



**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, SEPTEMBER 22, 2020 VIA WEBEX

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

ADAM COHEN  
ANNA CALI  
AVROHOM WOLFSON  
CHESKY BLAU  
DAVID FRIEDLANDER  
DAVID SHLOMOVICH  
ELLIE KASTEL  
JACOB EISDORFER  
JEFFREY DWECK  
JOHN TALMADGE  
JULES FLEISCHER  
LILY MARINELLI  
MIRIAM HERSKO  
MORTON PUPKO  
NAFTALI TESSLER  
PETER REBENWURZEL  
ROCHELLE ZAMI  
SAM STOBER  
SHARON FUCHS  
SHLOMIE RIEGER  
SOL WAHBA  
YAAKOV KAPLAN  
YECHIEL MALIK  
YIDEL PERLSTEIN  
YONAH MOSES

**STAFF PRESENT**

BARRY SPITZER – DISTRICT MANAGER  
GITTEL FEKETE- COMMUNITY  
COORDINATOR

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

ALAN DUBROW  
AVI GREENSTEIN  
BERNARD FREILICH  
DOUGLAS JABLON  
EDGAR GLUCK  
JACOB HASS  
JACOB ASKAL  
JACQUE FRIEDMAN  
JOSEPH GROSS  
LARRY JASON  
MAMNUNUL HAQ  
MONIQUE WALLACE  
MORRIS SENDEROVICH  
SAHIBZADA SHABIR AHMAD  
SHLOMIE ITZKOWITS  
YAAKOV SCHAPIRO  
YERUCHIM SILBER  
YITZCHOK MOSKOWITS

**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  
ANTHONY LOUM, REP. BROOKLYN PUBLIC  
LIBRARY

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

## **ROLL CALL BY DM BARRY SPITZER**

### **CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:**

#### **First Vice Chair Yaakov Kaplan serving as Chairman.**

- The Governor extended the suspension of the provisions of the Open Meetings Law via Executive Order 202.60 so boards can continue to meet remotely through October 4, 2020. Therefore, the board meeting was held remotely.
- Mr. Kaplan wished everyone who celebrated a happy New Year
- The Chairman read a statement in remembrance of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg who spent her childhood in Midwood, in Community Board 12.

‘Justice Ginsburg is renowned for her life’s work to promote equality under the law for women. She did all this in a generation when women were expected to stay home. She overcame great adversity to accomplish what she has. Just two days before her high school graduation her mother died.

When she enrolled at Harvard Law School, she was one of only 9 women in a class of 500, and a mother at that. That year the dean famously asked all his female students how they can justify taking the place of a man at the school.

When her husband, Marty became sick and he couldn’t attend classes at law school, she sat in his classes for him and took notes so that he could graduate on time.

When her husband got a job in New York, Ruth Bader Ginsburg transferred to Columbia Law School where she graduated first in her class.

And even with all that, she struggled to find a job. She has said that she had 3 major strikes against her that made her virtually unemployable.

1. She was Jewish
2. She was a woman
3. She was a mother

And with all that she found a job and kept working at it. She eventually co-founded the Women’s Rights Project at the ACLU. She brought six gender discrimination cases to the Supreme Court and won five of them.

She was the second women ever confirmed to the bench. She earned a reputation as a powerful dissenter on the Supreme Court, where she would not shy away from criticizing her colleagues’ opinion.

She is known to have had hanging on 3 of the 4 walls of her chambers the words Tzedek Tzedek Tirdof.

Perhaps most remarkable of all, especially in an age where people lose friends and family over political differences, Justice Ginsburg was a very close friend of former Justice Antonin Scalia.

Just as Ginsburg is synonymous with liberalism, Scalia was synonymous with conservatism.

They both made the distinction of attacking ideas and not attacking the people who hold these ideas. In these days where it seems the country cannot see a difference between a person and his ideas, it would serve us well to learn from the friendships of Justice Ginsburg.’

- The Chairman extended congratulations to the following:
  - Mazal Tov to Board Member Joe Gross on his son’s wedding.
  - Congratulations to Jake Adler on his new position as liaison to Governor Cuomo. He did a great job as the liaison to Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli, at the OU and before that at Councilman Greenfield’s office. We know he will continue to serve our community well.

