



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

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Antonio Reynoso
Borough President

Yidel Perlstein
Chairperson

Barry Spitzer
District Manager

**COMMUNITY BOARD 12
OCTOBER MINUTES**

**HELD ON
TUESDAY,
OCTOBER 24, 2023**

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

AAMAH KHAN
ALAN DUBROW
ANA CALI
ARTURO ENAMORADO III
AVROHOM WOLFSON
BETH SLEPIAN
CHAIM SCHNEIDER
CHESKY BLAU
DANIEL KERADNAM
DAVID FRIEDLANDER
DAVID SHLOMOVICH
ELLIE KASTEL
ELLIOT SIDDIQUI
JACOB ASKAL
JACOB HASS
JACQUE FRIEDMAN
JEFFREY DWECK
JOHN TALMADGE
JULES FLEISCHER
LOUIE LIU
MAMNUNUL HAQ
MORRIS SENDEROVICH
MORDECHAI KATZ
MIRIAM HERSKO
MOSHE FRIDMAN
NAFTALI TESSLER
NICK BERGHALL
PETER REBENWURZEL
ROCHELLE ZAMI
SHARON FUCHS
SAM STOBER
SHLOMIE RIEGER
SOL WAHBA
YAAKOV KAPLAN
YERUCHIM SILBER
YIDEL PERLSTEIN
YONAH MOSES

STAFF PRESENT

BARRY SPITZER – DISTRICT MANAGER
GITTEL FEKETE – COMMUNITY COORDINATOR

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

ADRIANA VINK
ALEXI SHALOM
BERNARD FREILICH
DOUGLAS JABLON
EDGAR GLUCK
JOSEPH GROSS
JUDITH OJO-DIAZ
MARIA ARETTINES
ROMINA FERNANDEZ
WIL FISHER
YAAKOV SCHAPIRO
YITZCHOK MOSKOWITS

COMMUNITY RESIDENTS

APPROXIMATELY 20 RESIDENTS PRESENT

ELECTED OFFICIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES

ASSEMBLYMEMBER BOBBY CARROLL
COUNCILMEMBER KALMAN YEGER
JACOB EISDORFER, REP. BORO PRESIDENT
ANTONIO REYNOSO
PINNY HIKIND, REP. COMPTROLLER BRAD
LANDER
JACK PLUSHNICK, REP. CM DAN GOLDMAN
EMMET TERAN, REP. CM ALEXA AVILES
AVROHOM MALACHOSKI, REP. CM FARAH
LOUIS
SHARON FUCHS, REP. SENATOR FELDER
RABBI YECHIEL LANDAU, REP. SENATOR
KEVIN PARKER
SHLOMIE RIEGER, REP. AM EICHENSTEIN
CHAIM SCHNEIDER, REP. AM EICHENSTEIN

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ATTENDANCE

ADOPTION OF SEPTEMBER MINUTES

- The September minutes were adopted.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS –Delivered by Chairman Yidel Perlstein

- Good evening. I thought we would be back here talking about beautiful Sukkos and thanking the police department for their hard work keeping us safe, and we do owe them a thank you. But we are in mourning. We were celebrating Simchas Torah, a day of joy, when the news started coming in of the horrific events taking place in Israel.

It is impossible to imagine the combination of feelings as the number of victims kept on growing. Initial reports were of 70 victims. We were all crying and praying. Praying for those still in danger. And praying and hoping that our family and loved ones are unharmed. The number of victims is 20 times that. Today the number is over 1,400 people, including babies, children, men, women, and elderly, who were murdered and over 200 people were taken hostage. Everyone has left a family that mourns, a family that will never ever be whole again. The manner and magnitude in which these animals carried out this slaughter of Jews can only be compared to the horrors of the holocaust.

We are a nation of survivors. The holocaust was less than a century ago. Our parents came out of those refugee camps and rebuilt from the ashes. And just as our generational trauma has us on high alert right now seeing the patterns of history repeat itself, our generational survival skills will bring us through this.

The fallen will live on in our collective memory forever, and we pray for the hostages to be returned home safely to their families.

Let's rise for a moment of silence in remembrance of those holy souls and offer a prayer for the wounded and their families and the hostages.

A moment of silence was held.

- I want to thank those in government who understand what we are experiencing and are rallying around us. Thank you to NYPD for your visible presence these days. Thank you to Governor Hochul, Mayor Adams and those in our government who stand up for Israel and for the largest Jewish enclave this side of the Atlantic Ocean.
- Don't forget to vote, Election Day is November 7th.
- Our next board meeting will be on November 28.

VOTE ON 2025 DISTRICT NEEDS –Delivered by District Manager Barry Spitzer

- Everyone got a copy of the district needs, so we are not going through the whole thing. If anyone has questions or suggestions, they should please let us know.

