



**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 SEPTEMBER MINUTES

HELD ON  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2021

VIA ZOOM

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

AAMAH KHAN  
ADAM COHEN  
ALAN DUBROW  
AVROHOM WOLFSON  
AYESHA RAHIM  
BENJAMIN THEODORE  
CHESKY BLAU  
DAVID FRIEDLANDER  
DAVID SHLOMOVICH  
EDGAR GLUCK  
ELLIE KASTEL  
JACOB ASKAL  
JACQUE FRIEDMAN  
JEFFREY DWECK  
JOHN TALMADGE  
JULES FLEISCHER  
LILY MARINELLI  
MARIA ARETTINES  
MORDECHAI KATZ  
MORRIS SENDEROVICH  
PETER REBENWURZEL  
SAM STOBER  
SHARON FUCHS  
SHLOMIE RIEGER  
SOL WAHBA  
YAAKOV KAPLAN  
YAAKOV SCHAPIRO  
YERUCHIM SILBER  
YIDEL PERLSTEIN  
YITZCHOK MOSKOWITS  
YONAH MOSES

**COMMUNITY RESIDENTS**

APPROXIMATELY 36 RESIDENTS PRESENT

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

ANNA CALI  
AVI GREENSTEIN  
BERNARD FREILICH  
DOUGLAS JABLON  
JACOB EISDORFER  
JACOB HASS  
JOSEPH GROSS  
LARRY JASON  
MAMNUNUL HAQ  
MIRIAM HERSKO  
MONIQUE WALLACE  
MORTON PUPKO  
NAFTALI TESSLER  
ROCHELLE ZAMI  
SAHIBZADA AHMAD SHABIR  
YECHIEL MALIK  
YITZCHOK ITZKOWITZ

**STAFF PRESENT**

BARRY SPITZER – DISTRICT MANAGER  
GITTEL FEKETE- COMMUNITY  
COORDINATOR

**ELECTED OFFICIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES**

SHERMAN JACKSON, REP BP ERIC ADAMS  
ASSEMBLYMAN ROBERT CARROLL, REP. 44<sup>th</sup>  
ASSEMBLY DISTRICT  
PINNY RINGEL REP. MAYOR DE BLASIO  
PINNY HIKIND, REP. COM. STRINGER  
SHARON FUCHS, REP. SENATOR FELDER  
SOL REIGER, REP. AM. EICHENSTEIN  
DSNY SUPERINTENDENT MOSHSIN  
MOHAMED

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

## **ATTENDANCE:**

## **ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**

- June Minutes were adopted.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:**

### **Chairman Yidel Perlstein**

- The Chair welcomed back the board members and residents of community board 12. He hoped all had a refreshing summer and holiday season and are ready to start the work we need to do.
- Mazel Tov to Board Member Douglas Jablon on the wedding of his grandchild.
- He mentioned some integral community members that we lost over the summer:
  - Dr. Yehoshua (Joshua) Weinstein passed away on August 20, 2021, at 74 years old. Dr. Weinstein founded Shema Kolainu- Hear Our Voices, a first of its kind center for children with autism. He was a lifelong advocate for Autistic children by promoting research and implementing advanced methods of care. Rabbi Weinstein was a former board member of Community Board 12. This loss leaves a void.
  - Rabbi Osher Lemel Ehrenreich passed away on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 93 years old. He founded the Bais Yaakov located in Community Board 12 back in 1955. Today, 66 years after its founding, it is the largest Bais Yaakov elementary school in North America.  
May their memories be a blessing.
- This year marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11. A moment of silence was held for the lives lost on that day and the hundreds of public servants who died since from 9/11 related illnesses.
- Community Board 12 extended a welcome to newly appointed Governor Kathy Hochul who made history as the first female governor of New York.
- He thanked the NYPD for their quick response and arrest of the individual responsible for the horrific attack on a Jewish resident who parked his vehicle in front of an illegal driveway.
- He congratulated Judge Gina Levy, the first Sephardic Jew assigned to a seat on the New York Supreme Court. Many thanks go out to District Leader David Schwartz and Councilman Kalman Yeger for working hard to make this happen.
- Governor's Island will be open to the public year-round, with ferry service seven days a week to make it accessible for Brooklynites.
- This Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, is the last day to register to vote in order to participate in the general election. Everyone was encouraged to check their registration, and to vote on Election Day.

