



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 THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2020 VIA WEBEX

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

ABUL HASNAT
ALAN DUBROW
ANNA CALI
AVI GREENSTEIN
AVROHOM WOLFSON
CHESKY BLAU
DAVID SHLOMOVICH
DOUGLAS JABLON
EDGAR GLUCK
ELLIE KASTEL
JACOB ASKAL
JACOB EISDORFER
JACQUE FRIEDMAN
JEFFREY DWECK
JOHN TALMADGE
JOSEPH GROSS
JULES FLEISCHER
MAMNUNUL HAQ
MIRIAM HERSKO
MORRIS SENDEROVICH
MORTON PUPKO
NAFTALI TESSLER
PETER REBENWURZEL
ROCHELLE ZAMI
SAM STOBER
SHARON FUCHS
SHLOMIE RIEGER
SOL WAHBA
YAAKOV KAPLAN
YECHIEL MALIK
YERUCHIM SILBER
YIDEL PERLSTEIN
YONAH MOSES

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

ADAM COHEN
ANNIE FERDOUS
BERNARD FREILICH
DAVID FRIEDLANDER
JACOB DASKAL
JACOB HASS
LARRY JASON
LILY MARINELLI
MAYER WEBER
MENDEL REINER
MONIQUE WALLACE
MORDECHAI KATZ
YAAKOV SCHAPIRO

STAFF PRESENT

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

ELECTED OFFICIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES

COUNCILMAN KALMAN YEGER
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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL BY DM BARRY SPITZER

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:

- The Chairman thanked all board members and residents for attending the board meeting. Unfortunately, in person meetings were still not possible, but the hope was to celebrate the June meeting together.
- The latest coronavirus numbers were reviewed. The total number of positive coronavirus tests in NYC were 196,098. New York unfortunately had a total of 16,482 deaths by May 26th.
- 73 New Yorkers died May 25th, which was the lowest number reported since March 25th. The numbers were going down. New hospitalizations were the lowest they have ever been.
- The Governor had announced required markers that every region needed to meet in order to be allowed to reopen. These markers are:
 - 14 Day decline in hospitalization or under 15 hospitalizations a day (3 day average).
 - 14 day decline in hospital deaths or fewer than 5 deaths (3 day rolling average).
 - New hospitalizations need to be under 2 per 100,000 residents (3 day rolling average).
 - Share of total beds available in hospitals needs to be 30%. This is a marker NYC did not reach yet, there were 29% of beds available at the time of the meeting.
 - Share of ICU beds available needs to be 30%. This is another marker NYC did not reach yet, there were now 29% of ICU beds available in NYC at the time of the meeting.
 - The region needs to be conducting 30 COVID/ Antibody tests per 1,000 residents monthly.
 - Every region needs to have hired 30 contact tracers per 100,000. NYC is expected to achieve this goal by June 1st.
- NYC met 4 of the 7 metrics. And is very close to achieving the rest.
- NYC is projected to have exceeded the goal of having hired 1,000 tracers by June 1st.
- We are hopeful that the situation will begin easing. Though we are aware that even when NYC reopens, it will have to be with significant adjustments to deal with the virus that is still prevalent.
- The Stock Exchange opened for the first time in two months. This is an indicator that the city is starting the process of reopening
- The governor announced that houses of worship would be allowed to reopen with 10 people so long as all other measures put in place by the CDC regarding social distancing are adhered to.
- Congratulation to our elected officials who were able to pull through the Hospital Visitation Pilot Program. The local hospital, Maimonides Medical Center, has been designated as one of the participating hospitals in the pilot program, which started May 26th.

