



COMMUNITY BOARD #14

CITY OF NEW YORK - BOROUGH OF QUEENS

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Community Board #14Q
February Board Meeting
February 10, 2026 at 7:00pm

Knights of Columbus
333 Beach 90th Street
Rockaway Beach, NY 11693

BOARD MEMBERS:

Present: Ebony Beaty, Beverly Childs, Kimberly Comes, John Cori, Rose Marie E. Duggan-Gulston, Jack Epter, Iona Folkes, Maria Foreman, Yitzchok Goldstone, Josephine Gonzalez, Jacqueline Guitierrez, Samuel Jaroslawicz, Amanda Johnson, Paul King, Richard Knott, Damara Lee, Betty Leon, Sharon Lewis-Williams, Nancy Martinez, Helen Montero-Hernandez, Dolores Orr, Dr. Harold Paez, Vernell Robinson, Aramiam Sacnite, Jose Santana, David Shelborne, Karen Sloan-Payne, Christopher Tedesco, William Tietjen, Christina Torres

Absent: Brittany Chong, Menashe Friedman, Avionne Gumbs, Lisa Johnson-Cooper, Patrick Kelly, Annette Lord-Cohen, Zina Moratti, Josmary Ochoa-Cruz, Shannel Parker, Eric Rasmussen, Alexa Roberts, David Rood-Ojalvo, Monice Small, Israel Tavera, Jose Velez

ELECTED OFFICIALS/ REPRESENTATIVES:

Representatives: Congressman Meeks – Jose Reina, Senator Sanders – Carl Brown, Assemblymember Anderson – Jeannine Agard, Councilmember Brooks-Powers – Renee Taylor, Council Member Ariola – Stacy Spataro, District Attorney Katz – Dan Brown

NYPD/ TRANSIT/ FDNY:

NYPD 100th Precinct – CO Captain Singh, NYPD 101st Precinct – XO Recinos, NYPD Transit – Lt. Hughes

GUESTS:

Resilient District Design – William Schacht

The Chair called the meeting to order at **7:04pm** and announced that we are officially Livestreaming on YouTube. Quorum **was** present.

Meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance

Nancy Martinez made the motion to accept January 13th, 2026 with addition of the middle initial “E” to Rose Marie Duggan-Gulston’s name. Jose Santana 2nd the motion. Vote was taken. Approve - 25, No - 0, Abstaining - 0. **Motion carries.**

UPDATES FROM NYPD/ ELECTED OFFICIALS:

NYPD 100th Precinct – CO Captain Singh:

28-Day Period Crime Statistics: 16 **major crimes** vs. 19 last year, down ~16%. 1 **homicide** vs. 0 last year. NOTE: homicide actually occurred in 2025. Two individuals fell downstairs during a fight; one lost consciousness. The Medical Examiner recently ruled it as homicide, so it is now counted in 2026. **Rape**, 0 vs. 0 last year. **Robbery** 4 robberies vs. 0 last year. Arrests made in 3 of the 4 cases. **Felony Assault**, 5



vs. 3 last year, up 66%. Arrests were made in all 5 cases. **Burglary**, 0 vs. 5 last year, down 100%. **Grand Larceny**, 4 vs. 8 last year, down 50%. 1 arrest was made, 3 of the 4 were phone/text scams. **Grand Larceny Auto** (Stolen Vehicles), 2 vs. 2 last year, no change. In both cases, owners left keys inside the vehicle, making them easy targets. **Vehicle Break-Ins**, 3 vs. 4 last year, down 25%. **Community Announcement:** Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), application deadline: February 27. For teenagers seeking summer jobs, the pay is approximately \$16-\$17 per hour. Easy application process; paid by the City of New York Good resume-building opportunity

NYPD 101st Precinct – XO Recinos:

Captain Mario Recinos, new Executive Officer of the 101st Precinct, introduced himself. He joined in mid-December and looks forward to working with the community. **28-Day Period Crime Statistics:** 47 crimes vs. 37 last year, up by 10 incidents. **Robbery**, 8 vs. 3 last year. **Felony Assault**, 26 vs. 20 last year, approximately 20 of the 26 are domestic incidents. Most have arrests attached. Clarified that even minor injuries caused by an object (e.g., a thrown phone causing a cut) qualify as felony assault. **Burglary**, 2 vs. 2, flat with last year. **Grand Larceny** 9 vs. 7 last year. Many cases involve ID theft or credit card theft, any amounts over \$1000. Some incidents occurred after car break-ins, where stolen credit cards automatically elevate the crime to grand larceny. **Crime Prevention Reminders:** Vehicle Safety - Lock vehicles and park in well-lit areas. Do not leave cars running, do not leave valuables or credit cards inside. Package Thefts have been affecting the entire borough since November. Recommendations - Have someone pick up packages if you're away. Schedule deliveries for times you're home. Be mindful of where packages are left and neighborhood activity. These are crimes of opportunity; visible packages encourage theft. **Staffing Update:** The precinct's Field Training Program (FTP) is in transition. Lost 35 officers last week who were promoted from the program and reassigned citywide. Currently we have 37 of 67 FTP officers. Expecting more officers in early March. Temporary reduction in foot posts (down to ~31 on weekends). Should stabilize before summer, the precinct's busiest season. In closing, Captain Recinos thanked the community.

NYPD Transit District 23 – Lieutenant Hughes

28-Day Period Crime Statistics: 0 index crimes, same as previous period. **Grand Larcenies** (Outside the 28-Day Period) – Numerous incidents involve sleeping passengers having belongings stolen. **Transit Safety Issues & Prevention:** Officers, sometimes in plain clothes, wake people up to prevent theft. Some riders become confused or upset, but officers explain the purpose – protecting passengers from theft while they're asleep. **Encounters With Individuals in Crisis** – There have been a few incidents involving people who may not be taking needed medication or who are behaving erratically. **Advice to the public:** Avoid engaging with individuals acting unpredictably. Notify police or inform the station booth clerk. Officers will respond and handle the situation. Lieutenant Hughes thanked the community and wished everyone a good night.

Office of Congressman Gregory Meeks – Jose Reina: Office phone number: 718-725-6000

Congressional Updates: Federal Student Loans – As of January 16, 2026, the U.S. Department of Education announced a pause on involuntary collections for federal student loans currently in default. Borrowers can use this time to choose a repayment plan that fits their financial situation through GOVIDR (Income-Driven Repayment). Most existing IDR plans will be eliminated on July 1, 2026. Borrowers with loans disbursed or consolidated before July 1, 2026 will still be eligible for the Income-Based Repayment (IBR) plan after that date. A new repayment plan will launch around July 2026, designed to waive interest for borrowers who make on-time payments. Borrowers may qualify

for a tax deduction on student loan interest. Loan servicers should send a 1098-E form for tax filing.

Temporary Pause on Immigrant Visas – On January 21, 2026, the U.S. State Department temporarily paused the issuance of immigrant visas for applicants from 75 countries. This affects immigrant visas only (which grant permanent residency). During the pause, the State Department will review its policies. They will still – Accept immigrant visa applications. Schedule appointments. Adjudicate existing cases. **Social Security Payment Schedule** – (flyer distributed) with the 2026 Social Security payment schedule. Recipients can contact Congressman Meeks's office if they miss a payment or need assistance.

Office of Senator James Sanders – Carl Brown: Office phone number: 718-327-7017

Announcements: Scam Stoppers Event for Homeowners – Protecting homeowners from property fraud, identity theft, and foreclosure. On Thursday, February 19, 2026 from 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM, at 145-02 Farmers Blvd. **"Enough Gun Violence" Initiative** – Senator Sanders is actively promoting efforts to reduce gun violence in the community. Emphasis on addressing ongoing shootings and improving neighborhood safety. **Recognition Event for Women in the Military** – Senator Sanders will honor women who served or are currently serving in the military. Event Details: March 22, 2026, deadline to sign up for nomination/awards: Friday, February 27, 2026.

