

**Community Board 1 Queens Full Board / Public Hearing Meeting Transcript
Tuesday June 16, 2026**

Present:

Ingrid Baquero
Kian Betancourt
Christina Chaise
Alma Cruz
Eleni Desiervo
Elizabeth Erion
Robert Feltault
Dean Feratovic
Adam Fisher-Cox
Frank Fredericks
Shahenaz Hamde
Evie Hantzopoulos
Christopher Hanway
Amy Hau
Jacqueline Ibarra
Richard Khuzami
Athanasios Magoutas

Patricia Mahecha
Gabriella Malave
Amin Mehedi
Andreas Migias
Stella Nicolaou
Dino Panagoulas
Phyllis Parra
Juliet Payabyab
Plinia Sarchese
Dominic Stiller
Marie Torniali
Ryan Van Manen
Mario Vergara
Kathleen Warnock
Hassan Yousuf
Pablo Zuniga
Excused
Daniel Aliberti

Michelle Amor
Cristian Batres
Gerald Caliendo
Tyrone Gardner
Huge Ma
Brian Martinez
RoseMarie Poveromo
Quinella Williams
Selena Witcher
Corinne Wood-Haynes
Absent
Antonio Alfonso
Jean Marie D'Alleva
Julie Drexler Johnson
Stacey Eliuk
Katie Ellman
Thomas Ryan

Board Staff:

Florence Koulouris, District Manager

Elected Official / Representatives:

Borough President Donovan Richards – Clare Collins
Senator Kristen Gonzalez - Katie Loeb
Assembly Member Steven Raga -Arianna Hernandez
Congress Member Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez – Jeff Montoya
Assembly Member Diana Moreno – Justin Martinez
District Attorney Melinda Katz – Jackie Rozado

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: Meeting called to order at 6:30pm. The Chairwoman presented the agenda.

Item # 1: BSA Cal. No 557-48-BZ 34-29/34 31st Street. Request reinstatement of a variance to continue garage and motor vehicle repair shop uses and secure a waiver to apply for a pre 1961 use that expired more than 10 years ago. YouTube marker 0:01:50

Alexia Landesman - The lots (16 & 17) are located in an R5 zoning district which only permits residential. The business, which is a gas station/ auto body repair shop located on lot 17, was established in 1949 before zoning lots were allocated, so it was grandfathered in. Lot 16 is a two-family two-story residential building owned by the same person. Both lots are subject to the same variance application. BSA, has a rule that requires the applicant of a BSA application to go back to the board every so often to request a reinstatement or renewal of the old variance. This variance has been in front of the board over the course of many years, however, the original owner passed away so the sons who inherited the property are putting the property into compliance. Typically, if 10 years or more go by without an approved variance, BSA requires that the entire variance application process be restarted. Because this is pre 1961 zoning resolution, BSA has a mechanism that allows us to reinstate this zoning variance if we meet the following findings: the auto body repair shop has been in continuous use for the course of the expired variance; there would be substantial prejudice if the variance application is not reinstated; it is consistent with the character of the neighborhood. The applicant has met all three findings. They have contracts showing they have remained in business; they have been in business since 1949; the street where the shop is located is residential and manufacturing so it fits the character. Nothing is changing about the business. Everything remains exactly the same.

Question & Answers - YouTube marker 0:08:07

Dominic Stiller - Requested that cars not be parked on the sidewalk.

Alexia Landesman - The issue has been taken up with the tenant and it will be part of the BSA approval that the site be kept clean and no cars be parked on the sidewalk.

Kathleen Warnock - Has the same family operated the shop and how many employees.

Alexia Landesman - The same family owns the sites but different tenants have operated the shop. The number of employees will be sent to the board.

Christopher Hanway - Requested information on the residential home on the site.

Alexia Landesman - The residence doesn't actually fit into the plan substantively, but the residence was included in the original variance application.

Adam Fisher-Cox - Once the variance is approved, what mechanism is available to ensure the tenant complies with the safety requirement included in the BSA language?

Alexia Landesman - 311 is the mechanism to make complaints. This site has no complaints at this moment and the owners will be diligent in ensuring the tenant keeps it that way.

