



ELIZABETH BRATON  
Chairperson

## COMMUNITY BOARD 10

CITY OF NEW YORK ♦ BOROUGH OF QUEENS  
115-01 LEFFERTS BOULEVARD  
SOUTH OZONE PARK, N.Y. 11420  
TEL: (718) 843-4488  
FAX: (718) 738-1184  
E-MAIL: qn10@cb.nyc.gov



KARYN PETERSEN  
District Manager

### REGULAR BOARD MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

May 1, 2025

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** L. Amorim, B. Braton, J. Calcagnile, J. Caruso, M. Cherenfant, B. Ciaramella, R. Ciulla-Frisone, A. Cosentino, A. Gellineau, R. Gendron, P. Granickas F. Gulluscio, G. Hewitt, A. Khan, P. Kishun, K. Lopez, F. Mohamed, S. Mohammed, A. Nocerino, P. Nostramo, S. Pace, S. Patterson, J. Quijano, A. Rajnauth, K. Roan, M. Rosa, N. Santiago, S. Shew, A. Siewnarine, J. Stahl, P. Tejada, I. Van Putten, L. Walker, D. Wesby

**BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:** S. Acuqui, N. Bissoon, F. Dardani, I. Dimoh, K. Edwards, E. Fraylon, A. Hill, R. Hitlall, R. Martinez, D. Mitchell, R. Narine, G. Russo, A. Sancler, G. Singh, V. Singh, A. Vital

**COMMUNITY BOARD STAFF PRESENT:** K. Petersen, D.M.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** J. Reina, rep., Hon. G. Meeks; C. Moore, rep., Hon. J. Addabbo; J. Santana, Rep., Hon. J. Sanders; J. Agard, Rep., Hon. K. Anderson; D. Sanchez, rep., Hon. J. Rajkumar; K. Morris, rep. Mayor's Office CAU; T. Hankerson, rep. Hon. A. Adams; T. Logan, rep., Hon. A. Adams; G. Katsalis, QBPO; M. Allbert, QDCP; D. Brown, rep., Hon. M. Katz; Capt. B. VanTull, CO 106 Pct.; PO S. Kaur, 106 Pct Community Affairs; PO Reed, 106 Pct.; D. Tanis, rep. Resorts World; L. Songhai, MTA; R. Wilkinson, MTA; N. Diaz, rep. CCRB

The Chairperson opened the meeting at 7pm.

The Chairperson then asked everyone to please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chairperson asked everyone to remain standing for a moment of silence for a former Board member, Pamela Baumann who passed away in April.

The Chairperson then introduced Capt. Berkley VanTull, the Commanding Officer of the 106<sup>th</sup> Precinct and invited him to speak.

Captain VanTull introduced himself and said that it is always a pleasure and an honor to be here. He continued that not only is it an honor to be here as the Commanding Officer but also as a neighbor. He said the NYPD is a part of the community and we are neighbors to everyone here as the same interests and the same concerns are shared. The 106 Precinct are out in the community every day working to make sure that CB10's community is a safe place for all families, children, our elderly population, and everyone here. He continued that some of our crime is down overall for the fourth month in a row, so he is really happy to see that even though there are some impacts due to personnel issues, the officers are laser focused on being in the right places at the right time to make sure that there is good impact to reduce quality of life issues and crime. He stated that he could never take the credit, it is due to the hard work done by the officers. He reported theft of vehicles is something there has been a spike in recently. He reported there is an auto ring that is involved, and the NYPD is working with partners and other investigative units to hopefully take these guys down and he reminded all to make sure to take preventive steps to protect vehicles. Capt. VanTull also commented on scams and other ways to prevent being victimized. He wished everyone a great day and a great weekend and wished all the mothers a Happy Mother's Day and thanked the Chairperson and the community for all they do. He stated that he doesn't think the community would be what it is without each and every one of you.



The Chairperson opened the Public Hearing regarding implementation of the MTA New York City Transit's Queens Bus Network Redesign.

