



**Antonio Reynoso**  
Borough President

# THE CITY OF NEW YORK COMMUNITY BOARD 12

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**Yidel Perlstein**  
Chairperson



**Barry Spitzer**  
District Manager

## COMMUNITY BOARD 12 APRIL MINUTES

HELD ON  
TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2022

VIA IN-PERSON & ZOOM

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

AAMAH KHAN  
ADAM COHEN  
ALAN DUBROW  
ANNA CALI  
AVROHOM WOLFSON  
BENJAMIN THEODORE  
BERNARD FREILICH  
CHESKY BLAU  
EDGAR GLUCK  
ELLIE KASTEL  
JACOB EISDORFER  
JACQUE FRIEDMAN  
JEFFREY DWECK  
JOHN TALMADGE  
JOSEPH GROSS  
JULES FLEISCHER  
LILY MARINELLI  
MAMNUNUL HAQ  
MARIA ARETTINES  
MIRIAM HERSKO  
MORRIS SENDEROVICH  
PETER REBENWURZEL  
ROCHELLE ZAMI  
SHARON FUCHS  
SHLOMIE RIEGER  
SOL WAHBA  
YAAKOV KAPLAN  
YERUCHIM SILBER  
YIDEL PERLSTEIN  
YONAH MOSES

**COMMUNITY RESIDENTS**

APPROXIMATELY 14 RESIDENTS PRESENT

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

AVI GREENSTEIN  
AYESHA RAHIM  
DAVID FRIEDLANDER  
DAVID SHLOMOVICH  
DOUGLAS JABLON  
JACOB ASKAL  
JACOB HASS  
LARRY JASON  
MONIQUE WALLACE  
MORDECHAI KATZ  
MORTON PUPKO  
NAFTALI TESSLER  
SAHIBZADA AHMAD SHABIR  
SAM STOBER  
YAAKOV SCHAPIRO  
YECHIEL MALIK  
YITZCHOK ITZKOWITZ  
YITZCHOK MOSKOWITS

**STAFF PRESENT**

BARRY SPITZER – DISTRICT MANAGER  
GITTEL FEKETE- COMMUNITY  
COORDINATOR

**ELECTED OFFICIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES**

COUNCILMEMBER KALMAN YEGER  
ANASTASIA YASKOVA, REP. MAYOR ERIC  
ADAMS  
MUSARRAT LAMIA, REP COUNCILMEMBER  
SHANAHA HANIF  
JAMES NEIMEISTER, REP. COUNCILMEMBER  
ALEXA AVILES  
JOEL DESOUVE, REP. COUNCILMEMBER  
RIITA JOSEPH  
PINNY HIKIND, REP. COMPTROLLER BRAD  
LANDER  
SHARON FUCHS, REP. SENATOR FELDER  
SOL REIGER, REP. AM. EICHENSTEIN  
KEN LAZAR, REP. NYC DOB

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

## ATTENDANCE

## ADOPTION OF FEBRUARY & MARCH MINUTES

### CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS – YIDEL PERLSTEIN

- The chairman was happy to see some board members in person. After over 2 years of only virtual meetings the board is moving over to a hybrid model. Board Members and elected officials have the option to join either via zoom or in person. For now, we are unable to accommodate the general public in person. We will keep everyone posted as we adapt and adjust to this new reality.
- We were all very shook up the horrific shooting on the N train in Sunset Park on April 12<sup>th</sup>. Many of us use the N on a daily basis as it runs through Borough Park. It's hard to be confident in the safety of a system so soon after such tragedy. We are relieved that the perpetrator was caught the next day and we look to the mayoral administration to follow through on promises to ensure the safety of our subway system and our city. This incident also underscores the importance of "see something say something." This arrest was a combination of NYPD's hard work and regular New Yorkers who saw something and helped track this guy down.
- I ask you all to join me in a moment of silence for our fallen hero, 31 year old, six-year veteran of the fire department, Firefighter Timothy Klein. He passed away this past Sunday in the line of duty when the ceiling of a burning building collapsed in Canarsie, Brooklyn. We see and appreciate the extraordinary heroism our emergency responders display every day. The Chairman recounted that he was honored to see the procession escorting Firefighter Timothy Klein from the hospital.  
A moment of silence of held.
- We are thankful to all who helped us celebrate Sreifas Chometz safely. The firefighters, the police officers, the sanitation workers and of course all of our amazing organizations. Major thanks to Shomrim and Chaveirim who like every year gave away from their precious time on Erev Pesach to manage all the sites and make sure that everything was safe. Really, we must thank them for the hundreds of hour of volunteer work they do throughout the year but after such a big undertaking they deserve a special shout out.
- Thank you to Avi Greenstein of the Boro Park JCC and Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein for the beautiful free Chol HaMoed Extravaganza. There were thousands of smiling children, which is always a beautiful sight. We were happy to see the deputy commissioner of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Councilman Yeger, our favorite NYPD Inspector Richie Taylor, Captain Hagestad of the 66 and many more who came out. Everybody had a great time.
- Eid Mubarak to all celebrating the close of Ramadan.

