

COMMUNITY BOARD #14

CITY OF NEW YORK - BOROUGH OF QUEENS

1931 MOTT AVE., ROOM 311
FAR ROCKAWAY, NY 11691



718-471-7300
QN14@CB.NYC.GOV

Community Board #14Q
September Board Meeting
September 9, 2025, at 7:00pm

Bayswater Jewish Center
23-55 Healy Avenue
Far Rockaway, NY 11691

BOARD MEMBERS:

Present: Ebony Beaty, Beverly Childs, Kimberly Comes, John Cori, Dr. Gerald David, Rose Marie Duggan-Gulston, Jack Epter, Maria Foreman, Josephine Gonzalez, Jacqueline Guitierrez, Avionne Gumbs, Samuel Jaroslawicz, Lisa Johnson-Cooper, Paul King, Damara Lee, Betty Leon, Sharon Lewis-Williams, Nancy Martinez, Zina Moratti, Josmary Ochoa-Cruz, Dolores Orr, Shannel Parker, Eric Ramussen, Alexa Roberts, Vernell Robinson, David Rood-Ojalvo, Aramiam Sacnite, Jose Santana, David Shelborne, Karen Sloan-Payne, Israel Tavera, Christopher Tedesco, William Tietjen, Jose Velez

Absent: Brittany Chong, Amber Clinkscales, Iona Folkes, Menashe Friedman, Yitzchok Goldstone, Amanda Johnson, Patrick Kelly, Richard Knott, Annette Lord-Cohen, Helen Montero, Dr. Harold Paez, Monice Small, Christina Torres

ELECTED OFFICIALS/ REPRESENTATIVES:

Elected Officials: Assemblyman Khaleel Anderson

Representatives: Congressman Meeks – Jose Reina, Senator Sanders – Lisa George, Assemblywoman Pheffer Amato – Gregory Slade, Assemblyman Anderson – Janine Agard, Mayor Adams – Kevin Morris, Queens Borough President Richards – Oluwanisaola "Sola" Olosunde, Queens District Attorney Katz – Dan Brown

GUESTS:

100th Precinct - Lieutenant Powel, 101st Precinct –Lieutenant O'Shea

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm. Quorum was present.

The Chair announced that we are officially LIVEstreaming our meeting to YouTube. Also, we are in a different location and trying to move the meeting around the peninsula.

Pledge of Allegiance

Samuel Jaroslawicz made the motion to accept the May13, 2025 minutes as written. Betty Leon 2nd the motion. Vote was taken. Approve 33, No 0, Abstaining, 1. **Motion carries.**



Samuel Jaroslawicz made the motion to accept the April 15, 2025, minutes as written. Nancy Martinez 2nd the motion. Vote was taken. Approve 32, No 0, Abstaining, 2. **Motion carries.**

UPDATES FROM NYPD/ ELECTED OFFICIALS:

100th Precinct – Lieutenant Powel

Major Crime is Down. Crime has decreased by approximately 40% over the past 28 days.

101st Precinct – Lieutenant O’Shea

Crime is down 17% for the last month and year-to-date down 5%. Year to date we have made 54 arrests involving firearms. Our rookies are focusing on Mott Avenue and near the schools.

Assemblyman Khaleel Anderson [Contact the AM's office at (718) 327-1845]

Legislative & Community Engagement – Actively visiting community boards during the legislative break from Albany. Francesco's Law was passed in the Assembly to strengthen firearm storage requirements. It's pending Senate approval. Ongoing efforts to improve bank access in underserved communities. Recently met with Chase Bank and Ponce Bank to encourage local investment.

NYCHA & Housing Advocacy – Hosted NYCHA CEO Lisa Bova-Hiatt for a tour of developments to address mold and infrastructure issues. Plans to revisit Redfern and Ocean Bay developments for further improvements.

Budget Wins for the Rockaways – \$3 million in capital funding secured for Nordeck Mitchal Lama Coop. Funding secured to complete Arverne Playground on Beach 54th Street. In partnership with AM Pheffer Amato \$350,000+ for local schools, such as Channel View School for Research, Challenge Charter School and Peninsula Preparatory Charter School. In partnership with Senator Sanders and Councilwoman Brooks-Powers \$300,000 for YMCA upgrades, including HVAC improvements and expanded swimming programs.

HEAP Program may face significant cuts this fiscal year.

Office Of Congressman Gregory Meeks – Jose Reina [Contact the CM's office at (718) 725-6000]

TSA Updates at JFK – Faster Checkpoints: No-Shoe Policy; Touchless ID Pilot facial recognition program requires: TSA PreCheck membership, active Delta profile, and uploaded valid U.S. passport.

Federal Benefits Payment Change – Paper Checks Ending: By September 30, 2025 must switch to direct deposit via GoDirect.gov or call 1-800-967-6857.