Office of Assemblymember Khaleel Anderson – Jeannine Agard: Office phone: 718-327-1845

Events: "Let's Get Civic" Civic Engagement Series – Ongoing district-wide series focused on civics, civic engagement, politics, and current issues. First session was held in Rosedale; next session will be in South Ozone Park. Open, intimate discussions meant to help residents better understand civic processes. All community members are encouraged to attend. **Utility Assistance Clinic** – At the Far Rockaway district office, 1931 Mott Ave., Suite 301, on February 24. Representatives from PSE&G and National Grid will be present. For anyone needing help with utility bills or account issues. **State of the District Address** – February 27, 6:30 PM at PS 105. The entire Rockaway Peninsula is invited to attend. **Women's History Month Celebration** – Nominations are still open. Community members are encouraged to nominate women who deserve recognition. Submissions can be sent to the Assembly Member's office. Women's History Event is March 7th. All event details are included on a single flyer available at the back of the room.

Office of Council Member Selvena Brooks-Powers – Renee Taylor:

Events: "Heart of the Matter" – Virtual Health Event, Heart health and hypertension. Guest Speaker, Dr. Daniel Beckles. On February 12th at 7:00 PM, virtual on Zoom. **Black History Month: Black Small Business Walkthrough & Roundtable** – Walkthrough will take place on the mainland side of the district. Roundtable is open to everyone from both sides of the district. On February 20th at 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM. Featured guests include Michael Garner, Chief Business Diversity Officer (City Hall), Ben Guttman, Queens EDC, Commissioner Kevin Kim, NYC Small Business Services, Thomas Grech, President & CEO, Queens Chamber of Commerce, Chanel Thomas-Henry, Chair of the Council's Small Business Committee. Topics are business growth, grants, loans, and resources. **Free Tax Preparation Services:** Offered at both the Rockaway office and Laurelton office. Appointment required. Call the number on the flyer (not the office number) or use the QR code to self-schedule and view available time slots. **State of the District Address** on February 22nd, 3:00 PM at the Merrick Academy, 221-06 Merrick Blvd. Refreshments & Entertainment included. Highlighting district accomplishments. Transportation will be provided from Far Rockaway to the mainland and back.

Office of Council Member Joann Ariola – Stacy Spataro: Office phone: 718-318-6411

Council Member Ariola and Chief of Staff Phyllis met with Captain Singh, the new commanding officer of the 100th Precinct. Discussion focused on Rockaway community needs and collaboration to improve public safety. **COPA Bill Veto** – The Council Member is very pleased that the COPA bill was

vetoed and not overridden. **Homelessness Oversight & Accountability** – Today, Council Member Ariola attended a General Welfare & Public Safety Committee hearing on homelessness. Her office has submitted legislation to hold the Department of Homeless Services and the Department of Social Services accountable when interacting with homeless individuals who need assistance or removal from the streets. **Surfside Development Proposal** – The Alma Realty proposal for additional buildings at Surfside is currently undergoing an Environmental Impact Study. Traffic counters seen in recent months are part of this process. The office is awaiting next steps from Land Use and the Department of City Planning. **Community Event: “The Little Mermen”** – A Disney-inspired band, *The Little Mermen*, will perform at the Knights of Columbus on March 19th at 7:00 PM. **Property Tax Exemptions** – Applications are due March 16th. Residents who believe they may qualify, or want to check existing exemptions, can call the office for assistance.

