

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

Date: April 8, 2025, at 7:00pm

Board Members:

Present: Ebony Beaty, Beverly Childs, Kimberly Comes, John Cori, Dr. Gerald David, Rose Marie Duggan-Gulston, Jack Epter, Iona Folkes, Maria Foreman, Jeanette Garramone, Josephine Gonzales, Jocqueline Guitierrez, Avionne Gumbs-Cummings, Samuel Jaroslawicz, Amanda Johnson, Patrick Kelly, Paul King, Richard Knott, Damara Lee, Betty Leon, Sharon Lewis-Williams, Helen Montero, Josmary Ochoa-Cruz, Dolores Orr, Shannel Parker, Vernell Robinson, David Rood-Ojalvo, Aramiam Sacnite, Jose Santana, David Shelborne, Karen Sloan-Payne, Israel Tavera, Christopher Tedesco, William Tietjen, Christina Torres, Jose Velez

Absent: Danielle Barker, Brittny Chong, Amber Clinkscales, Lisa Cooper, Wayne-Neisha Fowels, Menashe Friedman, Yitzchok Goldstone, Annette Lord-Cohen, Nancy Martinez, Zina Moratti, Dr. Harold Paez, Eric Ramussen, Alexa Roberts, Monice Small

Elected Officials/ Representatives:

Congressman Meeks – Jose Reina, Senator Sanders – Lisa George, Assemblyman Anderson – Jada Dougal, Assemblywoman Pheffer Amato – Maggie Bernath, Queens Borough President – Oluwanisaola "Sola" Olosunde, Councilwoman Brooks-Powers – Renee Taylor, Councilwoman Joann Ariola – Phyllis Inzerillo, Queens District Attorney – Dan Brown

Guest:

101 Precinct – Sergeant Singh, Transit D23 - Lieutenant Rosario, 100th Precinct - Deputy Inspector Hamilton

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:05pm. Quorum was present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Updates from Precinct/ Public Officials:

101 Precinct – Sgt. Singh

Reporting on behalf of the Commanding Officer, Captain Ng. Crime is down about 21.5%. Traffic/ Collisions even for the year. As summer is approaching, we are looking at QOL issues that we faced last year, and we are keeping an eye on them to ensure they do not become future issues.

Transit Unit – Lt. Rosario D23

Deployed personnel assigned mostly to Howard Beach during the train shutdown. A significant amount of enforcement focusses on the Howard Beach and Rockaway Blvd train stations, which are



our biggest hubs. Observed quality of life crimes such as smoking, urinating, etc. YTD 116 arrests, 688 citations, either arrested or ejected out of the train, which includes summons and removal from the train for doing nuisance acts. Smoking/ drinking/ urinating.

100th Precinct – Deputy Inspector Hamilton

Shout out from the 100th Precinct to everyone here. Week to date fighting a 16-index crime down 50%. We are looking forward to the summer. Beach 59 & the boardwalk last year had several issues. Since we boarder with the 101 Precinct we will continue partnering with Capt. Ng as it is both of our responsibilities. I believe we had a good summer last year, so I am hoping we have a better summer this year! Dolores Orr, thanked DI Hamilton for recognizing all of the women honored by the 100th Precinct in the month of March (Women's History Month).

Congressman Gregory Meeks – Jose Reina

March 14, 2025, Congress Passed Legislation to avoid government shutdown while continuing to work on resolutions through 10/2025.

Taxes: Reminders, taxes are due April 15th. File on time to avoid late fees. Taxpayers can file online for free using direct file [DirectFile.IRD.gov](https://www.irs.gov/directfile). Suggest you set up direct deposit for your refunds to avoid mail fraud. Setting up USPS mail notification can also help avoid mail fraud and becoming a victim of mail theft. (Left Flyers).

US Travelers: May 7, 2025, US travelers will need a RealID or alternative federally compliant form of identification including, passbook or card to travel or to gain access to certain federal facilities. Passport 2-3 weeks expedited, 4-6 weeks standard.

State Assemblymember Stacey Pheffer Amato – Maggie Bernath

Currently in Albany working on the state budget that will impact 20M New Yorkers fighting for our schools, strengthening public safety laws and protecting our benefits that so many of us have worked for.

