



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
MAY MINUTES**

**HELD ON
TUESDAY,
MAY 23, 2023**

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

AAMAH KHAN
ALAN DUBROW
ARTURO ENAMORADO III
AVROHOM WOLFSON
BETH SLEPIAN
CHAIM SCHNEIDER
CHESKY BLAU
DANIEL KERADNAM
DAVID FRIEDLANDER
DAVID SHLOMOVICH
DOUGLAS JABLON
EDGAR GLUCK
ELLIOT SIDDIQUI
ELLIE KASTEL
JACOB HASS
JACQUE FRIEDMAN
JEFFREY DWECK
JOHN TALMADGE
JUDITH OJO-DIAZ
JULES FLEISCHER
MAMNUNUL HAQ
MARIA ARETTINES
MIRIAM HERSKO
MORRIS SENDEROVICH
MOSHE FRIDMAN
NICK BERGHALL
PETER REBENWURZEL
ROCHELLE ZAMI
SAM STOBER
SHLOMIE RIEGER
SOL WAHBA
WIL FISHER
YAAKOV KAPLAN
YERUCHIM SILBER
YIDEL PERLSTEIN
YONAH MOSES

COMMUNITY RESIDENTS

APPROXIMATELY 10 RESIDENTS PRESENT

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

ADRIANA VINK
ALEXI SHALOM
ANA CALI
BERNARD FREILICH
JACOB ASKAL
JOSEPH GROSS
LOUIE LIE
MORDECHAI KATZ
NAFTALI TESSLER
ROMINA FERNANDEZ
SHARON FUCHS
YAAKOV SCHAPIRO
YITZCHOK MOSKOWITS

STAFF PRESENT

BARRY SPITZER – DISTRICT MANAGER
GITTEL FEKETE – COMMUNITY
COORDINATOR

ELECTED OFFICIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES

COUNCILMEMBER KALMAN YEGER
ANASTASIA YASKOVA, REP. MAYORE ERIC
ADAMSN
PINNY HIKIND, REP. COMP. BRAD LANDER
STEVEN SCANDOLE, REP. PA JUMAANE
WILLIAMS
ALEX GURVICH, REP. DA GONZALES
ELLIOT SADOFF, REP. CM DAN GOLDMAN
ORLANDO ROSS, REP. CM YVETTE CLARKE
MUS LAMIA, REP. CM SHAHANA HANIF
RABBI YECHIEL LANDAU, REP. SEN. KEVIN
PARKER
SOL REIGER, REP. AM. EICHENSTEIN
CHAIM SCHNEIDER, REP. AM EICHENSTEIN
KEN LAZAR, REP. NYS DEP. OF BUILDINGS
LT. ANTHONY ALMOJERA, REP. FDNY, EMS

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ATTENDANCE

ADOPTION OF APRIL MINUTES

The April minutes were adopted.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS –Delivered by First vice chair Yakov Kaplan

- May is Jewish Heritage Month and there were some beautiful events some of our members got to enjoy. The White House hosted a Jewish Heritage Event, the Borough President hosted an event. And there will be more. Next Tuesday Congressman Dan Goldman is holding a Jewish Heritage Event and on Wednesday, Mayor Adams will host an event at Gracie Mansion.
- There was a beautiful Lag B'omer celebrations and parade. Thank you to the office staff, Barry and Gittel, for their work. And thanks to the NYPD and the FDNY for the great work they did.
- Happy Shavous to all celebrating.
- The next board meeting will be on June 27, which is also election day. We will remind you again to vote.

PUBLIC HEARING

Sara Gluck -Branch Manager at the Boro Park Branch of the Brooklyn Public Library

Ms. Gluck provided some Library Updates:

- Gardening Club is on Tuesdays at 3 pm. The club is cleaning up the area in front of library. Anyone who is interested can join, they can also make other times available.
- Participatory Budget Voting is now open. NYC residents can vote on how about \$5 million in funding will be spent. Anyone ages 11 and up can vote online or at their public library. This is a great opportunity to get involved in the civic process.
- The library is continuing the Brainy Babies program on Wednesday morning, in Russian, Spanish, English, and other languages as well. So parents can meet other parents.
- An important note: Libraries are still facing significant cuts. The mayor is still proposing to cut the library budget by \$36 million, so if want the library to stay open on Sundays and evenings, we need that funding. We ask you to advocate with your councilmembers and elected officials.

