



# Community Board 12

## The City of New York

### Borough of Queens

Jamaica, Hollis, St. Albans, South Ozone Park, and Springfield Gardens  
 90-28 161st Street, Jamaica, New York 11432 ▪ (718) 658-3308 ▪ Fax (718) 739-6997 ▪ [qn12@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:qn12@cb.nyc.gov)  
[www.nyc.gov/qcb12](http://www.nyc.gov/qcb12)

DONOVAN RICHARDS  
*Borough President*

REV. CARLENE O. THORBS  
*Chairperson*

MARICELA CANO  
*Director of Community Boards*

YVONNE REDDICK  
*District Manager*

### Minutes of the General Meeting

Wednesday, March 15, 2023, 7:00pm

Members Present - 35		
Ahnaf Alam	Mohammad Ali	Angela Allen
Maxine Brannon	Kenny Carter	Jean Randolph-Castro
Manuel Caughman	Glenn Greenidge	Vishal Hardowar, Esq.
Rene Cheatham Hill	Crystal Isaac	Khondokar Tarikul Islam
Celeste James	Audrey Lee Jacobs	Chantel Johnson
Al Hussan-Kanu	Bilal Karriem, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairperson	Michele Keller, 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Chairperson
Dawn Kelly	Latoya Legrand	Rev. Edward Mckay
Abdus Salaam Musa	Shah Nawaz	Charline Ogbeni
Akther H. Rahman	Fitzroy Searles, Secretary	Owen Shakespeare
Florence Simmons	Rev. C. Princess Thorbs-Mcgee, Chairperson	Toni Totten
Linette Townsley	Bryan White	Khari White
Jeanette Wilson	Patricia Wooden	

Members Absent or Excused – 16		
Melvin Artis	Natalie Blain	Jacqueline Boyce
Tanbir Chowdhury	Clifton Stanley Diaz	Marcia Francis
Nurul Haque	Yullanda Hinds	Clementine James
Aiysha Jaggassar-Johnson	Sharon Sweeting-Lindsey	Rev. Bernadette Logan
Wanda Manley	Angela Miskis	Amanda Sewanan
Yvette Sledge		

Rev. Thorbs welcomed attendees and called the general meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Mr. Searles made announcements about upcoming events and opportunities occurring within Community District 12.

### **Chairperson's Report – Rev. Carlene Thorbs**

Rev. Carlene Thorbs provided a synopsis of meetings that she attended in February and earlier in March. On March 8, 2023, she attended “How to Write and Win a Scholarship” where Ms. Vanessa Sparks was among the presenters. Rev. Thorbs relayed the highlights of the Community Education Council 29 (CEC29) meeting, as the group seeks funding for summer school programs to booster student performance and test scores in English & Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics.

Rev. Thorbs attended a meeting with Renee Hill, CB12 Transportation Committee Chairperson, in opposition to Gov. Kathy Hochul's proposed housing plan which intends to increase density statewide. The meeting was well attended by community board representatives and civic association members from across Queens. Elected officials at the meeting included NYS Senators, Hon. Leroy Comrie and Hon. John Liu. She reminded attendees of the NYC Department of Sanitation (DSNY) changes to permissible times for setting out trash and potential fines for non-compliance.

### **District Manager's Report – Ms. Yvonne Reddick**

Ms. Yvonne Reddick also spoke on the changes to permissible times for setting out trash. She advocated for segments of the constituents in which the changes may adversely affect. She informed the community of sewer repair work taking place within the district. Ms. Reddick advised constituents to read her written District Manager's report regarding the end of the moratorium on water-bill liens.

She announced the application deadline for the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). Ms. Reddick gave a brief update on the Parson Boulevard Plaza renovation project. The Office of the Queens Borough President seeks to conduct an air-quality study in all 13 community districts within the near future. The CB12 District Office will keep the community abreast of the dates once available via the CB12 website.

### **Community Session**

Ms. Jewel from Black Spectrum Theater announced a stage reading show called “The Block Association” written by Carl Clay. She encouraged attendees to explore various ways of getting involved with the theater.

Ms. Susan Diaz, Southeast Queens Administrator, NYC Parks and Recreation Department, gave a rundown of upcoming programs happening at Roy Wilkins Park, Archer Springer Park, and Baisley Pond Park. NYC Parks is also collaborating with the Queens Public Library – Rochdale Branch on a literacy program.