- Mazal Tov to Hamaspik of Kings County, especially their Chief of Staff and Community Board Member Naftali Tessler, on their recently approved Article 31 application. This will bring much needed mental health services to our community.
- The chairman also congratulated and thanked the Boro Park JCC for coordinating a successful Rosh Hashana food distribution. Thank you to Met Council, run by former councilman David Greenfield, Councilman Kalman Yeger and all other elected officials who so kindly offered their time and support.

### **Coronavirus Data:**

- The chairman reviewed the latest coronavirus numbers: NYS had 575 new cases reported on Sep 21 which brought the total case count to 455,187.
- NYS had 5 deaths reported on Sep 21, which brought the total deaths up to 32,691
- Over the past 7 days, NYC had an average of 342 average new cases daily or 4 per 100,000 people.
- Note that different sources for data count new cases different way- but the bottom line is we are, Thank God, doing better than before. Cases are down. Hospitalizations are down. And Deaths are down.
- New York is slowly reopening. NYC entered phase 4 on July 20<sup>th</sup>. The Governor announced that indoor dining may resume beginning September 30, with a 25% occupancy limit.
- The specifics for every business are very complex and varied. The city has a great site where all information is aggregated; visit [nyc.gov/doh](http://nyc.gov/doh) that will bring you to the Department of Health's website. There is a tab on the upper left side titled COVID-19. There is a lot of information there. If anyone has specific questions or has a hard time finding information they want on the website, feel free to call the community board office at 718-851-0800.

### **GOVERNOR CUOMO'S NEW DIRECTOR OF JEWISH AFFAIRS– JAKE ADLER**

- Mr. Adler thanked the Board for having him.
- He introduced himself as the new point person for the governor's office. Mr. Adler noted that COVID-19 cases in Boro Park were on the rise and he encouraged everyone to practice social distancing and to wear masks.

### **PUBLIC SESSION:**

#### **Terry Silverman- resident:**

- Ms. Silverman wanted to continue the conversation on Coronavirus in Boro Park. She wanted to know if community leaders can or will do anything about the congregating at Ateres Chaya Hall which continues having affairs with around 100-150 people with no social distancing. People were sneaking in through side doors. She has filed numerous 311 reports. She also has videos of this. What can be done.

#### **Barry Spitzer -District Manager:**

- Mr. Spitzer responded that the way to report coronavirus compliance complaints is through 311. If that is successful, please call the Community Board office at 718-851-0800 and the office can follow up.  
The Community Board is not an enforcement agency. The Sheriff's office is tasked with enforcement.

#### **Yosef Stein- Resident:**

- Mr. Stein could not be reached due to technical difficulties. The complaint he had submitted was regarding pigeon droppings under train station.

#### **Sylvia Rosenberg- Resident:**

- Ms. Rosenberg could not be reached due to technical difficulties. The complaint she submitted was regarding the lack of cleanliness within community board 12.