Ryan Wilkinson, Staff Analyst for MTA Bus Planning, began the presentation. Copies were provided to all present. He commented that MTA had a robust community outreach here and they heard a lot about what was important in this community. As a result, they made a lot of revisions in response to those concerns and from the feedback that they got. He explained the reasons why MTA is redesigning the bus network in Queens. There haven't been many changes to the bus network on a holistic scale for several decades. There have been a lot of changes in the borough relating to travel patterns, where people are living, and where housing development and job development is happening. The redesign project is a fresh look at the network, especially considering declining bus reliability and declining ridership year over year. MTA Bus started out with a report on existing conditions in 2019 and then built out a draft plan. The draft plan received a lot of concerns from the community. MTA took those concerns back and created a new draft plan in 2022. After the 2022 draft was released, MTA did another round of outreach and then released a proposed final plan followed by another round of outreach. MTA then made final revisions for the proposed final plan's addendum. In January 2025, it was adopted by the MTA Board. Overall, MTA did 250 events and received almost 20,000 comments from people about what they liked in the network and what they didn't like as well as people's ideas to improve bus service.

What is happening now is implementation of a new network with expanded access, increasing frequency on several routes, bringing up the number of people who have access to the all-day frequent network, which is a bus that is scheduled to arrive every 10 minutes or better from 6 am to 9 pm. Almost 125,000 more people will live within a half a quarter mile of a bus that runs that frequently. MTA is also expanding the overnight network so almost 70,000 more people will have access to a bus that arrives 24 hours a day and that includes the Q7 along Rockaway Blvd. In terms of the changes the bus riders will see across the network, they are making a lot of changes to bus stops. The DOT is rolling those out now. That includes adding, relocating and removing hundreds of stops throughout the Borough.

Mr. Wilkinson went on to describe some of the new routes and also explained the concept of rush routes that are designed to get people to rail connections safer and faster. They make local stops farther away from the subway and once they get on major corridors like Lefferts Blvd. for instance, they will make limited stops to really speed up service for people who are far from the train.

He then explained how implementation is going to work since the scale of the changes necessitate an implementation plan that is to happen in two phases. On June 29<sup>th</sup> about two thirds of the routes, largely located in eastern Queens, are going to change. Then on August 31<sup>st</sup> the rest of the network will change.

He informed all the proposed changes to routes in CB10 are described in the written material distributed and all the changes and other information may be accessed on MTA Bus's website. The scale of the bus stop changes that are happening in the borough are significant, so DOT need a lot of time to make all those changes. Those changes started in February, and they will continue throughout the summer and into the fall in some locations. Current service continues until the implementation date for each route so even though the bus stop sign might change, the buses will continue to stop and do their normal pattern and their normal routes, the schedules that you know, those will all continue until the respective date of change mentioned earlier. They are also introducing new Guide-A-Ride inserts which are the metal canisters that you see on all the bus stop poles. They are updating all the information over time to make sure that people are aware of the changes that are happening at that specific stop well in advance of implementation. To help people learn about the new network and the changes that are coming, they have developed a couple of tools like the new route look up tool which is available on [mta.info/queensbus](https://mta.info/queensbus) where you can search and select one or more routes at a time and view the service changes for that specific route. It will populate in a little text box with links to other relevant information so you can look at a map of the route or you can look at a related route that might be related to the routing change or some of the stop changes that you might see along a corridor. He said it is a user-friendly resource. For an even more personalized experience people may access a planner that is available at [futuretrips.mta.info](https://futuretrips.mta.info). They will have a bit of a "Frankenstein network" in between the two phases where phase one may have been implemented but other routing changes are coming later. During that time, it is important to stay up to date using the MTA app and bus time. All of those resources will be up to date with the summer schedule. They also have a project phasing guide that is a high-resolution map that you can zoom in and see how the changes are distributed geographically. He asked everyone to stay connected with them and the service changes by using the MTA app, checking bus time, calling 511 with any questions



or concern, signing up for service alerts via text and email at [mta.info/notify](http://mta.info/notify). The best resource for project related information is [mta.info/queensbus](http://mta.info/queensbus).

Lucille Songhai, MTA Assistant Director of Government and Community Relations, added that they wanted to say thank you because they would not have been able to do any of this without participation from people in their many workshops and meetings with folks all throughout Queens. She informed all that there is about a 6-month period where MTA will be evaluating to see how the changes are being received by folks, and folks are utilizing the new system. She commented that MTA is not perfect, but strive to get it right, so if there are things on a local level that are not working MTA will want to know. MTA wants to be able to evaluate concerns to determine if any particular changes are needed. Using MTA's already robust customer service functions is a good way for the agency to be able to track, so if, for example, they are hearing things about the Q41, Q51 or the Q10 MTA can be tracking those things internally to know how customers are affected by the new network.

