



**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

AAMAH KHAN  
ALAN DUBROW  
ANNA CALI  
AVROHOM WOLFSON  
AYESHA RAHIM  
BENJAMIN THEODORE  
CHESKY BLAU  
DAVID FRIEDLANDER  
DOUGLAS JABLON  
EDGAR GLUCK  
ELLIE KASTEL  
JACOB ASKAL  
JACOB EISDORFER  
JACQUE FRIEDMAN  
JEFFREY DWECK  
JOHN TALMADGE  
JOSEPH GROSS  
JULES FLEISCHER  
MAMNUNUL HAQ  
MARIA ARETTINES  
MIRIAM HERSKO  
MORDECHAI KATZ  
MORRIS SENDEROVICH  
PETER REBENWURZEL  
ROCHELLE ZAMI  
SAHIBZADA AHMAD SHABIR  
SAM STOBER  
SHARON FUCHS  
SHLOMIE RIEGER  
SOL WAHBA  
YAAKOV KAPLAN  
YERUCHIM SILBER  
YIDEL PERLSTEIN  
YITZCHOK MOSKOWITS  
YONAH MOSES

**COMMUNITY RESIDENTS**

APPROXIMATELY 26 RESIDENTS PRESENT

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

ADAM COHEN  
AVI GREENSTEIN  
BERNARD FREILICH  
DAVID SHLOMOVICH  
JACOB HASS  
LARRY JASON  
LILY MARINELLI  
MONIQUE WALLACE  
MORTON PUPKO  
NAFTALI TESSLER  
YAAKOV SCHAPIRO  
YECHIEL MALIK  
YITZCHOK ITZKOWITZ

**STAFF PRESENT**

BARRY SPITZER – DISTRICT MANAGER  
GITTEL FEKETE- COMMUNITY  
COORDINATOR

**ELECTED OFFICIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES**

COUNCILMEMBER SHAHANA HANIF  
COUNCILMEMBER KALMAN YEGER  
ANASTASIA YASKOVA, REP. MAYOR ERIC  
ADAMS  
MUSARRAT LAMIA, REP COUNCILMEMBER  
SHANAHA HANIF  
JOEL DESOUVE, REP COUNCILMEMBER RITA  
JOSEPH  
PINNY HIKIND, REP. COMPTROLLER BRAD  
LANDER  
SHARON FUCHS, REP. SENATOR FELDER  
SOL REIGER, REP. AM. EICHENSTEIN

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

## **ATTENDANCE**

## **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

- January Minutes were adopted.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:**

### **Delivered by Chairman Yidel Perlstein**

- The chairman wished Mazal tov to former board member and former Borough Hall liaison Joel Eisdorfer on his appointment as senior advisor to Mayor Adams.
- Month after month we talk about the rise in anti-Semitism. Unfortunately the trend continues this month - there was a reported 300% spike in anti-Semitic crime. It's horrifying to see the actions people will take when there is hate in their heart. From fireworks thrown at people, to random physical assaults to verbal attacks- it's all very sad. No one should be afraid to be themselves in this city we love.

We are grateful to see how seriously Mayor Eric Adams is taking this situation. He held a meeting, coordinated by his senior advisor Joel Eisdorfer, which 50 prominent Jewish leaders from all over the city attended, to discuss how to tackle this. Some of the attendees included Councilman Kalman Yeger, board member Rabbi Freilich, many city officials including the CAU Commissioner Fred Kreizman, the Mayor's deputy Chief of staff Menashe Schapiro, other elected officials and Police Leadership, including Inspector Ritchie Taylor.

We are hopeful that this meeting will be the foundation for ongoing cooperation to ensure the safety of our residents.

- Condolences were extended to board member Naftali Tessler on the passing of his mother.
- Daylight Savings time starts March 13<sup>th</sup>. Please remember to move all clocks ahead one hour. This is also the half year reminder to check smoke detectors.
- Happy Purim to all who celebrate. Please be careful. Don't drink and drive. It is such a happy day and we can keep it that way if we are all careful.