EZPass: Just a reminder please check your EZ Pass statements and make sure you are registered into the Queens Rebate program. People have fines that they are not aware of!

Easter & Passover are around the corner, for all those who are celebrating we wish you a Happy Holiday.

Borough President Donovan Richards – Oluwanisaola "Sola" Olosunde

Congratulations to the new slate of Community Board Members. This year we had a total of 916 applicants of which 361 were appointed. Out of the appointees this years slate includes 115 new members.

Events: Saturday 4/12 we will be organizing an Awareness & Resource Fair at QBD; April 16th Celebration of Bangladeshi Heritage at Borough Hall at 5:30pm; Monday 4/28 Hosting a Celebration. To RSVP go to queensbp.nyc.gov/RSVP or call us at 718-286-3000

City Councilmember Joan Ariola – Phyllis Inserillo

DSNY: Mandatory composting has begun NYC. We are seeing a lot of issues. The Councilmember along with the Commonsense Caucus are introducing legislation on Thursday (April 10th) to make this program voluntary. The city passed ruling that all homeowners need to have these new garbage bins and now we have composting so there is not as much trash to put into the buns. Councilwoman passed legislation for 1 FREE pail per household for anyone receiving Star or eStar. Those who have already purchased bins can be reimbursed through the rebate program. This program will begin in August of 2025.

NYPD: CM meet with Commissioner Tish discussing legislation which can be introduced to protect police officers and allow officers to do their jobs.

City of Yes: CM has signed on as a plaintiff in the law suite against the City of Yes. We have filed a petition and are waiting for a court date.

ALMA: We spoke with City Planning today regarding the ALMA project. We are currently waiting on ALMA for the next steps as they still have not provided the Environmental Impact Study.

Budget: CM is currently working on the budget and attended various Budget Hearings. She is focused on funding our first responders, schools, community projects. She requested funding from the Queens delegation for beach bathrooms.

Lien Sale: If you do not pay your property taxes, water and sewer charges or other property charges, you may be at risk of being included in the Lien Sale. The next Lien Sale is on May 20th, 2025. Call our office or DOF if you have received a letter. All information is strictly confidential.

Upcoming Events: Night at the Opera at Russos in Howard Beach on 4/15 at 7pm, Easter & Passover annual food giveaway April 16th call to register for a tray of food for a family of 4. May 2nd at St. Frances de Sales Disney Concert St. June 14th Flag Day fireworks, eWast event upcoming at the Knights of Columbus.

Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz – Dan Brown

Our latest newsletter on the back table. Read a quick case... recently charged man with GL stealing checks from a union benefits fund. Used a forged ID to put a hold on the mail at the post office, until the mail accumulated 10 days later. There were over 2 dozen checks valued at more than \$80K. Scammers are stealing checks from the mail and people are being victimized. If you must write a check, drop the envelope inside the post office where thieves cannot get it. Use online bill pay or direct deposit if that is an option. When writing a check do not use erasable ink and monitor your banking. If you have a mailbox in front of your door, never leave outgoing mail in the mailbox and empty your box often. Sign up for USPS informed delivery. Call for any questions 718-286-6593

Chairperson's Report – Dolores Orr

I had an opportunity thanks to CM Selvina Brooks-Powers to do a walk through with the acting Sanitation Commissioner. We did a walk through within her district, in Arverne 72 Street from Amstel to the Bay which is being used for warehousing of anything and everything you can think of. They are going to do quite a bit of work there and under the freeway. The abandoned houses on 72nd Street DSNY will make an attempt to clean the front yards. The Freeway is horrific on the eastern end. We are waiting on the local team for scheduling to clean. For those that are not aware, DSNY is responsible for removing all the advertising signs on city poles. Call 311 or the community board to report locations.

New Members: Tonight, we have 14 new Board Members, so I would like to ask all to say your name before speaking so we can all get familiar with each other. I would like all of the New Board Members to please stand, and we will go around the room, say your name, neighborhood and local organizations you are associated with.