Mike Rosenbluth- Resident

- Mr. Rosenbluth is a Kensington resident who is concerned that the MTA Brooklyn Bus Network Redesign plan will severely affect the Kensington and Boro Park neighborhoods in Community Board 12. MTA proposes to eliminate 2 buses that serve the neighborhoods; the B69 on McDonald Ave. and the B103 that goes from Flatbush Junction to Downtown Brooklyn.
- He would like to know where the Community Board stands on these issues, and on the redesign in general. The redesign also includes eliminating around 1,000 bus stops.
- The redesign includes some good things too, such as adding a limited express bus, B55, to run along Church Ave. from McDonald Ave. to Kennedy Airport. This is great, but why not extend the line down 13 and 14 Ave. to service this community.
- The B69 and B103 are key routes that serve our neighborhood and should not be taken from us.

Resident- Evangelist Barbie

- She is a first-class citizen living in Boro Park and felt compelled to come to the board meeting because of some issues she is having. She came because of issues with crime, she was threatened not to go to the police. Much of her property was stolen and the building manager threatened her. There is a Community Affairs department at the 66 precinct, and she needs help with the department. She wants help from the Community Board.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT:

Delivered by District Manager Barry Spitzer

- First, he commented on how beautiful Lag B'Omer was. This year there were more celebrations than any prior year. He added on to the thanks from the Chair and thanked the FDNY, NYPD and Shomrim for their assistance.
- One thing that came up that impacts our community are the restaurant dining sheds. There has been some movement, the city council passed a bill requiring that these are dismantled starting November 2024. While this is to take place sometime in the future, at least there is some movement on this.
- There are F train service changes. Because the MTA is upgrading signals, the trains are not running from Church Ave. to Coney Island almost every weekend, from Friday 9:30 until 4:30 am on Monday. This Monday is Memorial Day so the trains will not be running. Service will resume Tuesday morning at 5:00. Keep it in mind if you plan to use the trains on Monday.
- The Community Board is proud to partner with local community organizations to provide computer classes. Met council will be doing a QuickBooks class for women over the summer. The BPJCC will also do another computer course since the last one was such a major success.
- Next week Tuesday, Representative Dan Goldman will host a Jewish Heritage event at the Amico senior Center. The Board is proud to partner with him on this and hopes board members will RSVP. The Congressman will be honoring CB12 Chairman Yidel Perlstein.
- The mayor's office is not renewing the health emergency that is expiring on June 19th which means the Board Meetings will be subject to Open Meetings Law. Borough Hall sent a resolution to the State asking that community boards should be treated like other public boards that allow for hybrid meetings, even with no emergency. The status of this carve-out is unknown.

REPORTS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS, REPRESENTATIVES & AGENCIES

Councilmember Kalman Yeger

- There were about 50 Lag B'Omer fires in the community. The Councilman went along with the District Manager to about a dozen of them. The program was well coordinated by Police, Fire Dept., and Shomrim, who are to be applauded.

A few updates:

- First, an update on the 57th Street project this board voted down. The councilman has a rule: if the Community Board votes against a proposal, so does he. But there are a few steps before it comes to the City Council. After the Community Board votes, the proposal goes to the Boro President, then to the Department of City Planning, then to the City Council. There will be hearings just like at the board. Two City Council committees must vote on it, then the entire City council. The councilman will vote no, as the Board did, but there are another 50 votes in play.
- The city is in middle of budget talks. One of the budget concerns that keeps popping up is the cost of the migrant influx. As of now, there are approximately 70,000 migrants in the city, which is approximately 150% of the homeless population in the city. The cost of caring for the migrants is a federal problem the federal government abandoned that has fallen on Mayor Adams to handle. One of the things the mayor has done is go back to court to revisit an agreement the city made regarding the Right to Housing. This right was originally designed for New Yorkers who have fallen on hard times. New York tries to take care of its own. But this right to housing has been abused by the federal government which sends its fiscal problem our way. One estimate is that it costs the city \$8 million a day. This adds up to around several billion a year. We need the federal government to step up. The city does not have the physical space nor the funding to handle the federal government's burden. Every year the City provides funding for community projects, but now with this new budget pressure, there may not be sufficient funding to do so.