## **PUBLIC HEARING:**

### **Ellie Kastel- Executive Director of Boro Park Y**

- Ms. Kastel informed the board of new programs at the Boro Park Y.
  - Starting March 1<sup>st</sup> there will be programs catered specifically for the children of holocaust survivors. There will be separate groups for men and women. There will be activities, programs and relevant discussion groups.
  - The Boro Park Y is hosting a day of action on health on Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, from 11-6. There will be a blood drive by Maimonides Medical Center as well. All are welcome.

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

Tax help is available at the Brooklyn Public Library.

- Federal and New York State Tax forms are available via pick-up only at *most* BPL branch locations. To confirm availability of forms, please call the branch.
- Brooklyn Public Library is partnering with reputable organizations to offer free tax help for the 2021 tax season.

To receive assistance, you must make an appointment. Appointments are one hour long.

Mr. Loum advised of programs available at branches of the Brooklyn Public Library.

Central Library: Appointments with AARP

- Mondays and Wednesdays in the Trustees Room from February 7 – April 13 (except for February 21, Presidents Day). Make an appointment online at [taxaide.aarpfoundation.org](http://taxaide.aarpfoundation.org) or call 866.687.2277 to learn about additional locations.

Central Library: Appointments with the Food Bank

- Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays in the Business & Career Center from February 1 – April 14. Make an appointment online at <https://go.oncehub.com/BrooklynCentralLibrary>. For more details, visit [foodbanknyc.org/taxhelp](http://foodbanknyc.org/taxhelp).

Flatbush Library: Appointments with Single Stop

- Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, starting February 4. Make an appointment online at <https://bit.ly/FlatbushLibrary>. For more details, visit [singlestop.org/access-tax-preparation-services](http://singlestop.org/access-tax-preparation-services).

New Lots Library: Appointments with the Food Bank

- Mondays and Wednesdays, starting January 31. Make an appointment online at <https://go.oncehub.com/NewLotsLibrary>. For more details, visit [foodbanknyc.org/taxhelp](http://foodbanknyc.org/taxhelp).

Prepare for U.S. Citizenship at Brooklyn Public Library

- BPL offers a range of services, resources and programming for those preparing to become United States citizens.
- Citizenship Classes, Prep Groups, and legal services are not meeting in person until further notice. However, we are offering Citizenship Classes online.
- Classes meet three hours per week and are taught by experienced instructors. You can also join a drop-in weekly Citizenship Prep Group led by a volunteer Citizenship Exam Coach.
- Please call 718-230-2007 or email [immigrantservices@bklynlibrary.org](mailto:immigrantservices@bklynlibrary.org) for more information

### **Jean Remarque- Resident**

- Mr. Remarque requested the conversion of a vacant lot into a green space. The lot in question is along Fort Hamilton Parkway, directly across from the Greenwood Cemetery.

### **Rose Rosenberg- Resident**

- Mrs. Rosenberg raised the issue of uncleanliness in the streets, which has been an ongoing issue without progress for 2 years. She requested additional allocation of funding to address this problem. Her more specific concerns were the conditions of the sidewalks exacerbated by the publication mailboxes.

**Councilman Kalman Yeger** clarified that by law every homeowner is responsible for the cleanliness of the sidewalks in front of their house, up to 18 inches into the street. The city won't clean sidewalks, they will simply issue summons. He further explained that the publication mailboxes are protected by law and can't simply be removed.

### **Richard Navas- Resident**

- Mr. Navas asked DOT to evaluate and possibly remove the private bus stop on Fort Hamilton Parkway between 43<sup>rd</sup> Street and 44<sup>th</sup> Street as the bus doesn't stop there. There shouldn't be bus stop restrictions if the bus doesn't stop there.
- He followed up on emails regarding the Covid center on 41<sup>st</sup> Street and Fort Hamilton Parkway.

**District Manager Barry Spitzer** reminded Mr. Navas of conversations they had, and conversations Mr. Navas had with NYPD regarding this situation.