### **PUBLIC HEARING:**

#### **Anthony Loum- Mapleton Branch Manager at the Brooklyn Public Library**

Mr. Loum shared some updates on programs at the Brooklyn Public Library

BPL is now offering in person program for all ages:

- Patrons are welcome to browse the collections, access computers and printing, and sign up for library cards.
- Meeting rooms are now available.
  - Additional services now available at open locations:
    - Browsing
    - Seating
    - Computer reservations
    - Holds pickup
    - Library Card signup
    - Print on Demand
    - Outdoor programming
    - Reference assistance
    - Public restrooms

## **Summer Reading Program**

- Summer Reading promises to be huge fun all summer long as we celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Brooklyn Public Library
- Celebrations will kick off on June 4th at all locations
- All of the Brooklyn Public Library programming you have come to love will be available including special summer programs with a focus on STEAM, Literacy, and Summer Fun!

## **Education at the Center for Brooklyn History**

- The newly-formed Center for Brooklyn History is an exciting collaboration between Brooklyn Historical Society and Brooklyn Public Library, combining materials collected over the past 157 years with BPL's Brooklyn Collection
- The Center for Brooklyn History education department connects students and educators to unique archives, collections, events, and experiences that bring the history of Brooklyn to life.
- Brooklyn Connections is the Education team's signature partnership program.
- The program offers classes, rare access to original archival materials while completing a customized, standards-based project, complete with classroom visits.
- For one-off visits requests, go to: [bklynlib.org/class-visit-form](http://bklynlib.org/class-visit-form)

## **HOUSING COMMITTEE**

### **Presented by Joe Gross, Chairman of the Housing Committee.**

- United Cerebral Palsy Associations of New York State requests a letter of no objection to add an apartment at 540 Ocean Parkway to accommodate 4 males with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- UCP currently occupies 2 apartments at 540 Ocean Parkway. One has 5 occupants and one has 4 occupants. They want to buy another apartment in the building and thereby add a third unit for 4 males with intellectual disabilities.
- There were no complaints reported to the community board office about the current 2 partments.

**Theresa Manuel** – Vice President for New Initiatives at UCP was present to answer any questions presented by the board.

- **Rabbi Gluck** said that when UCP built their facility across the street from the 70 precinct years ago, they promised there would be off street parking and said they wouldn't block the Police Department. But they did not keep their promise. Rabbi Gluck would like to know if this can be monitored to make sure they keep their promises.
- **Councilman Kalman Yeger** reminded the board that this application is only about UCP acquiring an additional apartment in the building to add to the 2 apartments they already have. The UCP facility is no longer in CB12, it's in CB14 and they have been trying to work with UCP and with the 70 precinct to try and figure out the parking. Councilman Yeger had a meeting to see if UCP can use their parking lot for busing because their buses line up and take up a lot of space and block traffic. That hasn't happened yet.
- **Theresa Manuel** UCP recognizes that there are big issues with busing as they serve a lot of individuals with disabilities. This matter will be brought to the team to ensure they are not being a nuisance and not causing any traffic issues. She wishes they had known about this matter before the meeting- but they will work to address this issue.
- **Councilman Yeger** clarified that Ms. Manuel is not the responsible party for the traffic concerns at UCP, she isn't the one who the councilman and the community board engaged with on this matter. But UCP as an organization has been aware of this issue for a very long time. There was a meeting about a month before Councilman Yeger took office on this topic with UCP and this is something that is still not resolved.
- **Adam Cohen** asked if tenants were notified of the plan to purchase another unit so they could have an opportunity to voice their concerns.