Elizabeth Erion - Informed the board that the motion discusses changing the term of the variance to a five year term from a 10 year term as a tool to ensure the owner remains in compliance regarding double parking; parking on the sidewalk etc.

Alexia Landesman - Please take note that it is extremely costly for a small business to go through this process every 5 years. With manufacturing and auto body repair shops being so prevalent in this area, it is clear that the site was mis-zoned. Typically the board grants a 10 year term because they understand the financial strain on small businesses to file these extensions.

No Public Comments

#2: Ravenswood Community Land Trust is seeking a letter of support to submit with their application to New York State to do a study under the Brownfield Opportunity Funding. YouTube marker 0:15:44

Lorenzo Brea: Ravenswood Community Land Trust is a 501c3 organization with a mission of gaining control of the Ravenswood community by the Ravenswood residents. The area we are studying is four blocks which houses 4,000 plus NYCHA residents - 42% are on fixed incomes. The sanitation garage is located directly in the center. In 2017, the mayor and (Council Member) Van Bramer

announced that they were going to relocate the sanitation garage. In 2020, during visioning sessions we founded Ravenswood Community Land Trust. A large part of our work is centered on environmental exposure. In 1852 Sunswick Creek was a navigable, healthy, clean creek on Algonquin land. Over time pollution, industrial waste, the building of the Queensboro Bridge, and then the structural racism and neglect caused it to deteriorate. In 1926 a municipal incinerator was built. In 1931 the sanitation garage was built. In 1942, it became a dumping ground for metal scrap for World War II. In 1951, Ravenswood Houses were built. This is the context of what the Ravenswood community has been living with for the entire duration of our existence. Garbage and waste is flowing where children play. The RCLT wants to reclaim that land and turn it into the Ravenswood Community Power Center. We are now looking for funding to continue our planning. We need a letter from the Community Board to include with the application to designate the site as a brownfield.

Questions & Answers - YouTube marker 0:23:58

Amy Hau - Asked about the timeline for designating the site as a brownfield and what the mitigation process would entail.

Lorenzo Brea - There are four steps to the Brownfield Opportunity Area program. First the site is designated. The second stage is to create a plan, a community vision with goals and strategies for the revitalization of that area. Stages three and four are continuing forward with the implementation of the plan. The application was released two weeks ago which is why we are coming before you now. If we receive this funding between one and three years, we'll be completing this first step, and then hopefully we will be continuing through the next few steps. We of course need to wait for DSNY to relocate, which is going to take some advocacy through the community board, as well as city officials.

Adam Fisher-Cox - Requested more information about what the funding would be used for.

Lorenzo Brea - Initially and primarily the funding will be used to establish the level of pollution in the land and water running through Sunswick Creek and the impact it is having on the Ravenswood community. They will want to understand mitigation and what can happen in the future. The RCLT would do the study.

Ryan Van Manen - Asked if RCLT has a site characterization that was done when the garage was built and requested what type of redevelopment could happen on the site and what uses the community is seeking.

Lorenzo Brea - The City has not yet put money in the budget to move the garage to the new location at Luyster Creek near Riker's Island. So they haven't done a study of the land or the condition of the building. We worked with the Pratt Institute to survey Ravenswood residents on what their needs are. Responses included: community resources; after school programming; elderly care; art and music studios; workforce training. If we are awarded the grant we will outline the specific needs of the community going forward.

Kathleen Warnock - Raised the issue of people's health as part of the impact of the pollution.

Lorenzo Brea - Health impacts are absolutely part of our planning. One idea is to seek reparations from the Ravenswood generating station for the pollution they have caused.

Richard Khuzami - Wanted the specific names of contractors who would be working with RCLT and whether or not New York City parkland would be included.

Lorenzo Brea - RCLT has been working with the Collective for Community Culture and Environment. They are composed completely of women, architects, consultants and public urban planners that do this work pro bono. They're responsible for our partnership with the Pratt Institute and they're also responsible for these presentations. They are just one of the entities we will work with going forward.

Eleni Desiervo - Asked who owned the land; how the land would be transferred and if New York City supported the project.