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Delivered by Avraham Wolfson, Chairman of the Nominating Committee

- The committee voted to nominate the current slate of executive officers as follows: Yidel Perlstein as Chairman, Yaakov Kaplan as first vice chair, Yeruchim Silber a second vice chair, Anna Cali as secretary.
- Mr. Wolfson opened to floor to nominations. Being that there were no nominations from the floor, the nominations were closed. Article 8 section 3 of CB12 bylaws states that in the event the slate is unopposed, the chairman shall direct one member to cast a vote.
- Mr. Wolfson instructed the chairman to do so. Board Member Sol Reiger cast his vote in favor of the committee's recommendation.
- Mr. Wolfson congratulated the executive officers and wished them success on their new term.

**Newly reappointed Chairman Yidel Perlstein-** He thanked the committee for their trust in him and for volunteering their time.

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

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

Mr. Spitzer briefed the board on a few items of interest.

- One concern we hear a lot is the high price of water bills. When we see a pattern we try to look into it. We have been getting a lot of calls regarding high water bill and many times it turns out to be a leak. Please be aware that if the water bill is high because of a leak you have limited time to ask for leak forgiveness to remove part of the bill. If it's still too high, and your income qualifies, HRA has a program that can assist. You can call our office for more information or go to: <https://otda.ny.gov/programs/water-assistance/>
- This month SNAP will issue a one-time payment to families with children under 3. Eligible families will receive \$140 per child to help with the cost of diapers. This will go onto your EBT card.
- SNAP will also issue a one-time payment in April to help families who have both adults over 55 and a child 17 or under. This will be a \$730 payment for families who qualify and will also go onto your EBT card.
- Starting February 28<sup>th</sup>, MTA will launch a four-month pilot program that will allow free unlimited weekly rides using the OMNY tap-and-go option once you take 12 trips within a week using the same device. The week is from Monday to Sunday. So if you use your phone or contactless card to pay for buses and trains, once you paid 12 times a week or \$33, the rest of the week is automatically free.
- Senior Citizens Homeowners Exemptions and Disabled Homeowners Exemption applications are due March 15<sup>th</sup>. This is for first time applicants and for those who are required to renew. It is also the deadline to request a review of your property market value and to challenge the assessed value, which would include any property exemptions. This can be a very significant property tax deduction if you qualify. If you have any questions or require assistance, please reach out to our office.
- On Thursday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, New York lifted the indoor mask mandate. Masks are still required in the following locations:
  - Hospitals and state-regulated health care settings
  - Nursing homes and adult care facilities
  - Correctional facilities and detention centers
  - Homeless shelters and domestic violence shelters
  - Public transit and transportation hubs including airports
  - Trains and planes
  - Schools (with that requirement to be reassessed in early March)
- We are getting closer to Tax Day. NYC residents with income less than \$72,000 qualify for free tax prep services and can access that by going to [nyc.gov/taxprep](http://nyc.gov/taxprep)
- We are very happy to hear and to report that UJA Federation together with JCRC created a fund that can help provide security for smaller shuls. Information is available on UJA's website including a way to contact the Brooklyn regional director. Senator Felder and Assemblyman Eichenstein held an informational event on this program. We encourage all who qualify to make use of this program.
- BP 24 recently wrote a story regarding the traffic situation on 46<sup>th</sup> Street and 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Just a quick comment- our office has been in contact with DOT for 2 years already requesting a stop sign at the intersection of 46<sup>th</sup> Street and 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The last response from them was that it doesn't meet the warrants and DOT is bound by those warrants. They did not tell us what the

warrants are. This is an issue that is bigger than any one intersection. Anyone who follows Councilman Yeger, Assemblyman Eichenstein, Senator Felder or some of our board members will know by now that the process to get things repaired, whether it's traffic lights, stop signs, speed humps is very complicated. They go by metrics that don't always match what we see with our own eyes. And we hope that the new mayoral administration, and the new Boro president, who explicitly expressed interest in working with us, will allow for local elected officials and community boards input to carry more weight rather than just saying that it doesn't meet the metrics.

