

## Community Board 1, Queens – Board Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2022

Meeting opens with Chairperson, Marie Torniali at 6:30 p.m.

Marie Torniali, Chairperson - Good evening and welcome to the meeting, it is my pleasure to announce that we have Queens District Attorney, Melinda Katz here.

Melinda Katz, Queens District Attorney – Mary Kate Quinn is here tonight who is Deputy in Domestic Violation, she has been there for many years a leading prosecutor when it comes to Domestic Violence thank her for the work she does. It is Domestic Violence month it is an important thing to know about and acknowledge as part of being Queens DA. I started out a program where the ADAs come out to the community, I believe in order to prosecute well in a community you need to know the neighborhood in which you are working. Tonight, we have William Acevedo-Hernandez, Alexine Ralph, Aaron Gallagher and Skerdjan Bana they are out there working in the courts every single day. It is important what is going on and they have chosen to be here tonight I thank them. Marie and Florence, thank you for having me and for all the work that you do I do keep in touch I will follow up in the communities and in the neighborhoods my community folks go to every community board meeting as well as the community council office meeting. It is so important to know what is going on in my office and that she knows what is going on in the neighborhood. Many of the cases that we get they see one of her community advocates in the area and they say I believe a woman, a mother in church is having problems with her daughter and I believe they are having a trafficking issue can you please call them talk with them and give them information. Utilize the community advocates, they are there for you if you need help to maneuver within the system. I want to acknowledge the homicide, the EMT employee, Alison Russo-Elling. I went to the hospital we have arrested and charged the defendant with murder. The next court appearance is November 29<sup>th</sup>. Yesterday we can a plea bargain for a World War I veteran. We used genetic forensics when bones were found in a backyard of a home and found the family that the individual came from. We went out and used a sketch artist because they had a photo from many years ago when serving in WWI, they aged the photograph and found a witness to the crime of murder. That man has been found and prosecuted for murder, yesterday he got plea bargain of 20 years he is in his late 70's he committed the murder, when he was 29 years old. It is an interesting office; I love the job that I have. It is important that you know, what is going on out there, I get phone calls every day about how the city is moving forward what we are doing to protect people in our streets and in the subways and everywhere in the City of New York. In Queens County, I have brought a steady hand to very turbulent times. I believe if you are selling/getting guns in Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina and bringing them up the iron pipeline and your selling those guns to our children in Queens County, I am finding you, I am prosecuting you and you will be convicted for that crime, at the same time you cannot have the youth picking up the very same guns that we got off the street. They need hope and mentors, and they need people that care deeply about their future which is why we are also using forfeiture funds to fund wrap around services for our youth, to fund crime intervention groups, to fund all of the groups that are out in the street, on the grounds making sure when one shooting happens that five don't follow in retribution. That is a very important part of what we are doing in Queens County. In Queensbridge and Ravenswood, we had 28 people indicted on a 141-count indictment for a conspiracy charge attempted murder on guns. The fight was gang related for territory. I went to Queensbridge on that weekend, we had 141-count indictment (28 people), the relief that I heard from the community that they could go to the park and walk their dog and seniors just sitting there. The same week the Conviction Integrity Unit after a year of investigation, 30 witnesses and thousands of documents found new evidence to show that a man who spent 31 years in jail for a murder that we found new evidence the jury would have come to a different conclusion in the same week we did that indictment and the gentleman walked in court, in handcuffs and walked out in a business suit, vacating that judgement because of the Conviction Integrity Unit. It is a balance, and I am proud of that. In this area we fund Variety Boys & Girls Club, Urban Upbound and Share for Life. We are anxious to know of any other groups that you think are valid for funding and working with the Community. There is a senior scam going on, it sounds like: "Grandma or Grandpa calling on cell phone I am in Florida, or Georgia I have been arrested please send me \$5000 to this wire so they will let me out." I am not telling you not to give grandchildren money, I don't want to get 100 calls tomorrow you told my Grandma not to give me money, but I am saying please trust but verify. Second scam, "This is Queens D.A. Melinda Katz's office, we are investigating you, if you send \$10,000 to this account, we will consider your fine paid in full and will close the investigation." We will never ask you for money, please don't fall for it, hang up, call our office, make sure we know about it. Every single day we pursue justice, we have 33,000 arrests a year, 28,000 arraignments. I have 850 employees and we do it every single day to make sure this borough is safe so that people are held accountable for their crimes. Accountability is not a bad thing, accountability could be that you are selling guns and that we prosecute, accountability could be that you need mental health services, that you need drug rehabilitation services, or that you are a Veteran who fought for this country, you deserve the right to go into Veteran's court because you committed crimes because you need help or because you see no other way that you see to put food on your table. It is also looking into former crimes because we can't be so arrogant to think that our system doesn't make mistakes, all of that is accountability and we try to do it in a very fair and balanced way, you can have fairness and equity in the courtroom and safe streets, don't let anyone tell you can't. Thank you for having me tonight, my email: [katz@queensda.org](mailto:katz@queensda.org).