## **PUBLIC SESSION:**

### **Janelle Arnao –Resident**

- Ms. Arnao attended many board meetings and wanted to bring up an issue. Walking along Ocean Parkway is usually an enjoyable experience, except for the bikes riding on the pedestrians' only walkway. There should be signs that alert bicycle riders that they are not allowed on the left side of Ocean Parkway. But bikes are often found there, so she hoped the board can review the lack of signage and enforcement.
- Another concern Ms. Arnao brought up is the trash all over Ocean Parkway. While there are bag dispensers for dog owners to pick up dog waste, there are no receptacles for those bags.  
**District Manager Barry Spitzer** advised that CB12 has asked PD to enforce bikes that ride on the pedestrian walkway, though this is probably not a high priority for PD considering the concerns with vehicles driving recklessly along Ocean Parkway.

**Community Coordinator Gittel Fekete** addressed the issue of garbage cans. She had reached out to PARKS. And while they said they would put out baskets, they have not committed to a specific number or to specific locations.

### **Anthony Loum- Brooklyn Public Library Manager, Mapleton Branch**

- Starting October 5<sup>th</sup>, the Brooklyn Public Library has permanently eliminated daily overdue fines. Patrons will be charged for lost items after 4 weeks but replacement charges will be removed when items are returned.
- BPL is offering expanded services at all locations, including browsing collections at computers and signing up for library cards.
- Meeting rooms are not yet available.
- Several branches, including the Mapleton Branch have expanded services, including: browsing, seating, computer reservations, holds pickup, library card sign up, print on demand and public restroom. There is a grab and go available every second Thursday.
- Local programs are all virtual.
- There is a monthly virtual program for crocheting, knitting and sewing every last Tuesday of the month at 1 pm. Registration is required at the library website.

### **Peter Rebenwurz- Board Member**

Mr. Rebenwurz eulogized his friend Rabbi Weinstein, a former board member:

- Mr. Rebenwurz recalled how 25 years ago, while sitting with Weinstein at Community Board meetings, Rabbi Weinstein wanted to open a school to address the needs of autistic children in the community. Shema Kolainu opened with 4 children and is now servicing about 250 families. Dr. Weinstein and his staff take care of everything for these children from a-z. Hopefully his daughter can continue in her father's footsteps to serve the community as the new person at the helm of Shema Kolainu.

## **TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

### **Delivered by Transportation Committee Acting Chairman Sol Wahba**

The Transportation committee held a meeting on Thursday September 30<sup>th</sup>. It was a robust meeting lasting a little over 2 hours.

### **Permanent Open Restaurants Text Amendment**

- An email sent prior to the board meeting with the specifics of the proposed amendment. It would be a zoning change to permanently allow restaurants to operate on the sidewalks in front of their establishments. The Committee members expressed a lot of opposition. There were concerns with cleanliness, homelessness and the noncompliance of bad actors in the business who use these structures improperly. The committee members voted on a motion to oppose this zoning change, 6 were in favor and 1 member abstained.
- The acting chairman made a recommendation to the full board to oppose the zoning change and opened the floor to questions.
- Peter Rebenwurz- expressed concern that these structures will also adversely affect parking. Mr. Wahba clarified that this specific zoning change only impacts sidewalk cafes. The interfering with sidewalk use by pedestrians, especially elderly, disabled and children, was definitely a concern.

There were no further questions. So, the motion recommended by the committee was voted on.

The motion carried 27 in favor 4 opposed.

