



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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Sharon Lee
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

Rene Hill
CHAIRPERSON

Vicky Morales Casella
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY BOARDS

Yvonne Reddick
DISTRICT MANAGER

VIA ZOOM

COMMUNITY BOARD 12, QUEENS

September 16, 2020

MINUTES

General meeting of Community Board 12 was held on Wednesday, September 16, 2020 via ZOOM at 7:00 p.m.

- PRESIDING: **Rene Hill, Chairperson**
- PRESENT: Mohammad Ali
Maxine Brannon
Geraldine Taylor-Brown
Kenneth Carter
Jean Randolph-Castro
Crystal Isaac
Clifton Stanley Diaz
Marcia Francis
Nadi Ghaness, Treasurer
Glenn Greenidge
Dora Grizzell
Vishal Hardowar
Nurul Haque
Richard Hogan
Rene Hill, Chairperson
Celeste James
Clementine James

Aiysha Jaggassar-Johnson, Executive Secretary
Al-Hassan Kanu
Bilal Karriem
Michele Keller, 1st Vice Chairperson
Michelle Kirkland
Khondokar Tarikul Islam
Audrey Lee Jacobs
Rev. Bernadette Logan
Wanda Manley
Rev. Edward McKay
Charline Ogbeni
Rodney Pride
Kamal Saleem
Akther Rahman
Rev. C. Princess Thorbs McGee, 2nd Vice Chairperson
Fitzroy Searles
Owen Shakespeare
Yvette Sledge
Toni Totten
Khari White
Melvin Artis, Parliamentarian
Jacqueline Boyce
Manuel Caughman
Mabel Everett
James Heyliger
Derek Irby
Shah Nawaz
Florence Simmons, 3rd Vice Chairperson
Linette Townsley
Bryan White
Jeanette Wilson

ABSENT:

- Aiysha Jaggassar-Johnson will have information submitted to the Community Board regarding any ongoing events with the Elected Officials.
- Yvette Sledge said there are a lot of homeless individuals in the hotels all along 135th Ave. They are outside early in the morning and late at night, no mask, drinking, and smoking. Do not see the presence of the precinct like it used to be.
- Mr. Diaz commended the 103rd and the 113th Precinct Commanders, their NCO Officers and the Community Affairs Officers, they have done an outstanding job during the pandemic in comparison to some of the other precincts.

Rene Hill, Chairperson

- Chairperson Hill requested to Senator Schumer; that the St. Albans VA site to be used as a hospital for our Queens and Nassau County vets; so they do not have to travel to Manhattan and Brooklyn to get hospitalized for medical care. Queens has the most Veterans in the NYC,

opening the VA site as a hospital again would help the community in case of any emergencies because the local residents would be able to go there. NY Presbyterian Hospital and Northwell has expressed interest in expanding their services to the community.

- Many of the schools were already struggling to improve student outcome, in the land of COVID-19 medical pandemic and the national racial pandemic, what additional resources will be made available to schools in the general community to assure that our children have a level playing field for academic success?
- I tried to fight the group homes in the Community, the State said the Community was not oversaturated; this is not true. Community Board 12 is one of the most saturated community in New York City.
- Local business owners need grants or low interest loans, which help them fix their buildings in the CB 12 area. There are a lot of buildings with owners that cannot afford to fix their buildings. They should be able to use their building for collateral, but they should be able to get a loan or grant even though their credit score is not good.
- NYC Department of Transportation is working on the Van Wyck Expressway; we notice there was only 1 person of color on a team of 16 NYS employees which gave a presentation of what will take place on the Van Wyck. We need some type of program to promote black engineers, we need NYS to hire people of color especially if they are working in our community.
- The 103rd Precinct is having a Quality of Life meeting on Thursday, September 17, 2020 at 12:00 p.m.

Deputy Inspector Bohannon, 113th Police Precinct

- When there are concerns about the homelessness, it is about the illegal activities that may come along with it. The Precinct can still enforce the illegal activities going on in the park with the homelessness; violence has increased citywide; especially in the Jamaica area. Resources were deployed to other areas where there were shootings and shot fired; but we can revisit the area on 150th Street by the park.
- My Community Affair Officer Jermaine Washington will pair up with the homeless facilities to express our concerns, along with you. Hopefully, they can help us out with deterring some of the things that are occurring.

State Senator Schumer

- The COVID-19 crisis has created the worst economic problem in the country since the great depression. It has affected communities of color worse than anywhere else.
- President Trump has lead the worse response to COVID of any nation on the Globe, he knew the risk, and yet he said it was going to go away. I called on the President on January 26, 2020 to call it a public health emergency and to get the money flowing. President Trump did not do anything and COVID got worse. The President put together a Bill to help corporate America. I am the author of the Bill for the \$600 unemployment insurance; this kept millions out of poverty, people who lost their jobs could at least pay their rent and buy food. Gave \$1,200 in direct cast payment.
- Proposed \$150 Billion plan for hospitals, NY hospitals received a lot of these funds. Approached by Pastor Richardson, African American Baptist Association regarding unemployment funds.

Senator Schumer wrote the Bill that the Churches could get the unemployment money so they could pay their workers, rent, and mortgage.

- Senator Schumer responses to questions posed by Community: Put in \$275 Billion to help the schools and put money into the state; we need the communities that were short changed to receive more of the funds than the well to do communities. If we pass this Bill, we should have a good amount of money for schools.
- Please get me a list of the grove homes and the overload, I cannot force it to happen, and I will bring this issue before the State.
- There is a program called EIDL, it gives low interest loans and grants; we have directed \$60 Billion of this EIDL to go to minority communities; the banks often discriminate against minority communities.
- I would like to do a trillion dollar infrastructure program, this will create new construction jobs and we have two different angles; train a high percentage of people of color, and second at least 25% of the construction companies should be minority owned businesses.

Yvonne Reddick, District Manager

- National Grid will be restarting most of their service work, it includes some of the businesses. National Grid will need to have entrance to the businesses. All of their field employees will be screened for COVID-19. The bills were suspended because of COVID-19, but bills will resume in October 2020.
- The restaurants will have sidewalk eating until 11:00 p.m.
- As per NYC Department of Transportation all of the one hour meters will be turned into 2 hour meters across the borough.
- The E train will be going under construction, shuttle buses will be available.
- Sanitation – dumping seems to be happening in the community; if you see a condition please call the Community Board and 311. The Budget for Sanitation has been cut; please contact your Councilpersons and try to encourage them to restore Sanitation’s budget.

Councilperson Adrian Adams, 28th C.D.

- We will be renaming portions of Merrick Blvd. on October 3, 2020 in honor of Rev. Floyd Harold Flake. Ceremony will take place on the grounds of Allen AME Cathedral. I am so proud to have been a portion of those that led the forefront so that this would be done before his demise. Rev. Flake has to know what he means to this community.
- There have been some concerns about the DOT Bus Way for Jamaica Avenue and Parsons Boulevard, there was a meeting held with DOT this afternoon. It seems that DOT does what they want to do regardless of what the Elected Official say, or what they want.

ROLL CALL: Rene Hill, Chairperson, 37 members present at roll call; quorum pronounced.

II ADOPTION OF MINUTES: Motion by Bilal Karriem to table June 17, 2020 minutes and the Business Section until October 21, 2020 meeting, motion seconded by Rev. Princess Thorbs-McGee; the motion passed.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.