Office of District Attorney Melinda Katz – Dan Brown: Phone Number: 718-286-6593

The DA's **February newsletter** is available on the table and includes updates on major cases and ongoing initiatives across Queens. **Two Homes Returned to Owners After Deed Fraud Convictions** – On January 28, two homes were returned to their rightful owners after a judge voided fraudulent deeds. The properties had been stolen and illegally sold as part of a deed fraud scheme. Four individuals were convicted in connection with the scheme. The DA's office used New York State Criminal Procedure Law 420.45 to void the deeds, a statute first used by this office in 2020. This marks the 11th time the DA has used this law to return homes after deed-fraud convictions. **Ongoing Work of the Housing & Worker Protection Bureau** – In the past year, the DA indicted four individuals and three companies for allegedly stealing three homes in Queens. Since its creation in 2020, the Bureau has: returned 23 homes to rightful owners, 11 of those using the new state statute. **Assistance for Victims** – Residents who believe they may be victims of deed fraud, identity theft or squatter issues, contact Dan Brown for help and referral to the Housing & Worker Protection Bureau. **Community Presentations** – The DA's office can provide in-person or virtual presentations for community groups. Topics include fraud prevention, housing issues, and other public-safety concerns.

Chairperson's Report – Dolores Orr:

A public hearing was held by the **NYC Council Subcommittee on Zoning and Franchises**. Public Hearing for 14-10 Beach Channel Drive. Dolores thanked John Cori – Housing/Land Use CB14 Chair for attending in person; Dolore attended via Zoom. Councilwoman Brooks-Powers has been negotiating with the developer and was successful in: - Units reduced from 118 to 98; - New unit mix: 57 one-bedrooms, 32 two-bedrooms, 10 three-bedrooms; - 88 parking spaces included. Discussions ongoing about possibly converting some units into co-ops for ownership. In 2025 Community Board 14 voted against the project, citing a moratorium and other concerns. Due to time limit of only 2 minutes to speak NYC Council Subcommittee Chair requested CB14 Chair to submit additional testimony via written submission. **Written Testimony Submitted by Board Chair to the Council** highlighted four major objections. **Environmental Impact Study Issues** – The developer failed to include air quality study given the proximity of the Inwood Material Terminal (IMT), located 2 blocks away. IMT is associated with dust, debris, and health concerns, especially in Redfern. Redfern residents are experiencing health concerns. The facility is believed to be operating without proper permits. The omission raised concerns about the developer's credibility. **Flood Zone 1 Concerns** – The area is in Flood Zone 1, yet NYC continues approving residential development without adequate resiliency measures. Over the past decade, approximately 9,500 units have been built or approved in the area. Many incoming residents are unaware of the safety risks associated with living in a high-risk flood zone. **Lack of an Evacuation Plan** – 14 years after Hurricane Sandy, the Office of Emergency Management still has no comprehensive evacuation plan. Existing signage is minimal. No plan exists for evacuating seniors, disabled residents, or those unable to self-evacuate. **Community Board Moratorium** – In June 2022,

the board passed a motion demanding a moratorium on further up-zoning. This motion was included in the testimony. A related letter from penned by District Manger Felicia Johnson regarding IMT was also submitted. **Street Co-Naming Process Concerns** – The board reviewed bylaws last month; Article XX (street naming) was not changed but flagged for further review. The board has noticed that street co-naming's are occurring without Community Board's involvement, despite legal requirements. A letter was sent to both Councilmembers reaffirming: Community Boards must receive and review formal applications, including biographies and petitions by our Commemorative Committee and make a recommendation to the full board who will the vote to recommend or deny. Two council members responded to the letter sent to them: One said council members have discretion but generally defer to the board. The other councilmember aligned with that view. The responses were not considered strong commitments, so the issue will be sent back to committee for further discussion and recommendation to the full Board.

District Manager's Report - Felicia Johnson

Acknowledgment of First Responders – Appreciation was expressed for NYPD and first responders who rescued three 22-year-old visitors who fell through the ice in Jamaica Bay (Bayswater area).

CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) Training – The Joseph P. Addabbo Health Center will host CERT training sessions. Training begins in the spring and includes: 5 in-person sessions, 4 virtual sessions, 2 outdoor simulations (fire simulation and a search-and-rescue scenario). Community members are strongly encouraged to join, especially Residents of housing developments, apartment complexes, HOAs, Houses of Worship (recommended: at least two representatives), Participants must be 18 or older. A sign-up sheet is available, and dates will be shared once confirmed. **Seaside Library Reopening** – The Seaside Library reopened on February 5 after two years of HVAC renovations. We hope to use this new community space for committee meetings.