The rules in place are as follows:

- 1 visitor will be allowed bedside at a time, with a maximum of two visitors per day.
- All visitors will be screened for COVID- 19 symptoms including temperature checks.
- All visitors will be provided with and must wear Personal Protective Equipment, or PPE.
- Visitors must remain bedside for the entirety of their visit.
- Prospective visitors over the age of 70 and children under 13 are strongly discouraged from visiting as there is an enhanced risk for these populations.
- The Mid- Hudson Region has begun Phase 1 of reopening. This includes Westchester, Putnam, Rockland, Dutchess, Ulster, Orange, and Sullivan counties. Phase 1 reopening includes the resumption of construction, manufacturing and some non-essential retail which can open for curbside pickup. Long Island is on track to open May 27th.
- NYC is on track to begin opening soon. The first step to reopening is assessing the needs of industries and to study transit patterns to ensure safe travel for people going to and from work.
- Happy Eid ul Fitur to those who celebrated this past Sunday.

- The day prior, May 25th was Memorial Day, thank you to all servicemen who paid the ultimate sacrifice for the country. Thank you to local law enforcement who have been exceptional during these trying times in keeping everyone happy and safe.
- Happy Shavuos wishes to all who celebrate this Friday and Shabbos.

PUBLIC SESSION:

Christina Clum- Resident:

- Due to background noise the remarks were undiscernible. Ms. Clum was asked to call the office at 718-851-0800 and provide information to allow only her phone line to be unmuted.

ELECTED OFFICIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES

- **Councilman Kalman Yeger representing the 44th Council District.**
 - The councilman thanked the community board, and addressed his previous comment regarding his primary allegiance to community board 14. He served as a board member at CB14 for a number of years and lives in that district as well.
 - He saluted the first responders, including Hatzolah, Misaskim, Chessed Shel Emes, Shomrim, Chaveirim, and all of the organizations who serve the public at great personal health and financial expense.
 - He hoped everyone had a peaceful Memorial Day and hopes everyone had time to reflect on those who made this country free and a welcoming haven for any members' grandparents.
 - Eid Mubarak to those who celebrate
 - Good Yom Tov to all who celebrate Shavuos
 - The Chairman had mentioned the Hospital visitation program of which Maimonides is a participant. The councilman expanded on that that while there has been trouble in the past with local hospitals and visitation during the COVID pandemic, he remains hopeful and will be vigilant to ensure the hospital would abide by the state regulation. Maimonides is a nonprofit hospital that is not owned by a multimillion dollar corporation and bears the name of one of the most preeminent Jewish doctors and scholars in history, the hospital must live up to its name.
 - The councilman stated that NY is still on pause, which means stores cannot open until the Governor releases the pause. There was some chaos in the neighborhood over the last few day with stores trying to reopen prior to the pause being lifted. At some point soon the burdens will be lifted and all can go back to regular life, albeit with losses.

Sam Stober-Board Member

- He asked what can be done about speeding zones in school district still being enforced even though schools are closed.

Councilman Kalman Yeger

- The Councilman noted that he voted against reauthorizing the camera program because it allows the commissioner to keep the cameras on at her discretion. At the time he cautioned that cameras program is flawed and predicted the repercussions that are seen now. The mayor and the commissioner were very clear and they don't care that schools are closed. The way it stands currently, the commissioner has the right to keep the cameras on at her discretion. The cameras are a money maker for the city, especially when there is little traffic and people tend to drive faster. Unfortunately, there is nothing the councilman can do about it.
- The councilman said he spoke with Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein who was unable to join because he was on a conference call. He would join the meeting later if able, if not, he sent his regards.
- **Comptroller Scott Stringer was represented by Pinny Hikind.**
 - Thanked the board for acknowledging the Comptroller on his resource guide. The Comptroller appreciated it. Mr. Hikind looks forward to getting back to the meeting in June and is wishing everyone a happy Shavuos.