Lorenzo Brea - The Department of Sanitation has the rights to the site. When the garage relocates, the land will likely go into DCAS. That may be five years from now. RCLT is making the application now to have the best chance of regaining control of the land for the Ravenswood residents. When the Mayor was an Assemblymember, he recognized RCLT as did many of the local officials. The Brownfield Opportunity Area is just one study of this land. RCLT plans to carry out several studies to understand the impact the garage had on the community and how to reverse the negative impact.

Marie Torniali - Asked for clarification on whether the application is for funding or to designate the area as a brownfield.

Lorenzo Brea - The request is for a resolution of support from Community Board 1 for our application for the Brownfield Opportunity Area program for the grant to do a study of the area.

Chris Hanway - Asked if an environmental scientist would be involved in the actual environmental study designating the site as a brownfield.

Answer- The grant would cover scientific analysis of the pollution the land has gone through and equal, if not large sense of neglect that the community has experienced up to this point, which can be determined not by any scientists, but by organizers or by residents in the community themselves and being as though we are founded and led and comprised of people from Ravenswood that that's going to take a lot of that work. RCLT has already executed studies of this nature in terms of the pollution of water or land through the community for the collective for community culture and environment.

Public Session - YouTube marker 0:43:50

Debbie Rigas - Presented a petition requesting that the 2027 Astoria Carnival be moved to a larger location than the Astoria Parking Lot to accommodate the growing crowd.

Kimberly Uweh, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services - Provided information on medicare basics and the prevention of waste, fraud and abuse. Offering handouts regarding open enrollment in the fall.

Dani Wachtel - Opposed to the bike lanes on 31st and 30th. The bike lane is dangerous for pedestrians. Requested more enforcement.

Anna Kril - Spoke in favor of moving the Astoria Park Festival

You know the situation. It is horrendous and it's out of control and the crowds are just too large. While

Lisa Pifanis -Spoke in favor of moving Astoria Park Carnival.

Magda Zoto - Spoke in favor of moving the Astoria Festival.

Medina Del Castillo, founding principal of the proposed High School for Social Entrepreneurship - requests a letter of support to place the High School in Astoria. Astoria needs more high schools, in New York City, there's one high school per 15,000 residents - in northern Astoria, there's about 90,000 and no high school. This high school will be the first of its kind focused on social entrepreneurship.

Lida Ramos - Spoke against the proposed tennis bubble in Astoria Park.

Neil Herdan, Friends of Whitey Ford - Spoke in favor of moving the Astoria Park Festival and possibly stopping it. Announced a new history book club on What's App; a puppet show on July 8th from 2-3 pm. That's from 2 to 3:00. We've had a very exciting project. I've been working with Frank Sinatra High School of the Arts.

Peter Dimarco - Spoke in favor of moving the Astoria Park Festival.

Ronnie K. Miner - Contractor who will be sending a memo about 8th Street and Astoria Boulevard needing to be paved.

Anna DeBariolo - Spoke in favor of moving the Astoria Park Festival.

Jerome Basile - Reminded the board that Shore Boulevard is Shore Memorial Veterans Boulevard. Complaint about access to the bocce ball courts and parking.

Matthew Ryba - Spoke in favor of moving the Astoria Park Festival.

Joan DiMarco - Spoke in favor of moving the Astoria Park Festival.

Arely Hernandez, Liaison for Astoria Love Family Enrichment Center. Reminding everyone that all services are free, the phone number is (347) 396-5531.

Business Section

Motion to approve May 2026 minutes - YouTube marker 1:05:15

Motion - Kian Betancourt Second - Phyllis Parra

Motion passes unanimously

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos - Informed members that if they opted in to the board member contact sheet the list could be found in their packets. If anyone does want to share their information they could email the Chair to be included. Chair reminded that September is capital expense and budget hearings for FY28. Please share the link to the survey with community members so they can inform what issues are important to them in their neighborhood. Reminded the board that a quorum is necessary to start all meetings so try to be prompt.

Florence Koulouris, District Manager - The office reserved the new version of the New York City zoning handbook for every community board member. A digital copy is posted on the Community Board website. The office received a multitude of constituent complaints. The yellow Excel sheet for

community concerns is in your packet. The office analyzed MTA elevated train stops on 31st Street to request the last few bike racks for the corridor and submitted the requests to DOT. There is a new item that you all need to be aware of: Alpha gal syndrome is a type of food allergy that is induced by tick bites. The allergy is to red meat and other products that come from mammals. Serious allergic reactions may need medication such as epinephrine and treatment in an emergency room.