### **6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. Safety Improvement Project (SIP)**

- The SIP is a DOT proposal to change the direction of traffic flow between 39<sup>th</sup> St. and 66<sup>th</sup> St. on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Ave's. which is at the edge of CB12. The committee was concerned the impact of changing the MTA bus route would make it harder for the elderly to get around. There were further concerns about DOT misrepresenting their studies and data. Residents, merchants and

Community Based Organizations came out adamantly against this proposal because of the removal of parking spaces and the elimination of driving lanes. There was also a petition signed by 20k community members asking DOT to re-evaluate. After some discussion, the consensus was that this plan would not help the situation, it would actually make it worse. The councilman and assemblyman were both opposed to this proposal. Due to the concerns a motion was brought to oppose the proposal. The committee voted unanimously to oppose the proposal.

- The acting chairman made a recommendation to the full board to oppose the proposal. And opened the floor to questions.

**Alan Dubrow- Board Member-** wanted to know how Community Board 7 & 10, whose districts are primarily affected by these changes voted.

**Barry Spitzer- District Manager-** said Community Board 7 was holding their public hearing at the same time as the board meeting, and Community Board 10 almost unanimously opposed the proposal.

**Shlomie Reiger- Board Member-** wanted clarification that the petitions and local elected officials were opposed to the proposal. Mr. Wahba confirmed this.

The Board voted unanimously to oppose the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. SIP.

## **DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT:**

### **District Manager Barry Spitzer**

- First, he thanked our partners in the NYPD and BP Shomrim for working so closely with the board to ensure that there was complete security coverage over the Holidays. We are happy to report that the holidays passed without incident.
- He also thanked Con Edison and National Grid for their quick responses to a few critical outages, one that took place before Shabbos and another one an hour before Yom Kippur. Both of these agencies responded immediately. Sharon Fuchs from Senator Felder's office worked with him on the National Grid shutdown. Together they were able to get a crew out to fix the problem before Yom tov started. Kudos to these agencies for responding with speed.
- The issue of DOT painting sidewalks right before Sukkos was addressed. As usual, we asked them not to do any work a week before Sukkos and they promised they wouldn't. But this work was done by a subcontractor. DOT said it was an oversight and wouldn't happen again. The district manager discussed with Councilman Yeger the annual request for a holiday moratorium to stop all construction in Community Board 12 during Passover and Sukkos holiday -just like the city does for other holidays. So far there hasn't been any success but, we hope that with a new administration and a new DOT commissioner we will have success next year.
- Regarding hurricane Ida, NYS was approved for FEMA relief. In order to apply by phone, call 800-621-3362. Or, BPJCC has been doing good work on this issue and will be happy to help. Anyone with questions can call the community board office.
- The Department of Sanitation did a great job cleaning up after Ida. They even called our office to ask if we know of anyone who has damage from Ida and needs to throw stuff out. They also did a great job the night Sukkos started cleaning up the huge mess that left on 13th Ave. and 16<sup>th</sup> Ave. We were informed that DSNY is restoring the Sunday and holiday litter basket pickups. We would like to thank them for that.
- We had major incident in the district right before the Sukkos holiday; there was a huge film shoot that was scheduled to film on 13<sup>th</sup> Ave. between 53<sup>rd</sup> Street and 54<sup>th</sup> Street. Anyone familiar with the district knows that this is right in the center of the district and extremely busy before the holiday. Councilman Yeger and Pinny Ringel got involved. We were able to stop them from shooting at this location. Thank you to Pinny who called to alert us that they are not adhering to the permit that they got at the new location. The original permit was revoked and they got a permit for a less congested area. So, we went to the area and made sure they stick to the area the permit allowed.

- CB12 hosted BPJCC computer classes over the summer. We had a full house for all the training courses. It was great to see all the people who will now have help getting jobs or promotions because of the training they received here. These job trainings go a long way to help with skills training for job seekers.
- There was an uptick in illegal street closures over the summer. Usually street closures are illegal. Even where there is a permit for work, it usually does not give the authority to close a street. Let the office know if you see a street closure that doesn't look right and we can look into it.
- As we do every year, we are now heavily involved in the FY23 district needs budget proposals. We met with many agencies to discuss their budgets, including, ACS, DEP, DOB, DOE DOT, DSNY, DYCD, EDC, FDNY, HPD, HRA, NYCHA, NYPD, PARKS, and SBS. Anybody who knows of an issue that needs funding or has an idea for funding to help our district, please let us know and we will submit it in our district needs.
- The district manager thanked Assistant Chief Michael Kemper, the new Commanding Officer of the Patrol Borough Brooklyn South. The chief asked us to host a meeting with the Brooklyn south boards. We discussed a variety of things that affect Brooklyn South. From what he said, he seems like he is ready to help. In fact he already helped with a number of issues.
- There was some confusion with board members regarding committee appointments. When there is a committee meeting the office sends separate emails to committee members and a separate one to the board members. Board members who attended the Transportation committee meeting thought they were on the committee because they were invited to participate. All members are invited to participate, but committee members' emails start with Dear Committee member instead of Dear board members and interested parties.