The District Manager opened the floor to address any questions:

Beth Slepian- Board Member:

- In full transparency, she hasn't read the full District Needs as she just got it this afternoon. She would like to propose a motion not vote on it at this meeting because of the short time they had to review the district needs. She noted from last meeting's minutes that there was something mentioned about a draft being posted on the website, but she did not see anything. She notes that this is very similar to last year's district needs, but she would have liked an opportunity to review it.

Arturo Armondo Jr.- Board Member:

- He is a professor and often reads a lot of papers in a very short time, but this amount of time is not enough time to read the needs effectively.

Yidel Perlstein- Chairman:

- The board has to submit it by October 31st, so the board will vote now and anyone with suggestions should let us know.
- The board will vote on the district's needs and will amend with any suggestions shared by board members. The district needs are not controversial. The chair proposed a motion to adopt the district needs.

Beth Slepian- Board Member:

- She understands the board is moving forward and remembers from last year that the process is a frustrating one. She is a member of the community board because she believes in bringing the community into the community board. She reviewed the bylaws regarding the district's needs. It says it shall be put together with the community board. And she doesn't feel like board members have any input. Other boards get together and discuss the district needs and have surveys and hearings. Here the district needs are done behind closed doors. The bylaws say the needs are community board assessments and as a member, she hasn't been involved in the process. Board members do not have the opportunity to do the work of the community board.

Jeffrey Dweck- Board Member:

- He wanted to be heard on the issue. He agrees with the sentiment. He is on board and has not felt shut out. If any board member calls the chairperson any time of day or night and there is a legitimate need he will respond. Mr. Dweck checked the bylaws also, and it is the district manager's sole responsibility to submit the district needs. Reporting to the board is a courtesy. He is happy to go through the bylaws and review what the stated functions of the board are. The district needs don't fall under that purview. It is the district manager's job to put the district needs together, but the board's vote is not needed.

Yidel Perlstein- Chairman:

- Proposed a motion to pass the district needs.

The motion passed with 5 abstentions and 1 opposition.

- The chairman reminded the board that they can submit suggestions until October 31st. He also mentioned that the district needs were talked about at last month's meeting and board members haven't reached out with input. Members can also share suggestions any time throughout the year. The board votes on this every year and can make suggestions any time.
- As was said last year, the board does the district needs as a formality, but the city does not listen to us. We follow the rules, but we don't make ourselves crazy. It is great that board members are passionate and feel strongly, they should only take some of the energy and direct it toward the city to get them to listen and implement the suggestions.
- In the same vein, there are a lot of things that we used to do and don't anymore because the city just doesn't pay attention to what we say. When committees come together, and the city does not listen to the input of the committees or the board, it is then unfair to the volunteers who leave their families and busy schedules behind to come and do this process when the time and effort is without purpose.

Ellie Kastel- Board Member:

- She just wanted to make one correction. She communicated some needs with Gittel and those suggestions are in the district needs.

Yidel Perlstein- Chairman:

- Thanked. Ms. Kastel for the input and for paying attention.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT:

Delivered by District Manager Barry Spitzer

- He started off by thanking the NYPD for the additional coverage over the holidays and generally throughout the district.
- This year, as in the last few years, the containers and trailers all gone in time, as far as he is aware. If anyone sees a trailer, they are unpermitted so please report it to the office.
- He wants to reiterate what the chairman said. Since the end of Yomtov, he had a sick feeling in his stomach that just doesn't go away. It reminds him of something that happened:
- My grandfather was a holocaust survivor and used to buy the newspaper every Saturday night, he would look at the front paper and then just throw it away. So I would ask him why? He said he was checking if they were coming for us again. I laughed and said this is the USA. He said don't think that it can't happen again. Unfortunately, he was proven right. We did not think this could happen in the United States, but the uneasy feeling in my stomach is the echo of my grandfather's words.
- We pray for the victims and the hostages. And with Hashem's help, the victims will get well and hostages the will be returned.
- We have been in constant contact with the NYPD, along with the councilmember. They have been incredible in make everyone, all schools, yeshivas, and synagogues, feel safe, and actually be safe.
- Thanks to Joel Eisdorfer for putting together a meeting in Boro Park where the mayor was in attendance. The week before the board meeting the mayor met with leaders with the community and schools and of large congregations in the district. The mayor pledged all resources available in the city to make everyone feel safe. Thank you also to Chief McEvoy, Lt. Ira Jablonsky, and Insp. RichieTaylor.

Yidel Perlstein- Chairman:

He wished the best to Board Member Rabbi Gluck who was unwell in hospital and is back home. We wish him a speedy recovery.

