



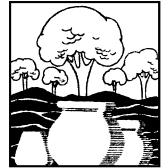
## COMMUNITY BOARD 6, QUEENS

104-01 METROPOLITAN AVENUE · FOREST HILLS, NY 11375-4136

TEL: (718) 263-9250 · FAX: (718) 263-2211

QN06@CB.NYC.GOV

WWW.NYC.GOV/CB6Q



Whitepot Settled 1653

HEATHER BEERS-DIMITRIADIS  
CHAIR

DONOVAN RICHARDS  
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

FRANK P. GULLUSCIO  
DISTRICT MANAGER

## CB 6 MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 9, 2022

### PRESENT

H. BEERS-DIMITRIADIS, CHAIR

P. BEADLE, 1<sup>ST</sup> VICE CHAIR

K. ENGEL, 2<sup>ND</sup> VICE CHAIR

M. LASTER, 3<sup>RD</sup> VICE CHAIR

K. LY, SECRETARY OF FINANCE

T. PADGETT, SECRETARY OF ADMINISTRATION

J. DERESZEWSKI, PARLIAMENTARIAN

M. ARCATI

S. JAIN

P. SCHNEIDERMAN

A. AYON

B. LEONG

J. SILVA

K. BATRA

R. MEHRRA

T. SIMMONS

H. BIRNBAUM

S. METZ

M. TUCKER

H. CHAIN

J. MILNER

S. WANDERMAN

L. CIACCIO

P. MORGAN

A. WEITZMAN

K. CLARK

E. NEWTON

J. WESTON

L. DAVIS

S. ROLNICK

B. WINSTEAD

A. DIAZ-HOUSTON

G. SANDOVAL

T. YASUKAWA

### ABSENT

M. BERFAS

J. MEDINA

R. TAMAYEV

S. CHU

H. POLLACK

I. TAMAYEVA

A. COHEN

D. RACHNAEV

E. WONG

K. IMAS

D. SCHNEIER

J. LI

H. SCHONHAUT

### OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

FRANK GULLUSCIO

CB 6 DISTRICT MANAGER

J. GOLDES

OFFICE OF CONGRESS MEMBER MENG

M. CARLIER

OFFICE OF NYS ASSEMBLY MEMBER HEVESI

S. MCCABE

OFFICE OF NYS SENATOR ADDABBO

J. BOUCHER

OFFICE OF NYC COUNCIL MEMBER SCHULMAN

T. CHESTER

OFFICE OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY KATZ

R. MCCLURE

NATIONAL GRID

A. SILVESTRI

NYC DOT

C. BRUNSON

NYC DOT

## COMMUNITY BOARD 6 MINUTES

NOVEMBER 9, 2022

This meeting was held in-person with a limited virtual option via WebEx for individuals with Extraordinary Circumstances. The following CB 6 Members joined the meeting via WebEx: Sarina Jain, Dr. Renee Mehrra and Shari Rolnick.

Chair Heather Beers-Dimitriadis started the meeting with the following: *“84 years ago the Jewish people in Germany, Austria and German occupied Czechoslovakia saw their synagogues and temples crushed and set on fire. This is known as the night of broken glass - Kristallnacht. This event led to days, weeks, months and years of suffering and death as the Third Reich was working relentlessly to exterminate all of the Jews in Europe. We recognize that the antisemitism that fueled the fires that evening exist today, and it can be challenging to know how to conquer such hate - yet the words of author Aimee Ginsburg Bikel can help guide us. “The light of kindness and goodness in our heart is ultimately what we must tap into. We do not so much “fight the darkness (of hate and bigotry)” as we illuminate it when we unite our own inner light with the inner light shining in our fellow brothers and sisters.”*

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis compared this to work that the Community Board does. We shine a light on our district and try to make each other better and the lives of our community better.

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis asked Commander Michael Arcati to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

## PUBLIC FORUM

All requests for public comment must be submitted via email to [QN06@CB.NYC.GOV](mailto:QN06@CB.NYC.GOV) by 3pm on the day of the meeting. Public comments submitted by Friday at 5pm will be included in the minutes.

