



Community Board 12

The City of New York

Borough of Queens

Jamaica, Hollis, St. Albans, South Ozone Park, and Springfield Gardens
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DONOVAN RICHARDS
Borough President

REV. CARLENE O. THORBBS
Chairperson

MARICELA CANO
Director of Community Boards

YVONNE REDDICK
District Manager

Minutes of the General Meeting

Wednesday, May 17, 2023, 7:00pm

Members Present - 39		
Ahnaf Alam	Mohammad Ali	Angela Allen
Jacqueline Boyce	Maxine Brannon	Kenny Carter
Jean Randolph-Castro	Manuel Caughman	Marcia Francis
Vishal Hardowar, Esq.	Nurul Haque	Jolander Headley
Rene Cheatham Hill	Crystal Isaac	Khondokar Tarikul Islam
Audrey Lee Jacobs	Celeste James	Clementine James
Chantel Johnson	Al Hussan-Kanu	Bilal Karriem, 2 nd Vice Chairperson
Dawn Kelly	Latoya Legrand	Sharon Sweeting-Lindsey
Donald Murphy	Abdus Salaam Musa	Shah Nawaz
Charline Ogbeni	Akther H. Rahman	Krystal Roberts
Fitzroy Searles, Secretary	Owen Shakespeare	Florence Simmons
Yvette Sledge	Rev. C. Princess Thorbs-Mcgee, Chairperson	Toni Totten
Linette Townsley	Khari White	Patricia Wooden

Members Absent or Excused – 11		
Wanda Best	Tanbir Chowdhury	Clifton Stanley Diaz
Glenn Greenidge	Yullanda Hinds	Michele Keller, 1 st Vice Chairperson
Aiysha Jaggassar-Johnson	Rev. Edward Mckay	Angela Miskis
Amanda Sewanan	Jeanette Wilson	

*Left before the roll call

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 summarized events and meetings that she attended during the previous month. On April 28, 2023, Rev. Thorbs went to the street co-naming of 112th Road and Guy R. Brewer Boulevard in honor of Clifford Glover. In 1973, Clifford Glover, age 10, was murdered by the New York City Police Department (NYPD). Glover holds the distinction of being the youngest person murdered by NYPD.

Rev. Thorbs participated in an informational held by NYS Office of Cannabis Management and local elected officials. She spoke on the need for the community to be vigilant and report illegal/non-licensed operators dispensing marijuana throughout the district. Rev. Thorbs' call for action was based on the legislative and jurisdictional loopholes which has led to the proliferation of smoke shops illegally selling marijuana shops within Community District 12.

District Manager's Report – Ms. Yvonne Reddick

Ms. Yvonne Reddick announced that NYC water bill amnesty was extended to May 31, 2023. Property owners' delinquent on water bill payments were eligible to apply for a one-time reprieve from the accrued late fees if they entered into a payment agreement to cover the outstanding balance. Ms. Reddick provided supplemental information regarding a meeting on marijuana dispensaries attended by her and Rev. Thorbs earlier in the month.

Community Session

Ms. Deborah O'Connor, Talent Acquisition Lead, with the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA), spoke on career opportunities with the organization and its 6 agencies. Further details on MTA career opportunities can be found at <https://new.mta.info/careers> Ms. O'Connor left her email Deborah.Oconnor@nyct.com for those with intricate questions.

Mr. David Stephen, Senior Communications Specialist, Transit Workforce Center (TWC), provided a brief overview of the organization. TWC "supports the workforce development needs of urban, suburban, tribal, and rural public transportation entities, with an overarching mission to assist the industry as it recruits, hires, trains, and retains the diverse workforce needed now and in the future." TWC collaborates with various communities and transit

agencies across the country to identify and match opportunities to candidates.

<https://www.transitworkforce.org/>

Business Session

Mr. Kenny Carter, at 8:32pm, made a motion for the board to enter its business session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Jean Randolph-Castro and passed unanimously.

Mr. Bilal Karriem made a motion for the board to accept the April 19th general meeting minutes with necessary corrections. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nurul Haque and Ms. Patricia Wooden. The motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Karriem made a motion to close the business session, seconded by Ms. Toni Totten, at 8:46pm. The motion carried with all members present in agreement.

Committees to Report

Mr. Carter gave his Area Chairperson's report and updated the community about the stabbing which took place at Walgreens on the corner of Baisley and Guy R. Brewer boulevards.

The Senior Committee report was delivered by the group's chairperson, Ms. Randolph-Castro. At their April meeting, the Senior Committee received a presentation from Dr. Robert Evans on the importance of mental health. Dr. Evans highlighted the disparities in mental healthcare access based on race and the adverse impact the COVID-19 pandemic had on mental health and mental healthcare in communities of color. Furthermore, senior citizens in communities of color had the lowest access to mental health resources. Dr. Evans advised on the need for more black professionals throughout the healthcare system in general and mental healthcare specifically.

Adjournment

With no other committees to report, Rev. Thorbs made a motion to end the meeting which was seconded and vote in favor by all. The meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.

Minutes written by Mr. Fitzroy Searles, Secretary.