REPORTS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS, REPRESENTATIVES & AGENCIES

- **Assemblymember Robert Carroll**
 - He thanked everyone for letting him jump the line.
 - He just shared some quick updates and announcements.
 - We all need to start composting organic waste. To that end, we are doing a bin giveaway on Thursday, November 2 at the Cortelyou Road library from 12-4 pm at 1305 Cortelyou Road.
 - He highlighted an issue and asked Community Board 12 for help and for vigilance. There have been a number of open drug use around the Saleem House Men's Shelter at the corner of Beverley Road and Coney Island Avenue. If anyone sees anything going on there, like people dealing drugs, please reach out and call 911. Please relay these messages to the 66 precinct as this is obviously something that impacts all of us.
 - Two weeks ago, was the first closure of the BQE that brought truck traffic to McDonald Ave. and Caton Ave. The diversions went shockingly well. If anyone lives in one of those areas and has issues, please do not hesitate to reach out because we are in constant communication with DOT and NYPD. They don't have the next closure planned, but you never know, so we want to know about any issues that can be useful.

Barry Spitzer- District Manager:

- Thanked the Assemblymember for reaching out right after holiday ended.
- Assemblymember Carroll: Offered his condolences to everyone on the tragedy in Israel. The Jewish community is part of the fabric of the New York society and so he offered his condolences to anyone who was affected by the terrorist attack.

- **Jacob Eisdorfer, representing Boro President Antonio Reynoso.**
- **Pinny Hikind, representing Comptroller Brad Lander**
 - On behalf of the Comptroller, he wishes a safe return for all the hostages.
- **Jack Plushnik, representing Congressman Dan Goldman**
 - Good Evening
 - The Congressman was actually in Israel when the tragedy took place and remains in touch and very much involved. Right after Yom Tov the office started getting calls from people stuck, it is something the office is still working on; the US State Department evacuated over 12,000 American citizens. It is an ongoing project, so if anyone needs help, please reach out.
 - The Congressman is working and advocating on behalf of people who are in need and doing everything possible to get the hostages home safe back to their families. Obviously, representing the largest Jewish district this matter is close to the Congressman's heart.
 - Regarding some other information, including the BQE; They are working to secure funding for the BQE, it is unlikely to happen anytime soon.
 - They had a town hall regarding antisemitism. We have seen a dramatic increase and so it was important to address it. The town hall had participants not only from the NYPD, but also with other federal agencies and trying to figure out ways to address it.
 - They have a newsletter with more information and details available.

- **Emmet Teran, representing Councilmember Alexa Aviles.**
 - He is the new liaison for Community Board 12.
 - He shared some legislative updates the Councilmember is working on:
Intro 647- focuses on amending the city charter so that sheriff enforcing evictions on residents are required to contact HRA. There was a hearing on this on September 27.
Intro 708- focuses on overhauling the truck routes. The system hasn't been updated since 1970s and it is time to address the congestion the old routes bring.
 - The councilmember is hosting a free helmet distribution on October 28th at PS 14. They have 500 helmets to distribute on a first come first served basis. This event is in partnership with the DOT.
 - Lastly, there is a Legal assistance NYLAG van available once a month for constituents requiring legal assistance. The next date is Nov. 14 from 10 am to 3 pm.

- **Avrohom Malachowski, representing Councilmember Farah Louis.**
 - He sent the Councilmembers regards and echoed the sentiment of thanking the NYPD.
 - The Councilmember has all those affected by the tragedies in her heart and is praying for peace.
 - He shared the office information.

- **Rabbi Landau, representing State Senator Kevin Parker**
- **Councilman Kalman Yeger**
 - The councilman started off by acknowledging Councilmember Farah Louis who stood up in a very real way. She represents areas of Flatbush and BP. She expressed condolences in a very real way. He is very grateful to her. Especially considering others who haven't been

vocal. We as a community are fortunate to be represented by many in the city council. Going off of what the District Manager said earlier, such tragedy and persecution is something people think can't happen here. And for a very long time, going back to when George Washington sent a letter to the Touro synagogue in Rhode Island saying the Jewish people are welcome here in the United States, we believed that to be true. But, looking at the past several years, particularly last 2 weeks, we see vile antisemitism, not only on college campuses, but in the streets of the city in NY which has the largest Jewish community outside of Israel. We see antisemitism in congress with the Congressional Hamas Squad. We see it in state legislatures. He is happy that Senator Felder and Assemblymember Eichenstein's legislative bodies are not in session, so they don't need to be facing antisemitism now.

