



ELIZABETH BRATON  
Chairperson

## COMMUNITY BOARD 10

CITY OF NEW YORK ♦ BOROUGH OF QUEENS  
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KARYN PETERSEN  
District Manager

### REGULAR BOARD MEETING AND INFORMATIONAL PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

DECEMBER 1, 2022

#### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

B. Braton, J. Caruso, R. Hitlall, A. Gellineau, E. Fraylon, R. Ciulla-Frisone, F. Dardani, L. Amorim, A. Hill, M. Cherenfant, A. Nocerino, A. Cosentino, R. Graziano, J. Fazio, A. Maharaj, J. Quijano, N. Santiago, G. Russo, E. Cheng, J. Stahl, M. Adams, S. Uddin, I. Dimoh, S. Pace, L. Walker, D. Mitchell, I. Van Putten, R. Martinez, S. Mohammed, R. Narine, J. Calcagnile, R. Gendron

#### **BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

M. Amin, P. Baumann, J. Coulverson, A. Deebrab, B. Escobar, A. Garcia, E. Holland, P. Kishun, M. Logan, V. Singh, M. Vecchio, F. Mohamed, A. Dhanpat, P. Granickas, B. Ramsundar, N. Bissoon, A. Rajnauth,

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

#### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Hon. M. Katz, QNS District Attorney; C. Moore, rep., Hon. J. Addabbo; S. Karetnaya, rep., Hon. J. Rajkumar; M. Schultz rep. AM Anderson; A. Leguisamo, rep., Hon. J. Ariola; S. Bajracharya Shakya, QDCP; S. Olosunde, QBP Office of Planning; D. Brown, QDA Office; M. Cano, QBPO; Capt. J. Bacchi, CO 106 Precinct; P.O. T. Ferguson-Smith, 106 Pct. Community Affairs; D. Tanis, rep. Resorts World; J. Mongeluzo, rep. Hon. B. Lander; T. Strong rep. Sen. R. Persaud; H. King rep. CAB-NYPD

The Chairperson opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7pm.

The Chair opened the informational Public Hearing and introduced Daphne Yun, Public Affairs Specialist at Gateway to present and provide an update on Spring Creek. D. Yun announced that they are planning to close Spring Creek this winter and introduced Jeff Johnson of the National Parks Service that supports Gateway National Park and Kathleen Cuzzolino who provides USACE technical support and has been involved with many sites such as this one, over the years. K. Cuzzolino spoke about the history of how Spring Creek developed. She stated that in the late 1940's and early 1950's, New York City was taking waste fill from DSNY operations around the city to fill the Spring Creek South area. She continued that this location had a similar history as other sites now part of Gateway that were formerly city landfill areas. The City finished filling the parkland in 1957 and they combined sewage sludge with clay to grow things since the sludge acted as a growing media however, they never developed anything, and the area later was transferred to be managed by Gateway in 1972. The Army Corp of Engineers eventually began working with the State DEC, which had a hazard mitigation grant with FEMA, but FEMA ended up not funding the project. It was found that there are pollutants in the waste fill that contained radioactive waste. The Park service was able to act as the authority to investigate the contamination and remediate the site, but the process takes a long time to go through. She stated they completed the Preliminary Site Investigation back in December 2017 with walk over surveys and determined there is radioactive contamination in the landfill. They remediated any spots on the trails, but more extensive remediation is needed. She stated there are 17 acres in Spring Creek Park and they need to clear the vegetation and use equipment to obtain gamma readings and will need to close the park to do this work. She continued that gates and fencing will be installed at major entrance points that will be functional gates with fencing on the sides and signs that read "Danger – Area Closed". The operating equipment will be in there and there are safety concerns for visitors in the park. She explained that they need to remove the vegetation to do the survey and then they take



what they learned from the survey to form a data analysis plan. They will then need a sampling analysis plan of how the data is collected and how they decide how to clean up the area. They work with several different agencies and the Nuclear Regulatory Agency is involved as well. It will take several years to get through, but activity is starting again to push forward for remedial investigation.