### ***Pedro Rodriguez***

*My name is Pedro Rodriguez and I represent a group called Neighbors for a Safer Austin Street. This is a group of neighbors who are concerned with the safety issues on Austin Street.*

*These issues are not new; back in 2018 the Department of Transportation presented a redesign of Austin Street to this Community Board. However, if you look at the presentation, which I have sent to the office, you will notice that most of it simply focuses on parking and loading zone issues. Their presentation focused on moving parking spots and loading zones. They also added some painted crosswalks.*

*It has now been 4 years since that presentation and the pedestrian dangers on Austin Street are still present. According to crashmapper.org, since 2020, there have been 28 reported crashes on Austin Street between Yellowstone and Ascan Ave alone. In those 28 crashes, 22 pedestrians and cyclists were injured. And remember, those are reported crashes, many crashes go unreported.*

*With this in mind, we have gotten together a petition to request that DOT re-study Austin Street, but this time putting pedestrian safety first.*

*I would like to read you the petition:*

*We, the undersigned, petition the New York City Department of Transportation to increase pedestrian space, safety, and quality of life on Austin Street. For a long time, Austin Street has been a congested street with high pedestrian traffic yet little in terms of pedestrian spaces. This has led Austin Street to become unpleasant and dangerous to pedestrians.*

*The sidewalks are too small for the number of people on them, causing conflicts between pedestrians. This significantly harms the elderly, people in wheelchairs, parents with strollers, and others who require more space to move around.*

*Car congestion on Austin Street leads to honking and idling cars, which cause harm to all pedestrians who breathe the polluted air and are subjected to noise pollution. The congestion also causes difficulties in making deliveries to businesses, leading to double parking and blocking bus stops and crosswalks.*

*Finally, the crossing points on Austin Street are too far apart and too few for the large density of people and businesses, leading to people crossing the street at any point, and increasing the chances of crashes.*

*We petition that the street be transformed to prioritize pedestrians by:*

- 1. Widening sidewalks*
- 2. Reducing pedestrian hazards by eliminating car congestion and honking*
- 3. Creating outdoor seating areas*
- 4. Allowing more businesses to have outdoor seating*
- 5. Creating more safe crossings for pedestrians*
- 6. Studying the possibility of fully pedestrianizing segments of the street*

*We have so far collected 221 signatures and plan on collecting more over the coming months. We will be coming back to this community board in the future to request a letter from the board asking DOT for a study.*

*We hope the Board will support our petition and help finally fix Austin Street.*

*If you have any questions, I would be happy to answer them. And if you would like to sign our petition, reach out to me. My email is [pedro@ASaferAustinStreet.com](mailto:pedro@ASaferAustinStreet.com). You can also visit our website and join our mailing list at [ASaferAustinStreet.com](http://ASaferAustinStreet.com).*

### ***Jessame Hannus***

*My name is Jessame Hannus and I am a Rego Park resident. I get around by bicycle. At 52 years old, I have never owned a car. Riding home from Forest Hills yesterday, between 67<sup>th</sup> and the Rego Center, there were 6 cars parked in the bike lanes. I looked up these vehicles in the public record and between 3 of them, they had about 200 parking and speeding tickets. This is the kind of behavior that is going on in our city (not just this precinct). The only recourse that residents have to deal with this problem is to call 311 and the complaint is forwarded to the NYPD. The NYPD can't respond in time and it becomes an exercise in futility. However, I continue to call 311 to make a log of the locations where this is a recurring issue. I take chances that a lot of women would not. Many women in this community don't ride their bikes because the one car in the bike lane would prevent them from riding again. And they wouldn't want their children riding for this reason. It is a real problem for the community and an ongoing issue of lawlessness. I am asking the Community Board to think of ways to take the remedy for this issue away from the NYPD because it isn't working, obviously. I am hoping the CB will support a citywide change to how to deal with this behavior on our streets. It is dangerous and it is an equity issue for people that want to get around by bicycle and are put into conflict with drivers who are behind the wheel of a 1-ton metal machine. I can't begin to tell you the number of times I have been in the bike lane and a car swerves in front of me without looking. I think it's important to see that they are protecting the bike lanes on Queens Boulevard but there are other issues to address on a citywide basis.*

## **MINUTES**

The minutes from the October 12, 2022, meeting were approved as written. Jean Silva and Beatrice Leong abstained from the vote since they weren't present at the 10-12-22 meeting.

## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Heather Beers-Dimitriadis reminded the board that Mark Laster is collecting money for the Sunshine Fund.

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis reported that the Executive Committee and District Office have been working hard to make the transition to in-person meetings as smooth as possible. She thanked everyone for their contributions. At this time, while the Mayor's Emergency Order is still in place, committee meetings will remain on-line except for committee meetings that require public hearings. Those meetings will be in-person. We will keep everyone updated as things progress and change. Also, the extraordinary circumstances resolution that the CB passed is now posted on our website (in the by-laws section). If you need remote access due to an extraordinary circumstance, reach out to us as soon as possible.

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis announced that CB 6 is co-sponsoring a street cleanup in Rego Park with Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi on Saturday November 12, 2022. CB 6 is also co-sponsoring a Veterans Day Breakfast on Friday November 11<sup>th</sup>. If anyone would like to volunteer for the event, please contact Michael Arcati. The board sponsors a variety of events and the details are sent to the board in a weekly email. Please review these emails to see if there is an opportunity that fits your schedule. This helps the board get to know the community.

Last, Chair Beers-Dimitriadis announced that the NYC Council district lines have changed and will be different starting in 2023. They will impact the board. Chair Beers-Dimitriadis suggested that the board members go to the NYC Districting Commission website to see who your Council Member is / will be.

## **DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT**

District Manager Frank Gulluscio announced that he hasn't received any new details about the PEG (Program to Eliminate the Gap) cuts to our agency.

DM Gulluscio reported that he submitted the District Needs Statement on October 31, 2022.

DM Gulluscio explained that the board needs to keep records of attendance and submit them to Borough Hall for reappointments.

DM Gulluscio is working with other organizations to plan the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Forest Hills Tennis Stadium, which will take place next year.

CB 6 District Service Cabinet Meeting was held 2 weeks ago. Queens Library announced that all branches are now open 6 days a week. Also, Queens Library is offering a project called Queens Name Explorer. If you see a street or a building that is named after someone, you can type their name in a database and get their biographical information.

Last, DM Gulluscio announced that the Community Board office gave out over 500 leaf bags from Sanitation.

**PRESENTATION BY NATIONAL GRID  
RENEE MCCLURE, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY AND CUSTOMER  
MANAGEMENT FOR NYC**

Renee McClure announced that the manager for this community is Juan Santiago.

Ms. McClure spoke about the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLPCA) and the Climate Action Council.

- Gas and electric company, National Grid is part of the Utility Consultation Group, which is a group of utilities that work together to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 85 percent by 2050.
- Heating is the largest sector in NYC's energy economy. Annual heating energy consumption is more than double the annual total electricity produced in New York.
- Fossil Fuel currently provides 92% of heat energy.
- National Grid has the following plan to eliminate fossil fuel from their network no later than 2050:
  - o Pledging to set out a pathway that utilizes existing technology (RNG/renewable natural gas) and builds upon expectations for advancements in green hydrogen.
  - o Looking at ways to support federal and state policies which would enable progress towards this future; this includes clean energy standards, stimulating investments in RNG, supporting hydrogen pilots, projects, as well as programs like heating, or blending in hydrogen homes.
- National Grid will focus on the following:
  - o Maintain energy affordability which is essential to the success of energy transition.
  - o Ensure that the path to net zero preserves reliability and resiliency of the energy system.
  - o Establish an energy transition that is just and equitable for all New Yorkers, especially economically vulnerable customers, and disadvantaged communities.
  - o Create an energy transition that is fair to workers who have dedicated their careers to providing a safe and reliable energy source.
- There are 3 key messages
  - o Affordability and Choice – Keep prices down and give New Yorkers the freedom to choose what works best for them.