Committee Reports - YouTube marker 1:12:49

Business/Economic Development - No Report

Capital/Expense, Amy Hau - Encouraged chairs to send comments so that the spreadsheet can be prepared for the September public hearing. The September hearing will be at 6pm and the board meeting will start directly after, at 6:30pm.

Communications and Public Outreach - No report

Consumer Affairs, Kathleen Warnock - The places that have submitted applications for either a new or renewal liquor license have no problematic issues. If during the World Cup or other events this summer, a place begins to be particularly problematic, please contact Florence. The committee recommends that all liquor licenses be approved. There were no outdoor applications for June 2026. The cannabis location, Nicklz on Steinway Street is a retail dispensary. The committee has no issue with Nicklz. To answer previous questions the distance a retail establishment is located from churches or schools is regulated by OCM. Another concern is that there are no regulations regarding the number of dispensaries that can be located in the same area. The committee will draft a letter to city and state officials recommending that they establish regulations to address this situation.

Motion to approve all June 2026 liquor license and cannabis applications - YouTube Marker 1:17:50 Marie Torniali Second- Stella Nicolaou

No Discussion

Motion passes with 2 abstentions

Education/Libraries/Youth Services, Amin Mehedi

Amin said he will probably be coming late; we will move on because there is a letter we wanted to vote on. I want him to present it so we will do that when he gets here. (See YouTube Marker 2:02:35)

Environmental and Sanitation, Patricia Mahecha - We heard from the 45th Street Green Space volunteer run community composting and garden project. They are currently seeking a new location and reach out to us the committee for assistance and identify a potential site where they can continue their valuable work and community program. NYC emergency management presented on extreme heat preparedness.

Health and Human Services, Shahenaz Hamde - We will be inviting the Department of Health to the September meeting to discuss the effects of cannabis on other people. Also the NYPD to discuss regulations. Perhaps a joint meeting with public safety.

Housing - No report.

Land Use and Zoning, Elizabeth Erion - **Motion to approve the BSA variance requiring that vehicles waiting to be serviced are prohibited from parking on the sidewalk and that the term of the variance be reduced from ten years to five years. Second - Shahenaz Hamde - YouTube marker 1:24:05**

Discussion

Robert Feltault - Research on NYC Open Data shows 10 different parking related complaints submitted to 311 for the property since 2021 - 2 of them in the last 30 days consisting of illegal parking and blocked driveways. It seems like they will not comply with the restrictions because they didn't keep up the variance and they have had complaints. I have reservations.

Athanasios Magoutas - Mechanic shops are typically not good neighbors in residential areas.

Adam Fisher-Cox - Will be voting no because this facility has historically exhibited unneighborly behavior. There's no real reason to believe that, once this variance is granted, that anything would change regarding that.

Dino Panagoulas - If there are parking violations, we have a mechanism, NYPD facilitates that. This small business has been there for 77 years. I don't think that the owners have any desire to change it into residential which would cost several million dollars. Shutting down a business because cars are parked on the sidewalk when we have a mechanism to address it is insane. Reducing the variance from 10 years to 5 years can cost \$30,000.00. Small businesses can't afford that. I understand the concerns but trying to cost the small business their money to make them bankrupt and ultimately give up their property, that's not what I'm here for on a community board.

Stella Nicolaou - That was a perfect neutral analysis, and we need to support that kind of business and there are mechanisms to handle the negative issues that are coming up. We should not do anything that would bankrupt a business that is part of our neighborhood.

Dominic Stiller - I see both points, but I think as a homeowner, I get violations for certain things. The fact that it went on for 10 years without getting the variance renewed for whatever reason, the responsibility comes back to the building owner. Will vote no.

Christina Chaise - I wholeheartedly second what Dino said.

Kian Betancourt - I'm struggling with this one because I think there's legitimacy on both sides. I don't want to unfairly victimize this place for something that seems to be perpetrated on account of all garages. I think that we should be channeling our energy into making sure that the NYPD actually enforces the rules. That is the mechanism and I do want to make sure that's broadly advocated for.