## **ELECTED OFFICIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES:**

- **Sherman Jackson, representing Boro President Eric Adams.**
  - He was glad to see everyone after summer break
  - He reported on a call he got from an attorney from Community Board 12 around September 16<sup>th</sup> regarding a community facility project at 1101 Ocean Parkway. He was requested to expedite the approval of the application for the adjustments that were being made. Unfortunately FDNY said it received 9 objections to the project on July 9<sup>th</sup>. The responses were submitted July 12<sup>th</sup> and it takes 9-13 weeks for FDNY to respond. So a response can be expected in a few weeks because of the number of objections
  - The Boro President's office was at the Atlantic Antic Festival on Sunday October 3.
  - He commented on ERAP, the Emergency Rental Assistance Program. The Boro President's office along with the Department of Social Services and Met Council held a joint event to inform and assist on these matters. Residents can go to [Brooklyn-usa.org](http://Brooklyn-usa.org) to learn more.
- **Sol Wahba – Board Member-** introduced himself as the attorney who reached out to Mr. Jackson. He updated on the status of the community facility. The councilman had been involved because FDNY wasn't opening a file to look at application. The matter was resolved. FDNY had 2 minor objections which were resolved. He thanked Mr. Sherman for having this on his radar. He advised that while he was at the Atlantic Antic he missed Mr. Jackson.
- **Assemblyman Robert Carroll, representing the 44<sup>th</sup> Assembly District.**
  - He hoped everyone had a good holiday season. He was happy to celebrate Sukkos at District Leader David Schwartz's home.
  - On October 29<sup>th</sup> MTA's MetroCard van will be in front of the AM Carroll's office on 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. between 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Ave., seniors and individual with disabilities can reach out to the office for half price MetroCard's.
  - On November 12<sup>th</sup> there will be a free mammograms event in conjunction with the Italian American Cancer Association.
  - For those who live on Ocean Parkway, earlier this summer a great deal of time was spent with DOT, the 66 precinct and the 72 precinct to look into drag racing along Ocean Parkway

and the Prospect Expressway. We have tried to put a stop to this but it but it is very complicated. Please reach out to the 66, the 72 and call 911. Residents with concerns can reach out to our office.