- Supply – We can't meet NY's clean energy goals with just wind and solar. We need to use all the tools at our disposal.
- Economic Growth – We can't let the clean energy transition undermine economic growth and put New Yorkers out of work.

Ms. McClure took some questions from the board.

## **TRANSPORTATION, PUBLIC TRANSIT AND STREET SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT**

Peter Beadle, Co-Chair, reported that the committee met on October 27, 2022, and discussed the following:

- Presentation from NYC DOT about the new concrete barriers being installed in the bike lanes on Queens Boulevard. The committee would like DOT to monitor the conditions and adjust things that aren't working.
- Alderton Street: Committee would like to put a survey out to the residents to see what the challenges are and how they can be improved.
- Capital Project on Queens Boulevard will be starting in Woodside and will come to our communities eventually. The committee would like to submit ideas to the DOT.
- Next meeting will be the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday in January.

## **PRESENTATION BY DOT QUEENS DEPUTY COMMISSIONER AL SILVESTRI AND DOT PROJECT MANAGER CHRIS BRUNSON**

### *NYC DOT JERSEY BARRIER INITIATIVE*

- The hardening of the bike lanes is an immediate first step to provide protection in bike lanes that currently have delineators.
- In February 2022, DOT announced a citywide effort to protect half of the city's existing delineator protected bike lanes with Jersey Barriers. Queens Boulevard is a priority corridor for the treatment.
- Jersey barriers are concrete walls that provide important safety benefits by reducing recurring issues with compliance among people driving in critical spaces for cyclists.
- Protective barriers have been found to improve safety for cyclists, pedestrians and drivers along high-speed corridors.
- Jersey Barriers provide a less permeable separation than the delineators. Delineators are added before or after Jersey Barrier sections in order to ensure visibility in low-light conditions.

### *JERSEY BARRIER IMPLEMENTATION*

- There are 4 sections of Queens Blvd where Jersey Barrier installation will take place in 2022:
  - Eastbound, Eliot Avenue to Yellowstone Blvd (complete)
  - Westbound, Eliot Avenue to Yellowstone Blvd (ongoing)
  - Eastbound, 73 Street to 57 Avenue (CB4)
  - Westbound, 57 Avenue to Albion Ave (CB4)

- Jersey Barriers provide important safety benefits on the service road by preventing illegal parking in the bike lane and discouraging use of the bike lane for vehicle travel.
- In October, NYC DOT installed a loading plan to provide more curbside availability for deliveries and pickups/drop-offs at busy locations to reduce the need for double parking.
- Combined bike lane and pedestrian space can still be used for emergency access.

*UPDATED CURBSIDE REGULATIONS*

- DOT has upgraded curbside regulations within the limits of Jersey Barrier installation to provide additional curb space for deliveries, pickups, drop-offs, and other short-term uses to reduce double parking.
- Stopping / double parking with Jersey Barriers will result in blocking the service road – therefore having more available curb space is crucial.
- Within CB 6, DOT has installed the following treatments:
  - o Commercial Loading Zones – For commercial vehicles / trucks making deliveries to businesses
  - o 15 Minute Zones – For any vehicle needing brief curbside access within otherwise metered areas
  - o Neighborhood Loading Zones – For vehicles needing curbside access within unmetered areas, typically for large buildings

*BENEFITS TO QUEENS BOULEVARD*

- Jersey Barriers further calm the service road, improving safety for all roadway users while still allowing for neighborhood access.
- Jersey Barriers reduce bike lane blockages, resulting in a safer, more comfortable biking experience on Queens Boulevard and reducing conflicts between cyclists and drivers.
- Additional calming and organization of service road results in a more comfortable and safer pedestrian experience along Queens Blvd.
- New curbside management plan reflects the loading needs of the corridor, improving access to the curb for pickups, drop-offs, and deliveries.

