

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD 11
GENERAL BOARD MEETING

March 3, 2025

Paul DiBenedetto – Chair

PRESENT AT MEETING

CB 11 Staff:

Joseph Marziliano – District Manager

Christina Coutinho – Community Associate

Elected Officials and/or Representatives:

Patrick Jordan

Representing the Queens Borough President

Alex Winters

Representing Council Member Paladino

Jon Gallo

Representing State Senator Liu

Lucia Panedes

Representing Council Member Ung

Jess Mueller

Representing Assembly Member Braunstein

Kate Boehme

Representing Queens DA Katz

Sila Asa

Representing Council Member Lee

NYPD

Captain Ramnauth Ramlochan – Commanding Officer 111th Precinct

PO Cillis – Community Affairs Unit 111th Precinct

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 PM by Chair, Paul DiBenedetto.

Mr. DiBenedetto led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Liz Burke spoke regarding fraud prevention and how you can protect yourself from scams.

Mr. DiBenedetto introduced the 111th Precinct's newly appointed Commanding Officer, Captain Ramlochan. Captain Ramlochan spoke regarding citywide fraud scams. He also spoke regarding crime patterns and how to avoid being a victim. He stated that he will not tolerate electric scooters.

Lucia Panedes spoke regarding upcoming events.

Kate Boehme gave an update on crime patterns that the DA is working on.

Jess Mueller spoke regarding the Canna Budda Cannabis location protest. She stated the past events that took place.

Patrick Jordan spoke regarding upcoming events that the Queens Borough President is hosting. All events are on the Borough President's website.

Jon Gallo spoke regarding programs that State Senator Liu is offering.

Sila Asa spoke regarding upcoming events.

Alexis Winters spoke regarding upcoming events.

ROLL CALL

Members Present

Adriana Aviles, Lana Bind, Jessica Burke, Sharon Chin, Carmen Collado, Victor Dadras, Paul DiBenedetto, Henry Euler, Mario Ferazzoli, Michelle Fields, Jack Fried, Joan Garippa, Michael Golia, Rosemarie Guidice, Tim Hao, Laura James, Mohan Jethwani, Jena Lanzetta, Robert Liatto, Fleur Martino, Karen Mazza, George Mihaltses, Eileen Miller, Kenneth O'Keefe, Stephen Pivawer, Gunjan Rastogi, Megan Rha, Ralph Ruiz, Amesh Saracha, Christina Scherer, John Sullivan, Eileen Taylor, Benjamin Turner, David White, Sam Wong, Athena Wu, Mina Youn

Members Absent

Michael Budabin, Susan Cerezo, C. Omarr Evans, Elias Fillas, George Hadjiconstantinou, Travis Kessel, Matthew Mamak, Ann Puckett, Seihee Ryu, Jyothi Sriram

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A motion was made to accept the minutes of February 2025, meeting by Mohan Jethwani. The motion was seconded by Laura James. There were no corrections or additions. A roll call vote was taken resulting in 32 in favor, 4 abstentions and 1 present. The minutes were approved as written.

(In-favor — Adriana Aviles, Lana Bind, Jessica Burke, Sharon Chin, Carmen Collado, Victor Dadras, Paul DiBenedetto, Henry Euler, Mario Ferazzoli, Michele Fields, Jack Fried, Joan Garippa, Michael Golia, Rosemarie Guidice, Tim Hao, Laura James, Jena Lanzetta, Robert Liatto, Fleur Martino, George Mihaltses, Eileen Miller, Kenneth O'Keefe, Stephen Pivawer, Megan Rha, Ralph Ruiz, Amesh Saracha, Christina Scherer, John Sullivan, Eileen Taylor, David White, Sam Wong, Athena Wu, Abstained – Karen Mazza, Gunjan Rastogi, Benjamin Turner, Mina Youn – Present- Mohan Jethwani)

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- 1) The newly appointed Commanding Officer (CO) of the 111th Precinct is Captain Ramlochan. We wish him the very best in leading the precinct, combatting the rise in robberies and larcenies and in keeping our CB11 neighborhoods safe. The Captain was formerly the XO of the 111th Precinct and has developed different, successful methods of keeping crime down during his term which ultimately made his candidacy for CO so attractive. I'm proud to say that CB11 played a role in the election through our Public Safety Committee, and we hope to keep the lines of communication open between our office and the precinct.
- 2) On February 12th, Council Member Paladino arranged for City Council Land Use staff to meet with the community (in particular, with Douglas Manor residents). Thank you, Council Member Paladino, for setting up this informative meeting for concerned homeowners.

- 3) On February 17th, a fire tragically ripped through a Bayside home at 208th Street and 34th Avenue killing a 90-year-old mother and her 2 children, ages 56 and 54. We wish the families our humblest condolences.
- 4) On February 18th, there was a protest at the site of Canna Buddha dispensary located at 215th Street and 39th Avenue in Bayside.
- 5) On February 18th, a 79-year-old male entered the 111th Precinct brandishing a handgun and pointing it at officers inside. We do not have the final assessment from NYPD as it is an ongoing investigation, but the incident resulted in the death of the armed gunman.
- 6) On February 25th, Joe and I attended three events with the Borough President's office staff: first, the Bay Terrace Shopping Center with the business community sponsored by Cord Meyer, second, with the Bayside BID (with Noah Sheroff, BID Executive Director) walking on Bell Blvd. meeting business owners and lastly, at the Bay Terrace Library for a civic engagement meeting.
- 7) On February 26th, I attended a virtual meeting sponsored by DA Katz and Assembly Member Braunstein's office for a Home Deed Protection seminar. It was an excellent presentation. I asked the expert from the DA's office to present this information at our next CB11 meeting.
- 8) On February 27th, I attended the BP's Community Roundtable at Queens Community College which was well attended. Thank you to BP Richards for coordinating with our office.
- 9) Sadly, the last announcement is the resignation of CB11 Board Member, Robert Liatto. We wish Robert the best in his future endeavors, and we thank him for his fine service with CB11.