The Chairperson thanked Ms. Songhai and asked if there was anyone from the public with any questions or comments. There were none. The Chairperson then asked if there were any questions from Board members.

A Board Member commented on concerns about changes to the Q37 that will cause longer walks to stops and asked if this had been a consideration by MTA. The response given was that the idea behind the Q37 routing points to one of their core redesign principals which is to create more direct bus routings with fewer turns because they know that turns, especially on major corridors with no signals or short signal timing can be really difficult for the buses to maintain their schedule and stay reliable so that's the rationale, but throughout the 6-month evaluation period, MTA will be looking at things like this so if we see that people aren't really moving to those stops that we think that they will then we are certainly open to re-evaluating that. We know that the bus can travel down these streets today so unless there are major changes to the street infrastructure there, they can move it back if necessary. Obviously, that is not the goal, they want to bring this routing forward but that is the fallback option.

A Board member asked for clarification. She was looking at the project phasing guide and asked if the change dates are when all the changes are going to go into effect or if it is more of a gradual process. Ms. Songhai responded that for the bus routes that you see that say June 29<sup>th</sup>, those will be happening on June 29<sup>th</sup> and for the rest it will be on August 31<sup>st</sup>. There are 3 routes in this district that will be changing on the 29<sup>th</sup> and all of the rest will be at the end of August.

A Board Member asked a question about express buses from Howard Beach not offering service to lower Manhattan. Ms. Songhai responded that they have continued to hear that from people, and she thinks that part of the issue is that even taking it to midtown, it's a long ride and then adding the additional time to go to lower Manhattan would add even more time to the trip travel. Congestion pricing so far is showing less traffic on Manhattan streets and may open opportunity for MTA to look to see if there are any ways to take buses that used to go to midtown and bring them downtown now because the traffic in Manhattan is less.

A Board member asked how signage would be changed so people in the Centreville area where the Q11 route will be eliminated will know the need to go to Cross Bay to get the bus. Ms. Songhai replied that there should be signage there now at the Q11 stops and Mr. Wilkinson said that they are rolling those Guide-A-Ride box inserts over time. There will be information at the stop level well in advance before any poles are taken out. Ms. Songhai added that they are bright yellow and noticeable, and they say this stop is changing. Mr. Wilkinson said the old bus stop signage will say that the Q11 won't stop here and here are your alternatives depending on where you are trying to go.

Another Board member had further questions about the Q37. He also stated that the public forums coming up are designed for feedback and asked if changes will be made from the input that's received from the public or if this is all set-in stone. Ms. Songhai stated that as of right now everything is set in stone and they must implement, but they will evaluate as she explained earlier. If there is something egregious that they have neglected to see or did not catch, that is something to take note of. What they are doing now is educating people as to what the changes are, especially the folks where routes are changing on June 29<sup>th</sup> because that's not that far away. MTA is passing out literature to help make sure you are aware of coming changes but is not going to be making any further changes until after that six-month implementation period.



A Board member stated that \$68 million dollars are being allocated towards capital improvements. After these rollouts are phasing in will there be any more room in the budget for additional bus routes that may be able to replace the changes that are happening now.

Ms. Songhai commented that as congestion pricing plays out there could be funds available and the ability to use that money especially for further local service and express bus service improvements.

A Board member stated that he didn't quite understand the response regarding the Q16 and Q17. He stated that he takes the Q16 and Q17 every day. There is an HOV lane on the LIE going to Manhattan, so he is not sure how congestion pricing affects that. The member continued by expressing opinions about congestion pricing's lack of impact on his commute. Ms. Songhai restated the Board Member's question about that he doesn't see the impact of congestion pricing or the lessening of traffic and how that impacts. She said that it is a good thing to flag because more people have been wanting to have more direct express service into lower Manhattan so it is something that MTA will continue to look at.

A Board Member asked about the Q7 and stated that about two weeks ago two morning buses sped by students standing at the bus stop because they were so full, they couldn't accommodate the students and asked if there were any plans for increased service like articulating buses. Ms. Songhai said that they will have to look. When something like that happens, it is always helpful to email her when it's happening so she can have their road operations folks look. There could be all kinds of different reasons why that happened, but she will investigate it and see. She continued that one of the things that she did want to talk about is that they are 2 weeks out from the end of their A train outage that has been ongoing for 17 weeks. They are on time and on budget and they are looking to return A train service back on May 19<sup>th</sup> as they said they would. They will be sending out information to all their stakeholders the weekend right before they bring the A train service back. Ms. Songhai also provided information that the Rockaway Blvd. elevator will be finished by the end of this year. She thanked everyone for giving them all their questions and thanked the Chairperson and the team.