## **DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT:**

### **Barry Spitzer- District Manager:**

- The District manager wished a happy New Year to everybody who celebrated and those who did not.  
There were a few things of note from over the summer break to report:
- Community Board 12 has long been proud of the low crime levels. Up until recently has boasted a rate of 0 shootings within its confines. Unfortunately, that is no longer the case, as there has been a shooting within the 66-precinct jurisdiction a few weeks ago. The district has been spared the brunt of the crime increase across city. Hopefully, it will stay that way considering the rising crime rates all over NYC.
- The board office has been getting a lot of calls regarding DSNY violations received during the time people were told to stay home. Councilman Yeger joined Assemblyman Eichenstein and Senator Felder in calling on DSNY to dismiss these violations. They are still trying to get the tickets dismissed. But at this time, it's important not to let the tickets default. It is important that everyone who got a fine take care of it. These violations will not simply be dismissed until and unless DSNY cooperates.
- CB12 had a problem with falling trees. Councilman Yeger and Assemblyman were out surveying the fallen trees. There are tens of trees in the district that we are trying to get PARKS to either trim or remove. Hopefully, there will be an increase in funding to take care of unhealthy trees, even though funding for this program has been cut this past year.
- Sanitation Department also had cuts in their budget and CB 12 is seeing the result of that. There was a new super appointed to BK 12 again, and a meeting scheduled to go over all problems in the district. Also of note, the DSNY Commissioner, Kathryn Garcia, resigned. We sincerely hope that the next commissioner will be more open to working with our district and getting in working with us and our schools than she was. We hope this will provide more resources to our district.
- NYC was designated an anarchist jurisdiction by the federal government's Department of Justice. The Federal Government will be holding back funds based on this though we do not know how.
- Today was National Voter Registration Day. It is the perfect time to take a minute to make sure you are properly registered to vote and to urge your friends and family to register. We have voter registration forms in the office for those who need.
- The deadline to complete the Census was September 30<sup>th</sup>, the week after the board meeting. The urgency cannot be stressed enough. A lot of resources for various budgets we ask for comes from the census. It's also about representation at all levels of government. It would be possible to gain another assembly member for our district if everyone in the district filled out the census. The census impacts representation from the very local all the way to federal.
- A lot of people got notices that the tax lien on their properties will be sold. After much back and forth between Cuomo and DeBlasio, the tax lien sale was postponed by Governor Cuomo to October 4. We were advocating it should be canceled entirely, considering people haven't been earning money because of coronavirus. Councilman Yeger was doing a lot of work on this so we will ask him to talk about it.
- Since NYC is beginning the reopening process many of the old problems came back. One such issue is street closures. It's important to report all instances, for example there was an illegal closure two weeks before. CB12 sent down HIQA. By that time, the street was open, but HIQA found a different violation that the violators were fined for.
- As with every year before the Sukkos holidays, about 30 permits were filed for mobile units and Street Sukkos. Usually a list is distributed at board meetings, but since board meetings are remote it will be distributed via email upon request. If you have questions about a specific trailer, call the Board office.

## ELECTED OFFICIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES

- **Councilman Kalman Yeger representing the 44<sup>th</sup> Council District.**

The Councilman highlighted a few items of note:

- He followed up on the tax lien sale the District Manager had mentioned. The date of sale was extended, but the Mayor and the Governor announced different extensions, and on the same day. The later extension, October 4<sup>th</sup>, was set by the Governor by an executive order. By Law, executive orders are valid only 30 days and it is likely the lien sale will be extended further. But the extensions will eventually run out. Anyone receiving a notice should reach out to try to get into a payment plan. The Councilman's office has been successful in getting houses removed from the lien sale list. Lien sales are to be avoided, and no one wants the private company buying the lien to terrorize them.
- Councilman Yeger gave kudos to the District Manager for responding and assisting with all matters, particularly street closures. Mr. Spitzer has been working all hours to open streets that were illegally closed. The entire district owes a debt of gratitude to Mr. Spitzer for keeping traffic moving.
- The councilman echoed the sentiments stated by the acting chairman on the life of Justice Ginsburg. Justice Ginsburg was a giant in legal scholarship Whether you agree with her reasoning or her thought process or her results, there is no question that her mind, her clarity when she spoke, and her belief in what she stood for were incredible. She was a resident of community board 12 and the 44<sup>th</sup> council district, she lived on east 9<sup>th</sup> Street in Midwood as a child. The councilman read a quote Justice Ginsburg said at Justice Scalia's. The two were very close friends despite being ideologically opposite on the Court. She said, 'he [Justice Scalia] was once asked how we could be friends given our disagreements on lots of things. Justice Scalia answered, 'I attack ideas; I don't attack people'.' Some very good people have some very bad ideas. Councilman Yeger serves on the city council and agrees with that statement a lot. A lot of good people with bad ideas. It's important to be able to disagree without being disagreeable.
- The councilman reported on the chronic dumping site when turning from 19<sup>th</sup> Ave. 47<sup>th</sup> onto Street 19<sup>th</sup> Ave where it's overgrown with brush. It took some prodding as Sanitation claimed they didn't have available resources. The Mayor's office, with the help of their liaison Pinny Ringel, leaned hard and got the sanitation department to clean it up. With all the sanitation problems, it's important to note when they do something right. The area is very clean. If you see chronic dumping site don't just record it call 311 and either the councilman or community board office. The Community Board manages service delivery in the district.
- The councilman explained the importance of reporting complaints to 311 in addition to local elected officials. Frequently when complaints are brought to the community board or the councilman's office- they are attended to immediately. But they are not reported to 311 and therefore not recorded in the city data. It is important to aggregate this data so that issues that are not only specific to one person or one time are recognized. It becomes more difficult to track if it isn't recorded.
- The census is extremely important, there were only 8 days left. While it is certain that everyone at the meeting is responsible and filled it, maybe they have friends who didn't. The census is essential for the district to have resources. It's also important for representation. Imagine if Community Board 12 gets chopped up and therefore has different representation than it does now. Bad things can happen with redistricting. As there are mostly observant community the councilman noted that people wiser than us conducted a census a while ago in the Torah. There is a reason why counting is important, in this context it's for division of resources and representation.
- He noted the Unemployment benefits announcement, an extra \$300 would be paid retroactively. Anyone supposed to get funding and didn't should contact an elected official, sometimes it is a clerical technological error it. Per the Department of Labor and the Governor's office these should have been resolved. If not reach out to the councilman's office or Assemblyman Eisenstein or Senator Felder. Pick any one of the three and they will