Marie Torniali, Chairperson – Thank you so much for being here. Does anyone have any questions.

### Q&A

Constituent – Son is 14 years old; issue need escalation – traumatic issue gun – fear of another child with gun and is concerned.

Melinda Katz – Police investigation, Kate will take your name, sons name, look up and get status, seek camera info. Please have the Domestic Violence Hotline information and call ask for services, for help. You can call: 718-286-4410 for social services or ADA Domestic Violence 24 hours/7 days.

## **PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS:**

Mary Kate Quinn, Deputy Domestic Violence - Thank you and thank you to DA Katz, to the DA Community District Division and to all of you the members and Board of Community Board 1. I am truly so grateful to DA Katz for the opportunity to speak with you the community members. She has made it a priority for her administration to have the ADAs out in the community, not just so you can hear from us, but that so we can hear from you. Whenever I have an opportunity to speak on her behalf and to represent the Domestic Violence Bureau (DVB), I start by delivering a message that DA Katz has delivered to survivors of domestic violence on so many occasions. It is really a simple message, but it is important. Her message is: you are not alone, we are here to help, no one deserves to suffer in silence. It is the message that DA Katz delivered to survivors of domestic violence (DV) when she promised to work collaboratively to keep them safe. It is the message she delivered to survivors of domestic violence in the early days of the pandemic when she created the 24-hour Domestic Helpline that she just mentioned to you. I want to re-emphasize how important that helpline is. That helpline guarantees survivors of domestic violence access to Assistant District Attorneys in the DVB 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. No one will ever have to feel alone. As DA Katz mentioned if you call that helpline, you will be given two options. Option 1 is to speak to a specially trained Assistant DA of the DVB. If you just want to speak to an advocate to get support or counseling or maybe to speak to someone not connected to law enforcement, that option is available too, 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. As DA Katz said earlier that number is (718) 286-4410. On the table over there, is a little palm card with information about that helpline. When we tell you, you are not alone, I think it is important for the members of Queens County to know who is fighting for survivors of DV in Queens. What you may not know is that it is a true team effort. The DA's office knows that we cannot do this alone and as DA Katz often says we cannot just prosecute our way out of problems, we have to work together with the community. The DVB is housed in The Queens Family Justice Center, which is home not just to the DVB, but it is run by the Mayor's Office to end domestic and gender-based crimes. It is designed to be a true one stop shop for survivors of domestic violence. When we say we are a one stop shop we really mean it. We are a walk-in center, no appointment necessary. We are open Monday through Friday from 9am to 5pm. When you come to the Family Justice Center they are not just met by the DA's Office. There are case managers, they offer case management, economic empowerment, counseling, civil legal assistance as well as criminal legal assistance. There are DV Prevention Officers, case managers, civil attorneys, to help you navigate Family Court. To make our services even more accessible to survivors of domestic violence, we provide free childcare while someone meets with the member of the Family Justice Center. When I tell you about our team I want to start with the DVB. Start with the ADAs. If you or someone you love reports that they have been abused by an intimate partner, I can promise that the case will be assigned to an ADA who is trained to understand the dynamics of power and control and the cycle of abuse. Someone who recognizes the trauma that is associated with domestic violence, and the pressures that someone may face from their family