Discussion from the board followed.

Some of the issues raised were:

- Traffic congestion due to double parked cars
- Bus delays
- Lack of enforcement of vehicles in the bike lanes
- Location of barriers with respect to driveways. It is difficult to exit some driveways / parking lots with the barrier placement.
- Emergency vehicles delays

Mr. Silvestri said that this may take drivers some time to get used to, but DOT is open to looking at specific locations where this may or may not work.

## **CONSUMER AFFAIRS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Elizabeth Newton, – Co-Chair, reported that CB6 received 2 new applications:

**1. Almaz Palace, Inc. 90-17 63 Drive, RP**

*This is a family-owned restaurant that will offer lunch, dinner and catering. It is a Glatt Kosher restaurant and catering hall.*

**2. Smashburger, 70-28A Austin Street, FH**

*Smashburger is a fast-casual restaurant serving hamburgers, chicken sandwiches, french fries, salads, shakes, beverages, and alcoholic drinks.*

*Smashburger does business in 23 states with 136 corporate restaurants. Over 90 percent of these locations have liquor licenses, either a Full-Liquor License or a Beer and Wine Liquor*

*License. Smashburger has 19 locations in New York. Two of the restaurants in New York do have*

*Full Liquor Licenses and the other 17 restaurants have Beer and Wine Licenses. All employees hired*

*with Smashburger are mandated to complete an in-depth, in-house, course regarding the sale of*

*alcohol and be Training in Intervention Procedures (TIPS) certified. The server must be of an*

*appropriate age to sell alcohol. They are informed if they serve a minor that they, personally will be*

*held criminally liable. Included in this course is a list of picture identifications that are acceptable to*

*make sure that minors are not served alcoholic beverages. The restaurant business hours are from*

*10am to 10pm. Food service will be offered during this entire time of operation.*

CB 6 received the following renewal applications:

1. Paratha Wala Inc. 103-09 Metropolitan Avenue, FH
2. Katsuno Corp. 103-01 Metropolitan Avenue, FH
3. New Pinang Cuisine, Inc. 111-10 Queens Blvd., FH

There were no negative reports from the 112<sup>th</sup> Precinct. The committee motion is to approve the new applications and the renewal applications. This motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

## **PUBLIC RELATIONS AND SOCIAL MEDIA COMMITTEE REPORT**

Dr. Renee Mehrra, Chair, reported that the committee met on October 25, 2022, and discussed the following:

- Created a standard template for flyers and press releases.
  - o Awaiting approval from the Office
- They would like to host a webinar early next year with committee chairs to talk about how to create a press release and flyer for their events.

## **COMMITTEE FOR THOSE WITHOUT SHELTER REPORT**

Latrice Davis, Chair, reported that the committee met on November 3, 2022, and discussed the following:

- Shared interests and expertise with the issues of homelessness
- Supportive / Subsidized housing for marginalized groups



- Different types of housing
- Locations where increasing homeless individuals have been sighted in our community
- Partnering with other committees and city agencies
- Next meeting will be in January – Date to be determined

**GOOD & WELFARE**

**CB 6 MEMBERS:**

Anisia Ayon announced that the Aging, Social Services and Disabilities Committee will be meeting on Monday November 14, 2022, at 6:30pm via WebEx.

Heidi Chain reported that the 112<sup>th</sup> Precinct Council meeting will be on Wednesday November 16, 2022, at 7:30pm at the American Legion Hall.

Mark Laster thanked the Community Board for their support regarding the passing of his father.

Pat Morgan spoke about a very bad experience she had with Access-A-Ride. She was in the vehicle for more than 2 hours. She said the system is getting worse and it’s horrible for people that rely on it. She offered to take any members, that want to experience this for themselves, to ride with her in an Access-A-Ride vehicle.

Steve Metz announced that an American died in Ukraine. He reminded the members that there are Americans still fighting for the freedom of Ukrainians, and we should keep them in our thoughts.