- We see antisemitism in the chamber in which the councilman serves, and it is frightening. Antisemitism is real, you can see and taste it. There are people who truly believe that there should be peace in that region in the world. Many good people believe that, but those are not the people we are talking about when we refer to antisemitism. We are talking about vile people who hate the Jewish people who are talking about cease fire now but didn't speak up and ask for a ceasefire from the daily barrage of missile fire coming out of Gaza going into residential neighborhoods indiscriminately for the last 4 years. What we saw two weeks ago was antisemitism. Listen carefully to what people are saying when they claim they are acting because they want supposed peace. When they march in the street as performance art; it is not about real peace or a two-state solution. It's about hating the Jews.
- We are very grateful to the NYPD in this and the neighboring districts. Such as in CB 14 where the 70-precinct stood in front of a mosque to protect our constituents. We are very grateful for that.
- We are grateful for the moral support and action from Mayor Adams who showed up for his constituents. He came down to meet with leaders from the Jewish capital of the world. We are grateful for Menashe Schapiro and Community Affairs Commissioner Fred Kreizman who has also been here for us in previous administrations. And we are grateful for all those who are here for us 24/7.
- Thanks to Congressmembers Goldman and Clarke who held office hours in AM Eichenstein's office to help people get back from Israel. This is something only a Congressman can pull off as that is the level of government needed, and they came here so that those needing help don't have to go to their office.
- There are two other members of congress who don't even represent us but have stood up for us not only in words and tweets but by actually doing things. Congressmember Grace Meng was one of the first texts I saw checking in to see if my family was ok. She went around to shuls in the neighborhood because people were getting only bits and dribbles of information.
- And the councilman's old friend Congressman Richie Torres is standing up in ways we cannot stand up for ourselves. The councilman served with him in the city council and was friends with him long before that.
- It is nice to see the support from elected officials from other neighborhoods even if we don't always see the same support from our own elected officials.
- As always, he reminded everyone: if you see something say something. Even with something as small as a tree branch. Start by calling 311 because by the time you reach us, you can give us a record to go back to. If you start with calling an elected or community board office, you start from scratch. Start by making a report, online reporting is best because you can share a

picture, but even over the phone 311 will provide a confirmation number and then we can follow up with them.

- He shared the Chairman's good wishes to esteemed board member Rabbi Gluck. Board Meetings are not the same when he is not here, we wish him the best.

PUBLIC SESSION

Anthony Loum, branch manager of the Mapleton Branch Library

- Shared some updates on programming from the Mapleton Branch Library that are available by visiting www.bklynlibrary.org/locations/Mapleton.

Joanna Mejjias-Resident:

- She resides on Minna Street and has been a homeowner there for 35 years. She came to the board meeting because she is concerned about the safety on the block. She is referring to the streets on 36th Street, Ft. Hamilton Parkway, and Minna Street. Specifically on the South side of 36th street in front of 1121 36th Street. Right across the street is a hotel that is really a shelter. The people will congregate outside and there is drug paraphernalia etc. She is concerned about the safety of the children there. There is also a nursery school there with toddlers. As a grandmother, she panics seeing the children so close to this and hopes the moms know to keep an eye out.
- She also hopes that the locksmith who parks his vans on the sidewalk of the property, about 6 of his vans, have cameras to make sure nothing happens to children.
- In general, when walking along 36th Street, the pedestrian sidewalk is full of cars. For example, today there were 9 vehicles parked on the sidewalk. If it is hard for adults to navigate, it is unimaginable how hard it must be for children. So have to be vigilant of safety. God forbid one of the cars lose control.
- There is also a merchant across the street, on 36th, who stocks up merchandise in huge towers and one of these days one of those towers will topple.
- She also offered her prayers to everyone on the terrible tragedies that took place. She hopes we remain hopeful for all the hostages to come home.

Old Business:

No Old Business

New Business:

Jacob Hass- Board Member:

- He would like to make a motion given the remote participation of this community board. Many board members who take the time to participate physically feel like those who don't take the time to come and speak from comfort of their home speak limitless without considering the time of those who take the time to travel in person. To that end, he would like to make two motions: The first motion is that whoever speaks must turn the camera on. There is no need to listen to people behind a blank screen. Community residents should be able to come look us in the face.

Yidel Perlstein- Chairman: interjected that a motion is not needed for this as it was included in a chairman's directive shared with board members a long time ago that can be redistributed as a reminder.

Jacob Hass- Board Member

- The second motion he would like to propose is that those who do not come in person should be limited to a 3-minute maximum combined. Anything more that they want to say can be turned in in writing before the meeting or after. Members who come in person have limited time and still

need to travel back home and it is not fair for those who participate from the comfort of their home to keep everyone back.

Yidel Perlstein- Chairman: Again, a motion is not needed for this. The chairman's directive can be edited and enforced.

Beth Slepian- Board Member.

- Unrelated to anything, she wanted to remind everyone that the participatory budgeting map for the city is live. You can submit ideas to have a say in how your community spends funds.
- She also appreciates hybrid meetings because sometimes it's hard to get to the meetings. She wanted to ask about committee meetings since the chairman mentioned that they do not do it the way they used to. Board members are supposed to serve on committees.

There was technical difficulty with hearing Ms. Slepian, so it was suggested that she send her comments in writing to be announced at the next meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Respectfully submitted by: Gittel Fekete