members, friends, or community. Someone who will take the time to get to the root of the problem and to provide support to keep you or your family member safe. Our ADAs know that the abuse can be emotional, physical, sexual, psychological, economic, or social. They know that not every problem can be solved by the courts. What they want to do is empower the survivors of DV, empower people who report, so they can make decisions for what is best for their family, or their particular situation. When we tell you that we handle a large number of cases, it is important to understand just how vast that number is. We handle six thousand reports of DV that result in arrests every year. In serving those survivors of DV our partners at The Family Justice Center (TFJC) play such an important role. After someone meets with an ADA, they are referred to what is called Family Justice Center front line staff. A member of the of the front-line staff will conduct a screening interview of the victim. They will assess the person's need and then assign them to a case manager from a specific organization. Someone who is going to come up with a safety plan for the person that is specifically tailored to their needs. That might be a case manager from Safe Horizon the largest DV victims support agency in the country or a more culturally specific organization. Some of our partners include American Family Support Center, Garden of Hope, the Korean American Service Center, Sanctuaries for Families, or even The Women's Prison Association. That is just to name a few of our partners. We can promise you that you will be met by someone dedicated to you or your family member being safe and informed. Someone who knows that DV affects people of every age, background, gender, status, and religion. Someone who will take the time to understand the individual situation, to be sensitive for any cultural or specific issues, and who recognizes that each situation is different and will help the survivor safety plan. We and TFJC knows that safety planning is different for every individual. For some that might mean finding shelter, housing, obtaining a lock change, relocating to another county or sometimes even another state. Some people come to TFJC just in search of support, counseling, having the opportunity to speak to someone who will support your mental and emotional well-being. Whatever an individual person's concern is we will find a way to help. These services do not depend on your cooperation with the criminal service justice system and all of these services are available to survivors of DV regardless of whether they want their abusers arrested or if they want to participate in the criminal prosecution. If someone has concerns about employment, or finances they might be referred to job training, get resume assistance, self-sufficiency training, or may be given free computer and internet access. Perhaps they will be referred to educational program, help with budgeting, career planning, even English as a second language. If someone needs help navigating family court, dealing with custody issues, obtaining a Civil Order of Protection, child support, divorce proceeding, visitation, housing proceedings, we have free legal service assistance. Truly, whatever issue someone presents there is someone at The Family Service Justice Center willing to help. Something I want everyone in this room to know, we would never ask anyone their immigration status. No services are dependent on wanting their abuser prosecuted, no services are dependent on someone being here legally. We work closely with The Office of Immigrant Affairs to make sure that all survivors are treated fairly and to receive the support they need regardless of their status. We have spent a lot of time speaking about survivors of DV and the services that are available to them. I also think it is important to discuss our approach to defendants. We train our ADAs to know that behind each one of those six thousand DV files is a family. There is a DV survivor and a defendant. Whenever possible we want to do what we can to intervene and break the cycle of DV before it escalates. We know that jail is not always the answer. In our



