



**Antonio Reynoso**  
Borough President

# **THE CITY OF NEW YORK COMMUNITY BOARD 12**

**5910 13th Avenue  
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11219**  
Phone: (718) 851-0800 • Fax: (718) 851-4140  
Email: [bk12@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:bk12@cb.nyc.gov)

**Yidel Perlstein**  
Chairperson



**Barry Spitzer**  
District Manager

## **COMMUNITY BOARD 12 SEPTEMBER MINUTES**

**HELD ON  
THURSDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 29, 2022**

**VIA IN-PERSON & ZOOM**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

ALAN DUBROW  
ANNA CALI  
AVROHOM WOLFSON  
BETH SLEPIAN  
BERNARD FREILICH  
CHESKY BLAU  
DAVID FRIEDLANDER  
DAVID SHLOMOVICH  
DOUGLAS JABLON  
EDGAR GLUCK  
ELLIE KASTEL  
JACOB ASKAL  
JACOB HASS  
JEFFREY DWECK  
JOHN TALMADGE  
JULES FLEISCHER  
LOUIE LIE  
MAMNUNUL HAQ  
MARIA ARETTINES  
MIRIAM HERSKO  
MORDECHAI KATZ  
MORRIS SENDEROVICH  
ROCHELLE ZAMI  
SAM STOBER  
SHARON FUCHS  
SHLOMIE RIEGER  
WIL FISHER  
YAAKOV KAPLAN  
YERUCHIM SILBER  
YONAH MOSES  
YIDEL PERLSTEIN

**STAFF PRESENT**

BARRY SPITZER – DISTRICT MANAGER  
GITTEL FEKETE- COMMUNITY  
COORDINATOR

**COMMUNITY RESIDENTS**

APPROXIMATELY 10 RESIDENTS PRESENT

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

AAMAH KHAN  
ADAM COHEN  
ALEXI SHALOM  
AVI GREENSTEIN  
BENJAMIN THEODORE  
JACOB EISDORFER  
JACQUE FRIEDMAN  
JOSEPH GROSS  
JUDITH OJO-DIAZ  
NAFTALI TESSLER  
NICK BERGHALL  
PETER REBENWURZEL  
ROMINA FERNANDEZ  
SAHIBZADA AHMAD SHABIR  
SOL WAHBA  
YAAKOV SCHAPIRO  
YECHIEL MALIK  
YITZCHOK MOSKOWITS

**ELECTED OFFICIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES**

JACOB EISDORFER, REP. BP ANTONIO  
REYNOSO  
GREGORY LUIS, COUNSEL TO BP ANTONIO  
REYNOSO  
SHARON FUCHS, REP. SEN. SIMCHA FELDER  
PINNY HIKIND, REP. COMPTROLLER BRAD  
LANDER  
SOL REIGER, REP. AM. EICHENSTEIN  
JAMES NEIMEISTER, REP. CM ALEXA AVILES  
MUSARAT LAMIA, REP. CM SHAHANA HANIF  
KEN LAZAR, REP. NYS DEP. OF BUILDINGS  
LEROY BRANCH, KARISSA LIDSTRAND,  
DANIEL WAGNER, & ESTEBAN DOYLE, REP.  
NYC DEP. OF TRANSPORTATION.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

## **ATTENDANCE**

## **ADOPTION OF JUNE MINUTES**

- A motion was made to adopt the June minutes
- Board Member Beth Slepian objected, and put forth a motion to delay the adoption. She said that she didn't get the email.
- Motion carried.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS – YIDEL PERLSTEIN**

The chairman shared some updates:

- Good Evening, I hope everyone had a nice summer break and is rejuvenated and ready to begin our work again.
- I would like to take this opportunity to say a few words about my dear friend, and a friend of the entire community, Jack (Yanky) Meyer who sadly passed away a few weeks ago. Although it is impossible to truly do justice to the person Yanky was in the short time we have, I will try. Whatever void he saw, he made sure to fill. He founded Misaskim seeing the need for assistance for Aveilim. But Misaskim is so much more than chairs, tables and Sifrei Torah. It is an organization at the forefront of tragedy. Seeing tragedy every day did not harden Yanky. He saw the pain of the young children who lost parents, and started an organization to help ease things. And these are the things that we know about. There were countless acts of compassion that we learned of only after his passing. And surely what we know is only a drop in the bucket. In continuing Yanky's legacy, thousands of children gathered today in the large Bobov synagogue to pray, an event that Yanky organized each year for many, many years. The world lost a giant. And we don't know if even 10 people can fill his shoes. Yehi Zichro Baruch; May his memory be for a blessing. Yanky will always be missed and he will be remembered.
- There were a couple of really nice events for the district over the summer: National Night out is always nice. We had a wonderful time at our local precinct. Thank you to all who helped. Councilman Yeger also had an event at the 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue Park where he gave out helmets. Thank you for watching out for our safety.
- I want to thank our now former board member, Jacob Eisdorfer, for his service on this community board. Yanky resigned so he can continue serving the community in a different way. I want to congratulate Yanky for being appointed senior advisor to Borough President Antonio Reynoso and as Community Board 12's liaison as well. I would like to thank Yanky for his previous work on the board as a member and thank him in advance for the work he'll be doing on our behalf, in Borough Hall.
- There was a meeting at Gracie Mansion with community leaders, where the mayor reassured the community that he is committed to working to combat the rising hate crimes and crime in general. One thing the mayor emphasized is that when we see all the social media recordings, it seems as though we are all likely to get murdered if we take the trains. The reality is, that of the millions that use the subways daily, there are around 6 incidents a day. The week after the mayor gave this statistic, the number was down to 5 a day. It's a comfort to see the mayor is involved in this.

- Community leaders, included the mayor, met again for a holiday briefing. There are a lot of changes over the holidays and the city responds to these changing needs. People spend a lot of time out of their houses, both on the holidays and to prepare for the holidays. There is a lot of extra traffic. We try to keep contractors out of the neighborhood, which means delaying city contracts until after the holiday. The councilman and state assemblyman are involved to make sure the holidays are peaceful.
- I am so proud to see all the different community groups who volunteered to make sure that no one goes hungry over the holidays. There were food distributions by a few organizations and I am proud that our district is well served.
- I hope everyone had a wonderful Rosh Hashanah and a Happy New Year. And I wish everyone who celebrates a meaningful fast on Yom Kippur and Chag Sameach on Sukkos. If there is anything we can do, please let us know, our door is open.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

### **Ken Lazar- representing the NYC Department of Buildings**

- He advised of the Buildings after Hours program: one evening a week, on Tuesdays, from 4-7pm the Building Department has open hours. Anyone with construction projects, homeowners, tenants, small business owners, anyone who has a problem, can come to DOB at 210 Joralemon Street. No appointments are needed. Anyone can discuss their matter with a plan examiner or inspector and hopefully resolve their issues.

### **Colin Klebanoff- Resident**

- He had a question for the Sanitation Department representative. He has tried getting someone from DSNY to inspect the situation near East 7<sup>th</sup> street and Church Avenue. However, the inspectors keep coming at the wrong time, despite clear instructions. His specific concerns were regarding garbage in the street and improper recycling.
- Debbie Sheintoch, DSNY Representative- advised she was at the board meeting to talk about composting and waste issues in the city. She said she would connect him to the correct people.

### **Edith Lowinger- Resident**

- Wished everyone a Shana Tova
- She followed up on a previous request to have street sweepers, she was told they would come, but none came. The catch basins are particularly problematic. The sanitation sweepers don't go over the catch basin and then the catch basins overflow.
- Chairman Yidel Perlstein- reminded the board members and public that it is not necessary to wait until the public meetings to bring up issues. You can reach out to the office anytime you have an issue. We are open more than just one Tuesday a month, at 7. Rabbi Gluck has 56 years of community service under his belt. District Manager Barry Spitzer- Rabbi Gluck was a board member before there were community boards.