try to help resolve. Councilman Yeger's office helped well over 1,000 people over 6-7 months.

- Regarding sanitation summonses Councilman Yeger noted two items. The first is regarding summonses issued when everyone was supposed to be isolating at home. As stated previously the councilman along with Assemblyman Eichenstein, Senator Felder, Boro President Adams and support of community board sent a letter to the mayor asking to administratively dismiss all the violation issued when the community was targeted during the pandemic by DSNY. There were multiple videos taken, including one posted on the Councilman's twitter of DSNY kicking apart recycling, so it is all over, and then after the truck left the enforcement officer issued a violation. The elected officials have asked the mayor to step in, but he hasn't yet. So, it is important not to let these violations default, ask for an extension or adjournment.
  - The second item was a clarification on the Alternate Side Parking changes: If there are 2 alternate side days listed on a sign, then it's the second day that is the day that needs to be followed. Each side of the street will continue to be cleaned once a week. The only time a day is removed is if one side has 2 dates listed on the single sign. Anyone who got a violation for this needs to respond. Anyone can reach out to the City Council office for help.
  - Trees are a big concern in Community Board 12. The councilman worked with PARKS to get trees cleaned up. The downed trees started happening before Storm Isaias- it started on June 30<sup>th</sup>, ironically on the day that the city adopted the budget. That evening the councilman drove around with Assemblyman Eichenstein and saw dozens of trees down. Councilman Yeger voted against the budget because, among many other reasons, it cut funding for critical programs such as the tree pruning program, which saves lives. The program is meant to inspect trees to cull out dying trees because those trees fall. Parks has a cycle, and they are not inspecting fast enough. The councilman asked con Edison if the storm takes out the infrastructure directly- leading to outages, or if the falling trees take out the infrastructure. They responded that by and large, probably 95% of downed wires are because of falling trees. Con Edison poles embedded in cement and don't come down unless trees hit. The city trees are old and dying, they sometimes have empty barks with ants crawling out. If you see something say something. If you see a tree in danger, or broken branches swaying. Call 311 first and then call the Councilman's office or the Community board.
  - Per the district manager's request, the councilman clarified what it means to be designated an anarchist jurisdiction by the Department of Justice. The president doesn't have the authority to take money away from NYC. There is no point in denying some of what is seen reeks of anarchy. We are invested in this city, the councilman's father came to this country on a boat. What is happening is a dangerous rollback, and just because crime rates are lower than the 1990's doesn't mean we need to accept this. That is not the metric or barometer by which to measure success. We should be concerned with the random shootings and acts of violence, even though it is less than the 90's murder rate of 2,200. The police department is stretched thin and trying to do the best they can with limited resources. So, we don't know the purpose of the declaration. But the president's designation can hurt the district.
  - Thank you to the NYPD for providing the right kind of coverage on Yom Tov, as the commissioner said we'd see. We are very grateful to the 66 precinct. With God's help we will stay safe with the help of the greatest police force.
  - G'mar Chasima Tovah and wishes for a great new year. The councilman remains grateful for the privilege of serving.
- **Boro President Eric Adams was represented by Tonya Cantlo.**  
**Ms. Cantlo- Counsel to Boro President Eric Adams:**
- Ms., Cantlo emphasized the importance of the census. As of September 15, Brooklyn had lowest response rate with only 57% responded. She urged everyone to take the less than 5 minutes it takes to complete the census.