- There was a resolution introduced by the Councilman in the City Council a few weeks ago. This was to have one day a year designated as a day to “End Jew Hate.” The idea seemed to be innocuous. But there were 6 council members who couldn’t bring themselves to vote for it. To put this into context, because it is a little close to home; Boro Park has four representative councilmembers, the only Boro Park representative who voted in favor of the resolution was Councilman Yeger. It’s something to think about as the surge of antisemitism across the city is a topic that is continually talked about for the last several years. These are representatives who cannot even stand up for their constituents.
- A reminder to all that next month is primary election day, anyone registered in one of the two major parties should please exercise the right to vote. Early voting starts on June 17. Last election there was a tremendous turnout, and it was beautiful to see.

Yeruchim Silber- Board Member

- Mr. Silber wanted to thank the Councilman for his help. NYC was scheduled to hold a hiring event with various city agencies looking to hire. A resident was called down for an interview for Friday, which is on Shavous, and they would lose the opportunity if they didn’t go. So Mr. Silber reached out to Councilman Yeger and the mayor’s office for help and the event was pushed off. Now many orthodox Jews will be able to access this event and get jobs.

Councilman Kalman Yeger- The councilman said the credit was due to the mayor’s office, he reached out the mayor’s office and it took them a few days to put the pieces together.

Anastasia Yasakova, representing Mayor Eric Adams

- This month we celebrate Jewish Heritage Month as well as AAPI month. As mentioned, the mayor is hosting a Jewish Heritage event at Gracie Mansion next week.
- The city will be issuing Pandemic EBT cards for children who missed an opportunity for school lunches due to Covid. These cards will be used as food stamp cards. Enrollment is automatic.
- There is a new program in conjunction with DFTA: Silver Corp. This is for older New Yorkers who want to work. It’s a workforce development pilot program intended to increase financial mobility, combat ageism in the workforce and fill employment needs. To become a Silver Corps participant, you must be at least 55+, be unemployed or underemployed, willing to participate in a skills training program, and volunteer at least 10 hours per week for a nonprofit or city agency. To learn more, contact NY 212-AGING or 212-244-6469.
- As always, she is grateful and thankful for the amazing work the Community Board does for the community as well as the work the 66 pct does.

Steven Scandale, representing Public Advocate Jumaane Williams

Pinny Hikind, representing Comptroller Brad Lander

- The comptroller testified at the City Council Finance Committee on the FY 24 budget. The testimony can be found online at comptroller.nyc.gov.
- He wished everyone happy Shavous and a happy and safe Memorial Day.

Alex Gurevich, representing District Attorney Eric Gonzales

Orlando Ross, representing Congresswoman Yvette Clarke

- The Congresswoman’s office is in the process of finishing up an art challenge and they have a winner in place. They will also be doing an app challenge.
- They had a great energy roundtable at downstate medical center. There is a lot of funding for people to get into energy sector. There are opportunities to make energy more affordable and

greener. Anyone who wants more information can reach out. There are also tax incentives for people of color and indigenous people.

- The congresswoman's office is at 222 Lenox Road.

Elliot Seigel, representing Congressman Dan Goldman

- This month is Jewish American Heritage Month and AAPI month. This is a time to recognize the contributions of these communities.
- The Congressman has been pressing colleges to audit their spaces to evaluate if there are spaces available for the migrants.
- He also called for the creation of a national federal agency to address gun violence. The goal would be to make ending the epidemic of gun violence a priority, to advance policy recommendation, to conduct policy research and identify gaps in data to prevent gun violence.
- The Congressman has been advocating for a Green New Deal along with Congresswoman Alexandra Ocasio Cortez. To advance a bold agenda to address the existential crisis of building on the success of the Inflation Reduction Act.
He is requesting federal funding for the MTA for a zero-emission bus program.
- There have been reports of a lot of issues in the district relating to USPS and delivery of mail. So, the Congressman sent a letter to the postal inspector. If you have mail stolen, reach out to NYPD and file a report with the postal inspector's office.
- Lastly, the State Department has a long backlog with passport processing. The wait time is 7-9 weeks. We encourage anyone who has a concern to reach out to our office if you need help.
- The Congressman is hosting a Jewish American Heritage event next week.
- He wished everyone a nice Memorial Day Weekend and a good Shavous.