efforts to combat intimate partner DV we emphasize alternatives to incarceration. For example, we partner with Department of Probation in a program unique to Queens County, called The Queens County Interim Domestic Violence Team. That team seeks to change defendants' abusive behavior by utilizing a trauma informed approach and having specially trained officers create programs for DV defendants. The program combines accountability. Accountability is important in breaking the cycle of DV. Having the defendant take accountability is of paramount importance. These programs combine accountability and support. In addition, under DA Katz's leadership in the last 2 years we began participating in a program run by The Fortune Society, called the Abusive Partners Intervention Program. It is the first free program in Queens County to address DV issues, focus on the cycle of violence, power and control and accountability. Just as the interim probation team does, this program also focuses on the individual defendant and creates an individualized program in an attempt to break that cycle of DV. We have numerous substance abuse, alcohol programs, as well as mental health services for defendants. Our programs are available in variety of languages. We are confident that our continued investment in these programs in these alternatives to incarceration will create lasting change and that will break the cycle of DV. At the same time, we want to make sure that the office is holding the most violent and serious defendants accountable. To further our goal in stopping DV and making sure that we are focusing on the most serious crimes we use a risk-based approach in analyzing DV. We review each individual case for nationally recognized risk factors. Some of these risk factors include a history of strangulation, threats to kill, access to firearms and certain controlling behaviors. We know it is important to continue to educate ourselves so that we can improve our understanding of these risks and improve the way we respond to serve our survivors. Some of the things we have done under the leadership of DA Katz is we joined The Citywide Strangulation Round Table which is for developing best practices for responding to strangulation cases. We partner with the FDNY, NYPD, New York City Health and Hospitals, and other DA offices to come up with the best approach and continue our education. We also partner with the Mayor's Office and NYPD with the coordinated approach to preventing stalking which is considered an intimate partner homicide prevention program. It focuses on intervening and providing services to survivors of stalking. DA Katz has also re-vamped the Domestic Violence Beeper Program making sure that an ADA specially trained in DV is on-call 24hr/day and 7 days /week to enhance the most violent DV cases. One of the things we are most proud of about this program is that we work closely with NYPD to apply for a search warrant that have resulted in the recovery of many illegal firearms used by DV abusers. We are proud of this because we know that a risk factor is access to firearms. The risk of DV homicide is increased 500% if the abuser has access to a firearm. We are absolutely committed to making families safe. My hope is that our presence here and our presence in the community, that DA Katz focuses so much and emphasizes so much, encourages survivors to have faith in us and to come forward and report. To leave you with a final message, we hope that you know that we are here for survivors, we are here for you. At the height of the pandemic, we never stopped collaborating to keep survivors of DV safe, instead we ramped up our efforts. We will never stop collaborating to keep survivors safe. We are a team, and we are dedicated to making sure that survivors of DV know that what DA Katz says is true. They are not alone; we are here to help. Thank you for having me and if anyone has any questions, I would be happy to answer.

Marie Torniali, Chairperson – Thank you for being here with all this important and valuable information. Does anyone have any questions? (Hearing none, she introduced Joy Resor)

Joy Resor, Department of City Planning – Brief update. There was an Information Session last night, the Mayor announced City of Yes 3 layers of items discussed. First, Zoning for Zero Carbon, entering Public Review in 2023, the second, Zoning for Economic Development which supports small businesses certify later text 2023 and the final, Zoning Housing Opportunity, entering Public Review in 2024. You can go on the DCP website for more information. On October 24<sup>th</sup> there will be another session.

Marie Torniali, Chairperson – Are you doing individual presentation to the Boards and are all the sessions online?

Joy Resor – All the information is online, and they will have other sessions, individually.

### Q&A

Dominic Stiller – What was the first Zoning for Zero Carbon, Economic Development 2<sup>nd</sup> item review, would like a few examples.

Joy Resor – Go to the Information Session on October 24<sup>th</sup>. Examples are similar to the gym text amendment and text amendment for business establishments and go to their website.

Richard Khuzami – I saw the item, read online, there will be a change of role for Community Boards/Borough President's Office within the ULURP process prior to certification and the environmental review end of process.

Joy Resor – I need to look into this.

Dominic Stiller – How far along are they?

Joy Resor – They are early on in the process.

Marie Torniali, Chairperson – Are they available to be viewed later on?

Joy Resor – Yes, they are.

Marie Torniali, Chairperson - Please send a link.

Miles (Constituent) – Diversify the housing supply, what do you mean?

Joy Resor – Looking at different ways to use densities of neighborhood. Please come out, have your voices heard.

Diana Limongi – ADUs, can you clarify?

Joy Resor – It is an Accessory Drawing Unit, legalized in California, Granny flats, detached garages for apartments.

Marie Torniali, Chairperson – We can send all questions, thank you so much.

Joy Resor – Yes, after session I will send the link.

Marie Torniali, Chairperson - Allie Gumas is here from Department of Sanitation.

Allie Gumas, Department of Sanitation - Composting curbside composting has begun in Queens. Brown bins ordering ended you may use your own kitchen containers are available. Decals available, new recycle tag also – overflow garden waste in brown bag.

