



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, MARCH 23, 2021

VIA ZOOM

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

ADAM COHEN
ALAN DUBROW
AVROHOM WOLFSON
BERNARD FREILICH
CHESKY BLAU
DAVID FRIEDLANDER
DAVID SHLOMOVICH
EDGAR GLUCK
ELLIE KASTEL
JACOB ASKAL
JACOB EISDORFER
JACOB HASS
JACQUE FRIEDMAN
JEFFREY DWECK
JOSEPH GROSS
LILY MARINELLI
MAMNUNUL HAQ
MIRIAM HERSKO
MORRIS SENDEROVICH
NAFTALI TESSLER
PETER REBENWURZEL
SAM STOBER
SHARON FUCHS
SHLOMIE RIEGER
SOL WAHBA
YAAKOV KAPLAN
YERUCHIM SILBER
YIDEL PERLSTEIN
YONAH MOSES

COMMUNITY RESIDENTS

APPROXIMATELY 50 RESIDENTS PRESENT

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

ANNA CALI
AVI GREENSTEIN
DOUGLAS JABLON
JOHN TALMADGE
JULES FLEISCHER
LARRY JASON
MONIQUE WALLACE
MORTON PUPKO
ROCHELLE ZAMI
SAHIBZADA SHABIR AHMAD
YAAKOV SCHAPIRO
YECHIEL MALIK
YITZCHOK ITZKOWITZ
YITZCHOK MOSKOWITS

STAFF PRESENT

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

ELECTED OFFICIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES

COUNCILMAN KALMAN YEGER
SOL REIGER, REP. AS. EICHENSTEIN
SHERMAN JACKSON, REP. BP ERIC ADAMS
TONYA CANTLO, REP. BP ERIC ADAMS
PINNY RINGEL REP. MAYOR DE BLASIO
PINNY HIKIND REP. COMPTROLLER
STRINGER
SHARON FUCHS, REP. SENATOR FELDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:

- The chairman called for a moment of silence in remembrance of the victims of the horrific shootings in Atlanta, Georgia and Boulder, Colorado, especially Officer Eric Talley of the Boulder Police department who lost his life selflessly responding to save other people's lives.
- The chairman reported on another anti-Semitic hit piece in the media. This month's perpetrator was Steve Cuozzo of the New York Post. He made the cringe worthy claim that the reason Manhattan had the lowest Covid rates was because they have 'none of the huge Hasidic congregations found in Brooklyn and Queens'. Such rhetoric is not acceptable. Thanks to all the public figures who called this out and the board will continue to call out those who disparage our community. This Community, that has been repeatedly targeted, stands with the Asian community and denounces the rise in anti-Asian hate crime.
- He hoped everyone who celebrated Purim had a Happy and Safe Purim.
- Board members with perfect attendance for 2020 were congratulated:
 - Avrohom Wolfson
 - Chesky Blau
 - Jules Fleischer
 - Sharon Fuchs
 - Yonah Moses
- Congratulations were extended to NYPD Chief of Department, Terence Monahan, on his new role heading Mayor Bill de Blasio's COVID-19 recovery team. Chief Monahan was appointed Senior Advisor for Recovery and Safety Planning and is just the right person for the job. The chairman wished him success on this new role.
- Congratulations were extended to Pinny Ringel on being promoted to Assistant Commissioner of the Mayor's Community Affairs Unit. He was thanked for serving CB12.
- Tonya Cantlo from the Borough President's office was thanked for her support throughout the years as CB 12's Borough Hall liaison. While Tonya would stay at Borough Hall to continue doing a lot of important work, she will no longer be the CB12 liaison. The chairman wished her continued success. He further welcomed the newly appointed liaison, Sherman Jackson.

Ms. Cantlo said CB12 would be in good hands with Sherman Jackson.

District Manager Barry Spitzer said that while board members see Tonya at board meeting, behind the scenes she has always been eager to help.