The Chairperson thanked Ms. Songhai and all who worked on her team and stated that this bus redesign project has not been a simple project and even if it goes into effect as planned it is open to future changes, so we look forward to resolving any issues that come up. The Chairperson commented that Ms. Songhai has always been very responsive to any issues we bring up to her.

The Chairperson then resumed the regular order of business.

The Chairperson asked if there were any additions or corrections to the April minutes. Hearing none. The minutes will stand.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** The Chairperson reviewed incoming correspondence for the month of April which included:

- Notice from DDC regarding the raised crosswalks project (locations in our board district are at Liberty Avenue & 120<sup>th</sup> Street, Lefferts Blvd. & 111<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Rkwy. Blvd & 135<sup>th</sup> Street).
- Letter from DOT regarding a request to install a speed reducer at 150<sup>th</sup> Avenue bet. 126<sup>th</sup> & 127<sup>th</sup> Street that stated it met the criteria, and installation will take place when resources are available.
- Letter from DOT regarding a request for a No Parking Zone adjacent to the United Adult Day Care Center at 103-44 121<sup>st</sup> Street. It stated that an order was prepared to install No Standing signs Monday to Friday 8 am to 3 pm to facilitate the safe drop off and pickup of seniors. The work should be completed by July 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Letter from DOT regarding a request to install a speed reducer at 84<sup>th</sup> Street bet. Pitkin Avenue & Liberty Avenue that stated it met the criteria, and installation will take place when resources are available.
- Notice from the Parks Dept. about an RFP for the renovation, operation and maintenance of the Riding Stables at Gemini Fields.
- Letter that was sent out by Board to DCAS regarding properties in Hamilton Beach.
- Letter sent to OCM regarding Cannabis Retail Dispensary at 117-12 Liberty Avenue and 116-02 Liberty Avenue. (our opinion expressed in the letter was negative on both sites)
- Notice from the NYS Dept. of Public Service. regarding an energy project for new underground transmission lines in Suffolk, Nassau and Queens (project not in our Board area in Queens).
- Notice regarding the proposed Consolidated Plan allocations for FY 2026.



- Letter from the EEO Practices Commission.
- Notice regarding construction of a new 2 story commercial and residential building at 132-14 Liberty Avenue.
- Notice from VJ Car & Limo Service at 104-08 123<sup>rd</sup> Street looking for a letter of no objection.
- 10-day notice for partial demolition at 113-11 Liberty Avenue.
- Notice for Repair/Vacate at 129-15 135<sup>th</sup> Avenue
- Copy of the calendar for a Public Hearing on Contract Awards.
- Notice of Demolition of a 2-story frame dwelling at 103-50 102<sup>nd</sup> Street
- Signoff Notice from DDC.
- Notice from the Parks Dept. of product waiver
- OMB notices not specific to our Board area.

The Chairperson stated that if there were any Board members who would like a copy of anything listed on the directed mail to let the office know.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The Treasurer read the report for April 2025.

**BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S LIAISON REPORT:** Ms. Katsalis introduced herself and wished everyone a good evening. She stated that it is a pleasure to be here tonight and on behalf of BP Richards she would like to wish all the mothers a Happy Mother's Day. She announced that on May 10<sup>th</sup> they will be holding a Mother's Day Mini-Wellness Retreat in Long Island City at 5-25 46<sup>th</sup> Avenue that will take place between 12 pm and 2 pm; on May 15<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm they will be holding an Asian American Pacific Islander Celebration; on May 20<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm they will be holding a Jewish Heritage Celebration at Borough Hall; on May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6 pm they will be holding a Guyanese Independence Day Celebration; on June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 12 pm they will be celebrating the Pride Month Kickoff and flag raising ceremony at Queens Borough Hall; and on June 11<sup>th</sup>, at 6 pm they will be celebrating Annual Pride Month at Queens Borough Hall. To RSVP for any of these events go to [queensbp.nyc.gov](http://queensbp.nyc.gov). She added that if anyone has any questions or concerns, to call the Borough Hall Office at 718-286-3000 or she may be reached at 718-286-2853. She thanked everyone and wished all a wonderful evening.