Richard Khuzami - I agree with Kian - we do need enforcement; I think that is the avenue to take and I'm uncomfortable with somebody losing their business if they don't have a chance to cure the problem first. I think that it isn't up to us to advise people to lose their business or their tenants because of this. Part of this is what leads to so many people in this country feeling the government is working against them. I think you have to temper exactly what we say here to make sure that we allow people to cure something without destroying their business.

Frank Fredericks - As an entrepreneur I appreciate the empowerment of small businesses. One thing I will note is that the variance is about making an exception. To earn an exception one ought to be exceptional. In this case, if they're not being an exceptional neighbor I'm not sure that they weren't the exception. I know it's more complicated than that because these regulations happened after this business was built, but I do not feel with two 311 calls in the last 30 days that this has an exceptional neighbor who warrants the exception of the variance, so I'll be voting in the negative.

Motion carries 26 in favor 6 opposed 0 abstentions

Elizabeth Erion -The letter is as follows: At the June 16th meeting of community board one, the Ravenswood Land Trust presented its application for a Brownfield Opportunity Area grant and requested the board's support.

The grant would fund a study of the environmental and social impacts on the NYCHA Ravenswood housing development area that are associated with the operations of the District 1 sanitation garage on 21st Street. Following the presentation and discussion, a motion to support the application was, (I will fill it in after you have voted) Since 2021, the city acquired a new site to relocate the district 1 garage in the northernmost part of the district and plans to reuse the city-owned site on 21st Street for 100% affordable housing. The plan was agreed to by the surrounding community, the City Council and the department of sanitation at that time. Since then, area residents, and especially the adjacent children's playground and ball courts, have sustained even more vehicular environmental impacts from the continued operation of the garage. Community Board 1 agrees that these impacts must be identified and addressed as well as what the community needs to make their area a suitable residential environment. As the city's plan for the garage evolves, so have the community's needs, which should be reflected in any plan for the reuse of the 21st Street garage site.

That is the letter. You can agree or disagree or modify it if you wish. Second - **Andreas Migias**
YouTube marker 1:45:13

Discussion

Christopher Hanway - I'm inclined to be in favor of this. As somebody who responds to RFPs all the time I have not seen the RFP and the letter says that we were presented with an application but we didn't see the application. We heard about an idea for an application. I just want to be really clear about what we're voting for. I think it's a great idea. It's much needed. I'm fully in support of the

Ravenswood CLT and this proposal. I just want to make sure we're all aware that the language in the letter is not 100% reflective of what we saw today.

Richard Khuzami - If you want to make a friendly amendment we can vote on it.

Elizabeth Erion - I changed the letter to state, "the land trust presented its concept of its application for a brownfield concept for an application."

Motion carries with no abstentions.

Elizabeth Erion - We have our next meeting on September 9th.

Legal/Legislative/Parliamentary - Adam has graciously volunteered to do Robert's Rules of Order training in September.

Parks, Recreation and Cultural, Richard Khuzami - We will be having a meeting on the 24th to discuss the budget.

Public Safety, Christopher Hanway - In our May meeting we heard from the gentleman who was attacked outside of the bar in Astoria and his wife. They discussed the incident and some of the challenges with getting a response from the NYPD and the precinct. We also went line by line through the city's responses to our budget request.

Transportation, Dominic Stiller - I suggest a joint meeting with transportation, public safety and parks about the Astoria Festival. It sounds like they're surmountable. Last night we had a meeting. DOT presented a really compelling program about e-charging stations and battery swapping programs. I hope that the presentation can be forwarded to the full board. We have a letter here about a presentation that the transportation committee saw on March 11th, and because there was some back and forth whether it would be presented tonight or not, it wasn't, but we made sure that the full presentation was sent to the entire board. There's a color synopsis of the Queens Link presentation along with a letter of support. We're very supportive of what we think is a very good presentation which combines modifications to the public transportation system, with the M train going south to Rockaway and other changes. We'd like to send this letter that's in your package to the MTA in support of the Queens Link. second - **Eleni Desiervo** **YouTube marker 1:53:41**

Discussion

Christina Chaise - I'm just wondering if our board did any outreach to the other community boards that would be impacted to assess and survey like how they feel about it and ways in which we can support any community benefits agreements that might be happening across Queens.