- President Biden signed off on a \$1.9 trillion-dollar American Rescue Plan. In it were a lot of items that were beneficial to the average working family. The chairman mentioned a few items of relevance to the residents in Community Board 12. The details were shared for informational purposes, specific details should be discussed with an accountant or other advisor.
 - The bill includes an income dependent stimulus payment of \$1,400 per person. A married couple filing jointly, with income below \$150,000, qualify for the full benefit, and the benefit decreases until it fully phases out at \$160,000.
 - These payments are direct deposited into accounts, and it is based on 2020 taxes if filed, and 2019 if not. Many have already gotten their payments, if you want to check the status of your payment you can visit irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment
 - The stimulus payments, just like tax returns, are not taxable income.

- Unemployment Insurance is usually taxable, but this bill makes the first \$10,200 tax free for people with incomes of less than \$150,000. But only for 2020.
- The bill clarifies: The stimulus payments and Pandemic Unemployment do not count towards income when applying for benefits such as Medicaid and Food stamps. This new bill adds a \$100 for mixed earner supplement which is employees who have combined income from self-employment and wages. This extra \$100 mixed-earner-supplement does count toward Medicaid and Child Health Insurance Programs eligibility.
- This bill also impacts the Child and Dependent tax credit. It would convert the credit into a refund for those that have no tax bill. It also expands income eligibility. These tax credit changes are for 2021 only.
- The child tax credit increases to \$3,000-\$3,600 per child and raises the qualifying age from 16 to 17. The interesting twist is that some of the child tax credits can be advanced. The details aren't definite yet, but it is likely that from June to December 2021 monthly payments would be direct deposited probably monthly. Children under 6 would receive \$300 and 6 and older would receive \$250.
- Earned income tax credit for childless households will increase for those at the lower end of the income scale.
- On Friday, March 5th, the NY legislature voted to repeal Governor Cuomo's Pandemic Emergency Power. This benefits Community Board 12 that has been the target of a lot of the governor's discriminatory orders and therefore summonses. This action is long overdue, and a thank you was extended to the partners in government, the elected officials who were outspoken in their opposition to these authoritarian powers. This country is a democracy, and it is time it functioned as one.

Coronavirus numbers:

NYS numbers released March 23:

- Total COVID hospitalizations reported were 4,681.
- Of the 143,521 tests reported yesterday, 6,801 were positive (4.74% of total).
- Sadly, there were 53 fatalities.

NYC numbers released March 23:

- 203 new hospitalizations
- 3,334 new cases
- 5.91% positivity rate (7-day avg.)

Up-to-date information is available at <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/>

There were some new reopening announcements:

- As of March 19th, Indoor dining capacity increased to 50%.
 - As of March 22nd, indoor fitness class could reopen- at the same 33% capacity as allowed all over the state. Along with Covid protocols.
 - Starting April 1- domestic travelers no longer need to quarantine, though international travelers still need to quarantine for 10 days.
 - As of April 1, outdoor sports arenas can accommodate 10%-20%, depending on the size of the arena. But attendees will need to prove negative COVID test or proof of vaccination.
 - As of April 5, the 11pm curfew for entertainment venues will be lifted- but not the 11pm curfew for food and beverage establishments or the 12am curfew for catered events.
- More reopening updates will be announced in April.

Vaccination eligibility expansion:

- As of March 17th, Public-facing government nonprofit, and public employees, and essential in-person public facing building service workers are eligible for the vaccine.
- As of March 23rd, Vaccinations are open to New Yorkers aged 50 and above and will open for all Americans May 1st, per the instructions of President Biden.

To check eligibility, please visit: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-vaccine-eligibility.page>

- On March 12th, Governor Cuomo signed legislation that grants public AND private employees 4 hours of excused leave per injection.
- IRS delayed tax filings by about a month until May 17, NYS followed this and delayed tax filings until May 17.
- Thank you to Assembly member Simcha Eichenstein and Assembly member Helene Weinstein for securing funding for private school busing. When Governor Cuomo shut down schools, the funding for private school busing stopped. The schools were left in a lurch. Assemblyman Eichenstein brought this matter up and we are grateful that the busing will be funded.
- He wished all who celebrate a Happy & Safe Passover & Easter.
- The next board meeting will be Tuesday, April 27th.