**DEPT. OF CITY PLANNING REPORT:** Mia Albert introduced herself as the liaison from the Department of City Planning at the Queens Office. She stated that she has nothing to report but she can be contacted at the Department of City Planning if anyone needs anything.

**DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT:** The District Manager stated that we have received notification that in the coming weeks National Grid has planned construction work to install a new gas main at the following locations: Liberty Ave bet. 116<sup>th</sup> Street & 117<sup>th</sup> Street, Liberty Avenue bet. 117<sup>th</sup> Street & 118<sup>th</sup> Street, 117<sup>th</sup> Street bet. 103<sup>rd</sup> Avenue & Liberty Avenue, 117<sup>th</sup> Street & Liberty Avenue, 116<sup>th</sup> Street & Liberty Avenue, 127<sup>th</sup> Street bet. Rkwy. Blvd. & Sutter Avenue, 127<sup>th</sup> Street bend, 127<sup>th</sup> Street & Sutter Avenue, 99<sup>th</sup> Street bet. 163<sup>rd</sup> Avenue & 164<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 99<sup>th</sup> Street bet. 164<sup>th</sup> Avenue & 165<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 164<sup>th</sup> Avenue bet. 98<sup>th</sup> Street & 99<sup>th</sup> Street, 165<sup>th</sup> Avenue bet. 98<sup>th</sup> Street & 99<sup>th</sup> Street, 164<sup>th</sup> Avenue bet. 99<sup>th</sup> Street & the body of water, 99<sup>th</sup> Street & 164<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 99<sup>th</sup> Street & 165<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The new gas main will be installed in the street or sidewalk and the excavation required will be backfilled each day. The entire work area will be kept clean and orderly, and attempts will be made to keep noise, dust and debris to a minimum. All or part of the gas service may have to be replaced. To complete this work, National Grid may need to gain access to the homes at the point where the service enters the building. If this is the case, the homeowner will be contacted by a National Grid Representative to make an appointment. All street and sidewalk surfaces affected by the construction will be repaved to ensure a smooth surface. Temporary asphalt pavement will be used until all National Grid work is complete and permanent restoration can be performed. The District Manager wished all the mothers a Happy Mother's Day.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:** The Chairperson reported that information on the following was in members' folder material:

- Rocket Playground presentation that was made to the Parks Committee.
- Neighborhood Tree Planting Concept presentation from Parks Department.
- Report from the Health Department which provided useful information.
- Presentation made by DEP at Borough Board. The Queens DEP Commissioner will present this information at our June meeting.



- Rockaway Line update
- Request for information from Dept. of Technology & Innovation. If anyone has any opinions, there are links in the document so members may participate if they wish to.
- Committee Reports from the Consumer Affairs, Public Safety, Parks, and Gateway/Jamaica Bay Committees.

The Chairperson also reported receipt of another application for a legal cannabis retail dispensary at 109-12 Rockaway Blvd and that the Public Safety and Land Use Committees will have a committee briefing on that site before the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in May to review. The Chairperson also reported that no license has been issued, at this point, for the site on Redding Street north of Pitkin Avenue. As of today's date, data promulgated by NYS OCM indicates we only have 2 licensed cannabis stores that are open and operational within CB10: Vaporize at 125<sup>th</sup> Street & Liberty Avenue and Fleur de Fred at 96<sup>th</sup> Street & Liberty Avenue. The Chairperson added that we have 2 other locations that have received licenses but are not open and operational for business. They are Green Strain at 107-31 Liberty Avenue and Big City Flavors at 111-19 Liberty Avenue.

The meeting continued with committee reports.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**LAND USE:** The Committee Chair stated that he had no report but that we are still waiting for the packets of information from City Planning and BSA on the items that he mentioned at last month's meeting. He wished all the mothers a Happy Mother's Day.

**AIR POLLUTION:** The Committee Chair announced that the tree pollen is what is causing everyone's eyes to burn. He wished all the mothers a Happy Mother's Day.

**CONSUMER AFFAIRS:** The Committee Chairperson advised the report is in the folder material.

**JFK:** The Committee Chair wished all the mothers a Happy Mother's Day.

**EDUCATION:** The Chairperson stated that the Education Committee Chairperson was not in attendance this evening because she was attending her daughter's spring concert. She announced that the Education Committee Chair had represented our Board at John Adams High School at its Arbor Day ceremony where four trees were planted.

