



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

March 5, 2020

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

B. Braton, J. Caruso, L. Walker, I. VanPutten, F. Dardani, L. Amorim, E. Fraylon, A. Gellineau, P. Kishun, N. Bissoon, M. Vecchio, P. Granickas, E. Holland, P. Lynch, N. Nigro, J. Ariola, P. Baumann, J. Stahl, A. Maharaj, J. Quijano, N. Santiago, R. Gendron, C. Malizia, M. Cherenfant, J. Calcagnile, S. Pace, A. Cosentino, J. Fazio, R. Martinez, D. N. Sookram-Singh, J. Singh

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

M. Q. Amin, A. Antonino, R. Ciulla-Frisone, A. Dhanpat, I. Dimoh, G. Duldulao, R. Graham, R. Hitlall, D. Mitchell, F. Mohamed, B. Ramsundar, K. Randall, G. Russo, M. Salim, N. Shuyab

**COMMUNITY BOARD 10 STAFF PRESENT:** K. Petersen, D.M.; M. May

#### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Hon. J. Addabbo; S. Chuprik, Rep. Hon. H. Jeffries; C. Moore, Rep. Hon. J. Addabbo; M. Matteo, Rep. Hon. S. Pheffer-Amato; L. Fogal, Rep. Hon. M. Miller; N. Kozikowska, Rep. Hon. E. Ulrich; K. Mooney, Rep. Hon. A. Adams; J. Mongeluzo, NYC Comptroller's Office; D. Brown, QBPO; J. Resor, QDCP; Capt. J. Costello, CO 106 Precinct; P.O. S. Jaffe, Community Affairs, 106 Precinct; L. Songhai, Government & Community Relations/MTA NYC Transit; R. Lai, NYC MTA Bus

The Chairperson began the meeting at 7:45 pm and asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chairperson acknowledged the arrival of Senator Addabbo and invited him to speak. The Senator said they are in the budget negotiations process in Albany and the \$178 billion budget has a \$6 billion deficit. The Governor created a Medicaid Redesign Team Two (there was one in the last crisis) whose job is to find a \$2 billion cut in health care; and legislature's job is to protect that and try to put that \$2 billion back and find elsewhere to make cuts or find revenue. There is a balance here and it's our job to protect health care. Over the course of this month of March that's what we'll do; we'll try to find cuts elsewhere and try to find revenue. The Senator went on to explain how he is seeking to increase the state's revenue stream through mobile sports betting. He explained how NY is losing funds due to people going to NJ where such betting is legal. March is Problematic Gaming Awareness Month and we understand the need to address the issue of problematic gaming. Our gaming Commission in the State has been recognized nationally for the work they've done in helping people with a gaming addiction. It's a serious thing so when I talk about gaming in our State or mobile sports betting we do care about problematic gaming and we do need to take care of it. Regarding the Coronavirus he said, it's nice to be prepared but not scared. Up in Albany we allocated \$40 million that the Governor could use immediately (to hire personnel, vaccinations, etc.) just to be prepared and we also gave him the authority to make immediate decisions on an outbreak. This immediate power that we gave him should last one year. This is to make sure that our government is ready and should anything happen he can make decisions. It was noted he



already makes immediate decisions on hurricanes, tornadoes, etc. The Senator announced the recycling event in Forest Park co-sponsored with Assembly Member Miller tentatively scheduled for Sunday April 26<sup>th</sup> 10am-2pm which includes electronic recycling, paper shredding, American Flag recycling, clothing, small furniture, it's rain or shine. The Senator thanked everyone.

The President of the Howard Beach-Lindenwood Civic thanked the Senator for his donation of blue ribbons in their effort to paint Howard Beach blue in support of the NYPD. The Senator reciprocated thanks and asked for a round of applause for the NY Police, and said; in their honor we will change Bail Reform.

The Chairperson thanked the Senator.