R. Martinez arrived at 7:22 pm

The Chairperson asked if there was anyone from the public who had any comments or questions. There were none. The Chairperson closed the Public Hearing and asked if there were any questions from the Board Members. A member asked what they do with the material when they clear the vegetation. D. Yun stated that the brush that is chopped down would stay on the site. Another member asked who is doing the work with the excavation. D. Yun answered that they will be working with a contractor who has expertise with radiological contamination and that the Army Corps will have oversight over them. Another member stated that over all these years the radioactive material remained in the ground and that after all the testing, they are not taking anything out and will just be capping again. D. Yun explained that they are just gathering data and that the intention is not to remove it however, if they find a reading over the limit, they will take action. She continued that many items were made with radium during the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s and these items were broken and distributed in the soil. She stated that they may decide to put a steel plate down that weighs several hundred pounds so people can't move it, and it will also knock the gamma level down. The Board member inquired if it is all hazardous or if certain areas of the whole park are filled with waste. He also stated that the dredged material was filled with waste as a berm but in the north area, they are seeing that the landfill is starting to unravel and is less of a berm. He continued that a lot of testing was done previously when 15 feet of the berm was knocked down and asked if all this information is known to them. D. Yun responded yes. They had a multiagency meeting and talked about how they can do resiliency project and a remediation project. Another member stated that if the hazardous material has radiation, it has a half-life and it won't go away so they are just putting something over it and leaving it for generations to come. D. Yun stated that the steel plate will cover it during the time of remedial investigation, alternatives are evaluated afterwards, and then it goes out for public comment. Jeff Johnson announced that their e-mail, phone number and address are listed in the handout, and they can be contacted if there are any further questions, and they will answer them to the best of their ability. The Chairperson reminded those in attendance to take the handout materials before they leave and stated that we look forward for Gateway to accomplish what they need to do there.

The Chairperson introduced guest speaker, Melinda Katz, District Attorney Borough of Queens, former Borough President of Queens and former Director of Queens Community Boards.

D.A. Katz wished everyone a happy holiday season. She thanked Chairperson Braton for everything she has done and also thanked Captain Bacchi of the 106<sup>th</sup> Precinct, the 106<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council and everyone who takes care of this great area. She stated that this is an active area and that she is excited to be here tonight. She continued that a lot has happened since she has become District Attorney. In her first month as DA, bail laws and discovery laws changed. In her second month, the world shut down due to COVID but with 28,000 arraignments per year, the DA's office could not shut down. She purchased 100 computers by March 15<sup>th</sup> so they could work virtually and in her third month as DA, there was the shutdown. She stated that it has been an interesting time and that during all of this, decisions had to be made and the structure of the DA's office had to be changed. She decided that they need to go after guns and wanted to create the Guns, Gangs and Drugs Bureau which is now named the Violent Criminals Enterprise Bureau. She stated that if individuals buy guns in southern states and bring them up the iron pipeline into our Borough to sell them to our children, that we will convict them. She continued that if an individual served our country and has Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and commits a crime, there are diversion programs. She stated that she did a lot of trafficking takedown relating to guns and she also spoke about ghost guns, which she explained are plastic polymer guns. They found that individuals in Queens county would go on the internet to vendors who sell parts of guns, and they would buy a little from each company thinking that no one would notice, but she stated that she and her staff noticed. She explained that an individual can make one of these guns in 30 minutes and that the bottom of the barrel is the weight of a pen and since it is plastic, it can easily get through a metal detector. She continued, that individuals were found building these guns in basements of homes and that now we are now finding them and taking them. She added that she also found that they are selling these guns in kits. She also spoke about various other Bureaus at the DA's office that can offer assistance such as assistance for those being discriminated against by their employer. There is also a Bureau to check to see if any criminal activity took place if there was an accident at a worksite, and a Domestic Violence Bureau to offer assistance to those in need. She added that during



the pandemic, domestic violence was problematic for those under quarantine since it was not easy for them to get the help that they needed. She also spoke of the Cold Case Bureau and how they received information from an individual who stated that she saw someone bury bones behind a house 45 years ago. They investigated and found the bones then hired a forensic genealogist who found relatives of the person whose bones these were who informed them that they had an 82-year-old uncle who went missing years ago and got DNA evidence to help identify. He was a World War I Veteran. They took his picture from when he was in the service during his early twenties, and they used age progression technology to show what he looked like at 82 years old and used this information to find the murderer and then prosecuted him. She stated that her ADAs come out to meetings because they need to know the neighborhood and that Dan Brown from her office is always available to help. She also mentioned that they also offer Youth Wrap Around Services since youth need to know that there are people who care about them and that she feels that the first time youth see a District Attorney, shouldn't be when they are being prosecuted. She stated that if anyone has any further questions, they can contact her at [Katz@queensda.org](mailto:Katz@queensda.org). She also spoke about the assault at the Howard Beach train station and how they had the individual arrested on an assault 1 charge but after viewing the video footage several times, she decided to charge him with attempted murder since he went back to the victim again after the initial attack. She continued that we have all been through a lot and that it feels like we have lost 2 years to COVID. She thanked everyone and said to please be happy, healthy, and safe since the COVID numbers are again rising.