## **1. RESOLUTION ON REMOTE MEETINGS**

- The governor's emergency declaration on Covid has ended so community boards must now conduct meetings in accordance with the Open Meetings Law. The OML was amended to allow for members to attend meetings remotely but we need to first pass a resolution. We are still working out the details of this resolution with Gregory Louis, Counsel to the Borough President, to get everything right. We will be voting on this resolution at next month's board meeting.

## **2. DEPARTMENT OF SANITATION Presented by Debbie Sheintoch Director of Composting Programs and Partnerships**

Ms. Sheintoch came to present information on upcoming fall leaf collections:

- Fall leaf collection will take place on November 20 and December 4. DSNY will be collecting leaves placed at the curb. Leaves in landfills create methane emissions and greenhouse gases in

the environment and exacerbate global warming. The DSNY slogan is “Make compost not trash.” Put garden and leaf debris in these bags and set it out the night before collection days. DSNY uses this debris to make and give out compost to communities to beautify their neighborhoods. Bags are available for free at the community board. For more information visit [nyc.gov/leafcollection](http://nyc.gov/leafcollection)

### 3. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION –

#### **Safety Improvement Project: New Utrecht Avenue and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue intersection**

**Presented by Esteban Doyle, Karissa Lidstrand, Daniel Wagner, and Leroy Branch**

- In response to community requests, DOT conducted surveys at the intersection of New Utrecht Avenue and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The area is a truck route, there is a lot of school bus activity, and there are schools and playgrounds nearby.
- The missing crosswalks, and therefore lengthy crosses, restrict many pedestrian thru-paths.
- DOT proposed adding a concrete pedestrian island along with 4 crosswalks. This will provide for safer crossings.

#### **DOT presenters opened the floor to questions.**

- **Board Member Rabbi Gluck-** The islands made on Ft. Hamilton Parkway were removed because emergency vehicles couldn't get through. New Utrecht is an emergency vehicle route, did DOT check with FDNY and Maimonides Hospital to make sure these changes won't obstruct emergency vehicles?  
Dan Wagner- DOT is required by law to check with FDNY. They ran, and will still run more, simulations to make sure there is adequate room.
- **Board Member Sam Stober-** Will the islands be large enough to accommodate wheelchairs and baby carriages? Will there be enough space for 2 or 3 carriages?  
Dan Wagner- there is a lot of room for maneuverability. DOT is required to make the islands ADA compliant so 2 wheelchairs must be able to pass each other.
- **Board Member Mamnun Haq-** Had a safety concern, sometimes vehicles drive recklessly. Will pedestrians standing in the middle of the intersection be safe? If the drivers lose control, wouldn't it make those waiting to cross vulnerable?  
Dan Wagner- The pedestrian island is as safe as any street corner with the added bonus of columns, which are not shown on the drawing, which a car cannot drive through. The column is stronger than a vehicle. If a pedestrian sees a vehicle coming in an unsafe manner, they can get behind the column.
- **District Manager Barry Spitzer-** It seems as though the triangle is taking space from the lane of traffic heading toward higher street numbers, at least a quarter of a lane. How will it affect traffic patterns? And piggy backing on Rabbi Gluck's question, how will these changes affect the emergency route?  
Dan Wagner- The presentation is not dimensioned. The island is not removing a lane. The concrete triangle is about the same size as the existing markings on the ground intending to move vehicles away from the middle. Additionally, not shown, are the parked vehicles that will be removed.
- **Board Member John Talmadge-** Wanted to know if DSNY was contacted about these changes, and if DOT had snowplows in mind.  
Dan Wagner- This on the agenda for the next DSNY/DOT meeting, and they are very aware of the width of the DSNY trucks.
- **District Manager Barry Spitzer -** asked DOT to send the actual measurements to CB12.
- **Board Member Wil Fisher-** Thanked DOT for the presentation. He was curious about the choice to use flexible posts at the southern portion as they are often knocked down and broken off.  
Dan Wagner- Concrete barriers wasn't in the budget. If there is an issue with turning vehicles and the posts, DOT can come back if the community board reaches out, and potentially place granite blocks to reinforce.