Community Board Reappointments – Current board members up for reappointment must submit applications by Friday, February 13 at 5 PM to Borough Hall. Members received multiple reminder emails. Members may email a copy of their application to the office for proof of timely submission. It was emphasized that the Community Board has no part in review application or selection. Only the Borough President appoints Community Board members. **Borough Cabinet Updates** – The Community Affairs Unit (CAU) has been dissolved under the new administration. It has been replaced by the Office of Mass Engagement (OME). Kevin Morris, formerly of CAU, now works in OME as Director of Shooting Responses. A Queens Borough Director, Mohammed Alharbi, has been named, but his specific coverage area is not yet assigned. The board currently has no dedicated representative from the mayor's office.

Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) Presentation – OCM announced a new grant reinvestment program. Cannabis businesses must reapply for their licenses every two years. During renewal, they will now be required to present a community give-back plan. The original application mentions community benefits, but OCM has not defined what "give back" means. **Ferry Service Update** – Citywide Ferry service will resume tomorrow on a modified schedule. However, Rockaway Landing and Sunset Cove landings remain out of service. Riders boarding from other locations should be fine under the modified plan. **Rapid Response to ICE Facility Activity** – Assembly Member Anderson's office held a rapid-response meeting after ICE activity was spotted near Beach 25th and Far Rockaway Blvd. Photos confirmed ICE was present.

Recent Correspondence Sent by the Board – **Letter** to our Councilmembers regarding street co-naming (previously mentioned). **Letter** of support sent to NYS Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation for a grant proposal to improve public access and recreation at the Vernon Barbados Preserve in Jamaica Bay. **Letter** of thanks sent to NYC Planning Commissioner Juan Camilo Osorio Botero for voting against the upzoning request at 1410 Beach Channel Drive, aligning with CB14's position. **Letter** to NYS elected officials and Nassau County legislators requesting denial of the special permit for Inwood Materials Terminal (IMT) due to: Environmental injustice concerns, Operating without the required permit since 2013, Proximity to Redfern Houses (NY jurisdiction). **Letter** to NYC Parks Rockaway Administrator requesting less restrictive permitting policies for certain park areas.

Agency Updates: Con Edison – Experienced several weather-related outages; a generator was temporarily placed at Cross Bay & Noel. **DOT** – DOT is looking for individuals and businesses interested in operating concessions on DOT's Right of Way including Pedestrian Plazas & Open Streets. Information was blasted out. **Housing** – Edgemere Commons project is ongoing and approximately 11 hires are from the community. New affordable housing development is coming to 1016 Beach 19th Street, Silver Beach. Construction is slated to begin Jan 2026. As of right project, Community Board input is not required. Mayor announced \$38M investment to bring clean reliable heat pumps to B41st Street Houses. Many residents asked why the Community Board didn't announce the mayor's visit to Rockaway. The Board was not informed, so they could not notify the community or attend. **MTA (Q22 Bus)** – MTA responded to concerns about the Q22 schedule. They are still reviewing the Queens Bus Redesign and have not made decisions. They will be invited to the Transportation Committee meeting on Feb. 24 to explain their position. **OMNY / NICE Bus Issue** – A joint letter was sent regarding OMNY implementation and fare-payment problems for riders transferring between MTA and NICE buses. MTA's response: They claim the issue is NICE Bus's fault for delaying their switch to OMNY until January 4th. MTA had already announced MetroCard's would end on December 31, 2025. They thanked the Board for raising the concern. **Parks Department Construction Delays: Augustine Playground** – Restroom Building - Delay due to a required change in scope after the specified HVAC unit was discontinued. Completion date moved from March 2026 to June 2026. **Bays Breeze Park** – Another delay caused by contractor issues closing out an SBS permit. Completion date moved from September 2025 - February 2026. More updates will be shared as they come in. **Upcoming Committee Meetings: Economic Development Committee** – February 12 (Far Rockaway Library). **Liquor license application** for 1479 Beach Channel Drive (El Dorado Sounds), located across from Redfern Houses. The Board has already submitted an objection. If the committee changes its recommendation after hearing from the applicant, a new letter will be sent to the SLA. Repurposing commercial space at **10-18 Beach 20th Street**: Originally designated for medical use. No medical partner was found; H+H is already expanding in Far Rockaway. Margert Community Development Corporation wants to move into this space. Borough President and Council Member Brooks-Powers have already issued letters of support. **Environmental Committee** – February 19 (Far Rockaway Library). State recycling legislation related to plastics. Desalination plant proposal, with a follow-up presentation from the speaker who addressed the last public meeting. Both items are seeking letters of support from the Board. **Transportation Committee** – February 24 (DHS at the CLC). Green space installation at Beach Channel Drive & Beach 73rd Street. Safety concerns on Beach 69th Street between Bayfield Ave and Alameda Ave. Q22 bus issues, MTA will be invited to attend and address concerns. Agenda is still being finalized.