BOARD MEMBER NEW BUSINESS

Jena Lanzetta spoke regarding the BP's Community Roundtable which she attended as the Northwest Bayside Civic Leader. She said that the BP reported that Queens has the lowest employment rate, Jamaica Hospital will be partnering with Memorial Sloan Kettering, 78 million dollars has been dedicated to schools, and Queens will be getting a Children's Museum. She spoke regarding procedures with DSNY trash bins.

Henry Euler congratulated the Bayside Historical Society for a successful Art Festival. He gave an update on the Board of Standards and Appeals open case that will be presented at tonight's meeting. This case was closed with the stipulation that CB11 is in favor of the application. Mr. Euler spoke regarding Star Toyota and the ongoing problem with the neighbor. Lastly, he discussed the City of Yes transit-oriented development and how train stations in the district have different radiuses. He asked BP Richards for support in this matter.

Eileen Miller announced that she is now Dr. Eileen Miller.

Victor Dadras stated that he and Joe attended a quarterly meeting (CAB) regarding the women's shelter on Northern Blvd. He said that there are no complaints regarding the shelter and how management has been involved with the community. Mr. Marziliano stated that it was reported at the meeting that five women have been placed in permanent residences.

David White stated that he was pleased with the feedback from the community and management of the women's shelter, especially since March is Women's History Month.

Jessica Burke stated that the BP hosted a non-profit immigrant fair last week. She stated that the CB should think about doing something similar. Ms. Burke discussed political issues. She also spoke on the community board budget.

Adriana Aviles stated that she is President of District 26 Presidents' Council and elections will be taking place. She urged everyone to get involved.

PRESENTATION

LiveOnNY – A non-profit organization committed to helping New York live on through organ donating. Raida Hossain representing LiveOnNY gave a lengthy, informative presentation on the importance of organ donating. She explained the process and services offered. Information can be obtained at www.LiveOnNY.org. Several lives can be saved from one person donating their organs.

PUBLIC HEARING

Little Neck Zoning Committee – BSA Cal. No. 499 -29BZ – 248-70 Horace Harding Expressway. *An application to extend the term of a previously granted variance of a full-service gas station for 10 years.* Joan Garippa, Zoning Chair, reviewed the Committee report of January 30, 2025. This would be for a 10-year term for a full-service gas station with a 3-bay auto repair, 4 gas pumps and kiosk building. The current term is expiring in March 2026. All conditions will remain the same and the C of O will be updated. The applicant's representative, Hiram Rothkrug, stated that this gas station has been operating for over 70 years. There were no registered public speakers. A motion was made by Joan Garippa to approve the application with the remaining conditions. Henry Euler seconded the motion. A question and answered period followed. A roll call vote was taken resulting in 37 in favor, 0 opposed. The motion carried.

(In-favor - Adriana Aviles, Lana Bind, Jessica Burke, Sharon Chin, Carmen Collado, Victor Dadras, Paul DiBenedetto, Henry Euler, Mario Ferazzoli, Michelle Fields, Jack Fried, Joan Garippa, Michael Golia, Rosemarie Guidice, Tim Hao, Laura James, Mohan Jethwani, Jena Lanzetta, Robert Liatto, Fleur Martino, Karen Mazza, George Mihaltses, Eileen Miller, Kenneth O'Keefe, Stephen Pivawer, Gunjan Rastogi, Megan Rha, Ralph Ruiz, Amesh Saracha, Christina Scherer, John Sullivan, Eileen Taylor, Benjamin Turner, David White, Sam Wong, Athena Wu, Mina Youn)

BOARD MEMBER ELECTIONS

The elections were chaired by Mohan Jethwani and George Mihaltses

Paul DiBenedetto was nominated for Chair by Mohan Jethwani. The motion was seconded by Victor Dadras. Mr. DiBenedetto accepted the nomination. One vote was cast, and the consensus was unanimous to elect Paul DiBenedetto as Chair.

Victor Dadras was nominated for 1st Vice Chair by Paul DiBenedetto. The motion was seconded by Laura James. Mr. Dadras accepted the nomination. One vote was cast, and the consensus was unanimous to elect Victor Dadras as 1st Vice Chair.

Henry Euler was nominated for 2nd Vice Chair by Christina Scherer. The motion was seconded by Robert Liatto. Mr. Euler accepted the nomination. One vote was cast, and the consensus was unanimous to elect Henry Euler as 2nd Vice Chair.

Fleur Martino was nominated for 3rd Vice Chair by Adriana Aviles. The motion was seconded by Megan Rha. Jena Lanzetta was nominated for 3rd Vice Chair by Rosemarie Guidice. The motion was seconded by Christina Scherer. Jena Lanzetta spoke briefly and accepted the nomination. Ms. Martino spoke briefly and declined the nomination. One vote was cast, and the consensus was unanimous to elect Ms. Lanzetta as 3rd Vice Chair.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.