



Eric Adams
Borough President

THE CITY OF NEW YORK COMMUNITY BOARD 12

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Yidel Perlstein
Chairperson



Barry Spitzer
District Manager

COMMUNITY BOARD 12 MINUTES

HELD ON
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2020

VIA ZOOM

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

ALAN DUBROW
AVI GREENSTEIN
ANNA CALI
AVROHOM WOLFSON
CHESKY BLAU
DAVID FRIEDLANDER
DAVID SHLOMOVICH
ELLIE KASTEL
JACOB ASKAL
JACOB EISDORFER
JACOB HASS
JOHN TALMADGE
JACQUE FRIEDMAN
JEFFREY DWECK
JULES FLEISCHER
LILY MARINELLI
MAMNUNUL HAQ
MIRIAM HERSKO
MORRIS SENDEROVICH
SAHIBZADA SHABIR AHMAD
SAM STOBER
SHARON FUCHS
SHLOMIE RIEGER
SOL WAHBA
YAAKOV KAPLAN
YECHIEL MALIK
YERUCHIM SILBER
YIDEL PERLSTEIN
YONAH MOSES
YITZCHOK ITZKOWITZ

COMMUNITY RESIDENTS

APPROXIMATELY 50 RESIDENTS PRESENT

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

ADAM COHEN
BERNARD FREILICH
DOUGLAS JABLON
EDGAR GLUCK
JOSEPH GROSS
LARRY JASON
MONIQUE WALLACE
MORTON PUPKO
NAFTALI TESSLER
PETER REBENWURZEL
ROCHELLE ZAMI
YAAKOV SCHAPIRO
YITZCHOK MOSKOWITS

STAFF PRESENT

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

ELECTED OFFICIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES

ASSEMBLYMAN EICHENSTEIN
TONYA CANTLO, REP. BP ERIC ADAMS
PINNY RINGEL REP. MAYOR DE BLASIO
PINNY HIKIND REP. COMPTROLLER
STRINGER
SHARON FUCHS, REP. SENATOR FELDER
SOL REIGER, REP. AM EICHENSTEIN
ASSEMBLYMAN EICHENSTEIN
ORLANDO ROSS, REP. CONGRESSWOMAN
YVETTE CLARKE
ALEX GUREVICH, REP DA ERIC GONZALEZ

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

NOVEMBER MINUTES ADOPTED:

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:

Yidel Perlstein- Chairman:

- Unfortunately, the historic Felder Shul has burned down. The Board's solidarity is with Senator Simcha Felder, his family, and the entire congregation during this difficult time. We are grateful that no one was injured and that the Sifrei Torah were saved. Thank you to the FDNY for their valiant efforts and speedy response.
- Board Member Peter Rebenwurz was hospitalized with COVID 19.
- Unfortunately, Anti-Semitic hate crimes have not taken a COVID break. Mesilas Bais Yaakov was vandalized with swastikas; the symbolism for hate toward Jews. Earlier today, the mayor responded to BP24 at a press conference that prior to COVID-19, in response to the attacks in Jersey City and the Chanukah attack in Monsey, there was a plan to work to increase education and awareness of disenfranchised communities, specifically Holocaust education. But- the attacks on us aren't taking a break so we need more protection, more police presence. Earlier this month there was a group who drove into our community and started harassing children on their way to school. Just because the children were Jewish. This is not ok. We have a right to be safe in our homes and in our neighborhoods.
- The coronavirus numbers are rising. Hospitals are filling up which is extra sad as we are already distributing the vaccine. Please continue to be careful. Wear your mask. Social Distance. And get tested.
- Both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccine have already been approved by the FDA and are being distributed. We are not in the clear yet, it will take a while for the virus to be under control- but we have hope.
- New mutations of COVID-19 are emerging, such as a new strain in the UK that is said to be more contagious. We don't know much about it, but it highlights the importance of being careful. Most reports are, that although it is more contagious, it is not more dangerous than the current strain. Governor Cuomo has asked the federal government to ban flights from England, so far, the federal government has refused to do it.
- On December 4th the United States passed the marker of 300,000 nationwide deaths due to COVID-19. It is astonishing and tragic.

Coronavirus numbers by State and by City:

NY State numbers released December 22:

- Total COVID hospitalizations reported were 6,661.
- Of the 164,868 tests reported yesterday, 9,716 were positive (5.89% of total).
- Sadly, there were 139 fatalities.

NYC numbers released December 22:

- 193 new hospitalizations
- 2,889 new cases
- 5.88% positivity rate (7-day avg.)