- One of the cuts brought about by city budget constraints is the halt to expanding the organics waste program. We here at Community Board 12 had a lot of concerns about this program and are therefore happy to hear that DSNY will not expand the program to any community boards not already getting the organic waste collection. This means that for the foreseeable future CB12 will not have organics collection.
- It is now Purim and Pesach season, which means it is mobile container units time. We have to balance the needs of our residents who need the parking spaces and the businesses who want to service their customers during this high demand holiday time. Unfortunately, in the past we have had a few container companies that have been bad actors. They have repeatedly dropped off containers without permits for months at a time. And if they did have permits for the containers, they violated the terms of the permits- that is they were not following the guidelines determining how long they can have the containers, or putting it in the wrong place such as too close to the sidewalk. Therefore, we are currently not approving applications for permits who are using these companies.
- Speaking about Passover, we are already in full planning mode. We are already reaching out to utility companies and contractors to prevent them from doing street work before the holiday. We are already scheduled for a high-level Con Edison meeting to discuss this matter. Since everybody, more or less, has been cooperating the last few years, we have noticed that a lot of the problems are caused by private contractors. To remedy this we are once again asking for a complete moratorium for two weeks prior to Passover. In the past, we have been denied each time we made this request but we are hopeful that the new administration will give this a new look. We are also requesting that DOT increase their HIQA presence in our district.
- Regarding the budget, as you know we submitted our district priorities. In response, the city sent us the preliminary budget last Thursday, February 17. And as is typical, most of our requests either were not recommended for funding or were passed on because there isn't funding available. We are working on our response or Statement on the Preliminary Budget which we hope will be taken into consideration by the new mayoral administration. We will vote on the actual statement at next month's board meeting. We encourage you to reach out to [bk12@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:bk12@cb.nyc.gov) if you have anything in particular that you want to comment on a specific need you are concerned about or if you have questions.
- Good night and please enjoy Purim safely.

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

#### **Councilmember Shahana Hanif representing the 39<sup>th</sup> Council District.**

Ms. Hanif had a few remarks and updates.

- She heard the sanitation concerns and appreciates Councilman Yeger's explanation differentiating who is responsible for the cleanliness of what. The preliminary budget has seen cuts to DSNY, so the onus will fall on community members. She announced a meeting with DSNY commissioner and will soon have a walkthrough in Kensington. She hopes they can get to the root of the trash problems and can better keep problem areas clean. Sometimes there are one-off issues and some areas are prone to illegal dumping. She

will continue to support ACE, a company who hires formerly homeless individuals to clean, but that is not enough. She will keep CB12 posted about what happens.

- Councilmember Hanif told the crowd that she routinely shares updates through a newsletter and would love to have people sign up.
- She is happy to share some positive information, such as the increase in funding for the Summer Youth Employment Program as well as a commitment to improve tax abatements for child care centers. The Mayor is also invested in improving the health disparities in maternal health.
- There were also some cuts in funding- such as to composting which is important to her side of district.

There were cuts to school staff, so there will be lots of work needed to support these issues.

- One issue she has seen a lot is increases in Con Edison bills. She is grateful to Councilman Yeger and her Brooklyn colleagues, especially councilman Restler who stewarded the Con Edison bills that will hopefully alleviate this situation.

Councilmember Hanif notified of some events coming up:

- Community Board applications are due in early March. She has some power to make appointments and would love to meet with members so she can better be a part in making the Community Board strong voice in civic participation.
- She is hosting a CUNY Citizenship Now day of action. She is hoping to revive the free law clinic that had to be modified during the height of Covid.
- Traffic safety issues are big concerns so she asks for residents to please keep identifying problematic sections. She is meeting the Brooklyn Borough Commissioner Keith Bray soon for a tour. There have been several deaths over the past 2 months and there are lots of intersections that need to be taken care of. There isn't just one solution for all, a multi-pronged approach is needed.
- Council District 39 is opening the district office soon and the office staff are working out of there on rotations. They are excited to welcome constituents. They released an infographic showing that nearly 400 constituents were served in the last 6 weeks.
- She will update the board once the legislative session is in full gear.  
She is looking forward to her first hearing as the Immigration Chair on Monday, March 1<sup>st</sup>.  
She is also looking at the Covid conditions at Orange County Detention Center where detainees have experienced harsh conditions.