At this point the Chairperson opened the informational public hearing for the evening and introduced MTA NYC Transit Representatives to speak about Queens Bus Network Redesign. She indicated people would have an opportunity to have their questions answered and to make their statements. Ms. Songhai, Assistant Director of Government Community Relations at the MTA NYC Transit introduced herself and indicated that she was joined by Mr. Lai of the MTA Bus Company. She indicated paper copies of handouts were being distributed (instead of a power point presentation). She said, we will go through the presentation laying out some of the new routes being proposed. She explained that MTA has held about 40 meetings with about another 30 meetings left to go at which they have been talking with people about the redesign and getting their feedback. One such meeting was held in Ozone Park at the end of January. She said, the handouts include two maps: on one side of the map are the proposed routes for this area. On the other side you will see a map that has blue lines, yellow lines, and gray lines. The blue lines show current bus routes that will be maintained, yellow lines show new connections in the draft proposal, and the gray shows areas where MTA is considering cutting due to inefficiency with the routing or for low ridership. Again, this plan is a draft, there is nothing set in stone. MTA has no implementation date. Additionally, a map relating to express busses was provided.

At this point Ms. Songhai invited Mr. Lai up to speak. Mr. Lai said, this redesign of the Queens Bus Network is part of the citywide effort to redesign the bus network throughout the entire City. This started out in Staten Island where express bus routes were implemented in 2018. The Bronx is going through final stages before implementation later this year. The Draft Plan is in Queens, which will be followed by Brooklyn. At this stage MTA is looking for feedback on the plan that was developed and he instructed audience to turn to page two of handout.

(Dip. Sookram-Singh arrived 7:55pm)

He explained the redesign is being done to try to modernize the bus network throughout the City, which hasn't been changed in decades and MTA is now trying to adjust to the modern transportation needs. Customer outreach began on the Queens Redesign back in May, providing education and soliciting feedback on the existing bus network. Based on that data that was gathered the Existing Conditions Report was released in September and the Draft Plan was released in December. Right now MTA is in the process of receiving public input. MTA will then take that feedback and see how it can make adjustments to the plan that has been developed. Then a Proposed Final Plan, which right now is planned for the end of spring or the beginning of summer, will be released. He explained that because of the overwhelming amount of comments MTA has been getting it may be a little bit later, so there is no planned implementation date for the new bus network. When MTA releases the Proposed Final Plan there will be another round of outreach. He then read through each page of the presentation, which was distributed.

(R. Martinez arrived 8:11pm)

Ms. Songhai added that they would return to the Board when the proposed Final Plan is released. She thanked everybody for being patient through the presentation and said they are open to questions.

The Chairperson acknowledged area resident, Mr. Leguisamo, who said the bus redesign plan follows the UPS Truck model to eliminate turns to make it more efficient, but please remember you are not transporting packages, you are transporting passengers. By eliminating bus routes and bus stops the MTA is not improving services, especially for seniors and all passengers on a cold winter day. He asked civic leaders and elected officials to write to the president of the NYC Transit Authority, 2 Broadway, NY, NY 10004 to request real improvement in bus services.



The Chairperson asked if there was anyone else from the public who wishes to speak. An area resident asked a question about slide 13 and if QMT169 will continue to stop at 163 Avenue and 159 Avenue and the response was it's not proposed to stop there. Broad Channel will be the last stop.

Another area resident raised concerns about the proposal of cutting down the express buses serving Howard Beach from three to one.

Addressing the MTA, Mr. Leguisamo said, please keep the buses running to JFK.

Ms. Songhai said they have been kept out of JFK and indicated transportation is important for people that work there. She said the reason there are no stops being shown for JFK is that they have not been told where they can stop. She recognizes the importance not only for people to get to JFK to fly out but also for people that work at JFK, which is a huge economic engine. It was noted they are hoping to work with their State partners to find a solution that works for everybody.

The President of the OPRBA asked about the proposed change to the Q7 and expressed concern that service would be cut to Ozone Park residents currently served by it.

Mr. Ali expressed concerns over bus stop elimination in an area of the Board.

Board members expressed concerns regarding proposed routes and service cuts and service needs. The Chairperson indicated the Board would be developing comments to be made formally to MTA and that it would include all of the concerns and issues that were raised as well as any different concerns we receive in the near future.