**GATEWAY/JAMAICA BAY:** The Committee Chair stated that the report was in the folder material.

**PARKS:** The Chairperson stated that the Parks Chairperson was absent but had provided wording for the motion he asks the Board to consider. The Board Chairperson explained that the Committee didn't make a recommendation on the park project for Rocket Playground because unfortunately the committee didn't have a quorum that evening so they couldn't vote on a motion; however, the consensus of the committee at the committee meeting was that it was a good design, and the Board should support it. Therefore, the Board Chairperson made the motion that a letter be sent to the Parks Dept. supporting the Rocket Playground redesign as presented to the committee with two conditions that were discussed at the committee meeting and were supported by the committee members present. Condition 1 - that signage informing all park users that adults not accompanied by a child may not be in the children's play area, and that type of signage be located at the entry points to the children's play area to address concerns brought up by the residents; and Condition 2 - that additional safety features, such as bollards, be added at entry points to prevent any unauthorized motor vehicle access.

The Chairperson asked if there was a second to the motion. D. Wesby seconded the motion. The Chairperson asked if there was any discussion on the motion. Hearing none. The vote was: All in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining. The motion carried. The Chairperson announced that the letter will go out to the Parks Department tomorrow.

**PERSONNEL:** The Committee Chair stated that we are status quo with personnel.

**LEGISLATION:** The Committee Chair wished all the mothers a Happy Mother's Day.



**SANITATION:** The Committee Chair wished all the mothers a Happy Mother's Day.

A Board member asked the Sanitation Committee Chair if residents still must put the organic composting materials out for collection even though DSNY will not be issuing any fines. The Committee Chair stated that the composting materials still need to be put out for collection and that probably in about 3 months they will start issuing fines again. The Board member stated that it was his understanding that we are now overloaded with compost.

The Chairperson stated that we will find out more about that through Sanitation. She explained that there is a moratorium on issuing the summonses and fines. It may just be the fine, but we will have to check that. They may still be able to issue a summons but that you still must put the compost out for collection. Nothing has changed about having to compost. The Board member asked about how to put out yard waste since the organics container is too small for the leaves and branches.

The Chairperson stated that you can use any container with a lid if it is labeled yard waste and that the only things that you can put out in bags is recyclables. The Committee Chair added that they will still take branches 4 feet or less if you tie them up, but you still must put them out with the compost. A Board member asked if you could still use the tall leaf bags for the yard waste. The Chairperson stated that they can be used but we will clarify with DSNY if they must be in cans.

**TRANSPORTATION:** The Committee Chairperson wished everyone a good evening and stated that the report is in the folders. He also wished all the mothers a Happy Mother's Day.

**SUMMER YOUTH:** The Committee Chair announced that her report is in the folder. The YMCA is having a hiring day on May 10<sup>th</sup> and all Board members had received flyers for airport recruitment. NYC Parks has the lifeguard exams open. You must be at least 16 years old and must have 20/30 vision and some swimming requirements include that applicants must be able to swim 50 yards in 50 seconds. Parks also has a 6-month maintenance position available for \$18 per hour. The Committee Chairperson also announced DCAS exams are coming up for call center rep., Police Officer, and Traffic Enforcement Agent. On May 17<sup>th</sup> there will be a Building our City Job Fair in Brooklyn and it will go over city careers, trade unions and green industries.

The Chairperson continued by introducing representatives of elected officials to speak.

The Chairperson introduced Kevin Morris from the Mayor's Office Community Affairs Unit and invited him to speak. Mr. Morris wished everyone a good evening and announced that last week the mayor held a press conference to announce the seizure of over 21,000 guns and the destruction of over 3,000 of those guns. He thanks NYPD for seizing these guns and for taking them off the streets and keeping our streets safe. He also announced a new initiative called Get Sheds Down which is an initiative with the Department of Buildings for eliminating and removing unsightly and ugly scaffolding across the city by having time limits on permits, giving greater fines to people who keep their scaffolding up past the permit dates and they are trying to explore ways to change the color of them to make them more appealing as part of the city's beautification plan to make sure that we are taking the scaffolding down and making the city look better. He wished all the mothers a Happy Mother's Day and wished everyone a good night.