Education & Student Loan Updates o FAFSA Launch: The 2025–2026 FAFSA opens on October 1, 2025. New Rule: Small businesses (≤100 full-time employees) will have those assets excluded from aid calculations. Income-Based Repayment: borrowers no longer need to prove financial hardship to enroll through June 30, 2026. To qualify, loans must be received before July 1, 2026.

Office of Senator James Sanders – Lisa George [Contact the office at (718) 327-7017]

Community & Senior Events:

Senior Appreciation Month is being celebrated throughout September.

- Miniature Golf Outing: Monday, September 29th at 11AM (Rain date: September 30). Open to seniors aged 55+, call to RSVP.
- Free Legal Consultations for Seniors in partnership with JASA, on October 14th at the Far Rockaway Office.

Hispanic Heritage Month, Latin Resource Festival on October 4th from 12pm – 4:00pm in partnership with the DOE and other elected officials. Educational resources for students and parents will be distributed.

Educational Opportunities – Tuition-Free Associate Degree Programs funded in the April state budget. Available through SUNY/ CUNY for adults aged 25–55 can be online or on campus.

Housing & NYCHA Updates – \$255M Allocated for capital upgrades to public housing. NYCHA Utility Accountability Act:

- Require rent reductions when utilities (heat, water, gas, elect.) are disrupted.
- Priority Housing Access for survivors of domestic violence.

Office of State Assemblymember Stacey Pheffer Amato – Gregory Slade

School Meals Now Free for All Students in public, private, and charter schools.

Statewide Rebate Checks will be mailed to New York residents between mid-October and early November.

9/11 Moment of Silence Law passed in 2019 by Assemblywoman Pheffer Amato and Senator Addabbo. All public schools must observe a moment of silence and reflection on September 11th. Aimed at helping students understand and honor the significance of the day, especially since none were alive during the attacks.

Office of State Assemblymember Khaleel Anderson - Janine Agard

MTA MetroCard Transition Event on September 29, 10 AM – 2 PM at the Arverne Playground, at Arverne Blvd. between B56th Street and Beach 54th Street. Will assist with reduced fare questions, Transferring balances, General OMNY support. Reminder: MetroCards will be phased out by December 31, 2025.

Office of the Mayor - Kevin Morris

Emergency Preparedness Workshop, September 10th at the Beach 94th Street Amphitheater, from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM for Clergy & Local Organizations. Rain Location will be at Saint Camillus Church (Beach 99th St.)

NYC Public School Tech Investment in effort to bridge the digital divide, Mayor Adams in partnership with NYC Public School and the NY Yankees All-Star player, Jazz Chisholm. 350,000+ new laptops will be distributed to public schools citywide

Office of the Borough President Donovan Richards – Oluwanisaola "Sola" Olosunde

September Community Events:

- Caribbean Heritage Celebration, Sunday, September 23 at 6:00 PM at Flushing Meadows Park, Queens Museum
- Mexican Independence Day Celebration, Thursday, September 25, Queens Borough Hall
- Queens Climate Expo, Saturday, September 27 at 7:00 PM, Focused on environmental awareness and sustainability

RSVP for any event at queensbp.nyc.gov

Office of Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz – Dan Brown [Contact (718) 286-6593]

September Newsletter is available, highlighting major cases and initiatives from DA Melinda Katz's office. Major Gang Indictment on Sept. 4, DA Katz, Mayor Adams, and NYPD Commissioner Tisch announced the indictment of 12 alleged gang members of the Floss Money Ballers and Blitz Gang 4.

Chairperson's Report – Dolores Orr

Beach & Parks Update:

- Summer Debrief Pending: Parks Department will later report on beach attendance and lifeguard staffing.
- Edgemere Beach Reopening Milestone: For the first time in 25–30 years, beaches between 43rd and 47th Streets reopened after piping plover chicks fledged. Lifeguards were relocated from other beaches to support the reopening.
- The Chair and District Manager will be attending the upcoming Parks Budget Meeting which is scheduled later this month to discuss agency needs and community priorities. Updates will be shared in October.
- USACE will resume resilience work. Staging area is Beach 116th Street and 19th Street.

Neponsit Senior Day Program on Beach 101 Street is closing on September 19th. It was the last medical-model senior center in Queens. Despite strong advocacy, the closure is confirmed, leaving many heartbroken.

JFK Airport Committee

- Ongoing efforts to address airplane noise over Broad Channel and Rockaway.
- Port Authority has hired a firm to conduct virtual noise monitoring. Residents experiencing frequent plane noise are encouraged to contact Community Board 14 to suggest monitoring locations.
- After 10 years of advocacy, officials are now reviewing runway usage and noise distribution.

9/11 Tribute Ceremony

- September 11 at 8:25 AM at Tribute Park (Beach Channel Drive & 116th St.)
- Honors the 78 Rockaway residents who died in the attacks.
- No speeches—only the names of the victims are read aloud.

District Manager's Report - Felicia Johnson

Community Board Updates o New Branding & Outreach:

- Introducing a new logo and table setup.
- Now active on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.
- Monthly board meetings will be live streamed for broader public access.
- Meeting Accessibility, exploring rotating meeting locations to better serve residents across all neighborhoods.