Ms. Vanessa Sparks, Financial Aid and Scholarship Mentor, spoke to the community about workshops that her organization is hosting regarding scholarships, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), and other resources available. Ms. Sparks also mentioned the Mayor’s Office Internship program and encouraging young people to submit applications.

Ms. Sherie Burgess asked CB12 for guidance on restoring rush hour service to the Long Island Railroad (LIRR) station at Hollis. She also explained about disparities experienced at the Hollis Station with respect to neighboring stations in Garden City and Elmont. Ms. Reddick suggested that Ms. Burgess contact the district office of NYS Senator Comrie. A representative from Hon. Comrie’s office stated that she is taking notes and Kate Fenton, Chief-of-Staff, NYC Councilmember Nantasha Williams, asked Ms. Burgess to contact their office as well.

## **Business Session**

At 9:12pm, Rev. Thorbs made a motion for the board to enter the business session, which was seconded by Ms. Jean Randolph-Castro and Mr. Kenny Carter. The motion was passed unanimously.

Ms. Patricia Wooden made a motion at 9:21pm that the board accept the February 15<sup>th</sup> general meeting minutes with necessary corrections. The motion was seconded by Ms. Celeste James. The motion was passed unanimously.

### *Land Use Committee Report – Mr. Vishal Hardowar, Esq.*

Mr. Hardowar summarized a presentation given by Omar Durzon of Unisolar at the Land Use Committee meeting held on March 7, 2023. Mr. Durazo’s requested the Community Board 12’s recommendation for the installation of solar panels on the roof of 112-50 179 street in the Addisleigh Park Historic District. During the Land Use committee meeting the applicant entered into the record a letter of support received from the Addisleigh Park Civic Association. The committee voted, 12-0-0, in favor of Mr. Durazo’s request. Mr. Hardowar made a motion that the full board adopt the committee’s recommendation to approve this application. The motion was seconded by Mr. Glenn Greenidge and received all board members present were in favor.

Transportation Committee Report – Ms. Michelle Keller, First Vicechair

Ms. Keller presided over the Transportation Committee meeting held on March 14, 2023, in lieu of committee chairperson Renee Cheatham Hill, who was absent. The committee heard a presentation from Mr. Colvin and Mr. Sakata, representatives of CityBridge – Intersection, a consortium seeking to install LinkNYC kiosk and/or Link5G towers at 11 proposed locations across Queens Community District 12. Prior to the committee meeting, Ms. Keller and Rev. Thorbs visited the proposed locations and found them not suitable for the LinkNYC kiosks and/or towers.

Ms. Keller said that representatives from the NYC Office of Technology and Dr. Eric Swanson of Pittsburg advised the transportation committee that the LinkNYC infrastructure emits a small amount of radiation. However, Odette Wilkens (Wired Broadband) and Theodora Scarato (Environmental Health Trust) provided a large amount of evidence showing the contrary and the adverse impact it has on human health, sidewalk clearance, and the environment at-large. The transportation committee voted in favor of adopting a resolution to stop the installation of new LinkNYC and Link5G infrastructure as well as the removal of existing LinkNYC and Link5G infrastructure within Queens Community District 12.

Ms. Keller made a motion for the full board to support the transportation committee's recommendation for CB12 to adoption a resolution in opposition to the installation of new LinkNYC kiosk and/or Link5G towers within the community district as well as removing the current LinkNYC and Link5G infrastructure. The motion was seconded by Mr. Greenidge. Rev. Thorbs halted the vote when questions arose around the resolution and potential language. Mr. Searles read a draft resolution for a moratorium on the installation LinkNYC kiosks and Link5G and advised the board that the removal of current infrastructure would be better served as a second resolution. After much discussion a consensus was reached that two resolutions would be more effective. Ms. Keller amended her motion to split the resolutions; the first resolution to have moratorium on the installation of new LinkNYC kiosks and Link5G towers, and the second, for the removal of all LinkNYC and Link5G infrastructure, with the necessary corrections. Ms. Celeste James seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The business session was closed, and the meeting adjourned at 10:10pm.

Minutes written by Mr. Searles, Secretary.