Danielle Barker – (absent)

Lisa Cooper – (absent)

Alexa Roberts – (absent)

Monice Small – (absent)

Aramiam Sacnite – I reside in Hammels. I've been living here for the past 2 years.

William Tietjen - Breezy Point Cooperative. Various committees part of the Point Breeze Association.

Patrick Kelly - Lifelong resident of Broad Channel. Active member of the Broad Channel Civic and Broad Channel Athletic Club (BCAC)

Jacqueline Gutierrez – Affiliated with most of the major CBOs in the Rockaway peninsula regarding the after school and before school programs. The pleasure of being affiliated with Rockaway United, FRANC, and many others. Resident of the Rockaways for over 50 years, currently living in Rockaway Park but grew up in Arverne.

Beverly Childs – I live in Arverne by the Sea for about 10 years now. I am part of FRANC, YMCA and iCare Foundation.

Amanda Johnson – I reside in Arverne. I work pretty closely with JASA.

Israel Tavera - Lived in Rockaway since 76, in the Arverne area. Work with Catholic Charities since 2019 and I am just here to help out my community.

Sharon Lewis-Williams - Resident of Edgemere for 17 years. Board Member on the Real Edgemere CLT.

Christina Torres – New Arverne neighbor for last 5 years. Moved here during the pandemic. Want to contribute to the board. PTO of Waterside. Not for Profit

Jose Santana - A few Community Based Organizations, now work with Senator Sanders Office. Downtown Far Rockaway area, lifelong resident.

(Dolores Orr con't)

Executive Board Members will be walking around with the EEO Packet and an acknowledgement Form for your signature. Also, By-Laws and a couple pages from the charter regarding Community Board.

Also, everyone received an email regarding the committee assignments. Existing Board Members prior to April 2025 have the option to maintain their existing committees or switch. We do our best to balance the committees to the best of our ability we try to balance and ensure all committees have a range of members from the different areas of Rockaway and Broad Channel.

District Managers Report - Felicia Johnson:

If anyone has to leave early, please ensure you do not leave without returning the acknowledgement form for receipt of the EEO Policy.

DDC (Department of Design & Construction): they have a new pilot program and have a new project called Raised Cross Walks. CB14 was selected as one of the pilot programs to raise pedestrian crosswalks to sidewalk grade which would allow for better visibility and as a speed reducer. The crosswalks would be continuous from the sidewalk without the need to step down, it would be the same level. The first area that they chose is B20th Street and New Haven Avenue. We are unsure why this area was selected. Construction should not start until the summer of 2026.

FDNY: I am happy to report the FDNY training facility on B116 Street & Beach Channel Drive has been funded and will become a Fire House. It will be out for bid in October and is currently in the design phase. It was funded for \$20M, but now will be 12M over budget. They agreed to fund the 12M deficit that was missing. Shovels in the ground this summer August 2025.

DOT: Car share program the ZipCar. Dedicated curb space 10-12 Nameoke and B18th Street. Sammy's Law, NYC now has the right to reduce the speed to 20 MPH and 10 MPH determined by DOT in Broad Channel the speed limit will become 20MPH. The civic is aware and are in favor of it. Speed humps approved from B6th Street.

HPD: Edgemere Commons, 2nd phase. 7 story, community room, sky deck.

Parks: Thursby Park is in procurement. Will start this summer.

OMB: Funded the removal of the wooden jetties in Rockaway Beach.

DOF: Lien Sale (flyers in the back) You have up to May 19th to challenge or pay.

DSS/ DHS: Shelter on Loretta Road will be closed June 2025

Misc: CM Brooks Powers, illegal overnight truck enforcement and request that NYPD include SEQ and us in this program.

MTA: Assemblymember Pheffer Amato's office and residents using the LIRR while the A Train is shutdown. Due to the parking, they were unable to utilize the discounted fair. Myself and my trusted 10lb dog went out and put flyers on every car. We received feedback from the community, construction and local businesses. The MTA installed signage in the lot stating commuter parking only.

DOB: Wooden structure on Central Avenue finally demolished. This building had an anchor to the adjacent building. Despite all of the violations, the process goes through DOB before going to HPD. There are three additional buildings waiting for demolition and HPD sends it out for bid. Waiting on the scheduled date.