For all up to date information go to <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/>

- COVID testing is essential to get accurate data. Zip code 11219, which is in Community Board 12 was reported as having the second highest positivity rate, but this was without an adequate testing sample.

- The Blood supply is dangerously low. Everyone that can is urged to donate blood. It literally saves lives. You can go online to nybc.org
- All board members whose term expires March 31st 2021 have gotten an email from the office to apply for reappointment. You can do it online or by filling out a paper form. Both links were provided in the email.

The following board members need to file their applications for reappointment:

Alan Dubrow, Avi Greenstein, Avraham Wolfson, Chesky Blau, David Friedlander, David Shlomovich, Rabbi Edgar Gluck, Ellie Kastel, Jacob Askal, Jacob Haas, Jacque Friedman, Jeffrey Dweck, John Talmadge, Mamnun Haq, Miriam Hersko, Morris Senderovich, Naftali Tessler, Sahibzada Shabir Ahmed, Yeruchim Silber, Yitzchok Moskowitz, and Yonah Moses.

- The deadline to apply for reappointment is February 12, 2021. Anybody requiring assistance may reach out to the community board office.
- Wishing everyone Happy Holidays and Happy New Years.
- The next board meeting will be Tuesday, January 26th.

PUBLIC SESSION:

Doris Zyckena- Resident:

- Ms. Zyckena, a resident near the Covid Testing Site at 40th Street and Ft. Hamilton, requested assistance with the nightmarish effects of construction and congestion from the site. Construction takes place nightly, from 7:30-11:30, making it hard for those who need to wake up to work. The construction causes vibrating, an issue reported to 311.
- An additional concern is the lines forming in front of residential properties. It impedes their ability to come and go. Concerns were already directed to the director of the center. The church administration was also advised.

Pinny Ringel- Mayors CAU:

- Advised that he received videos and pictures of this situation the day before. He is unsure yet if the construction is a Test + Trace Corp. project, or one from the church, as there was some work being done to the sidewalks. He would look into the permits. He would also look into the lines.

Barry Spitzer District Manager:

- The community board office received complaints of lines forming outdoors. The NYPD were contacted and are working on the issue. There will be an NCO Sector C meeting at the community board office tomorrow and this issue will be raised with the officers again.

DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT:

Barry Spitzer- District Manager:

The District Manager provided a few quick updates on things of note affecting the district:

- The chairman had mentioned in his remarks the incident where 6 visibly Hasidic kids in the district were terrorized while going to yeshiva. What hasn't been said publicly until now was that one of the children was the district manager's son. He was chased by three guys while he was simply on his way to yeshiva early morning

Mr. Spitzer commended the reactions of the NYPD and Shomrim, who went out of their way in speaking to his son in detail. They spent the entire day going around trying to get footage of the perpetrators. NYPD interviewed all the children. The Hate Crimes Task Force got involved.

Thank You to Councilman Yeger for speaking about this on the virtual floor of city council and for raising awareness that such things are happening in NYC in 2020.

The day after the attack, Mr. Spitzer took his kids to school because they were frightened. It was heartening to see Shomrim patrolling the streets early morning. They are remarkable, they are out protecting residents while people are sleeping. They are volunteers and don't get paid for this service.

- There will be a Sector C, build the block meeting, at the community board office at 5910 13th Ave. on December 23 at 4:30. This will probably be the last in-person meeting until things return to normal. Anyone can attend.
- Commendations to the DSNY on their stellar efforts in clearing the snowstorm. They cleaned and salted early morning so that people and school buses were able to use the roads. Further, areas that needed special attention were tended to promptly.
- Alternate side parking will be suspended through December 26th.
- As a Public Service Announcement, the mayor announced during his press conference that he will work to expand the use of speeding cameras as part of Vision Zero. He specifically mentioned the intent to have the cameras in school zones remain active even during non-school hours. Be aware of your speed.
- We are aware that the violations issued for COVID-19 infractions are coming due soon. Unfortunately, there is no clear direction yet from OATH or the city on how these will be adjudicated. We know that our elected officials are working on legislation to have these onerous fines dismissed- Councilman Yeger is working on this at the City Council, and Assemblyman Eichenstein and Senator Felder are working on this in the Assembly and State Senate. Councilman Yeger was also working with the chief administrative judge to get some clarification but there was no clear answer. Call our office if you have questions and we will keep you informed as the information becomes available.
- Brooklyn COVID-19 testing sites were posted to twitter in response to numerous inquiries. The twitter handle is @brooklyncb12- testing locations will continue to be posted. Testing sites will be closing at 2 pm on Thursday, Christmas Eve, and will be closed on Friday, Christmas Day.
- Last month potential budget cuts affecting MTA service were mentioned, the update is that the Coronavirus bill passed in Washington includes funds for the MTA. But the funds are enough to get us through 2021 and is not a permanent fix.
- A lot of people and organizations are involved in efforts to encourage shopping local. It's very easy to shop online with the click of a button, but we have stores that are literally on the brink of going under. Please shop local if you can.
The mayor said there would be a push to help businesses with websites. A lot of businesses don't have the ability to set websites up. He said there will be outreach to our community. We will keep on top of this.
- In response to the food crisis Met Council, under the leadership of our former councilman David Greenfield, is partnering with the community board in doing a food distribution for 200 families. Thank you to our chairman who volunteered his lot.
- Community Boards were notified that the board budgets would be cut once again, budgets were cut \$3,628, and will be cut another \$8,153 for next year FY22. This was announced suddenly with no prior warning. There was half hour notice to attend a zoom meeting where this cut was announce.
Some Boards don't even have the funds available that are being cut as it's already been allocated, to which the response was that the funds would be taken from the next year's budget- this means some boards will have an effective budget cut of \$12,000. Community Boards were not given any time to negotiate. When the boards asked for a comparison to other agency cuts, they were told those cuts were in discussions. Yet there were no discussions with the community board, just a notification. District Managers throughout the city raised some objections including: Unlike other budgets, Community Board budgets were not increased in decades, it remained stagnant for decades.