The Chairperson introduced Jose Reina rep. for Congressman Meeks and invited him to speak. Mr. Reina wished everyone a good evening and introduced himself. He announced that as of April 14, 2025, the Social Security Administration began enhancing their security for the services they provide by implementing stronger identity verification procedures under the updated identity proofing policy by Social Security. Individuals who are applying for certain benefits such as spousal, survivors, and retirement benefits or those who are trying to change their direct deposit information will now need to visit a Social Security Field Office in person if they cannot verify their identity online. Now, individuals who are trying to apply for certain benefits such as social security disability insurance, Medicare, or Supplemental Security Income who cannot verify their identity online can still process their claims via telephone without having to go to a social security field office. Social Security is developing a process that allows individuals to bypass this policy under dire need circumstances such as cases involving terminal illness. Secondly, the Treasury Department has been mandated to begin phasing out the issuance of paper checks for all federal disbursements, including tax refund checks, starting on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Instead that Department will begin shifting towards transferring and shifting electronic payments through different payment options such as direct deposit. The purpose of this mandate is to address mail theft complaints such as stolen Treasury checks and eliminate any fraudulent scam practices such as check washing.



They can grant limited exemptions when an electronic payment is not feasible for someone who may not have access to banking services. Lastly, on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025, the Department of Homeland Security will begin enforcing the Real ID Act and travelers will need to carry a Real ID or a federally compliant form of identification to fly domestically or enter some government buildings. He announced that he has 2 flyers up front listing alternative acceptable forms of identification people without a Real ID may use and for questions, he can be contacted at 718-725-6000.

The Chairperson introduced Carl Moore rep. for Sen. Addabbo and invited him to speak. Mr. Moore introduced himself and announced that the senator is working on the budget and hopefully it will be resolved soon, and he will be back in the district. He announced that there are copies of their event flyer on the table up front and that on Sunday, they will be holding an e-waste and paint recycling event from 10 am to 2 pm at Forest Park, on May 30<sup>th</sup> they will host a senior job fair for those age 55 and older. If anyone has any questions, they can call their office. He wished all the mothers a Happy Mother's Day and reminded everyone to try to attend any Memorial Day services that are being held in the area.

The Chairperson introduced Jose Santana rep. from Sen. Sanders office and invited him to speak. Mr. Santana introduced himself as the Economic Development Director for Sen. Sanders and stated that they should be close to reaching an agreement on the budget by next week and he spoke about a bill that Sen. Sanders is carrying for safer school travel S3071 which would establish a task force to evaluate and strengthen school transportation safety following the tragic incident involving 7 year old boy on the Rockaway Peninsula in 2019. Sen. Sanders recently addressed financial leaders on Wall Street weighing in on the proposals to repeal taxes on certain crypto transactions. If it becomes a law, the state will be able to tap into about \$16 billion dollars of revenue. Starting May 7, 2025 New Yorkers will need their Real ID, and he urged all to get one as soon as possible.

The Chairperson introduced Diana Sanchez rep. for AM Rajkumar and invited her to speak. Ms. Sanchez introduced herself as the Director of Constituent Services for the Office of AM Rajkumar and stated that the Assembly member is with her colleagues in Albany united in the goal of passing a budget that meets the needs of all New Yorkers. She announced they held 2 events recently that took place outside their office, the mammogram mobile unit that took place in conjunction with Mount Sinai and the Legal Clinic with NYLAG and they hope to repeat both these events in the future. She continued that the Assembly member introduced 2 new bills, the Subway Safety Act that will create the subway safety command force for rapid response to public safety issues and for homeless outreach. There will be command centers in the system that will monitor issues in real time, deploy sources and do homeless intake if it is enacted. The 9,000 Act is targeted intervention to stop recidivism. There are about 9,000 people who commit many of the crimes so if we stop this small group of people, we will cut crime in half. This bill will create a program that focuses intensively on these 9,000 people. She announced that their office is open Monday to Friday from 9 to 5 and that they are located at 83-91 Woodhaven Blvd and their phone number is 718-05-0950. She wished all the mothers a Happy Mother's Day.