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

- Councilmember Yeger congratulated the Executive committee members on their reelection.
- He thanked former board member Joel Eisdorfer for his service. The Mayor couldn't have made a better choice. Mr. Eisdorfer organized a meeting in the wake of the incredibly tragic reality of an increase in the amount of hate thrown at Jews. There are 2 communities that are seeing a worsening in hate crimes- and we stand in solidarity with the other community, our Asian friends. The Mayor was clear that he won't tolerate hate. He will use a combination of law enforcement and community work to combat it. Hopefully we will see the numbers going down, a 300% increase is just not acceptable for civil society.
- He spoke of the budget at last month's meeting and had some updates. The Mayor released the preliminary budget, which is \$2 billion dollars less than last year. A closer look at the budget shows that it's not spending less, it's spending wiser. The city can afford to do things they have been doing, but wiser. The budget does not reduce any resources to law enforcement or services for youth, aging and education. The Mayor also announced 100,000 slots for Summer Youth Employment, which is an incredible increase. Efficiency and proper budgeting is how responsible budgeting should be done.
- He wanted to make sure it was clear that the MTA program for free fairs after 12 rides only works if you use the same contactless payment method.

- At the last Stated meeting the councilman introduced 2 bills, the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of the session. Both are DSNY related. He hopes to continue to move forward a common sense agenda.
- The councilman allocates a few hundred thousand a year to have Ace crews walk up and down the streets to clean what is really someone else's responsibility; the part where people are responsible to keep the frontage of their home or business clean.  
DSNY has their responsibility so if you see they did a bad job, let us know. We will do what we need to do. The District Manager is in constant contact with the councilman on complaints that come in. As reported last month, there was a meeting with the Commissioner and all chiefs. They promised to work on the problems brought by the board. But we rely on you to let us know what the problems are, as we don't walk around with a broom and shovel.
- The councilman reiterated the program funded by UJA Federation to enhance security at small shtieblach. Assemblyman Eichenstein had an event at his office. This pot of funding is for groups that are not big enough to qualify for big government grants. Those who may qualify should reach out to assemblyman Eichenstein's office to get the process started.

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

- Mayor Adams released the Subway Safety Plan with expanded response teams throughout the city to connect people with resources and direct NYPD officers to enforce MTA rules.

**Pinny Hikind Representing Comptroller Brad Lander.**

- Mr. Hikind reported that the comptroller announced a task force in conjunction with the mayor to present recommendations to improve contracting for nonprofit service providers to get paid on time.

**Musarrat Lamia- representing Councilmember Hanif.**

- As the Councilmember covered everything, she just wanted to highlight some events that were coming up. There will be a Tax Event with DCWP. As well as the CUNY launch.
- She is working to try to cover all grounds with city agencies including DOT, DSNY, DFTA, and SBS to insure that concerns are getting addressed directly with leadership.
- She thanked community members who make sure these concerns are being brought up.
- She was distracted by people in the chat people asking about the board's website. She asked to have someone address it at the meeting.

**District Manager Barry Spitzer** - said the board hit a couple of roadblocks with the hired developer and so are leaning toward a city site. He will have an update next month.

**Joel Desouve representing Councilmember Rita Joseph.**

- He is happy to hear all the work the board does. The DSNY concerns are relevant and he has had positive feedback from DSNY in response to the concerns.
- He informed that the deadline to apply for discretionary funding for 2023 is at midnight.

**Yidel Perlstein-** congratulated Yeruchim Silber who had two grandchildren in the past month.

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

Ms. Fuchs advised that the Senator's office is able to assist shuls looking to apply for funding.

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

**OLD BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS:**

**No old business.**

**No new business.**

**MEETING ADJOURNED.**

Respectfully submitted by: Gittel Fekete