Historically community boards were immune from cuts because they operate on such small budgets to begin with and are always required to do more with less.

The past two years community boards got \$42,500 from the city council. Not this year.

Additionally, boards were cut about \$8,000 in the beginning of the year, which is a total cut of more than \$50,000.

A cut of \$3,628 for all 59 boards is somewhere around \$200,000 that's a drop in proverbial bucket in the 90 billion budget. It's the equivalent of saving one order of plastic cups for the DEP. But it's a significant sum for the community boards.

We have asked office of management and budget to provide list of all city agencies that are getting cut, we have yet to receive it.

The boards are worried about this setting precedent of OMB cutting the budget with no negotiation.

The community boards are getting together and sending a letter to Boro President Adams, the City Council and to other elected officials protesting these cuts.

- Wishes of a Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year to everyone.

Barbara Williams - NYC H + H Test and Trace Corp.

- Ms. Williams introduced herself as Brooklyn Boro organizer for the Test and Trace Corp. Her job is to make sure we have everything need to stay safe. She can provide information if needed It's important to be safe. People getting together to celebrate holidays should wash their hands, keep a safe distance, and wear masks inside when around people who aren't immediate family. Ms. Williams posted her information on the chat so anyone with questions can reach out to her.
- She thanked the board members for their service.

ELECTED OFFICIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES

- **Boro President Eric Adams was represented by Tonya Cantlo.**

Ms. Cantlo provided some updates from the Boro President's office.

 - Community Board applications are available on the Boro President's website or by contacting CB12.
 - The Boro President, in partnership with Brooklyn Community Services, launched the first of its kind mobile shower bus, a project in the making for 2 years. This will allow people experiencing homelessness to have hot showers, toiletries, peer counseling, housing support as well as employment resources.
 - The Boro President partnered with the District Attorney, Wegmans, Metro plus health, National Grid, PNC Bank and UA3 and gave out vegetables to Brooklyn resident for Thanksgiving.
 - The Boro President co-sponsored legislation with Councilmember Rodriguez to allow permanent residents to vote in municipal election. There are over 1 million residents this would affect.
 - Happy Holidays to everyone and we'll see you in 2021.
- **Mayor Bill de Blasio was represented by Pinny Ringel.**
 - Mr. Ringel wished everyone a Happy Holiday and Happy New Year and advised those who may have questions to post it on the chat.
- **Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein representing the 48th Assembly District:**
 - The assemblyman offered sincerest apologies to the District Manager for his son's experiencing an anti-Semitic attack. The chairman previously listed many attacks that took place over the last couple of weeks, it's unfortunate that in 2020 hate is still baring its ugly head. Just to look back at this issue, about a year and a half ago bail reform was passed. The assemblyman voted against it. Hate crimes are driven by inner unstoppable hate and should

be dealt with differently. The assemblyman introduced legislation with Assemblyman Gounardes to reinstate hate crimes back as bail eligible.

As the assembly heads to a new session, these crimes will be a priority for the assemblyman.