The Chairperson thanked the MTA representatives for coming and also thanked the community members who participated and asked that feedback be provided to the Board.

The Chairperson continued with the regular order of business and asked if there were any additions or corrections to the February 2020 minutes. There were none.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** The Chairperson reviewed correspondence for the month of February 2020, which included:

- NYC DOT notice in response to No Parking request at northeast corner of Cross Bay Blvd. & Plattwood Avenue
- NYC DOT notice regarding speed hump feasibility study between North Conduit Avenue & 83 Street
- Various notifications from Mayor's Office regarding Coronavirus
- DDC notice - Preliminary/Final Design of Complex Pedestrian Ramp Upgrades (2 locations in CB10)
- DOE notice of environment testing at PS96 in connection with a proposed addition in playground area of school
- NYC OMB - DEP upstate watersheds
- DSS/HRA/DHS update on Mayor's "Turning the Tide" plan
- HRA/DSS relocation of NYC DSS's Office of the Ombudsman
- NYMTC notice of public comment thru March 6 on proposed transportation improvement program amendment
- Partial demolition/alteration notice: 125-12 103 Avenue, Richmond Hill 11419
- Letter of Comment sent to the Mayor in regard to the Preliminary Budget
- NYC DOT notice of design and construction support services for component rehabilitation of 9 bridges in the Borough of Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens (130 Street over Belt-Southern Pkwy.)
- NYC OMB notice of FDNY aerial ladders
- NYC DPR notice regarding concession rules
- T.C. Systems notification of utility job: 114 Street & North Conduit Avenue
- DDC/DEP green infrastructure project
- NYC OMB - Parks Dept. reconstruction of sidewalks damaged by trees
- Letter of thanks for sock drive contributions sent to all civics
- Letter from NYC Parks Dept. concerning proposed in-house plans for Gemini Fields adjacent to GallopNYC/Sunrise Stables.

Ms. Ariola, President of the Howard Beach-Lindenwood Civic indicated the civic strongly opposes this project and urged the Board to also strongly oppose it. She said she would like to motion that the Board oppose this project with the



stipulation that we state our opposition to any vehicular access other than for the limited use by the Parks Dept. vehicles; pedestrian access to Gemini Fields adjacent to GallopNYC/Sunrise Stables via 79 Street; any further concession use on the portion of parkland by Gemini Field by any other entity other than GallopNYC; any farm, garden, agriculture use either temporary or permanent in any parkland adjacent to GallopNYC/Sunrise Stables. Mr. F. Dardani seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All were in favor, with zero opposing, zero abstaining; the motion carried.

Correspondence review continued with:

- Demo Notice: 130-08 109 Avenue, South Ozone Park 11420
- Demo Notice: 150-16 Tahoe Street, Ozone Park 11417
- DSS/HRA notice regarding SNAP Federal rule change

The Chairperson then acknowledged and invited Capt. John Costello, Commanding Officer, 106 Precinct to speak. He reported they are up in crime. In the 28 day period they are up 46% in crime and year to date they are up 66% in crime; but noted that's trending in the right direction because at the last Board Meeting he reported they were up 116% in crime. It was explained they are fighting very small numbers; it's percentages they are talking about. There were 18 GLAs and almost all of those have been recovered. An arrest was made on February 8 and three individuals were caught that were responsible for 98% of the GLAs in this command and unfortunately, they were arrested, got a ticket and walked out. One of the main culprits was arrested again in the 113 Precinct on February 11 and got a ticket and was let out; he was arrested again on Feb 16 and got a ticket and was let out; and then was arrested again yesterday in the 108 Precinct and got a ticket and was let out. He reported truck burglaries are driving the burglary numbers up but indicated that in the last three days the crew who is doing it out of Brooklyn has been identified; it's an ongoing investigation. He spoke about the trend of youth on youth robberies and indicated there is a steady post by JHS 226. The Chairperson, on behalf of the community, thanked him for the work he has been doing.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** – the Treasurer read the report of expenditures for the month February 2020.

**BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S LIAISON REPORT** – Mr. Brown thanked everyone on behalf of the Borough President for the generous donation of socks during the Week of Service. He reported a Census Office has been opened at Queens Borough Hall; it's for anyone who wishes to fill out the Census, or if you have questions about the Census, or if you want to apply for a job, or for non-profits who want to apply for State funding, you can do it there. It's open Tuesdays & Thursdays from 9am to 6pm. The Borough Hall general phone number was provided. He said the Chairperson, has been a wonderful advocate for this movement. It was noted that there are still a lot of job openings, with good pay and very flexible hours for anyone who may be interested.

**DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT** – The District Manager reported notification was received from DOT that WSP USA has been retained to rehabilitate components of the 130 Street over Belt-Southern Parkway Bridge under capital project HBCR21B. The work will be done in stages and vehicular traffic will be maintained during construction. It was noted, the MetroVan will be in front of the Foch Post Office located at 126-16 Foch Blvd., South Ozone Park, Tuesday, March 31 from 1 – 3 pm.

The Chairperson then acknowledged others present: C. Moore, representing State Senator Addabbo; N. Kozikowska, representing Council Member Ulrich; P.O. Seth Jaffe, Community Affairs, 106 Precinct; J. Mongeluzo, representing NYC Comptroller Stringer; M. Matteo, representing Assembly Member Pheffer-Amato; L. Fogal, representing Assembly Member Miller; S. Chuprik, representing Congressman Jeffries; K. Mooney, representing Council Member Adams

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT** – The Chairperson referencing the Coronavirus reiterated that everyone should get their information from trusted sources and said the City has activated the Emergency Management Control Room. She reported that there were two conference calls yesterday, one with the Dept. of Homeland Services in Washington, and the other with NYC Emergency Management. As the Senator said, it's about preparedness and not being scared. There are a great many things that people need to be doing as we move forward into whatever is to come with this virus. It was noted that whatever info is received from the DOH is posted daily on the CB10 Facebook page. She urged everybody to be cautious of posting only information that comes from a trusted voice: Centers for Disease Control, the World Health Organization, the NYS DOH and NYC DOH. She noted we are lucky that we live in a State and a City that have superb health departments who are doing the job that they need to do. One of the things that the CDC is not recommending is the use of facemasks. She reiterated that everyone check where his or her



information is coming from and that any information shared is accurate. It was noted that Board Members have the briefing in their folders from yesterday which has been updated.

She reported the Queens Borough Budget response is out and a summary will be emailed to the board members. Every Borough President gets a pot of discretionary money, which groups can ask to receive. The Borough of Queens has 2.3 million people; and we get \$2.53 per person to our Borough as our borough's share of that pot of money; whereas the Bronx has 1.5 million people and the per capita support for the Bronx is \$4.39 per person; Brooklyn is the closest to Queens in population with 2.6 million people and gets \$2.79 per capita; Manhattan has 1.7 million people and gets \$3.25 per capita; Staten Island has under ½ million people and gets \$10.17 per capita. It was indicated that the Borough stands collectively behind every Board's priorities in the Borough budget response. She also reported some of the other inequities vis-a-vis borough funding for other agencies found in the city's budget when it gets broken down by per capita share. The Chairperson then made reference to the Census and said on average, for every person not counted \$3,000 in federal funding is lost; and if just 1% of the Queens population does not respond, that would equal 24,000 people x \$3,000 which is \$72 million a year of federal funding that will be lost each year over the 10 year period until the 2030 census. She urged everyone to remind neighbors, friends, worship groups, etc. to push the Census response. She spoke about the complaints regarding helicopter noise and reminded everyone to call 311 and make sure to say you want your complaint to go to EDC.

The Chairperson then said she had skipped over the **DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING REPORT** – and J. Resor indicated she had no report.