PUBLIC SESSION:

Mr. Mohammed Hosen - Resident:

- Mr. Hosen was concerned about numerous Citi bike dock installations taking away parking spaces, which would exacerbate an already difficult problem in the area. The installations are taking place in residential areas. There are families in the area that rely on cars for various reasons: some are elderly, some have medical conditions, and some are afraid of the rising crimes in the subway.
- There are many immigrant families in the Kensington neighborhood who don't complain because of a language barrier, but many are concerned about the docks. Mr. Hosan asked if something can possibly be done to move some of the docks to more sensible places.
- **District Manager Barry Spitzer** asked which specific locations were problematic because the city would install 8 docks in the area and might move some of them. The DOT put the docks close together, literally separated by a block, because if someone comes back with a bike and there is no slot in one, they don't have to walk very far. While DOT won't move all 8 racks, they may move the particularly bad ones. Bike rack installations are taking place all over the city as they want to increase the fleet to 40,000.
- **Mr. Hosan** advised the particularly problematic ones were at Albemarle and McDonald, and at Church Ave & McDonald.
- **Councilman Yeger** encouraged Mohammed to reach out to his councilman, the specific areas were not in CM Yeger's district- but it is a matter the councilman in whose district it is in should be able to help.
- **Mr. Hosan** advised that he called his councilman, Councilman Lander, numerous times but he was not helpful in offering any solutions.
- **Sergeant at Arms Mr. Haq** advised that he is familiar with the neighborhood and the locations chosen for the Citi bikes would negatively impact parking and safety. The racks should have been put in quieter areas or on sidewalks. The parking crisis is especially bad in Kensington and in Boro Park and this makes it worse. These locations are in Councilman Lander's district and he could prevent this.

Susan Kleinbart- Resident:

- Ms. Kleinbart asked the board to work on remedying the filthy streets in Boro Park. Garbage on the curbs are particularly bad. Street sweepers are unable to clean because people don't move their cars and the sweepers can't clean, but the cars that don't move don't get tickets. What makes the situation even worse is that the sanitation employees leave the garbage that falls when they throw the bags in the truck.
Chairman Yidel Perlstein asked her to let the office know of specific locations.

District Manager Barry Spitzer advised that DSNY would do major cleanups in certain areas before Pesach, especially major thoroughfares. The increase in litter is likely a result of a problem from a few weeks back.

Edith Lowinger- Resident:

- Ms. Lowinger followed up on Ms. Kleinbart's comment saying she saw DSNY cleanups. New Utrecht was cleaner than usual, and she observed DSNY cleaning by 53rd St. and 13th Ave.
- She wanted to call upon the community to get together and reopen the nursing homes. The elderly are not being fed properly, no one talks to them, and sometimes they aren't even allowed out of their rooms.

Richard Navas- Resident:

- He congratulated Pinny Ringel on his new promotion and wished him the best of luck.
- Chairman should look into zoom captioning offered by zoom so people in my condition can participate. It keeps people who want to be involved.
- He reported that a DOHMH inspector shut down the place for repairs and issued violations. Whoever made call to DOMH it's appreciated.
- He brought up an issue reported before the pandemic; there is a sinkhole at 40th street, in front of 1039 40th. He asked that this be addressed now that things are slowly getting back to normal.
- He asked to have it communicated to 4002 Ft. Hamilton Pkwy to turn off the floodlights that shine into people's apartment at night. The security guards said they had nothing to do with it.

Mr. Spitzer advised that 40th street will be added to the spring paving list. Last year DOT did not do a lot of repaving because of COVID.

ATTENDANCE:

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT – RABBI BERNARD FREILICH:

The Nominating Committee met on March 4th via Zoom to discuss the nomination of a slate to serve as Executive Officers of our Board for the next one year term.