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

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

- I know the Chairman spoke about Yanky Meyer, but I feel I must also talk about someone I was honored to call my friend. He was just such a special person. As mentioned at the local pre-holiday meeting, not only did he do a lot for his community, but he showed us how to do it. It's a loss for the community and for us personally. We hope we can go on and emulate his example in the little ways that we can.
- Mazel Tov to our Chairman, Yidel Perlstein, on the wedding of his son. Time flies. At our last board meeting I wished the Chairman Mazel Tov on the engagement, and now on the wedding.
- Thank you to the Sanitation Department for working on Labor Day. Thank you also for working with us to allow our residents to place their garbage for collection ahead of time so as not to worry about having to do so on Yom Tov. Also, thanks in advance for the major cleanup that's scheduled for the Sukkos holiday.
- There are a few updates relevant to our district that I will go through real quick
  - The F Train has some scheduled work being done from this past Friday through early 2023. Therefore, the F train will only run from Jamaica-179th Street to Church Av on most weekends. Passengers should expect that from Friday at 11:45 PM until Monday at 5AM, there will be no F train service between Coney Island-Stillwell Av and Church Ave. Passengers are encouraged to use nearby subway or bus service as an alternative.
  - On the same topic, we are happy that the MTA will be installing cameras on all train cars. One way to deter crime is knowing that the likelihood of getting caught is high. We hope this helps.
  - The Department of Finance is issuing property tax rebates to qualified property owners, thanks to Councilman Yeger's legislation. If you did not get the rebate automatically, you may get a letter in the mail instructing you how to apply for the rebate. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to my staff or Councilman Yeger's office for assistance.
  - The deadline to apply for Hurricane IDA assistance has been extended to October 3. You can get up to \$72,000 to make your house habitable after being damaged by Hurricane Ida. Questions can be directed to 212- 615-8329.
  - DSNY also said that anyone who has any storm damage should reach out and they will be glad to pick it up.
  - Effective October 1, the Department of Social Services is recalculating the way people qualify for benefits such as food stamps. They are also increasing the monthly benefits across the board so that all families receiving food stamps will get a bigger budget.
- Thank you to all Board Members who made it to the BQE Transportation Meeting last week. The repairs will directly impact our board; our residents use the BQE routinely and traffic excess will be diverted through some of our streets. I want to especially thank Assembly member Bobby Carroll, who worked on this for months, and for putting this meeting together. Thanks also to Councilmember Hanif and Councilmember Rita Joseph. A lot of residents were not happy with the diversions and prefer to have the rerouting go through McDonald Ave. DOT said they would study it. The original plan was to go through McDonald Ave., but then they rerouted to East 5<sup>th</sup>. The concern is the traffic will be too heavy for East 5<sup>th</sup> to handle. Stay tuned for future meetings and presentations from DOT. DOT is hosting a number of virtual and in-person workshops and the information can be found at [bqevision.com/events](https://bqevision.com/events) If you see the plan and something seems off, please let us know.
- It is once again time to put together our district needs, this time for FY24. We will vote on the full budget statement next month, but in the meantime, anyone with budget suggestions, questions or concerns is encouraged to reach out to us at [bk12@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:bk12@cb.nyc.gov).
- Lately, there have been many sink holes around the district and we have been working with DEP and DOT on all of them. If you notice one, please report it to 311 and to our office. Some have supposedly been fixed but start sinking the next day again. This is not a DOT issue, there are various issues underground that lead to this.