The meeting continued with **COMMITTEE REPORTS** as follows:

**CONSUMER AFFAIRS** – the Committee Chairperson indicated report was in board folders.

**GATEWAY** – the Committee Chairperson encouraged everyone to use Shirley Chisholm State Park.

**SUMMER YOUTH & OTHER EMPLOYMENT** – the Board Chairperson indicated report was in board folders.

**LIBRARIES** – the Committee Chairperson indicated flyers were on the table regarding available programs

**PARKS** – the Committee Chairperson indicated discussion had already taken place earlier in the meeting

**PERSONNEL** – the Committee Chairperson reported the process of replacing the staff member who retired is happening and hopefully a replacement will be hired soon. The Board Chairperson indicated the interview process is ongoing and hopefully a decision will be made before the next Board Meeting.

**PUBLIC SAFETY** – the Committee Chairperson indicated crime stats report was in board folders. He reminded everyone it's time to change their clocks and to also change batteries in smoke / carbon monoxide detectors; therefore 9 volt batteries were distributed and more batteries are available at the Board office if needed. He referenced the Census and encouraged everyone to self-respond to avoid any possible scams from people coming around the neighborhood. The Board Chairperson warned against Census scams, and reminded everyone that Census workers are not even out yet.

**OLD BUSINESS** – The Board Chairperson distributed certificates of appreciation to all civics and organizations that had contributed to the sock drive and thanked them for their generous donations. She said everyone cooperated very well and also thanked the Board staff and noted the Borough President herself came to the office to pick up the socks.

The Board Chairperson indicated a special guest should be arriving in a few more minutes and asked that members not leave.

**NEW BUSINESS** – none

**PUBLIC FORUM** – the Chairperson asked if anyone from the public wished to speak and the floor was turned over to Ms. Letitia Bridgeman, a student researcher for GasLeakStudy.nyc. She explained this is a research project aimed at exploring human responses to suspected natural gas leaks. The UrbanHealth Lab at York College of the City



University of New York is conducting the study. She explained that after authorities discovered that the deadly explosion in East Harlem in 2014 was due to the continued leaking of gas in the surrounding area, there has been an increased interest in the outreach, education and policy regarding the detection and reporting of suspected natural gas leaks. It was indicated they are hoping to recruit local community members who are also consumers of natural gas energy to participate in this project. The first step in this process is to have interested community members complete a short survey. This survey will determine whether someone is eligible to participate in one of three sub-studies. These studies include focus groups, both electronic and on the York College Campus, a photography project and a different short on-line survey. Eligible individuals can visit: [www.gasleakstudy.nyc](http://www.gasleakstudy.nyc) to complete the survey. She said, we are also available this evening to screen individuals for eligibility. If eligible, we will ask you to provide us with contact information so that we can follow-up with you regarding participation in a sub-study. Participants who are invited and complete one of the sub-studies could earn up to \$175 and Amazon gift cards. Some materials are available this evening for review and we are available after the meeting to answer any questions.

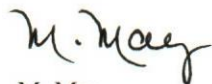
At this point the Board Chairperson announced the arrival of Queens Borough President, Sharon Lee and invited her to speak. The Borough President said she wanted to come in and say thank you, and farewell, and remind everyone there is a special election coming up on March 24 and early voting begins March 14. She stressed the importance of the upcoming Census and said the Borough of Queens was the first Borough to open a Census Center at Borough Hall. She acknowledged and thanked everyone for his or her participation in the Week of Service and for the overwhelming response to the sock drive; and said Board 10 really came through. She spoke about the Queens Borough Board and their vote on the Budget Priorities and the response to the Mayor's Preliminary Budget. She stressed how Queens is getting short-changed and spoke about three areas where Queens is getting short changed: children/schools, seniors/elders and hospitals/health care. She indicated all this information is on their website. These three areas are of concern and encouraged everyone to have a look at Borough Board Budget Priorities on-line at: [www.queensbp.org](http://www.queensbp.org). She thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve. The Chairperson thanked BP Lee for all the work she has done and wished her well.

The Chairperson asked if there was anyone else from the public who wished to speak.

There were no further speakers.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 9:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,



M. May  
Draft – Subject to Approval