PUBLIC SPEAKING: The Chairperson opened the floor for public speaking. **5 individuals** signed up to speak. They were recognized and heard. Public speaking was closed. 3 minutes per speaker.

PRESENTATIONS:

ReAL Edgemere CLT

Not in attendance, rescheduled prior to the meeting.

Resilient District Design – William Schacht:

Mr. Schacht outlines a long-running effort to build a comprehensive resiliency strategy for the Rockaway peninsula, an effort that began after Superstorm Sandy. In the storm's aftermath, a major benefit concert funded by the Robin Hood Foundation helped launch Rockaway United, bringing 20–30 nonprofits together to support recovery. Mr. Schacht worked with Dr. Williams on Ready Rockaway after Hurricane Sandy. He has spent the past decade trying to sustain that momentum, stressing that Rockaway still lacks essential elements such as a functional evacuation plan, adequate safety measures, and long-term infrastructure planning. He calls on the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) to lengthen review timelines to ensure developers keep their commitments, especially during the current moratorium on new construction. More broadly, he urges the

community to embrace balanced, people-centered urbanism that respects both environmental realities and neighborhood diversity.

The immediate goal is to secure designation as a **“resilient district,”** which would unlock funding and support for critical improvements. This presentation is the first of a larger public presentation that will later be held via Zoom. Although elected officials were not present, the speaker emphasizes that real progress depends on community engagement. A major theme is the need to consolidate years of unimplemented master plans into a unified resiliency framework. Central to this vision is the creation of **community microgrids**, a concept developed with NYU and a doctoral researcher. These microgrids would provide independent, community-owned backup power using renewable energy sources, ensuring that essential services remain operational during outages. The proposed system would follow the A-train elevated line, with microgrid nodes at alternating stations, beginning at Beach 108th Street (reusing the water treatment plant site) and ending at St. John's Hospital.

The peninsula's limited evacuation routes (only two bridges) and criticizes the reported closure of the Nassau County exit as unsafe. Past diagrams and teaching materials developed at the Seaside Library are referenced as part of ongoing community education.

Beach 108th Street is repeatedly identified as the peninsula's strongest economic anchor. The speaker envisions a **mixed-use, transportation-oriented hub** at the ferry landing, with earlier concepts projecting up to 1,000 clean-energy jobs. Although those plans have evolved, the speaker stresses the need to re-reengage institutions like Pratt, NYU, and CUNY, which have contributed expertise over the years. To build local capacity, Mr. Schacht proposes **ten resiliency training sessions** for the board and its committee chairs, along with a shared vocabulary list to help community leaders advocate effectively. He also raises concerns about how public funds are allocated, arguing that Rockaway may not be receiving its fair share while the city spends heavily elsewhere.