- We had an NYPD meeting in the late Rabbi Jack Meyer's office, arranged by Rabbi Freilich. Many officials were there, including members from our local precinct, the Commanding Officer of Brooklyn South, Michael Kemper and the XO, and Inspector Richie Taylor the Commanding Office of community affairs and Lt. Ira Jablonsky, and many others. I would like to thank the NYPD for the extra police coverage given to our district over Rosh Hashanah. Thank you also for the extra coverage all through this month, for all the upcoming holidays, events and special projects. The police department works very hard the High Holiday season and we owe them our appreciation.
- As always there are no container or trailer permits that are approved passed the holiday. If you see one out please report it to our office.
- There was a lot of pedestrian ramp work that was scheduled to take place now and thanks to the work of Councilman Yeger and our office, all work was postponed till after the holidays.
- We already had discussions with DOT Commissioner Rodriguez and with the Mayor's senior liaison Joel Eisdorfer regarding implementing a street work moratorium during the holiday season. We can reach out to agencies and ask them not to do work. However, 99% of the time the violators are private contractors and we can't call every contractor. So we asked DOT to implement something similar to what is in place in Manhattan, where there is a work moratorium from Thanksgiving until after the holiday season. I am happy that this administration has been very receptive to working with us.
- And lastly, a very good update on our website; we will hopefully be going live in October, probably before next month's board meeting. We would like to thank the great people at OTI (Office of Technology and Innovation) especially, Steffanie Isles, who worked with us diligently through the summer to get to this point. And also, of course, Gittel who has put in a lot of work into this.

## **ELECTED OFFICIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES:**

**Jacob Eisdorfer, representing Boro President Antonio Reynoso**

**Gregory Luis, Esq., representing Boro President Antonio Reynoso**

- He thanked the board for having him. He usually sits behind a desk because he is of counsel to the Boro President. But he is happy to get out and see the community. The Boro President wants his staff to be a resource to the community boards and to help boards do their work perfectly. He hopes to get to all boards in Brooklyn and he is honored to do this work.

**Mus Lamia, representing Councilmember Shahana Hanif**

- She was glad to see everyone and hopes everyone had a great summer vacation.
- Happy holidays to everyone celebrating.
- Councilmember Hanif's office has some exciting things happening:
  - In Kensington, on October 16, they will have a street renaming to celebrate the Bangladeshi community. This community is the largest Bangladeshi community in Brooklyn.
  - They will have a sanitation station for folks to drop off e-waste on October 23.
  - The councilmember will be sending out a traffic newsletter to give everyone an update on all traffic issues they are working on. The councilmember meets with DOT monthly to discuss traffic concerns. She is very aware of the construction causing anguish.
  - The councilmember is chair of the Immigration Committee. So she is holding a hearing to assess the situation of the asylum seekers being bussed in from Texas. Everyone should feel free to listen to the hearing scheduled for Friday, September 30, at 1 pm.
- If anyone needs anything, they should feel free to reach out to the councilmember's office.
- She hopes to get over to the senior center before the new year to see everyone in person.

**Pinny Hikind, representing Comptroller Brad Lander**

- The Comptroller was happy to be at the food distribution event, which was a great success.
- Congratulations to the Chairman on his son's wedding and on his beautiful Torah procession.

- He is looking forward to the coming year, representing the comptroller and working with everybody.
- To those who are observing Yom Kippur, have an easy fast.

**James Neimeister, representing Councilmember Alexa Aviles**

- He wished everyone celebrating Yom Kippur an easy fast.
- The BQE work was mentioned previously in the meeting, but it is something that came up quite a bit in Councilmember Aviles' district. Everyone can be affected by these changes, so it's important to be a part of the process and to have your voice be heard.
- There has been a lot of rain lately, so their office is sponsoring a community forum with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on October 25<sup>th</sup>. If you had flooding or other issues, this is an opportunity to have some face to face time with the DEP and ask them your questions.

**Sharon Fuchs, representing Senator Simcha Felder**

- She wished everyone a Happy Holiday and hopes everyone enjoys the nice weather.

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

Chairman Yidel Perlstein recognized Douglas Jablon for stopping by the meeting despite his always busy schedule.

**OLD BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS:**

**Old Business.**

**New Business.**

**Board Member Jules Fleisher**

- Mr. Fleisher asked to have the Sanitation Department change their hours of collection. As of now, they do the collections at the worst times, during the morning rush hour which includes morning school bus routing. All major cities around the world collect the garbage in middle of the night, not during these busy hours. New York City should do the same.

**MEETING ADJOURNED.**

Respectfully submitted by: Gittel Fekete