Antonella Di Saverio – Sanitation workers taking photos, why?

Allie Gumas – Possible inspector, waste for each district preliminary dates possibly.

Diana Limongi – A lot of confusion in groups about the bins, they are big, not full. Can we use plastic bags?

Allie Gumas – You may set out any amount of items, plastic bag liners can be used best to have on waste container. Machine shreds material sorted skimmed just like recycle separation.

Adam Fisher-Cox – Curious, building owners is there special owner large building outreach?

Allie Gumas – Yes for what we have every building with 10 or more units was sent the information.

Rod Townsend – Pet excrement is not part of the program?

Allie Gumas – No feces

Dominic Stiller – Schools Compost?

Allie Gumas – Separate timeline source adjustment expansion in progress.

Diana Limongi – Local school PTA District 30 have taking initiative until rollout, PS 17.

Marie Torniali, Chairperson – Thank you for the information and please give us your email again.

Allie Gumas - Email is: [agumas@dsny.gov](mailto:agumas@dsny.gov)

Marie Torniali, Chairperson – Thank you, any other questions?

Ana (Constituent) – Large buildings that do not clean properties, new building compost used as trash, any effort from DSNY?

Allie Gumas - Call 311 – Team goes out and give tickets.

Marie Torniali, Chairperson – Suggest you call the Community Board office at: 718-626-1021. Thank you again to Allie.

#### **Chair Report:**

Marie Torniali, Chairperson - The only report I have is, please use the microphone. Last month no one used the microphone during the meeting and were not heard or recorded (for the YouTube).

#### **District Manager Report:**

Florence Koulouris, District Manager – I would like to begin with a moment of silence for Captain Russo who was an EMS employee of 24 years of service. She was a victim of a homicide, a terrible tragedy. Last night, a very important event happened, with Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez for student debt, what it is doing to the Youth. The site went live to relieve students of debt, the loans are forgiven and for the parents as well, this is historical. The site is: <https://studentaid.gov/>

#### **Committee Reports:**

Dino Panagoulis, Consumer Affairs Committee – Confirmed everyone received Liquor License Excel Sheet. He reported that there were no concerns and no Committee Meeting this month. Requested a **Motion to approve**.  
**Seconded by Antonella Di Saverio**

Marie Torniali, Chairperson – Any objections, seeing none, the Motion carries.

Rod Townsend, Legal, Legislative, Parliamentary Committee – I want to make sure everyone knows and are clear the Bylaws are online. We will have a meeting at a later time to discuss goals and aspirations.

Antonella Di Saverio, Environmental/Sanitation Committee – No meeting for November

Dominic Stiller, Transportation Committee – On September 28<sup>th</sup>, Tiffany Caban hosted a meeting at District Office. Participatory Budget: Street Safety and cultural raised not painted crosswalk, light under train, awareness of good transportation, extend summer streets to outer Boroughs. The Committee is planning a meeting on Wednesday, November 9, 2022, agenda not solidified.

### **Old/New Business:**

Marie Torniali, Chairperson – FY2024 Capital/Expense present as written unless someone has an objection.

Antonella Di Saverio – Number 46 move to 25 or 26- EMF forgoing radiation study close to schools effect.

Richard Khuzami – Bike Ramp access to the RFK Bridge (suggested).

Marie Torniali, Chairperson – That is a Capital Project if no one objects

Dominic Stiller – I second that.

Rosemary Yelton – Questioned number 52.

Diana Limongi – Cannot access Randall's Island from Queens side by public transportation.

Marie Torniali, Chairperson – We will follow up with the Board. A Motion to approve the Capital and Expense with these two changes.