- Two years ago the Boro President launched a campaign to rename the Brooklyn municipal building after Justice Ginsburg. This is coming to fruition and the Justice is getting the recognition she deserves
- **Mayor Bill deBlasio was represented by Pinny Ringel.**
  - Mr. Ringel congratulated Jake Adler on his new appointment. They worked together back when Senator Felder was a councilman.
  - There is an increase in coronavirus cases in Community Board 12. The rates keep rising. It's important to keep wearing masks and to avoid large indoor gatherings. Testing will also help with numbers, anyone who can should get tested.
  - COVID-19 complaints need to go to 311 where they are collected and given to the coronavirus task force. A few agencies have enforcement branches within their agencies and they go out to all locations within the next day or two.
  - Regarding the dumping sites mentioned by the councilman. It's important to continue making complaints when observing. Thanks to the Councilman for the shout-out on the 19<sup>th</sup> Ave.
  - Everyone should fill out the census, it is extremely important.
  - Shana Tova to everyone, a happy new year.
- **Comptroller Scott Stringer was represented by Pinny Hikind.**
  - He echoed the previous speakers on the importance of the census. The comptroller's office joined many organization in doing a major push on the census in order to try to get better participation rates.
  - He congratulated Jake Adler.
  - He wished the entire Jewish community and beyond a happy new year, on behalf of himself and Comptroller Scott Stringer.
- **Senator Simcha Felder was represented by Sharon Fuchs.**
  - Wished everyone happy and healthy new year.
- **Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein was represented by Shloime Reiger.**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**No old Business.**

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Sam Stober- Board Member:**

- Mr. Stober asked Councilman Kalman Yeger why camera tickers have different prices. He has seen tickets in the amount of \$50, \$100 and \$150.

### **Councilman Kalman Yeger:**

- Recommended that anyone receiving different amounts should reach out to his office with the letter of violation. It is possible that it is an increased fee based on having received several of the same sort of violation.

### **Naftali Tessler- Board Member**

- He thanked the Board for shout out on Hamaspik's approval on the article 31 application. He wanted to say to everyone that help and hope is on the way. Mr. Tessler thanked the Community Board, District Manager Barry Spitzer, the chairman and Gittel for writing letters and helping Hamaspik along the way. He also thanked the Simcha Caucus; Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein, Senator Simcha Felder and Councilman Kalman Yeger. And the Boro President's p office. The congratulations is not only for Hamaspik it's for the whole Boro Park that was



underserved for years. Hamaspik signed a lease for a property in the middle of the community. Hamaspik is her to fight stigma associated with mental health. Hamaspik is only able to do this because of all the help and support from the elected officials.

- He wished everyone a Gmar Chasima Tova.

Chairman Yidel Perlstein, who was participating via phone, was recognized.

- **The Brooklyn Public Library was represented by the Mapleton Branch Manager Anthony Loum.**
- Due to COVID-19 operations at the library are not normal. The library is partially open. Mapleton is expected to open so the public can come in to pick up materials on hold and receive other materials. When they reach that point, information will be distributed.
- All programs the library is offering now will be remote.

**Chairman Yidel Perslstein was on the phone listening in.**

- He thanked Yakov Kaplan for assuming chairmanship role on this time.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

Respectfully submitted by: Gittel Fekete