- **Theresa Manuel** said the management of the building reached out to UCP advising of the availability of this unit and suggested they buy it. They will make sure to inform the neighbors of the plans to acquire the apartments.
- **Adam Cohen** asked if the vote could be postponed until the neighbors can be notified. Residents own their own apartments and should have opportunity to provide their input.

A motion was made to postpone any vote so the board can hold a proper public hearing with input from the neighbors' of the proposed purchase site.

- **Brian Holbrook**- resident of CB12, voiced his support for the UCP project and hopes board will ultimately approve the application. While he is not a resident in the building, he is a resident of the district.

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

#### **Delivered by District Manager Barry Spitzer**

- He joined the chairman's sentiment in thanking all those involved in the tremendous work that goes into the pre-Pesach celebration. To provide a little insight of what goes into the preparation, we keep notes from year to year, we make adjustments based on feedback from all organizations involved and from what we see and hear back from residents. And though this year was a success, which we consider a year with no injuries and garbage pick-ups in a timely fashion, we already have a file open with notes on how to improve next year. Thank you to FDNY, NYPD, DSNY, Shomrim, Chaveirim, Misaskim, Hatzolah and everyone else involved in this effort.
- An extra thank you to DSNY for being amazing partners this year. The amount of garbage they dealt with, literally, before Pesach is amazing. They gave us some stats and it's fair to say that the weeks before Pesach had them dealing with twice as much garbage than usual. They did a lot of things this year. They put out containers that were filled up right away, so they serviced it every day. They were also great with the post Sreifas Chometz cleanup, some pictures were posted on twitter. And this year they provided our residents with an Erev Pesach hotline to call for missed collections. Usually we get tons of calls on Erev Pesach and we then call DSNY who then notifies the sanitation workers. This year we requested, and they gave us, a hotline. We received great feedback from the community- residents used it a lot. We also got feedback from the community that DSNY kept going around to pick up garbage as it accumulated. We complain a lot about sanitation but we have to give credit where credit is due.
- Thank you to the Chairman for once again providing his lot to Met Council for their annual Passover Food Giveaway. 100s of families were helped with the extra financial burden Pesach food shopping brings. Especially this year when food prices skyrocketed, there were people who came for food who normally don't take assistance. As the chairman mentioned in a conversation he was having with Met Council's CEO David Greenfield, he saw people that he never saw before. So, thank you David Greenfield, Met Council, Judah Zellermaier and the entire Met Council staff and of course the volunteers who helped pack the boxes. And thank you Mr. Chairman for once again putting your business on hold for an entire day so the less fortunate can celebrate the holiday equally with everybody else.
- Ryder Library at 59<sup>th</sup> Street and 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave. will be closed at the end of the business day on May 13 for a roof replacement and HVAC upgrade project. They will be providing bookmobile service. The project is estimated to take about 2 years.
- We held an E-waste event at our office the week before Pesach. DSNY does not collect electronic waste such as computers and monitors. We didn't want to leave people with old electronics lying around over Pesach, so we partnered with DSNY to have them collect e-waste. We are happy to report that it was very successful. We had one person come with a car full of printers, speakers and all kinds of electronics that accumulated over 10 years. We filled up 2 huge pallets. We are hoping to repeat this event at least annually.
- Starting July 5<sup>th</sup>, NYC is restoring full alternate side parking regulations. During Covid, the rules were altered for streets that had 2 days so that you only had to move your car on the second day posted. Starting July 5 you will have to move it for all posted days.

- Remember to submit your request for street paving. Remember also that we can recommend- but it is up to DOT to decide what they will end up paving.
- We tightened the reigns on the trailers this Pesach season and have seen an increase in cooperation. We are working to remove all trailers that are still not picked up. As you can see from the amount of effort we put in to remove illegally parked trucks, we are committed to keeping whatever legal parking is available for everyday vehicles- for those everyday vehicles. We used to have trailers dropped off without permits. Technically it's not the trailer company's job to make sure there is a permit, but we started not issuing permits to container companies who routinely ignore the permitting requirement. This strategy worked; this year we have about 50 permits when we usually had around 30.  
The trailers are a necessity for stores but it's also something residents of the district don't like because it takes away parking and brings litter. So we compromise to allow this courtesy for the businesses who play by the rules.