- With regards to what the District Manager said regarding speed cameras, changes require state authorizations. When the Bloomberg administration first proposed where school zone speed cameras, it was for areas within 250 feet of schools. The hours and the areas were later expanded. Currently the cameras are closed on weekends and overnight starting at 10pm. Today the mayor proposed expanding these cameras to 24/7/365.
- So much going on over last couple of months.
- Saturday the Governor signed an Executive Order for restaurants, one of the hardest hit industries over the course of lockdown, to extend quarterly sales tax by 90 days.
- Another Executive Order many in the community will benefit from is the waiving of the in-person requirement for SCRIE and DRIE renewal. Those will be automatically be renewed for a year.
- The district manager mentioned summonses. Something the assemblyman worked hard on was to reopen schools regardless of whatever arbitrary zone they were in, red, orange and yellows. School should have a separate process with testing and hygiene protocol. We've been saying all along that the schools have one of the safest models, even by DOE standards. First survey with over 25,000 students showed less than 1% infected. It is important to keep schools open. The fact that they were able to reach an agreement with the government is a positive step.
- Happy Holidays to all. Hopefully soon, with vaccines, we can reunite and gather in person. 3

- **Senator Simcha Felder was represented by Sharon Fuchs.**

- **Congresswoman Yvette Clarke was represented by Orlando Ross.**

- Mr. Ross wish the gathered a Happy New Year on behalf of himself and the Congresswoman.
- He expressed condolences for the anti-Semitic incident that happened to the young man on his way to school. Everyone has the right to safe and free and no one should be subjected to such attacks.
- The day before the Board Meeting a \$900 billion omnibus bill was passed in the house by the democrats. There are some details that will go a long way to helping New Yorkers including:
 - \$13 billion increase in SNAP benefits.
 - Additional PPP relief for businesses- that can be converted into a grant so it won't have to be repaid.
 - \$16 billion for COVID testing and vaccination.
 - \$45 billion for airlines, mass transit.
 - Student loan extensions.
 - \$82 billion in education \$10billion in childcare
 - \$160 billion in State and Local Aid.
- This is a prestigious bill and a historic accomplishment for Congress.
- Coronavirus is still going around. It's important to hang in until President- Elect Biden takes office.
- Board members with questions about the bill or anything else can reach out to Mr. Ross, his information was in the chat.

- **John Talmadge-Board Member:**

- Good evening Mr. Spitzer and all members. After two attempts, Thank God, Mr. Talmadge was able to successfully log on.
- Mr. Talmadge was very upset to hear what happened to Mr. Spitzer's son. He would like to offer his support; if there are any future incidences in Boro Park. There are members from his department out 24/7 and they would be happy to help out. Family is more important than anything and anything that he can do, he will do.

- **Avi Greenstein- Board Member and CEO of Boro Park JCC:**
 - Mr. Greenstein thanked the Chairman, the District Manager and all board members.
 - Senator Felder's family shul is very precious to him, compounding the tragedy of the fire there. Three days before the fire, the Boro Park JCC and Senator Simcha Felder held a joint seminar with American Red Cross and spoke about fire safety and the importance of having operating smoke detectors. Mr. Greenstein wished strength to the Senator to get through this tragedy.
 - HEAP applications are open. BPJCC usually has HRA reps working from its offices. Due to COVID-19 there are no in office appointments, but the BPJCC is a designated drop off center. Forms can be picked up and/or dropped off daily at the BPJCC. Anyone with questions can reach out by phone at 718-972-6600.
 - BPJCC partnered with the Boro Park Y, under the leadership of Board Member Ellie Kastel, to serve hot meals for Chanukah. It's been a great the partnership and hopefully will be expanded.
 - There is a general vacuum of information with regards to the challenges of COVID-19. People are dealing all kinds of challenges, legal, accounting, seeking medical guidance. In response to this BPJCC will launch a series of COVID conversations and bring together the greatest minds in their perspective professions. This will be a professional series in partnership with Ami magazine, which will publish the series. Among the topics will be the vaccination, PPP, there will be legal guidance.
 - As always, anyone can feel free to reach out to BPJCC.
- **Comptroller Scott Stringer was represented by Pinny Hikind.**
 - Mr. Hikind thanked the District Manager and the Chairman for attending the comptroller's roundtable last month. The meeting was a success with many board members attending.
 - He highlighted an audit that came out regarding the inadequacies with regards to child homeless shelters. A copy would be sent to the community board and will be available there upon request.

Yidel Perlstein- Chairman:

- The Chairman recognized the 8 year old son of Board Member Yanky Askal, Shmuly.
 - Mr. Askal thanked everyone for the concerns about the residents' safety.
- The Chairman congratulated Joel Lefkowitz who went to Florida to represent the Jewish community at the government menorah lighting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Alan Dubrow- Board Member:

- Mr. Dubrow wished everyone a happy healthy new year.

OLD BUSINESS:

No old business.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Respectfully submitted by: Gittel Fekete