- The assemblyman introduced his aide and Community Board 12 resident, Faiza Azam, who will be present at meetings.
- **Peter Rebenwurzle- Board member-** said he lives Ocean Parkway and Ave. K. This is the worst stretch as there is no traffic light between Ave. J & L which makes the drag racing exponentially worse there. He suggested a traffic light or a stop signs at the Ave K intersection a few times as a remedy. The situation gets really bad between 12:30 and 4 Am.
- **AM Carroll** advised that while that intersection is right outside his district, he would be happy to work with others on this problem.
- **Sol Wahba-Board Member-** agreed with Mr. Rebenwurzle about the problems on that block. He added that there are groups of cars doing donuts from Ave. I to Ave. L. There are long stretches where you can see residue of tires burning rubber.
- **Sam Stober- Board Member-** asked if since there are so many cameras, could the police see pictures of the offending drivers and use that to make arrests.
- **Sol Wahba- Board Member-** said the perpetrator know exactly where the cameras are and work in the blind spots.
- **Mr. Jackson-Rep. Boro President-** asked if speed bumps could be an answer to this problem.
- **AM Carrol** said that DOT likely won't allow speed bumps on a road like Ocean Parkway. This is more of an enforcement issue for the PD.
- **Mr. Ringel- Mayor's CAU-** brought up at a 66 community council meeting in the past the video there is on twitter. The Community Board along with precinct should try to get citywide task force in place to give out summons.
- **Mr. Spitzer- District Manager-** advised that when the board reached out and the PD brought in the taskforce it didn't solve the problem. The officers stood on one of corners with radar in middle of day to catch speeders, which wasn't the request. The problem help was asked for was the drag racing during early morning hours. We have cameras for daytime speeding. PD said they don't have enough manpower to be on Ocean Parkway at night. We are requesting they put an undercover car at these problem areas and catch these guys in the act. It's not easy because most of these reckless drivers have paper plates or no plates at all and do whatever they want. Putting a cop with radar at noon for someone going 40 mph does nothing to help.
- **Alan Dubrow - Board Member-** agreed with Mr. Spitzer and further emphasized that the speed cameras go off at 10pm and during the weekends. When the cameras are off it's like the Indianapolis Street race.
- **Yaakov Kaplan- Board Member-** wanted to give credit where it's due. He observed a police officer on the median with a radar gun on Ave. I and Ocean Parkway at 3:25 am on Monday morning. He brought up another issue prevalent at the Ocean Parkway and Coney Island area, the aftermarket exhausts. He asked the assemblyman what was done about cars backfiring that sound like gunshots.
- The Assemblyman agreed that it's an issue. The cars sound like gunshots or firecrackers, this matter is also an enforcement issue. NYPD stopped enforcing this law, though there is still a law on the books. We must figure out a way to smartly enforce it as it really destroys the quality of life. He is happy to work with the community board to see how this can be cracked down on.
- **Pinny Ringel, representing Mayor Bill deBlasio.**
  - He hoped everyone had a good summer. Regarding 1101 Ocean Parkway, Mr. Wahba worked with the Mayor's CAU office and FDNY and he is happy to hear the community facility matter was resolved.
  - Regarding the permit from the Mayor's office of media entertainment Mr. Spitzer had mentioned, one of thing we realized was they were taking more than what they were given.

This is aside for the fact that the permit shouldn't have been issued at all and they should have gone to a different location. The only way to resolve this is if you see cars taking spots with such signs, call the community board or 311 to see if they have a permit. This matter was resolved in a timely fashion. The permitted were allowed certain spots with certain conditions. And if they don't follow rules, the permits can be revoked.

- **Pinny Hikind, representing Comptroller Scott Stringer.**
- **Sharon Fuchs, representing Senator Simcha Felder.**
- **Sol Reiger, representing Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein.**
- **DSNY BK12 Superintendent Moshin Mohamed.**

## **OLD BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS:**

**No old business.**

**New business.**

- **Sam Stober- Board Member-** He followed up on legislation Councilman Yeger mentioned at the June Board meeting. The City council passed legislation giving amnesty for OATH summonses. Starting September 20<sup>th</sup> through December 20<sup>th</sup>, Department of Finance implemented this resolution. Anyone with summonses can see if they qualify for the amnesty program which may reduce the penalty. More information can be found at the DOF or OATH website
- **Ayesha Rahim- Board Member** - wanted to echo what Janelle brought to attention earlier at the public session. She noticed that there were baskets put out on Ocean Parkway. But the baskets aren't emptied often and are overflowing with trash.
- The second concern she had was the condition of the streets on Church Ave. There are quite a few businesses and most of them power wash the sidewalk after trash is collected. There is almost a dark layer of old sludge. She wanted to know how this can be mandated.
- **Barry Spitzer- District Manager-** said that while every business has an obligation to clean 18" into street he was unaware of any requirement to power wash.
- **Superintendent Mohamed-** confirmed there is no law mandating power washing. He further advised that Ocean Parkway is serviced by PARKS which is the agency responsible for emptying garbage bins.
- **Barry Spitzer- District Manager** - said that while there is no regulations requiring power washing, a BID would be the mechanism that can make sure stores wash in front of their stores. But there is no current city regulation.

## **MEETING ADJOURNED.**

Respectfully submitted by: Gittel Fekete