitted by: Gittel Fekete