- **Boro President Eric Adams was represented by Tonya Cantlo.**
 - Ms. Cantlo reiterated that NY was still on deep pause.
 - Every week the general counsel and all the city agencies meet with law department to work on coming up with a plan to reopen. Such plans might include taking temperature, which would need to be kept confidential. More information would be forthcoming but nothing was concrete yet.
 - CB12 appointments would be forthcoming but was not final yet.
- **Mayor Bill deBlasio was represented by Pinny Ringel.**
 - Mr. Ringel could not stay for the whole meeting, the Chairman recognized the hard work put in by Mr. Ringel.
- **Assemblyman Eichenstein was represented by Sol Reiger.**
- The Chairman, Mr. Perlstein, recognized the hard work by former Councilman David Greenfield, the current CEO of Met Council, who has been instrumental in getting food to those suffering from food insecurity.
- The Chairman recognized the hard work by Rabi Avi Greenstein and Miriam Hersko, of the Boro Park JCC, who were working tirelessly on Census 2020. If the census aren't filled, then we aren't counted. And if we aren't counted then we lose out on essential funding. The Boro Park JCC will hold more drives to increase census participation.

Avi Greenstein- CEO of Boro Park JCC:

- Rabbi Greenstein informed the board of some work the BPJCC has been doing. The JCC had a food drive for over 500 families to provide food for Shavuos. The drive was in cooperation with the CEO of Met Council David Greenfield, whose organization provided the food. The drive was very well coordinated.
He thanked the Chairman for providing his lot for the 2nd time for a food drive.
- The BPJCC was heavily engaged in Census2020 participation. Following the first Census drive-through, participation in Boro Park increased by 11% from 24% to 35%.
At the pre-Shavuos food drive the JCC signed of 150 of the cars who drove by to get food. Current participation in the Boro Park area was 37%, significantly lower than the NYC rate of 50%. This low participation is not in the best interest of the residents, therefore he requested everyone on the board do what they can to promote and encourage census participation.
- He recognized the hard work done by Board Member Miriam Hersko who leads the Census efforts at the JCC
- Rabbi Greenstein thanked Councilman Yeger who helped provide funding so the JCC can offer courses such as literacy course.
- He thanked the district manager, Barry Spitzer, for all his hard work.

Councilman Kalman Yeger:

- Upon the Chairman's request the councilman expanded on the importance of the Census. The Councilman compared the census to the biblical machatzis hashekel, a numeration of people. That is the process by which resources are allocated. Low participation, as it stands, means the potential to lose representation. That also affects the funding provided for the sort of work Avi Greenstein does, such as money for food pantries.
The Councilman urged everyone to take the 7-8 minutes of time it takes to fill out the census.
- The councilman also informed of the absentee ballot application mailed to everyone a few days ago so that people can avoid needing to go out to vote during COVID-19. The application is a prefill request for an absentee ballot. Everyone is urged to fill the application even if they don't intend to vote. The box to check for the reason for the request is COVID-19, the first box. Almost every part of district has some sort of primary election, especially for congressional seats.
- **Anthony Loum, the branch manager of the Mapleton Branch of the Brooklyn Public Library was present.**
- **Senator Simcha Felder was represented by Sharon Fuchs.**

Public Session cont:

- Ms. Clum was reconnected and asked what could be done about the men's homeless shelter near the end of CB 12 boundaries by Coney Island Ave. The residents were hanging out without social distancing or masks in place. She observed a marijuana joint being passed around. She anticipated the situation will worsen over the summer. She wanted to know how to engage in order to mitigate the situation, especially considering a lot of residents on block are in the vulnerable category. She had already requested increased visits from the police department.

The District Manager advised that the office would be in contact with her regarding this matter.

Richard Navas- Resident:

Mr. Navas sent in a few questions that the District Manager read

- Does the Community Board have information on when the 66 precinct will have the next NCO or Community Council meeting?
 - The Chairman responded that all meetings will be postponed until after summer.
- Mr. Navas also requested American Disability Act accommodations so he could participate at the Board Meetings. He made a few unsuccessful attempts to get earphones that could meet his level of hearing. He requested the Community Board look into having the WebEx meetings with closed captioning.
 - The District Manager advised he would look into this.

ADOPTION OF APRIL MINUTES

Minutes were adopted.