Rabbi Landau, representing Senator Kevin Parker.

- He wished all a Happy Shavous and Memorial Day weekend.

Sol Rieger, representing Assemblymember Simcha Eichenstein.

Chaim Schneider, representing Assemblymember Simcha Eichenstein

- He announced that Eli Slavin from Congresswoman Clarke's office will have hours at the Assemblyman's office to assist with federal issues anyone has.
- Happy Shavous and happy Memorial Day holiday

Ken Lazar, representing NYC Department of Buildings

- The Building Department has a new Commissioner, Former Councilman James Oddo. He has been visiting all boroughs and talking to Buildings employees. He will be giving us the tools needed to do our jobs.
- Local Law 152 will be rolling out in CB12. It is time to do the gas piping inspection. People should not wait until the end of the year because plumbers will start taking advantage. Anyone who does not have a one- or two-family home needs to get their plumbing inspected.

First Vice Chair Yakov Kaplan acknowledged National EMS week.

LT. Anthony Almojera, representing FDNY, EMS

- He thanked the First vice chair for acknowledging EMS week.
- He has been making the rounds in the Community Boards to explain what is going on with the EMS. Aside for being an EMS, he is also vice president of the FDNY EMS union, Local 3621. He has been advocating in numerous media outlets for the rights of EMS workers. EMS has 4,000 members and they lose about 10 -15 a week to attrition. The EMS must replace around

1,200 workers. They are understaffed and underfunded. They are paid about \$35k less than FDNY and NYPD. Their death benefits are even less, they get only 3 years.

- These figures directly affect the public. When you call 911 you expect the best people to bring the hospital to you. At this moment, 70% of EMS have less than 5 years' experience. Since the start of the pandemic, 8 EMS workers have committed suicide. There are a lot of people who love doing this job, but they have to work 2-3 jobs to be able to afford to do this.
- We are forgotten about until people are banging their pots and pans because they need us. But now we are banging our pots and pans because we are hungry. We currently have EMT's that are homeless in NYC. The migrant crisis, the homeless crisis, all of it falls on the EMS. They must perform the vital functions to get them off the street.
- What you can do to help is can call your councilman, the mayors office and say that we must take care of EMS. We are asking for equality so we can stabilize the workforce. 20 years ago the EMS would do around 3,000 jobs in a 24-hour period now they get 5,500 on average within a 24-hour period, without an increase in the workforce. The EMS have sacrificed during the pandemic to help the city, the city is taking things away from them. A full third of the service runs on the overnight, because there isn't enough staff.
- EMS does a beautiful job. If anyone would have told him he'd deliver 16 babies he would say they are crazy, but here we are. They need everyone to advocate for them.

OLD BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS:

Old Business

Beth Slepian-Board Member

- She thanked the EMS Lieutenant.
- She raised an old business question, the question of committees. She has been serving on this Community Board for around a year and hasn't not been assigned a committee, which is one of the requirements. She would like to do more to serve the community board.
- She is asking the leadership of this board to please give us more information and let us know how we can participate.

New Business

Avrohom Wolfson-Board Member

- Proposed a motion for Community Board 12 to rename 16th Avenue and 50th Street for Yanky Meyer.

Barry Spitzer- District Manager

- All are doubtless in favor of this motion, but Community Board 12 has a process that we need to go through.

Maria Arettines- Board Member

- She has been a member of the board since May 2021. And has likewise expressed interest in joining several committees want to help with the community she has been a part of for many.
- She wanted to comment on the remarks made by Councilman Yeger. She comes from a family of immigrants and refugees who are now New Yorkers. He should rethink the language he used to describe the asylum seekers who are fleeing persecutions and be mindful of calling them problems rather than people who are fleeing for their lives.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Respectfully submitted by: Gittel Fekete