I think this is great, but is this just a pathway to make it easier to go to the casino? Wonderful for the casino, but what are the investments for the actual community besides making it easier to gamble?

Kian Betancourt - One of the main benefits right now is that a lot of the Queens Boulevard lines terminate at 71st Forest Hills. If you know anything about trains, it's an awful terminus because there's only two tracks. If you've ever been on any of these Queens Boulevard trains, oftentimes, the reason they start slowing down toward there is because they have to wait for the other trains to turn around. They have to do what's called fumigation, which is what happens at 71st. The benefit of doing this would be that you would effectively allow the G to be able to actually go to Forest Hills, because it would alleviate some capacity by sending the M further. The benefit would be that the G would not just terminate at Court Square. It would actually be able to go throughout Queens and get everyone throughout Queens to Brooklyn, with much easier trips. That's why you see the G train shown there. The other benefit with the M is to be able to get to the Rockaways - so easier like beach access for people who want to get out there. Also, it would add four new train stations in what is mostly a subway desert. So it would extend the M train to that effect. and its relief on the Queens Boulevard line. It would alleviate congestion and benefit a lot of people who ride along that line,

Richard Khuzami - When you build out infrastructure it's a positive. They're talking about four subway interchanges on this. You create new commercial districts by doing that. You create an economic engine. Things like this are positive - not just getting around, but you want economic development, small business, residents. you'll be able to build housing in these places and maybe take some of the responsibility for dense housing out of our district and spread it out more throughout Queens, So, I think it's a great idea.

Adam Fisher-Cox - I just wanted to add for context, because it's not immediately clear without reading the details that this is mostly almost entirely existing right of way, not that the rails are in great shape to run already, but there was a train line here. Much like the Interboro Express project, that's kind of connecting Queens and Brooklyn, This is another relatively cheap opportunity to really expand transit service to folks who have none or in the case of the Rockaways, I don't know how much experience folks have with trying to get the A train there, but it runs like every 20 minutes, a lot of the time and adding another train there would increase frequency. I know, this has been included in the mayor's budget and is in front of the City Council. I just wonder when this letter finally gets finalized, if we might address it, not just to the MTA, but also to the City Council.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos - This letter will go to our City Council reps, which you know, Tiffany, Caban and Julie Won, and then also to the mayor.

Eleni Desiervo - Can we add in the CC line, Speaker Julie Menin and Council Member Linda Lee, who's the chair of the finance committee?

Richard Khuzami - We should send it to our state representatives.

Motion carries 1 opposed 0 abstentions.

Dominic Stiller - Has resigned as Chair of the Transportation Committee.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos - The Education Committee has asked for a motion to send a letter of support to the DOE for the High School for Social Entrepreneurship to be located in Astoria.

Motion to approve - Amy Hau second - Chris Hanway YouTube marker 2:04:19

Discussion

Frank Fredericks - Declaring a conflict of interest.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos - This is a public school under the division of small schools. No sites have been identified.

Dino Panagoulis - Declaring a conflict of interest.

Kian Betancourt - How are you defining social entrepreneurship? I know what entrepreneurship is.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos - Maybe one of the committee members could explain.

Frank Fredericks - A Social entrepreneur is somebody who identifies, verifies, validates and builds a social environmental innovation. Think of a nonprofit founder.

Motion carries 0 opposed 3 abstentions.

Old Business/New Business

Jacqueline Ibarra - I agree we need to have a joint committee on the carnival. The NYPD was not enforcing traffic restrictions. Dreamland Amusements have policies on their website but they were not enforced.

Richard Khuzami - Old Astoria will have a meeting on July 6th with the managing director of Wildflower Studios and a representative from the Scenic Design Union, and we hope to have other people involved in the film industry. More information on the website.

Kathleen Warnock - As a poll worker I hope that all of you either are planning to early vote or vote on the day of the primary. They may not seem like glamorous elections, but the more people turn out, the better quality we get.

Public Official Representatives

BP Donovan Richards, Clare - The day after election day, we're having our annual Pride celebration at Queensboro Hall at 6:00 p.m. Regarding the Astoria Carnival, I would like to sit in on the meeting. The BP office does coordination of large scale events in the borough.

