



**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  
JANUARY MINUTES**

**HELD ON  
TUESDAY,  
JANUARY 24, 2023**

**VIA ZOOM  
& IN-PERSON  
AT AMICO SENIOR CENTER  
5901 13<sup>TH</sup> AVE. 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR  
BROOKLYN, NY 11219**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

AAMAH KHAN  
ALAN DUBROW  
ANNA CALI  
AVROHOM WOLFSON  
BENJAMIN THEODORE  
BETH SLEPIAN  
CHESKY BLAU  
DOUGLAS JABLON  
ELLIE KASTEL  
JACOB ASKAL  
JACOB HASS  
JACQUE FRIEDMAN  
JEFFREY DWECK  
JOHN TALMADGE  
JOSEPH GROSS  
JUDITH OJO-DIAZ  
JULES FLEISCHER  
LOUIE LIE  
MIRIAM HERSKO  
MORDECHAI KATZ  
MORRIS SENDEROVICH  
NICK BERGHALL  
PETER REBENWURZEL  
SAM STOBER  
SHARON FUCHS  
SHLOMIE RIEGER  
YAAKOV KAPLAN  
YERUCHIM SILBER  
YIDEL PERLSTEIN  
YONAH MOSES

**STAFF PRESENT**

BARRY SPITZER – DISTRICT MANAGER

**COMMUNITY RESIDENTS**

APPROXIMATELY 20 RESIDENTS PRESENT

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

ALEXI SHALOM  
AVI GREENSTEIN  
BERNARD FREILICH  
DAVID FRIEDLANDER  
DAVID SHLOMOVICH  
EDGAR GLUCK  
MAMNUNUL HAQ  
MARIA ARETTINES  
NAFTALI TESSLER  
ROCHELLE ZAMI  
ROMINA FERNANDEZ  
SAHIBZADA AHMAD SHABIR  
SOL WAHBA  
WIL FISHER  
YAAKOV SCHAPIRO  
YECHIEL MALIK  
YITZCHOK MOSKOWITS

**ELECTED OFFICIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES**

JACOB EISDORFER, REP. BP ANTONIO  
REYNOSO  
ANASTASIA YASKOVA, REP. MAYOR ERIC  
ADAMS  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER ROBERT CARROLL,  
REP. 44<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT  
JOHN BLASCO, REP. CONGRESSMAN DAN  
GOLDMAN  
PINNY HIKIND, REP. COMP. BRAD LANDER  
JAMES NEIMEISTER, REP. CM ALEXA AVILES  
YECHIEL LANDAU, REP. SEN. KEN PARKER  
SOL REIGER, REP. AM. EICHENSTEIN  
MUS LAMIA, REP. CM SHAHANA HANIF  
SHARON FUCHS, REP. SEN. SIMCHA FELDER  
LEROY BRANCH, ALICIA POSNER & AYL  
ALVAREZ, REP. NYC DEP. OF  
TRANSPORTATION

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

## **ATTENDANCE**

## **ADOPTION OF DECEMBER MINUTES**

The December minutes were adopted.

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

- Good evening- I hope everyone had a wonderful New Years.
- Happy Lunar New Year to all who celebrated.
- Thank you to Board Member Louis Liu for the beautiful event at the BCA and for the Public Service award he gave me. We are proud that Louis is a member of Community Board 12 and are happy to support him in any way we can. Thank you also to Assemblymember William Colton for the citation.
- Masbia was recognized by the mayor for the exemplary work they do with asylum seekers. We are so proud of all the charitable nonprofit organizations that have a home in our district.
- I want to recognize the board members who had perfect attendance at all ten 2022 board meetings: Avrohom Wolfson. Chesky Blau. Ellie Kastel. Jeffrey Dweck. Morris Senderovic. Shlomie Rieger. Yakov Kaplan. And Yonah Moses.
- Our dear friend and colleague, Adam Cohen, has moved out of town, so I would like to publicly thank him for all the work he did on this board and wish him well in his new home.

### **1. APPOINTMENT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE – YIDEL PERLSTEIN:**

- The chairman appointed the following board members to serve on the 2023 Nominating Committee: Miriam Hersko as chair, Jacob Askal, Shloime Rieger, Bernard Freilich and Naftali Tessler.

### **2. DOT PRESENTATION**

DOT Safety Improvement Project on New Utrecht Avenue at 54<sup>th</sup>, 55<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup> and 61<sup>st</sup> Streets.  
Presented by: Leroy Branch, Alicia Posner, and Ayla Alvarez.

- The project was compiled by the Research, Implementation and Safety Unit.
- These areas were chosen because multiple lanes intersect causing multiple points of conflict. A site visit to the location indicated various deficiencies including unpredictable vehicle movement, lack of crosswalk markings, Pedestrian ramps that weren't ADA compliant, among other concerns.
- The improvements planned would remedy these deficiencies by: adding crosswalks where needed, raising certain crosswalks to make the pedestrian crossing easier, as well as create a traffic calming device. The plans would also add pedestrian islands at strategic locations and add crosswalks along crossing areas that are used, but not currently designated as such.
- The DOT opened the floor to questions.
- The District Manager asked about the pedestrian island on the plans to be added on 55<sup>th</sup> street, specifically if it would interfere with traffic.  
DOT responded that the pedestrian island would be built along the same footprint as the current space that is painted. All driving lanes will remain and there would be no capacity reduction. The protrusion will be in line with the other sidewalks.
- The full presentation is available on the CB12 website [nyc.gov/bkcb12](http://nyc.gov/bkcb12).