The Chairperson asked if any Board Members had any questions for DA Katz.

A member asked DA Katz about Christmas. DA Katz responded that she has so much to be thankful for, she has two great kids, an 11-year-old and a 14-year-old and they are all in good health. She stated that she would like people to feel comfortable and know there is help available since many people feel unsafe to be in the subways or out walking their dog. The Chairperson wished DA Katz a happy holiday.

The Chairperson resumed the regular order of business and asked if there were any additions or corrections to the November 2022 minutes. Hearing none, the minutes will stand.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** The Chair reviewed incoming correspondence for the month of November, which included:

- Correspondence from the Office of Technology and Innovation regarding the franchise citywide restarting deployment of the LINK kiosk NYC. These kiosks provide wi-fi and free charging ports for mobile devices. They are proposing new sites throughout the Boroughs and new property locations to expand wi-fi access. Any comments are to be provided by 1/16/23. The locations in CB 10 are near 119-44 130 Street (which is a residential area) and in the vicinity of 133-40 131 Street. The Chairperson stated that this information was shared with the South Ozone Park Civic Association West and if there are any public concerns about these locations to let us know so we can provide a comment.
- Notice from the Parks Department regarding the Lifeguard Training program
- Notice from the Parks Department that after 38 years of service, Parks Commissioner Michael Dockett is no longer the Commissioner, and that Jackie Langsam is now the Acting Queens Borough Commissioner.
- DOT response to the residents' request for the installation of speed cameras at Linden Blvd. & 96<sup>th</sup> Street stating that the location does not meet the warrants as there is no school in ¼ mile proximity, so the request is denied.
- DOT response to a resident's request for a speed camera at Sutter Avenue bet. 130 & 131 Street stating that the site falls within the parameters and that a mobile speed camera may be feasible at this location.
- FY 2020-2024 Five Year Capital Plan Proposed Amendment for SCA & DOE
- Correspondence from OMB regarding DOE installing lights at the city school buildings
- OMB Certificate to proceed to upgrade to LED lighting at 9 Police Department Buildings in Queens and Staten Island.
- 2022 Metro Area Planning Forum notice
- Correspondence from the OPRBA regarding plans to erect a memorial wall at the South side burial ground.
- Calendar of Public Hearing Contracts for December 8 and November 22
- Thank you from Elaine Holland for the donation made in memory of her mother
- Final Snow Plan for the Borough of Queens
- DSNY winter collection schedule announcement
- Copy of Gateway's presentation regarding work at Spring Creek
- Request from Sunshine Car Service for a letter of no objection



- Demolition notice for garage at 132-42 121 Street
- Notice to vacate illegal apartment at 164-41 98 Street

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The Treasurer read the report of expenditures for the month of November.

**BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S LIAISON REPORT:** Maricela Cano re-introduced herself as the Director of Community Board's for Borough President Donovan Richards and as the liaison who covers Community Board 9 & 10. She announced that the Borough President will be holding a tree lighting ceremony at Queens Borough Hall on Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. There is a link on their website to register for this event or individuals can just stop by. There will be toys for the children and hot chocolate for the spectators. She also announced that she e-mailed the Board Members about a survey for future trainings and that she can be reached at: [mcano@queensbp.org](mailto:mcano@queensbp.org). She reminded Board Members who are up for reappointment, and that the application will be available on 1/3/23 on the Queens Borough President's website. She stated that it is an electronic application, and if anyone has any issues uploading the documents to send her an e-mail. She wished everyone Happy Holidays, a Happy Hannukah, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy Kwanzaa.

The Chair introduced Captain Bacchi, Commanding Officer of the 106<sup>th</sup> Precinct.