The Chairperson introduced Ty Hankerson rep. for Council Speaker Adrienne Adams and invited him to speak. Mr. Hankerson introduced himself and introduced Tyler Logan who also is a rep. for Speaker Adams. He wished everyone a good evening and announced that the Speaker will be holding a press conference on Tuesday announcing that she has allocated \$50,000 for 5 day a week clean-up services on Lefferts Blvd. & Liberty Avenue and detailed the specific areas where the program will commence on Monday. Secondly, they have convened a task force with Tyler Logan spearheading, that will conduct enforcement along the corridor to address the local vending where merchants are extending their products on to the street which is something that should not be done. They had a walk through a few weeks ago and warnings were given. Last week DSNY did enforcement so there were tickets written as well as confiscation of some of the items that were placed out. He added that when the produce gets confiscated it goes to the local food pantries, so it won't go to waste. He also stated they are exploring a merchant's association on Liberty Avenue to assist with upkeeping that corridor. They have applied with the Queens Chamber of Commerce for a grant from SBS to start the merchant's association. This is not to be confused with the merchant's association that Chaaya is working on. They are trying to work together but Chaaya's grant comes from a federal source, and it expands from Liberty Avenue to Atlantic Avenue which is outside of district 28. It is in CM Shulman's district. The fourth item of their action plan are workshops for the business owners because CM Adams believes in education before enforcement. They plan to bring workshops, in collaboration with the Queens Chamber of Commerce and SBS, to the corridor. The fifth item that he spoke about was that in their walk through one main concern that they heard was about litter and trash in the street and how it is difficult to clean when there are cars parked there. He stated that their office is partnering with the Community Board to advocate for No Parking Zones during particular times in the evening for street sweeping on Liberty Avenue and that street sweeping and 5 days a week sidewalk cleaning will make a difference. He announced



that the press conference will be held on Tuesday at 9 am. He added that they couldn't do all of this without the Chairperson and District Manager of Community Board 10, and he thanked them both.

The Chairperson stated that Jeanine Agard rep. from AM Anderson had been present but had left the meeting.

The Chairperson introduced Dan Brown from DA Melinda Katz's office and invited him to speak. Mr. Brown wished everyone a good evening and stated that their newsletter is available on the table up front along with the flyer for a Memorial Day event that will take place on May 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Elmhurst Park at 11 am. On April 21<sup>st</sup> DA Katz announced closure of an unlicensed mobile cannabis dispensary that operated at Woodhaven Blvd. underneath the Long Island Expwy. in Rego park near a school and a park. In response to community complaints the DA's detective investigators conducted a series of undercover purchases at the van which had been operating in the area for several weeks. A search warrant was executed by members of the NYPD and the NYC Sheriff's office on April 16<sup>th</sup> and 4 lbs. of leaf cannabis as well as more than 1 lb. of concentrated cannabis were recovered along with edibles packaged to look like candy. Three subjects were taken into custody and charged with sale and possession of cannabis. The van was removed by the NYPD. DA Katz said this illegal cannabis truck was parked just across from the street from a school and a few hundred feet from a playground. Since November 2022 her office working with their partner agencies have seized more than \$25 million dollars' worth of products from more than 400 suspected illegal cannabis dispensaries in Queens County. If anyone has an illegal cannabis dispensary they know of, please contact their office at 718-286-6503 or e-mail [cannabistips@queensda.org](mailto:cannabistips@queensda.org) and if anyone has any questions for him to call 718-286-6593. He stated that it is always a pleasure to be here.

The Chairperson introduced Davis Tanis from Resorts World and invited him to speak. Mr. Tanis wished everyone a good evening and stated that if anyone hasn't visited their property yet to see the model and renderings of what they hope to expand on if they get the full license and contract, they should. He announced they will be hosting a new installation on their Red Wall Gallery on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor tomorrow evening hosting various local artists in the community. He continued that they are still waiting and hoping they hear something by the end of June and hopefully they will have a full update in September. If anyone needs to contact him, he can be reached at 929-244-9769.

The Chairperson asked if there were any other representatives of elected officials or city agencies present that would like to speak

Natasha Diaz rep. CCRB introduced herself and stated that the CCRB is a city agency that investigates the NYPD for things like bias-based policing, excessive force, or abuse of authority. She stated that she is the outreach coordinator representative for Queens and if anyone needs any information about the agency or about the Right to Know Act they may reach out to her to do presentations or to educate.

The Chairperson asked if there were any other representatives of elected officials or city agencies present that would like to speak. Hearing none.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Hearing none.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Hearing none.

**PUBLIC FORUM:** The Chair asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to speak. Hearing none, the Chairperson will all mothers a Happy Mother's Day.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,



Karyn Petersen  
Draft- Subject to Approval