Peter Beadle announced that the Queens Borough President is hosting a Bike Skills Class on Sunday, November 13, 2022, from 10am – 12pm at Hoffman Park.

**ELECTED OFFICIALS’ REPRESENTATIVES:**

**COUNCIL MEMBER LYNN SCHULMAN**

Jonathan Boucher introduced himself as the new Chief of Staff for Council Member Schulman and announced the following:

- Diabetes briefing with Emblem Health on Thursday November 17, 2022, from 10am – 11am.
- Free Mammogram Screening on November 28, 2022. Details are still being finalized
- The office has leaf bags to distribute.
- Flood barriers are available for distribution. Flood prone homeowners can use them to protect their property.
- Participatory budgeting process is ongoing. Ideas can be submitted online via <http://ideas.pbnyc.org/>.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER ANDREW HEVESI

Michael Carlier announced the following:

- Street Cleanup on Saturday, November 12, 2022, at 63<sup>rd</sup> Drive and Booth Street. This is cosponsored by CB6, Congress Member Grace Meng and Senator Joseph P Addabbo, Jr. For more information about participating, you can contact the office. Assemblyman Hevesi is dedicated to making the community cleaner through these events and asking DSNY to increase collections, etc.

CONGRESS MEMBER GRACE MENG

Jordan Goldes announced:

- There was a complaint from the Community Board that Postal Trucks from the Rego Park Post Office were parking in the bike lanes. Congress Member Meng reached out to the post office, and this has stopped.

SENATOR JOSEPH P. ADDABBO, JR.

Sean McCabe announced the following:

- Senator thanked everyone for their support in the election.
- Job Fair at Resorts World on Friday, November 17, 2022, from 10am – 2pm. Vendors include private companies, civil service, military and more.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY MELINDA KATZ

Tara Chester announced the following:

- Gun Buyback on November 19, 2022, at Church of God Christian Academy in Far Rockaway.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Christine Nolan*  
*Community Coordinator*

CB 6 VOTING SHEET 11-9-22	NEW LIQUOR LICENSES	RENEWAL LIQUOR LICENSES
MICHAEL ARCATI		
ANISIA AYON		
KAVISH BATRA		
PETER BEADLE		
MIRIAM BERFAS	ABSENT	ABSENT
HOWARD BIRNBAUM		
HEIDI CHAIN		
SHERIDAN CHU	ABSENT	ABSENT
L.T. CIACCIO		
KANDRA CLARK		
ALEXANDER COHEN	ABSENT	ABSENT
LATRICE DAVIS		
JOHN DERESZEWSKI		
ALEJANDRA DIAZ-HOUSTON		
HEATHER DIMITRIADIS		
KEITH ENGEL		
KAREN IMAS	ABSENT	ABSENT
SARINA JAIN		
MARK LASTER		
BEATRICE LEONG		
JONATHAN LI	ABSENT	ABSENT
KEVIN LY		
JACK MEDINA	ABSENT	ABSENT
DR. RENEE MEHRRA		
STEVEN METZ		
JULIE MILNER		
PAT MORGAN		
ELIZABETH NEWTON		
TANIA PADGETT		
HOWARD POLLACK	ABSENT	ABSENT
DIANA RACHNAEV	ABSENT	ABSENT
SHARI ROLNICK		
GLADYS SANDOVAL		
PETRINA SCHNEIDERMAN		
DAVID SCHNEIER	ABSENT	ABSENT
HERBERT SCHONHAUT	ABSENT	ABSENT
JEAN SILVA		
TERESA SIMMONS		
DR. ROBERT TAMAYEV	ABSENT	ABSENT
IRINA TAMAYEVA	ABSENT	ABSENT
MARTHA TUCKER		
SUSAN WANDERMAN		
ALEXA WEITZMAN		
JOAN WESTON		
BRENTLY WINSTEAD		
EDWIN WONG	ABSENT	ABSENT
TITILAYO YASUKAWA		
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>ALL IN FAVOR</b>	<b>ALL IN FAVOR</b>