State Senator Kristen Gonzalez, Katie Loeb - Saturday the Senator will attend Astoria Pride and the 31st Avenue Open Street Barbecue. Senator Gonzalez passed 20 bills. Nine of those bills passed through both houses of the legislature and have a chance to be signed into law by the governor. One of the highest profile bills that she passed was an omnibus bill to regulate data center development. That bill includes a one-year moratorium on new permits throughout the entire state. It also mandates environmental review on data centers that are existing and their impact on energy bills, on the environment, on quality of life and it mandates transparency and community input which currently doesn't exist at all. We encourage everybody to review it and provide feedback, and if you want to support it, call the governor. Another piece of legislation that passed was regulating AI chatbots for kids so that they can't provide unsafe features. This would be completely prohibited if this law gets signed by the governor. The budget also recently passed at the end of session, which includes a lot of funding for environmental initiatives. Senator Gonzalez secured \$100 million for public renewable energy, which is what we really need to transition away from the Peaker plant and the fossil fuel polluting plants that we have here in western Queens. In addition she secured \$50 million for sustainability projects at NYCHA.

Assemblymember Steven Raga, Arianna - 80/30 backpack giveaway, where we gave backpacks and school supplies to children in our district, whether they live in our district or go to school in our district. We are going to be doing another one around mid-July and early August. We held our concert at Big Bush Park where we partnered with Uptown. We've gotten great reviews back from it. We also just held our Polish Heritage Day and Nepali Community Day. We're doing our Declaration of Independence reading on July 7th from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Maspeth Memorial Park. We are doing our community fellowship program every Saturday until July 13th. I believe we're skipping the 4th of July weekend. So we have our students from 8th grade to 12th grade coming and learning about the legislature, how to write a bill. What's the process and how it looks like. They were meant to bring issues that they've seen in their community and kind of getting that youthful perspective and how to go forward and advocate for those issues.

Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez, Jeff - Starting a summer reading challenge for our district. If you read 10 books before September 10th, you get congressional accommodation. Go to our website for more information and download your log. Just make sure it's done by September 10th. We have a new position open for a case worker through a Green and Gold Congressional Aide Program. It's a program made for recently separated veterans, active-duty spouses and Gold Star Families. Recently a court found that some of the immigration policies that put a lot of immigration applications on an indefinite pause were found to be illegal and are currently vacated. It is pending possible further judicial review, but in the meantime, all those immigration applications are no longer paused. We would appreciate putting the word out there.

Assembly Member Diana Moreno, Justin - On June 25th, in partnership with Senator Kristen Gonzalez's office, we're going to be hosting open office hours in the Jacob Riis Community Center in Queensbridge Houses. The distribution of our summer reading program. We're going to be having calendars in all of the public libraries and a number of the school libraries to encourage kids to read during the summer. The assemblymember passed two bills - one to extend reduced water rates for New York City hospitals and charities and another to encourage and strengthen public participation in the rulemaking process. She's currently a co-sponsor on 168 bills and was very happy to have been a co-sponsor on a number that were passed, including the Melt Act and the one-year moratorium with Senator Kristen Gonzalez's office.

District Attorney Melinda Katz, Jackie - I want to highlight the DA's monthly newsletter highlighting prominent cases of interest and critical updates from the office. We also highly encourage anyone to sign up weekly for the online digital newsletter. Two key resources that we are trying to get out into the community, and that is resources to combat the proliferation of scams and frauds, particularly the financial exploitation of seniors. That's why our financial frauds bureau is focusing exclusively on financial based crimes, including high value investment scams, bank and credit card fraud, elder fraud, and cybercrime. The bureau is at the forefront of community-based initiatives routinely hosting public presentations to both educate and equip those vulnerable to financial threats with tips necessary in preventing victimization. For more information, we encourage anyone who may be a victim of financial crime to email frauds@queensda.org and their phone number is (718) 286-6673. We also have an elder fraud unit dedicated exclusively to safeguarding the elderly community from financial crime, scams, and exploitation. Their contact information is elderfraud@queensda.org and their number is (718) 286-6578. We just really need everyone's help in order to get this information out to the constituencies that may need it.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos - Thanked everyone for their service and wished everyone a safe and happy summer.

Motion to Adjourn - Frank Fredericks second - Amy Hau. Meeting adjourned at 8:51pm