### **ELECTED OFFICIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES:**

#### **Councilmember Kalman Yeger representing the 44<sup>th</sup> Council District.**

The councilman shared some updates.

- The city is in mourning over the loss of firefighter Timmy Klein who gave his life to the city of NY. He belonged to a unit that comes to our neighborhood when there is an added alarm. Our hearts go out to his family and his brother firefighters.
- Thanks to Assemblyman Eichenstein for organizing the Chol HaMoed Extravaganza and also to Senator Felder who is the originator of the Extravaganza, the event was a tremendous success. Thousands of children enjoyed the free rides.
- Thank you District Manager Spitzer for the e-waste event. The idea originated in the community board office. The DM reached out to DSNY and within days the event was organized.
- Ryder Library will be closing in mid-May for renovations. DDC says it's a 2 year, \$4.2 million project, but this is for a roof replacement and HVAC system for one building. When DDC was asked to clarify- they said the library website says the project will take 18 months, which is still too long and too expensive.
- Thank you to Chairman Yidel Perlstein for letting Met Council use his business lot. The Chair routinely allows his private business to be taken over by nonprofit organizations for charitable purposes. Thanks also to the CEO of Met Council, David Greenfield, who made his old neighborhood priority and brings much needed services to the needy.
- The Councilman added another \$30,000 in funding to ACE (Association of Community Employment) in order to step up efforts to clean up the streets. Please, if you see them say thank you, they are not used to hearing it in other neighborhoods where they work.
- The councilman found out on Erev Shabbos that the administration of the public school on 41<sup>st</sup> street was going to close the playground located in their schoolyard to community use. Schools are under the jurisdiction of the DOE, but the playground is a community playground. He publicly thanked the Chancellor's office and the Mayor's office for resolving this so quickly. Thanks to Board Member Chesky Blau for pointing this out.

#### **Anastasia Yaskova- representing Mayor Eric Adams.**

- DOE Chancellor Banks and Mayor Adams are adding 100k K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade slots.
- The mayor will have a Mobile unit to deliver municipal services.
- The mayor announced \$11 million investment in DSNY for cleaner streets
- Alternate Side Parking will be fully restored to pre-Covid levels starting July 5<sup>th</sup>.
- There is a Clean Curb pilot program for commercial waste. Business Improvement Districts or commercial properties can apply at nyc.gov for sealed, on street containers for trash.
- The mayor launched Building Action NYC to promote steps to make NYC buildings greener and more resilient.

- The mayor announced \$171 million in beds and resources for individuals experiencing homelessness. There are nearly 900 new beds as well as new DSS outreach.

**Pinny Hikind- representing Comptroller Brad Lander.**

- The Comptroller visited some pre Pesach distribution sites. Kudos on his behalf to Met Council under the leadership of David Greenfield.

**Musarrat Lamia- representing Councilmember Hanif.**

- CM Hanif was able to attend Met Council's Passover distribution at FJCC.
- Last month the Councilmember had a Ramadan food giveaway and gave away over 250 bags of produce and 150 hot meals. This event proved there is a need for such resources so the Councilmember is trying to find more ways to address food insecurity.
- With Ramadan coming to end, there will be Iftar for the community co-hosted by CM Hanif, CM Rita Joseph, CM Narcisse along with Brooklyn Emerge on Friday at 7:00 at the corner of Rugby St. and Foster Ave. All are welcome to join. There was also an Iftar on April 25<sup>th</sup> at the Avenue C Plaza.
- CM Hanif will introduce a bill on mandatory universal composting at the next City Council Stated to push back against cutbacks in the preliminary budget.
- If anyone knows of any intersections that are hotspots for traffic and safety issues, please advise the office. CM Hanif met with DOT yesterday for a walk-through of the district.
- She will also be doing a tour in May with Majority Whip Selvena Brooks-Powers, the chair of the Transportation Committee and wants to make sure to convey the issues of the community.
- For all celebrating Eid - Happy Eid.