**Motioned by: Amin Mehedi, Seconded by: Dino Panagoulas**

### **ELECTED OFFICIALS/REPRESENTATIVES – Announcements:**

#### **Farah Salam, Office of Council Member Julie Won:**

- Updates since last meeting
  - Constituent Services
    - We hosted Hurricane Town Hall + Rain Barrel Giveaway (we gave away over 100!)
    - Water Inflatable Barrier giveaway - provided over 200 barriers to constituents living in high flood zones
    - Collecting donations for asylum seekers and refugees throughout district
      - We've already provided over 1700 backpacks and are now looking to provide new clothing, baby items, coats, shoes, and winter clothing
      - Currently accepting donations at 6 different locations
      - [https://www.instagram.com/p/CjRHY5PuSSy/?utm\\_source=ig\\_web\\_copy\\_link](https://www.instagram.com/p/CjRHY5PuSSy/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link)
    - Seeking volunteers + interns
      - To volunteer: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd9dCbWLAIN88fLHDJka-LFpNI32K75UJyHxdoEGjDTuyA5A/viewform>
      - To intern: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeMfFSLMxSOsvI1CHVjeVIOCA-XDFJadC92rMALuCXs\\_pBWmxg/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeMfFSLMxSOsvI1CHVjeVIOCA-XDFJadC92rMALuCXs_pBWmxg/viewform)
    - Press Conference re: Woodside Houses
    - Walkthrough at parks + ensuring fixes are made (re: Murray Park)
    - We will be beginning a program with CUNY Law, where we will host a housing lawyer once every other week to provide 1-1 services to constituents in the district. If you or anyone you know needs assistance, please contact our office to make an appointment ([district26@council.nyc.gov](mailto:district26@council.nyc.gov) or (718) 383-9566.
  - Legislation
    - Big Apple Connect
      - Launch of free Wi-Fi and cable for NYCHA residents. QB and Woodside Houses will be the first 2 pilots in District 26
      - Continuing assisting individuals with ACP sign ups - available for all community members
    - NYCHA Contracts Committee
  - Budget
    - Announced the Council's allocation of \$1 million to abortion funding and wrap-around supports to ensure the protection and safety for folks everywhere
    - Participatory Budgeting
    - Hosted 3 sessions and a 4th virtual session that will be available on our site and social media
    - To be a PB volunteer: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe7vjJA70i-dBqpfQiTwHTo3cFM26zuWtFV9QR-7\\_QNoDyJQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe7vjJA70i-dBqpfQiTwHTo3cFM26zuWtFV9QR-7_QNoDyJQ/viewform)



To contact our office: [district26@council.nyc.gov](mailto:district26@council.nyc.gov), (718) 383-9566

To volunteer, please complete this form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd9dCbWLAIN88fILHDJka-LFpNI32K75UJyHxdoEGjDTuyA5A/viewform>

To apply to be an intern, please complete this form:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeMfFSLMxSOsvI1CHVjeVIOCAXDFJadC92rMAluCXs\\_pBWmxg/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeMfFSLMxSOsvI1CHVjeVIOCAXDFJadC92rMAluCXs_pBWmxg/viewform)

To be involved with participatory budgeting, please click here:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe7vjJA70i-dBqpfQiTwHTo3cFM26zuWtFV9QR-7\\_QNoDyJQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe7vjJA70i-dBqpfQiTwHTo3cFM26zuWtFV9QR-7_QNoDyJQ/viewform)

To submit ideas for Participatory Budgeting:

<http://ideas.pbnyc.org/15/40.75020/-73.93556>

Thank you, and happy Halloween!

**Oriana Shulevitz Rosado, Office of Council Member Tiffany Cabán:**

Participatory Budgeting and **final** PB idea collection event. Our event will be on Zoom this **Wednesday, 10/19, at 7pm**. Please register here: [bit.ly/ZoomCommunityConvo](https://bit.ly/ZoomCommunityConvo). If you aren't able to come to this event, we'll also be collecting ideas online through the end of the month. These can be physical infrastructure projects (ex: school/park/library upgrades) or programmatic projects (ex: classes, equipment). Submit online here: <http://ideas.pbnyc.org/page/about>.

**Angela Sherpa, Office of Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez:**

- Bronx Town Hall Livestream:

[https://m.youtube.com/channel/UC6XBnYptBnproA\\_vdn-b0A](https://m.youtube.com/channel/UC6XBnYptBnproA_vdn-b0A)

- Congressional App Challenge:

<https://ocasio-cortez.house.gov/services/congressional-app-challenge>

- Service Academy Nominations:

<https://ocasio-cortez.house.gov/services/military-academy-nominations>

- To contact the office of Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez, you can reach us at 718-662-5970.