Presentations:

Dolores Orr (con't.) We have two scheduled presentations:

MicroGrids: Presenter pushed back a month. On a 2 hour zoom with a think tank at Columbia University. Looking to support a resiliency plan. If this moves forward and is funded there will be an electrical generator which would support NYPD, FDNY, Hospitals and essential locations. Evacuation plans will officially be created. Evacuation Plan not route: the reason is for those who do not drive or need ADA compliance accommodation needs to be made and considered.

MTA – Lucille Songhai: Queens Bus Redesign

Implementation of the 5-year process of the Queens Redesign. Just a note on the A Train shut down, we are on time and on budget. (CHEERS). I really want to thank CB14 and AM Pheffer Amato's team for keeping me updated on residents' concerns. Transition to talking about the redesign.

I am joined here my two colleagues. Rick Titus – Queens Bus Network Redesign Project Manager & Lola Sullivan- Redesign Members. Two phases of implementation, June 29th & August 31st. Most of the Rockaway rides will be part of Phase II. (Handout were provided to the board members and available for the public.)

- Why we're doing this?
 - It's been decades needs a new look.
 - Newly developed area and travel needs
- How did we get here?
 - Riders identified 4 priorities: reliability, faster travel, better connections and simplified service.
 - Resulting in several redesign strategies
- Timeline: 6 years in the making and each iteration there has been extensive outreach.
 - Developed & Published a Final Plan in December 2024 and approved January 2025
 - Implementation includes Public Education and coming to the community boards, affected bus hubs, signage. Moving into Phase 1 & 2.
 - Phase 1: June 29, 2025
 - Phase 2: August 31, 2025
 - Followed by post implementation analysis: Fall 2025 – Spring 2026
- Community Engagement:
 - 250+ Total Events; over 18,000+ comments
- Introducing the New Bus Network

- 124 Total routes, 94 local routes, 30 express routes
 - Removed the QM 30 and added a new line, QM65
- Expanded access for Queens
 - 124,000 more people will have access to buses
 - 68,000 more people will have access to 24-hour bus service
- Changes will include stops, routes and rush routes
 - Rush routes are faster service to the subway and LIRR
- Implementation
 - Phase 1: June 29th, Eastern Queens
 - Phase 2: August 31st, Northwest & southwest
 - Why? By depot to minimize inconvenience for riders and operators. Training needs to happen.
- Changes in Community Board #14
 - Phase 1, June 29th:
 - Local
 - Q113
 - Q114 (Rush)
 - Phase 2, August 31st
 - Local
 - Q22
 - Ends at Beach 116th Street
 - For service west use the Q35
 - Extended to the Far Rockaway LIRR
 - At the east end will extend to Bayswater part-time
 - Q35
 - Moved to Rockaway Beach Blvd
 - Extended to Beach 108 Street.
 - Q52
 - Extended further east to Beach 50th Street in Edgemere
 - Express
 - QM15 (Howard Beach Express)
 - As a pilot program we will continue to service Rockaway (including weekends) with ongoing MTA review for ridership.
 - QM16
 - PM peak frequencies will decrease slightly. Route remains the same.
 - QM17
 - PM peak frequencies will decrease slightly. Route remains the same.
- Learn about the new network
 - Mta.info/queensbus
 - Futuretrips.mta.info
 - Hard copy tools will be communicated to CB's, Elected Officials, etc.
 - Ambassadors during the transition
 - Call 511
 - Sign up for alerts mta.info/notify
- MTA answers to Board Members Questions
 - DOT is responsible for moving the shelters.

- The QM15 will continue as a pilot in place after the outage period to evaluate it's ridership.
- MTA will look at Q22, lay over areas and consider moving them from B116 & Newport Avenue to B117 and terminate where the Q35 lays over.
- B117 Street Don't Block the Box" signage will be DOT's responsibility.
- MTA will take into consideration the bus layovers at the ferry landing. The layover is further up from the ferry. We are taking some parking spots on Beach Channel Drive for the Q35 will layover.
- The overall cost of the Queens Bus Redesign Network is a \$34M annual investment.
- Moving Q22 from Beach Channel Drive to Rockaway Beach Boulevard was one of the options that were looked at but Rockaway Beach Blvd. the sidewalk area is not wide enough for bus stops to be accessible, which would result in several blocks without bus stops. Additionally, on BCD the Q22 is already going there and the bus services more people with Edgemere houses closer to BCD.
- At this time, we are not considering OMNY machines at bus stops. We have OMNY machines at train stations with about 70% compliance with people using OMNY. For seniors that have reduced fair, they can use the mobile MTA buses to refill their cards.