**Chairman Yidel Perlstein** made a correction: Board Member Jules Fleisher noted that he was present at all board meetings. The chairman asked board members to reach out to the office to make sure the record matches their recollection.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

There were no speakers.

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

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

- The District Manager pointed out some items that may be important to know.
- There was a story on BP24 regarding Governor Hochul's announcement of funding to assist with utilities for residents and small businesses who fell behind on their bills. We reached out to the governor's office to find out more because we had nonprofits reach out to us for information. The details are sparse so we are awaiting more details out of the governor's office and will keep you apprised. This is especially relevant now that Con Edison and National Grid are increasing their rates- for those who receive benefits, there is the Energy Affordability Program that should automatically be applied to your Con Edison bill. If you don't see it on your bill- please reach out to our office so we can help you apply.
- Congress recently passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act which ends the SNAP Emergency Allotments. Since the Public Health Emergency was declared in 2020, everyone receiving food stamps had their benefits increased. Families who were receiving the max allowed, got an extra \$95. Families who were not receiving the max allowed, had their benefits increased to the max allowed.  
The ending of the emergency allotment means that everyone on food stamps will have their benefits reduced starting with March benefits, February is the last month in which the emergency allotments will be distributed. Please be mindful of this change.
- There will be construction on the corner of 49<sup>th</sup> street and 14<sup>th</sup> avenue. We are coordinating with the DOT and the developers to do the work with minimal disruption. The work will require a complete shutdown of 49<sup>th</sup> Street and so they plan to do it at night. We are almost there; we need approval of one more agency. The work will take place 4 nights a week. We spoke to the construction company regarding noise levels, and they assured us it wouldn't be a lot of noise.
- We will keep everyone updated on that.

## **ELECTED OFFICIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES:**

### **Jacob Eisdorfer- representing Boro President Antonio Reynoso**

- He reminded everyone that the deadline to apply for Community Board membership and to be reappointed is February 14. The deadline is approaching so please make sure to apply if you are up for reappointment.
- **Yidel Perlstein, Chairman-** Make sure to apply on time people always come to the board a month after the deadline and then there is a problem. This year, the Boro president wants to keep to the deadline.

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

She shared some announcements from the mayor's office.

- There is a new mayoral initiative to communicate directly with New Yorkers. New Yorkers can sign up to hear directly from the mayor live.

- The mayor announced a \$75 million funding for grants for small business. Businesses must have less than \$5 mil in annual revenue and be in NYC. Information can be found online and or by calling the SBS hotline.
- She thanked the Community Board for the great they do in service to the community. Thank you.

**John Blasco, representing Congressman Dan Goldman.**

- He introduced himself as the Deputy Chief of Staff and the Deputy Director of the District Office
- NY10 is a big district, and the Congressman is excited to represent parts of Boro Park.
- The district office for NY10 will be at 340 9<sup>th</sup> Street, between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenues and is currently undergoing construction. The office is a storefront so anyone needs an appointment or if anyone needs to make a referral, they can make an appointment. If anyone knows someone who needs federal assistance, please reach out so we can assist.
- He thanked the board members for their service to the community.

**James Neimeister, representing Councilmember Alexa Aviles.**

- He thanked the District Manager for mentioning utility relief, specifically the program just announced by the governor. He added that their office is also waiting for clarity on the program to see if it also encompasses small businesses.
- Cheers to all who celebrate the Lunar New Year. There will be a Lunar New Year's party at the Sunset Park Rec Center on Saturday.
- The councilmember will be hosting free tax prep at our office at 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. and 45<sup>th</sup> St. There are many days of the week where this service will be available. Call for an appointment at 718-599-0604.

**Assemblymember Robert Carroll the 44<sup>th</sup> Assembly District.**

- Good evening, he hoped everyone had a Happy New Year. And he was glad to see everyone even via zoom.
- He provided a quick update on a few things going on in the district that are important.
- MTA is doing a bus redesign for the B67 and B68 route that goes up and down McDonald Avenue.  
The hearing is supposed to be on Thursday, February 16th. The meeting will be a zoom meeting. Please join and let folks at the MTA know what you think about the plan.
- In the same vein-now is the redistricting for the NYS Assembly. If you live in the 44<sup>th</sup> Assembly District and want to testify that even is on February 15 at Medgar Evers College at 1650 Bedford Avenue. The proposed redistricting cuts out parts of Kensington, Windsor Terrace, and Borough Park from district, these are places I grew up in and represented for over 7 years. We are a great cohesive community, and I'd love to keep us together. If you'd like to find out more, you can reach out to my office at 718-788-7221.

**Sol Rieger, representing Assemblymember Simcha Eichenstein**

**Yechiel Landau, representing Senator Ken Parker**

**Pinny Hikind, representing Comptroller Brad Lander**

**Mus Lamia, representing Councilmember Shahana Hanif**

Ms. Lamia shared some quick updates.

- The Councilmember is meeting with a ton of different community groups that fall within the community board, including mosque leaders and the Kensington Cultural Council.
- She is meeting with delivery workers next Wednesday night. She wants to make sure she hits the schools and community groups that are active while she does her tour of West Brooklyn.
- The councilmember will have an event on Thursday. The event is a participatory budgeting civic assembly. There will be people of different backgrounds that will work on initiatives that are on the ballot.
- There is an ongoing immigration clinic every Friday from 10-4. If you or anyone you know needs this service, please know we have lawyers and a paralegal that can offer free services.

**Yidel Perlstein Chairman-** The chairman recognized Douglas Jablon who was in attendance at the meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS:**

**Old Business:** No old business.

**New Business:** No new business.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

Respectfully submitted by: Gittel Fekete