Captain Bacchi stated that last week was Black Friday and Cyber Monday, so holiday shopping is in full effect. He recommended choosing an online site that is secure that reads https and that if you don't see the "s" written, it can leave you open to hackers. He spoke about package delivery and to always set up the time and place and to require a signature instead of allowing the leaving of packages on the front steps where porch pirates can steal them. He spoke about how at the east end of the precinct, while an Amazon driver was delivering a package an individual on a scooter went into his truck and stole packages. He continued that now that daylight savings time has gone into effect, it gets dark very early and to be cautious when driving. When your car windows are up, you may not hear your surroundings. He also recommended to slow down when driving because decreased speed leads to less collisions. He stated that on Thanksgiving a woman was killed by a left turning vehicle near the Van Wyck Expwy.; and that on Monday there was another fatality at 84<sup>th</sup> Street bet. 151 & 152 Avenue due to excessive speeding and the pedestrian crossing at the middle of the block. He reminded everyone to always use the crosswalk. He continued that the cold weather is here, and that people should never leave a vehicle running while unattended since individuals can jump in and steal the vehicle to commit more crimes. He stated that many car thieves are 14, 15 and 16 years old and how dangerous it is if they collide with someone. He reminded everyone to always lock car doors and to take the car keys. He also spoke about frustrations with commercial vehicles parking in residential areas and how Resorts World Casino has loaned out space in their parking lot for towed commercial vehicles to be temporarily stored. He stated they ticketed 398 commercial trucks, booted 39 trucks and towed 57 trucks in 5 days and that they will continue sustained enforcement in the residential areas. He also spoke about a smoke shop at 158-50 Cross Bay Blvd. which was found to be an unlicensed retail tobacco establishment. Multiple summonses were issued, and they seized the product. They will continue enforcement on these establishments where warranted. He stated that at the beginning of the year there was a dramatic increase in crime due to Grand Larceny Auto and Grand Larceny with unattended property, but that fraud and identity theft crime has steadily decreased over the year. Capt. Bacchi wished everyone a happy holiday season.

**DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING REPORT:** Shristi Bajracharya Shakya wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

The Chairperson acknowledged the attendance of Sola Olasunde from the Borough President's Planning Office.

**DISTRICT MANAGERS REPORT:** The District Manager reported notification was received that in the coming weeks National Grid has planned construction work to install a new gas main at the following locations: Van Wyck Expwy bet. 150 Ave. & Sutter Ave., Van Wyck Expwy bet. Alwick Road & Sutter Ave., 130 Ave. bet. 135 place & Van Wyck Expwy, Van Wyck Expwy. Bet. 130 Ave. & 133 Ave., 133 Ave. bet 135 Place & Van Wyck Expwy, Van Wyck Expwy at the bend of 133 Avenue, 130 Avenue at the intersection of the Van Wyck Expwy, 102 Street bet. 155 & 157 Ave., 102 Street at the intersection of 157 Ave., 102nd Street bet. 157 Ave. & 159 Ave., 102 Street bet. 103 Avenue & Liberty Ave, 102 Street bet. Liberty Ave. & Rockaway Blvd., Rockaway Blvd. bet. 101 Street & 102 Street, 102 Street and Rockaway Blvd., Lefferts Blvd. bet 135 Ave & 133 Ave., Lefferts Blvd. bet. 133 Ave & Sutter Ave. 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 Chairperson stated that all the locations of where the National Grid work is being done are also posted on the CB 10 Facebook page as we receive them.

**CHAIRPERSONS REPORT:** The Chairperson reported/commented that information on the following was in members' folder material:

- Notification from Borough Hall regarding Queens Tech + Innovation Challenge, a 5-month program for small business entrepreneurs. The application process is open until 3/11/23
- Information regarding homeowner's responsibility regarding snow removal
- 133 Ave bridge over the Van Wyck Expwy roadway is open with full sidewalk as of Thanksgiving
- Notice of USACE meeting to be held on December 15 from 2-4 and from 6-8 pm at 1 Bowling Green regarding HATS study.
- Article regarding HATS study in which Board member Roger Gendron was featured.

The Chairperson invited Mr. Gendron to bring us up to date as to what is now occurring regarding the HATS Study. He spoke about the project and stated they have specific plans for Jamaica Bay on the north side and went on to describe them. He then made a motion to CB 10 to formally write and submit comment to USACE supporting the tentatively selected alternative proposed by the USACE before the January 2023 USACE comment deadline. The Chairperson asked for a second to the motion. T. Cosentino seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. All were in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstaining. The motion carried.