Slides presented during the meeting show organizations interested in developing a full resiliency strategic plan. The speaker praises the A line as a reliable backbone but notes that supplemental systems may be missing. He also shares personal ties with Rockaway and emphasizes that both the natural and built environments require coordinated professional attention, something many experts are eager to provide. Mr. Schacht references successful urban design projects, such as those in Jamaica, Rotterdam, Long Island City, and Roosevelt Island, to illustrate how thoughtful planning can transform waterfront communities. One provocative idea he floats is the possibility of **low-rise, higher-density housing** designed for rising water levels, and even a single iconic tower near the ferry landing, chosen through an open design competition. He stresses that this is only a concept, but one worth exploring. The speaker concludes by reviewing examples of mid-scale, open-space-oriented housing, such as Roosevelt Island, Marcus Garvey Park Village, and Arverne by the Sea, as models for future development. He then opens the floor for questions, noting that the group now has a solid foundation and that more detailed materials will be shared with board members and committee chairs.

Questions from the Board:

Chair Orr: The speaker's colleagues, including architects and resiliency experts from NYU, Columbia, and Pratt, have been discussing Rockaway's future for years, and the goal now is to get the community actively involved despite having no current funding. The missing ingredient, they emphasize, is money, and coordination will be essential.

During the Q&A, board members restate the core idea: creating an elevated microgrid backup power system across key parts of the Rockaways to keep electricity running during storms or outages. The speaker confirms this is the central concept and explains that they have been working with the Clean Coalition, a nonprofit experienced in community microgrids. A grant application with NYC has been stalled for procedural reasons, but they are close to moving it forward.

Board members suggest sharing the grant with local councilmembers to help push it through, and the speaker agrees, noting that a 30-page NYU white paper supports the proposal. Others recommend highlighting Rockaway's large amount of affordable housing to strengthen funding requests.

The speaker adds that he is writing a book on resilience while waiting for progress and stresses the need for a strategic plan that reflects the priorities of Rockaway's 14 communities. The session ends with brief comments from a planner about walkability and open-space design, reinforcing the broader vision for a more resilient and connected peninsula.

Esty-Taxace-developer 18-11 & 18-15 Cornega Ave. – Chiam Walter

Mr. Walter nor a Representative were in attendance.

Old Business/ New Business:

John Cori – The need for a **Parks and Public Safety meeting** ahead of the upcoming summer season. Leadership agrees it should happen soon, though the Parks Department is still dealing with snow-removal recovery and will provide a schedule when possible. It's also noted that **Public Safety** will become an official committee once new members join, along with a new **Arts and Culture** committee. These additions were approved in last month's bylaws and will formally take effect in April.

Betty Leon – Points out that a new traffic light near **Beach 19th Street**, by the synagogue, has been causing major congestion because the timing is off. The board acknowledges the issue and confirms that the Department of Transportation is already reviewing it.

Rose Marie Duggan-Gulston – Raised a concern about a new stop sign at Rockaway Beach Blvd. and **Beach 91st Street**. The express buses are long, and the area often has double-parked cars, the stop sign is causing significant traffic backups, and the problem is expected to worsen in the summer. The Chair asks the member to email the details to Felicia so she can contact the Department of Transportation.

Jack Epter – Is conducting a study for Councilwoman Brooks-Powers on the **Q22 bus** to observe what percentage of people are paying as opposed to nonpaying (anyone who presents any type of fare media, valid or not). Counting how many riders do not pay (anyone entering through the back door, which does not accept fare media). Also noting **service reliability**, tracking **how many stops the bus skips or misses** during the trip. If other Q22 riders can share any evidence or observations they have, especially if they ride for 10 blocks or more, so that all data can be compiled together.

Betty Leon – Expressed frustration that while other parts of the city, including Brooklyn, have been thoroughly cleared of snow, the Rockaways still have large piles everywhere. They feel the area is being ignored and urge more residents to call 311 so the city will send crews to remove the remaining snow.

Helen Montero-Hernandez made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Samue Jaroslavicz 2nd the motion. The meeting was adjourned at **8:54pm**.

Submitted by:
Jeanette Garramone