After a discussion by the members, the committee agreed that the current officers are doing an excellent job and agreed to keep this leadership intact, therefore the committee voted unanimously to nominate the current slate of officers to continue for the next term.

The slate presented was as follows:

- Yidel Perlstein for Chairman
- Yaakov Kaplan for First Vice Chair
- Yeruchim Silber for Second Vice Chair
- Anna Cali for Secretary

Rabbi Freilich asked if there were any nominations from the floor, as there were none, the nominations were closed. Article 8 Section 3 of CB12's by-laws states "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 nominee." The Chair directed Mammun to cast a vote.

The Chair of the nominating committee thanked his colleagues on the committee; Joe Gross, Mammun Haq, Rochelle Zami and Shloimy Itzkowitz for their work on the committee. He congratulated the reelected executive officers and wished them success in their new term.

Mr. Perlstein thanked Rabbi Freilich and the committee for their time and all board members for volunteering their time. He thanked the board for entrusting him once again.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT:

- As stated at the February Board Meeting, we have been working hard alongside various agencies and other elected officials. The Pesach trash collections schedule will be spread over three days. DSNY will try to accommodate the extra trash by doing a district wide collection on Shabbos. But everyone's cooperation is needed - we ask that garbage is placed out as early as possible

regardless of when the collection day is. Even residents who have Saturday pickup should put their garbage out Thursday night for Friday pickup. Large containers will be placed out Wednesday, March 24. Please use the containers for household garbage and not for construction materials.

- A flyer was distributed with the locations for the Erev Pesach fires. Those are the only places that can have a fire. All others will be extinguished. Please follow all the fire safety measures and Covid precautions. If you want the flyer, you can call the office at 718-851-0800 or email us at bk12@cb.nyc.gov and we will happily provide it.
- Mobile containers are out in the district with permits, and they will be removed by the first week of April. If anyone sees a container on the streets after April 6th, please call the office. A list of locations is available upon request.
- There was a citywide sanitation problem that garbage wasn't being picked up and it adversely affected our district. We got it resolved but we had requested that tickets not be issued until the entire district was cleaned up. We were told that the entire district will be cleaned up by the end of the weekend. The fact of the matter was that the district wasn't cleaned up till Monday and Monday morning they were already issuing summonses – in some cases to locations that have missed 3 cycles of garbage pickups, which means almost two weeks. We got in-touch with the commissioner and are happy to report that all the summonses that were reported to us got dismissed. The commissioner himself got involved in dismissing those summonses and we thank Councilman Yeger as well for being involved in that effort.
- Please be aware the DEP will be installing rain gardens throughout NYC. These are patches of grass with a gap in the curb cut so stormwater can be absorbed by the soil. This is designed to prevent stormwater from comingling with wastewater and ending up in the wastewater treatment plant. We know people are not always on board with it being placed in front of their properties. Unfortunately, these decisions are made by DEP. They only consider moving it if you provide either an image of a sprinkler system installed in the grass strip or a DOT resident's disability parking placard that was issued within 30 days of the letter. If you fall into one of these categories and have been notified of a rain garden installation in front of your house you want stopped, reach out and we will try to help you.
- Community Board 12 partnered with Met Council, that is run by our former councilman David Greenfield, for a food distribution that lasted two entire days
- . Thank you to our chairman Yidel Perlstein for once again offering up his lot to use as a distribution site. And thank you to Judah Zellemeier for running this distribution site. The chairman not only gave his lot for this distribution, he gave it for another distribution on Sunday. He had to move his whole business out of his lot so people can get food. It's an honor for CB 12 to be a part of this effort.

The Department of Transportation will be installing Citi Bikes at the following locations:

- the south sidewalk of 12th Avenue, east of 36th Street
- the east roadbed of Chester Avenue, south of 12th Avenue
- the south roadbed of Church Avenue, east of Story Street
- the east sidewalk of Dahill Road, adjacent to Albemarle Playground
- the south roadbed of Albemarle Road, east of McDonald Avenue
- the south roadbed of Church Avenue, west of Beverley Road
- the east roadbed of East 3rd Street, north of Church Avenue
- the east roadbed of East 5th Street, north of Church Avenue

We are identifying the ones that are of concern for either safety issues or parking and working with DOT to see if we can resolve some of those issues.