The Chairman thanked Ann Marie and Gittel for keeping up business as usual. He thanked the district manager, Barry Spitzer for coming in every day to keep essential services working. He was especially grateful to for the extraordinary work he put in to make sure Pesach preparations were effective.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REMARKS:

Barry Spitzer- District Manager:

- Many of the topics touched upon at the meeting were already discussed at the last board meeting. Some important COVID-19 related items were reviewed, and anyone with specific questions was urged to contact CB12:
 - Unemployment benefits greatly expanded the criteria for eligibility. Self- employed and gig workers qualify. As well as workers who had their hours lowered. On top of the regular unemployment amount that would typically be paid, which is a percentage of income, there is a \$600 weekly benefit added because of the unique circumstances of this virus.
 - The eviction moratorium was extended until August 20th, which is an additional 2 months from the original moratorium end date of June 20th. The rent will still be due, but the Courts are not moving on proceedings to evict tenants for non-payment until at least August 20th.
 - Alternate side parking was suspended through June 7th. It was in effect the week prior for a clean sweep of the city, but is now again suspended.
 - Schools remain closed for now, no concrete information on summer day camps or camps was available yet. Assemblyman Eichenstein was working diligently on this issue.
 - HRA was still conducting all business over the phone or by the access HRA app. There would be no sanctions for those who miss appointments.
 - There is an urgent need for blood. Please go to nybc.org the New York blood center's website to see where you can donate blood.
 - The Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) are administering the distribution of \$420 per child for families of public school, or participating private school children between the ages of 5 and 18. This represents the value of schools meals for the period of time the schools were closed from March to June 26th. Payment will be automatic, there is no need to

sign up. Those with an active EBT card will have the money added to that. Those without will be issued special P-EBT cards, Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer Cards.

- All were urged to remain alert not only for COVID symptoms. There were some instances seen of illnesses resulting from COVID, such as Kawasaki like disease pediatric multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children. Parents are urged to look out for children experiencing fever, rash, abdominal pain and vomiting and should seek medical attention immediately. According to the knowledge available to the board, no fatalities were reported, if the illness is treated well then the prognosis is complete healing.
- COVID and Antibody testing are available all over the city. Anyone looking to get tested and requiring help with finding a site can contact the office.
- The previously canceled primaries scheduled for June 23rd were un-canceled. Absentee ballot applications were mailed to all New Yorkers, as previously explained by the Councilman. There will also be in person and early voting in place as well- these would be with glass separators.
- The district manager brought up the issue of open streets. Mayor de Blasio pledged 100 miles of open streets. The idea is that people should be able to walk outside without being close to other people. There is one area in our district that has been designated as an open street. The week prior, DOT reached out to CB12 to discuss shutting down the Ocean Parkway Service Roads from Church Ave. to Ave. P for these open streets. The district manager said that we told DOT that we vehemently oppose this for various reasons. The main reason is for safety because of the narrow nature of the street and since it's not closed entirely for traffic and remains open to residents and deliveries closing it would create a situation where an accident is just waiting to happen. Additionally, there are many streets along this stretch that forbids turns from the main road and closing the service road will create confusion.

We hope DOT take these concerns into consideration and refrain from shutting this street down.

- The CB12 COVID-19 resource guide is done will be emailed out shortly.
- He reminded everyone that Community Board 12's office is open and staff are working from home. The phone number to call is still 718-851-0800. Or you can email bkcb12@gmail.com
- Please stay safe. We hope to see you in person soon.

Councilman Yeger

- Added onto the District Manager's comment that a policy that would close the Ocean Parkway Service roads will by result, even if not be design, kill people.
- He let everyone know that his office as well as the offices of Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein and Senator Simcha Felder are open and operating remotely. Staff are all available too.

Yidel Perlstein- Chairman

- Congratulated board Member Jacob Askal on the third birthday of his twin boys, who in Jewish tradition will get their hair cut.
- He thanked his daughter who was operating as his de facto secretary during the pandemic.
- The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and wished everyone remain healthy and safe.

NO OLD BUSINESS OR NEW BUSINESS

MEETING ADJOURNED

Respectfully submitted by: Gittel Fekete