FDNY Lithium Batteries – A Representative from the Fire Safety Education Unit

- 2023 we had 267 fires caused by lithium-ion batteries, with 26 people passing away.
- 2024 we had 276 fires caused by lithium-ion batteries, but 50% were not structural fires, they were outside. People are listening and learning.
- Smoke inhalation is the most dangerous cause of death during a fire. The smoke from a lithium-ion batteries fire is more dangerous. You only have about 2 minutes.
- Properly dispose of the battery, do not throw them in the garbage.
- Charge your electronics safely:
 - Always use your manufactures cord and power adapter made specifically for that device.
 - Away from heat or direct sunlight.
- If a battery overheats or you notice an odor, change in shape/ color, leaking or odd noises, discontinue use immediately.
- Do not charge your devices overnight when you are sleeping. If something happens when you are awake, you can get out. If you're sleeping, unless you have an issue, your lungs are not able to distinguish between the air and smoke.
- FDNY answers to Board Members Questions
 - To safely charge cell phone batteries:
 - Do not charge overnight, unplug it before you go to bed. Celphones do not need to charge for more than 2 hours. Firmware tells your battery to stop charging when it's fully charged. There are issues with that sometimes. Do not have a phone charge in the room with you!

Public Speaking: The Chairperson opened the floor for public speaking. 14 individuals signed up to speak. They were recognized and heard. Public speaking was closed.

Committee Reports:

Transportation Committee – Chris Tedesco

This is an active committee which meets 3 to 4 times a year.

Please see the Committee Report.

- The meeting was called specifically for ongoing issues outside of the YMCA on B73rd Street off of RBB. There was another bad accident. In 2018 there was a death. Unfortunately, DOT was unable to make the meeting and this is being rescheduled.
- Speed humps between B22 Street between Collier and Camp Road. There are a required amount of Speed Humps from the effected area. These signatures were obtained, and the committee is supporting a traffic study with DOT.
- Traffic Pattern change B39 Street between Rockaway Freeway and Beach Channel Drive. Signatures were obtained. And the committee recommends that DOT performs a study.
- Discuss Pricilla's Law having to due with electric assisted vehicles to be licensed and registered by DOT and receive an identifying number on a visible plate and affixed to the vehicle.

Committee Recommendations to the Board for support:

- Speed Humps on B22 Street between Collier and Camp Road
- Traffic Pattern change B39 Street between Rockaway Freeway and Beach Channel Drive

Motion made by Betty Leon and 2nd by Jose Velez for Speed Humps on B22 Street between Collier and Camp Road.

All in favor, 24. All opposed, 0. All Abstained, 1. **Motion Carries.**

Motion made by Betty Leon and 2nd David Shelborne to change B39 Street between Rockaway Freeway and Beach Channel Drive from a two-way street to a one-way street

All in favor, 20. All opposed, 2. All Abstained, 3. **Motion Carries.**

Old Business:

- John Cori asked if there is any update on the Scaffold Company on 62nd Street and Thursby? As reported by DM Johnson several agencies are working on it.
- There is a bigger issue for 35/ 40 years BCD and B54th Street, it's an old building. Beach Channel Drive and B54th Street. We will follow up with the city.
- The status of resurfacing Beach 20th Street between Cornaga & Mott Avenue as reported by DM Johnson, the utility companies are attempting to discover why the street is sinking. We will follow up.

New Business:

- Milling request. 3 utility cuts on B45 btwn RBB & BCD.
- Signage for cleaning up behind your dog. B19 Street - B9 Streets, but probably the entire boardwalk. We will follow up.

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:

Jeanette Garramone