Sanitation & Maintenance

- Ongoing issues with sanitation staffing shortages.
- City is using weed-spraying methods in medians and roadways due to lack of manpower. Awaiting results to see if the new spray is effective, as previous chemicals were banned.

Correspondence

- Supported real property tax exemption for affordable housing at 2932 Beach Channel Drive to help keep units accessible.
- Letter to Parks Dep. requesting an 8-foot fence for Arverne Playground redesign.
- Parks responded, only a 4-foot fence will be approved under new design standards.
- Hammels Houses Community Center:
 - Center remains closed due to poor post-Sandy repairs and lack of funding. A letter was sent in conjunction with elected officials to take action and reopen the facility.
 - The center was also a polling site, and its closure affects senior voters.

Transportation & Safety

- Speed Reducer Installation: Coming to Healy Ave. between Bay 25th St. and Bay Park Place.
- Beach 39th St. Conversion: After a request from CB14Q DOT is now converting it to a one-way northbound.
- Raised Crosswalk Project: Planned for Beach 40th St. and Beach Channel Drive in 2026 to improve pedestrian safety.

Open Streets Program:

- Applications for Open Streets are now online.
- Two current Open Streets will run through December 28th.
- Info will be posted on the Community Board's Facebook page.

Community Resource Guide

- Created by summer youth workers; nearly ready for release.
- Will be available as a PDF download from the Board's website.
- Religious and civic organizations are encouraged to submit current info (must be registered entities like 501(c)(3) or LLC).

Disaster Preparedness & CERT Training

- OEM canceled their scheduled presentation; signage and evacuation plan is still pending.
- Efforts underway to bring CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training to the peninsula.
 - Need 30 participants to host local training; only 13 signed up so far.
 - Strong push for residents, especially in apartment complexes to enroll.

Parks Department Policy Changes

- Mobile Stages: Only available for events organized by government agencies or elected officials; must reimburse Parks \$721.
- Inflatables: Approved only for Parks-managed events with 500+ attendees; water-based inflatables will no longer be permitted.

Bus Redesign & Performance

- DOT released bus performance grades:
- Most local lines received C or D ratings
- Only the Q35 received an A
- A link to the full report will be posted online.

FIFA World Cup 2026 Planning

- NYC and NJ are host cities; Queens is joining planning discussions.
- Community Board is advocating for Rockaway's inclusion in promotional efforts.
- Ideas include beach marketing, restaurant decals, and local branding.

PUBLIC SPEAKING: The Chairperson opened the floor for public speaking. 33 individuals signed up to speak. They were recognized and heard. Public speaking was closed. 2 minutes per speaker.

PRESENTATIONS:

OEM – Evacuation Plan: Canceled on 9/8/2025

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Capital and Expense Budget Requests – FY 2027

Committee Meeting Date: 8/11/2025

- Felicia Johnson provided an explanation of the Community Board Budget Process:

- Due to changes in the city's submission platform, capital and expense items must now be entered separately.
- Previously, they were combined; now they must be clearly distinguished.
 - Capital vs. Expense Requests: Capital Requests: Brick-and-mortar projects (e.g., buildings, infrastructure). Expense Requests: Items requiring studies or planning before funding (e.g., storm sewers) are considered the "wish list" and can't become capital until studies are completed and funded.
- Budget Prioritization, Board Members review and rank the draft items for capital and expense categories.
 - A third category, continued support, tracks ongoing funding needs.
- The Board requested changes which are reflected in the attached DRAFT FY 2027 Register of Capital & Expense Budget Requests (attached). At the October 14th Board Meeting. CB 14Q will host a Public Hearing on the Budget and take a vote on the Final Budget Request at the October 14th Board Meeting.

NOTE: District Manager, Felicia Johnson, announced - based on topics discussed this evening, Committees will be scheduled to meet on the following:

- Housing & Land Use Committee, 9/16 with a presentation – ULURP Action. This presentation will also be presented to the full board on October 14th.
- Health & Social Services Committee regarding MyMeds & H&H collaboration
- Parks & Public Safety regarding Edgemere Park – Fishing Pier; Bayswater Park resiliency; B17th St request for more music events; B88th St. Bay Breeze Park- crosswalk, joint mtg with Transportation Comm.
- Environmental Committee – Microgrids & Sanitation issues at Brookhaven Avenue
- MTA- Q22 needs increase of frequency for students in the morning.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Updates On:

- Bayswater Park Resiliency request
- DYCD, community need assessment. Log into the Need Assessment, with Department of Youth and Community Assessment. Rosemarie will send us the information to share.
- Request to the Parks Dept regarding B17th to allow community music events.

Motion by: Samuel Jaroslawicz to adjourn the meeting. Rose Marie Duggan Gulston 2nd motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:03pm.

Submitted by:
Jeanette Garramone