The Chairperson explained that the tidal gates if constructed will protect many homes and businesses in the CB district. She thanked the members for approving the motion and thanked Board members Roger Gendron and Raimondo Graziano for their work on this issue. She added that the young people will need to carry this project forward as it is a long-term one. R. Gendron added that the Final Draft will be released in 2025, and that construction will only begin 5 years after that, so the project will actually be completed 22 years later. He spoke with the Army Corps and was informed that it doesn't mean that all the projects will take 14 years to complete since they will be working on multiple projects at one time.

The Chairperson resumed the Chairperson's Report.

- Information from DEC that they have taken enforcement action relating to poachers of striped bass who were illegally fishing in our area.

She announced that in January, after the holiday season is over, and if COVID numbers are still rising and the flu season is back in swing, if we receive notification that the Executive Order is extended and allows us to do a virtual meeting, we will tentatively plan to hold our January meeting on Zoom. The Chairperson wished everyone Happy Holidays, Happy Hannukah, Merry Christmas, Happy Diwali, and Happy Kwanza.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** The Committee Chair stated that the crime stats are in the Board folders and wished everyone a great holiday season.

**SUMMER YOUTH/OTHER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:** The Committee Chair stated that the report is in the Board folders and wished everyone a happy and healthy holiday.

All other Committee Chairs present with no reports wished everyone happy holidays.



**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

The Board Chair acknowledged various representatives from elected officials.

Carl Moore rep. Senator Addabbo announced that the Senator wishes everyone a happy holiday and that December will be the last month they will be in the Howard Beach Office and that they will be moving to a new location at Jamaica Avenue & 84<sup>th</sup> Street in mid-January, but they are still available to anyone that needs their help.

Sima Karetnaya rep. AM Rajkumar stated that the Assembly member is preparing for the January Legislative sessions but the work in her office continues throughout the district. The Assemblymember gave out hundreds of turkeys, including Halal turkeys, for Thanksgiving and she announced they will be hosting a free mammography event on January 4<sup>th</sup> which will be by appointment only. Their office is located at 83-91 Woodhaven Blvd. and they can be reached at: 718-805-0950. She wished everyone Happy Holiday, and to stay safe and be warm.

Alex Leguisamo rep. CM Ariola announced that the Councilmember is against a bill that is being introduced known as Intro 632 which prohibits housing discrimination in NYC on the basis of an arrest record or criminal history in NYC. A public hearing will be held on December 8<sup>th</sup> at City Hall and they are encouraging anyone to sign up to testify or submit testimony in writing. He continued that the Councilmember is also giving away hydro barriers at her office that are 6 to 12-foot bags that can be filled with water to act as sandbags during tidal flooding. He wished everyone a Happy Holiday and stated that he hopes that everyone enjoys the holiday season.

Ty Hankerson advised via text to the Board Chairperson to please convey that although neither the Councilmember nor he was able to attend tonight's meeting, she wanted to remind everyone that she will be holding a meeting regarding the Van Wyck Expwy project and to make sure that you received the meeting announcement that was sent by e-mail.

Dan Brown rep. DA Katz thanked everyone for having the District Attorney's Office attend tonight's meeting.

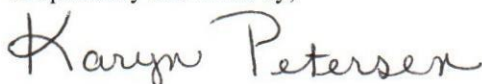
James Mongeluzo rep. NYC Comptroller's Office spoke about a Comptroller's report that came out in October focused on the money allocated for City Projects to mitigate storm and flooding issues and how 20% of the funds were not used as of June of this year and that some of this funding will expire this year. He continued that 66% of the FEMA funds were used however, some of these funds will also expire if they are not used by the end of the year. He stated that all of this information is on the website. He also spoke about property tax reforms, how property taxes are assessed and how they should be put on a more level playing field since areas taxed are at a disproportionate rate. He stated that if anyone has any additional questions, he can be reached at 646-689-6509

**PUBLIC FORUM:** The Chair asked if there was anyone from the public who has a comment or a question.

Sam Esposito wished everyone a happy holiday and announced that his organization will be holding two tree lighting events this year and will have a Santa visiting homes of persons who register for the visit.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,



Karyn Petersen  
Draft – Subject to Approval