- To all celebrating, a happy, safe and healthy Passover.

Chairman Perlstein:

- He thanked Mr. Spitzer who came out to the yard to manage the distribution and thanked David Greenfield for his support for this community, and Councilman Yeger who came out to help.

ELECTED OFFICIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES:**Sherman Jackson, representing Boro President Eric Adams:**

- Mr. Jackson thanked the board for having him and said he looked forward to working with the board. He acknowledged that Ms. Cantlo indeed left big shoes to fill and he would do his utmost to fill them. He shared his office number, 718-802-3892 as well as his cell number 917-751-7839 so that he can be reached anytime he is needed.

Mr. Jackson shared 3 items out of Boro Hall:

- The Boro President made a call on the city to fill all affordable apartments that are vacant to try to resolve homelessness. Mr. Jackson saw in CB12 minutes that this is an area of concern for the community.
 - On Sunday, the Boro President held rally against the increase in hate crimes towards Asian Americans.
 - The Boro President joined the MTA union in calling for full restoration of service on the C and F lines.
- He wished a Happy Passover and Easter.

Pinny Ringel, representing Mayor Bill deBlasio:

- Mr. Ringel thanked all those who congratulated him.
- He wished all a Happy Passover, a Happy Easter, and a Happy Ramadan.

Councilman Kalman Yeger, representing the 44th Council District:

- The Councilman congratulated Pinny Ringel on his promotion. And said that Mr. Ringel has been ubiquitous throughout the neighborhood has been an incredible representative, not only from the Mayor to the people, but also from the people to the Mayor. This promotion is a pretty big deal and means the Councilman will give over more concerns and expect fuller success.
- He followed up on the District Manager's report on DSNY Passover collections: Don't wait for last minute to put out garbage, just keep putting it out. We anticipate there won't be summonses for putting out the garbage when it's not a scheduled collection day because they will come sporadically even when it's not your designated day. We need to try to fill up the trucks when they are empty.
- The councilman thanked the Chairman for his generosity in offering his lot. Literally thousands being fed due to generosity of Met Council and we are incredibly grateful. Councilman Greenfield was an incredible representative and has helped many in the community as the CEO of Met Council over the past three years. He further thanked his colleagues who participated, Assemblyman Eichenstein, Senator Felder, Assemblyman Peter J. Abbate, Jr., and Councilman Robert E. Cornegy, Jr. who all came out to lend a hand.
- The Councilman joined his friends in thoughts for A Happy Easter, a Happy Ramadan, and a Chag Kosher V'Sameach.

District Manager-Barry Spitzer

- Mr. Spitzer added one item regarding community safety throughout holiday which was discussed at the Passover planning meeting. NYPD will be patrolling extra especially for the first 2 nights of Passover when people come home late from the Seder. What is different this year is that there won't be police officers at synagogues. There will be 2 round the clock locations, one at 13th Ave. & 53rd St. and one at Ave. L and East 9th St.

Sharon Fuchs, representing Senator Simcha Felder:

- She wished all a Happy Passover, Easter and Ramadan.

Sol Reiger, representing Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein:

Pinny Hikind, representing Comptroller Scott Stringer:

- He thanked the Chairman for giving his lot for needy families. The comptroller was in neighborhoods and witnessed the great work that David Greenfield from Met Council did. He further thanked Mr. Spitzer and Mr. Perlstein for all the volunteering and involvement.
- He wished everyone a happy Pesach, Easter and Ramadan.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

February minutes were adopted.

OLD BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS:

Yisroel Wolfson- Board Member:

- Mr. Wolfson thanked Mr. Spitzer for adding Cortelyou Rd. and E 3rd as a burning site. Neighbors are very happy about this.

MEETING ADJOURNED.

Respectfully submitted by: Gittel Fekete