**James Neimeister representing Councilmember Alexa Aviles.**

- He introduced himself as the representative of District 38 Council Member Alexa Avilés. He was assigned to cover meetings when the Council Member can't attend.
- Happy Passover to everyone who was observing this past week! Happy Easter and Ramadan to all those celebrating.
- The CM's office is a service-focused office and invite calls at 718-439-9012, or emails at [district38@council.nyc.gov](mailto:district38@council.nyc.gov) – they see everybody, and try to help everybody.
- The district is diverse and the team speaks several languages to service them- Spanish, Mandarin and Russian. They're here to serve.
- The events of Tuesday, April 12 were tragic and horrible. We all ride the subway, for all of us who ride the N train, it happened at 36 Street. This affects everyone, everyone should feel safe and confident riding the subway and living their lives. Particularly as we come out of a deadly pandemic, public safety is a major issue. It was a shocking and horrific incident. Unfortunately it's not the only instance of violence or gun violence in our district or our city.
- CM Alexa Aviles was on scene early in the morning on April 12. We were in conversation with all agencies that day and have been since: NYPD, schools, MTA and the rest.
- We've been in communication with the victims and their families, we're still in touch with them. We are all thankful no one died, but it is still a serious trauma. We are grateful to our first responders, transit workers, and the heroic fellow commuters who immediately sprang into action to help get wounded passengers to safety. Their actions surely saved lives. We're also thankful for our school principals' quick response to keep our students safe and families informed.
- We have a public health crisis when it comes to violence and that is why the Council Member has been so focused on talking about public health solutions—housing, healthcare, education, support for our elders—because we need many strategies to address public safety.
- The Mayor gave a briefing on his administration's executive budget proposal today. We got the highlights and some announcements over the weekend. There are investments in street safety and safe haven beds.

- We're expecting to see the budget proposal as a whole this week so we can evaluate the executive budget proposal in its full context. Priorities for the Council Member including housing, education, youth services. Sanitation services should not be cut post-pandemic!
- Over the weekend the CM organized a cleanup on the edge of our districts along 62nd St near 8th Avenue with Parent-Child Relationship Association

**Joel Desouve- representing Councilmember Rita Joseph.**

- Happy Easter, Passover, and Ramadan.
- CM Joseph threw out the first pitch at a Brooklyn Cyclones game as we celebrated the 75th anniversary of Jackie Robinson breaking the color barrier. She also toured Kings County Hospital for an in-depth discussion about Black maternal health, and participated in a food giveaway at Parkside Plaza.
- CM Joseph moderated a "Listen Up" forum with the teachers' union on the policy. Eight New York City public school educators discussed their experiences and shared their thoughts and ideas about what educators and students need at this moment with Chancellor David C. Banks, city and state elected officials, and other key education policymakers.
- CM Joseph and SBS Commissioner Kevin Kim, alongside Assembly Member Brian Cunningham, toured some of the best small businesses Brooklyn offers, including Hibiscus Brew, BK Lobster, Brooklyn Perk, Home, and Scoops!
- Lastly, CM Joseph and Commissioner Kevin Kim had a Community Conversation about the Cannabis Industry in NY.
- CM Joseph and her team would love to hear from constituents: no constituent issue is too big or too small. The numbers are 718-287-8762 for community concerns and 212-788-7352 for legislative or budget matters.

**Sharon Fuchs, representing Senator Simcha Felder.**

**Sol Reiger, representing Assemblyman Simcha Eichenstein.**

**Ken Lazar, representing NYC Buildings**

**Chairman Yidel Perlstein** said it was an honor to have Rabbi Gluck join the meeting in person, as he has been doing for many years.

The Chairman also thanked the District Manager for all the work he puts in for Pesach. As well as Community Coordinator Gittel who puts in many extra hours before the holidays.

**OLD BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS:**

**Old Business.** No Old Business.

**New business.**

**Yisroel Wolfson** thanked the district manager for his quick assistance with a water shutdown on Sunday, right before Pesach.

**The Chairman** added there are many examples of the district manager providing on the spot emergency assistance outside of regular hours, such as on Purim when a street was shut and he got it opened within half an hour.

**MEETING ADJOURNED.**

Respectfully submitted by: Gittel Fekete