- Our office is open for walk-ins 9-5 M-Th.

**Emily Lemmerman, Office of Assembly Member Zohran K. Mamdani:**

The City announced a new debt relief program for taxi medallion owners, and the deadline for drivers who have loans with Marblegate (also known as Fieldpoint or Dapalma), which owns an estimated over 70% of active taxi medallion loans, has been extended. Drivers can apply by making a Legal Services appointment through the Taxi & Limousine Commission (TLC)'s Driver Resource Portal: <https://portal.driverresourcecenter.tlc.nyc.gov/>

- Our office is currently a party to the Con Edison Rate Case, which is an ongoing process between New York State and the utility company, which determines how ConEd can set our gas and electric rates. Currently, Con Edison is proposing a rate increase of approximately \$58.78 per month for gas + electric combined for the average household, starting in 2023. We are gathering comments from constituents at [bit.ly/NoConEdRateHike](https://bit.ly/NoConEdRateHike), and have already heard from over 300 constituents. Please submit your own comment and share the form widely!

- As usual, please reach out to our office at 718-545-3889, or at [ad36@nyassembly.gov](mailto:ad36@nyassembly.gov) for support with issues related to housing, unemployment, and healthcare.

**PUBLIC SESSION:**

Rudy Sarchese – Issues in the Community with the restaurant and cafes, rodent issue problem for Ditmars also Broadway. A lot of garbage along Astoria Boulevard, 42<sup>nd</sup> Street to 49<sup>th</sup> Street, St. Michaels BQE cemetery. RVs with no license plates on 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue - 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue, crime is awful. Astoria Homeowners Meeting is on October 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. in the Pistilli Building. I am working with Florence on this matter through the office.

Lena (Constituent) – Moved to NY 8 years ago, moved 7 times because of rent increases. It was recommended I come to the meeting, raise the issue and concern.

George Alexiou – Thanksgiving Greek Homeowners Association. This year the food will be given between the hours 12-4 p.m., portions set to go, turkey, potatoes vegetables, sweet bread, salad that day at: 23-49 31<sup>st</sup> Street, across PS 85.

Marie Torniali, the Chair asked for a Motion to Adjourn

**Motioned by Richard Khuzami; Seconded by Dino Panagoulis**

**Meeting Adjourned: 8:15 p.m.**

**ATTENDANCE FULL BOARD MEETING**

<u>Community Board Member</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abs.</u>	<u>Community Board Member</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abs.</u>
Helene Abiola		✓		Chelsea Lopez			E
George Alexiou	✓			Huge Ma			E
Daniel Aliberti			E	Jeffrey Martin		✓	
Louise Bordley		✓		Sam Massol		✓	
Ann Bruno			E	Amin Mehedi	✓		
Gerald Caliendo			E	Antonio Meloni			E
Jean Marie D'Allewa		✓		Andreas Migias			E
Tenzin Dechen	✓			Doreen Mohammed		✓	
Antonella Di Saverio	✓			Eric Mouchette			E
Katie Ellman		✓		Stella Nicolaou	✓		
Elizabeth Erion	✓			Dino Panagoulis	✓		
Mackenzi Farquer	✓			Juliet Payabyab	✓		
Dean Feratovic	✓			RoseMarie Poveromo			E
Adam Fisher-Cox	✓			Brian Romero		✓	
Tyrone Gardner		✓		Thomas Ryan			E
Shahenaz Hamde			E	Dominic Stiller	✓		
Evie Hantzopoulos		✓		Andre Stith		✓	
Amy Hau	✓			Marie Torniali	✓		
Helen Ho		✓		Rod Townsend	✓		
Vanessa Jones-Hall			E	Judy Trilivas			E
Richard Khuzami	✓			Kathleen Warnock			E
Cristina Lastres	✓			Corinne Wood-Haynes			E
Diana Limongi	✓			Rosemary Yelton	✓		

Number Board Members Present 19Present 19Absent 12Excused 15