



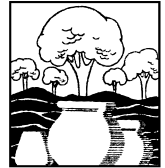
COMMUNITY BOARD 6, QUEENS

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Whitepot Settled 1653

HEATHER BEERS-DIMITRIADIS
CHAIR

DONOVAN RICHARDS
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

FRANK P. GULLUSCIO
DISTRICT MANAGER

CB 6 MEETING MINUTES JUNE 14, 2023

PRESENT

H. BEERS-DIMITRIADIS, CHAIR	P. BEADLE, 1 ST VICE CHAIR
K. ENGEL, 2 ND VICE CHAIR	M. LASTER, 3 RD VICE CHAIR
L. CIACCIO, SECRETARY OF FINANCE	J. DERESZEWSKI, PARLIAMENTARIAN

M. ARCATI	B. GROSSBERG	S. ROLNICK
D. ARONOV	S. JAIN	M. SALTON
A. AYON	M. FERNANDEZ KONIGSBERG	G. SANDOVAL
S. BAIDA	M. LASHLEY-KABORE	D. SCHANTZ
K. BATRA	B. LEONG	H. SCHONHAUT
M. BERFAS	J. LI	J. SILVA
H. BIRNBAUM	K. LY	M. TUCKER
D. BOWENS	R. MEHARRA	B. WINSTEAD
H. CHAIN	J. MILNER	E. WONG
L. DAVIS	P. MORGAN	E. ZAKRY
V. ELLISON	E. NEWTON	K. ZAPATA
G. GIOIA	H. POLLACK	

ABSENT

G. CHEN	J. MEDINA	D. RACHNAEV
K. CLARK	S. METZ	P. SCHNEIDERMAN
K. IMAS	T. PADGETT	T. YASUKAWA

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

FRANK GULLUSCIO	CB6 DISTRICT MANAGER
JORDAN GOLDES	OFFICE OF CONGRESS MEMBER GRACE MENG
KEVIN MCALEER	OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER LYNN SCHULMAN
GIANNA VALENTE	OFFICE OF ASSEMBLY MEMBER ANDREW HEVESI
ARI INNISS	OFFICE OF SENATOR LEROY COMRIE
IRENE STATHATOS	OFFICE OF SENATOR MICHAEL GIANARIS
AMPARITO ROSERO	OFFICE OF BOROUGH PRESIDENT DONOVAN RICHARDS

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: Miriam Berfas, Renee Mehrra and Jean Silva.

PUBLIC FORUM

All requests for public comment must be submitted via email to 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.

Steffany Pearlman (Speaking on behalf of Arsen Gurgov)

I stand before you today with a pressing concern that needs immediate attention. On 62nd Drive, between 102nd and 99th Streets, implementing bike lanes has created a dangerous situation for residents. The street has become significantly narrower, making it hazardous for vehicles exiting driveways. This problem is exacerbated by cars parked near homes and across from driveways, further restricting the already cramped street and posing severe risks to drivers. As a long-time resident, I have faced the daunting challenge of maneuvering in and out of driveways due to blind spots and the constant flow of cars and buses.

To tackle this issue, we would like to ask you to take decisive action and remove parking near residential properties and driveways. We previously collected signatures from the entire block to address concerns about speeding, but unfortunately, our plea was rejected. It's disheartening that the narrowing of the street has not curbed speeding but added to the residents' frustration. We must install speed bumps to improve safety conditions on this block.

Additionally, implementing speed cameras is crucial to deter reckless driving, despite the difficulties caused by parked cars. Our utmost priority is to ensure the safety of our community and create an environment where residents can safely use their driveways while maintaining the bike lanes' intended safety.

I possess videos that demonstrate our recurring challenges when entering or exiting our homes. A few weeks ago, I was coming out of my driveway cautiously, my car was hit by an oncoming car speeding down the street. Luckily, I was not hurt. My car was damaged. It could have been worse. I would like your help urging the Department of Transportation (DOT) or the local police department to address this matter swiftly. Despite my earnest efforts to communicate with DOT through email over the past six months, I am still waiting for a satisfactory resolution.

Your unwavering support in making our street safer, preventing parking obstructions in driveways, and preventing accidents would be an immeasurable gift to our community. I would like your help in resolving this matter and safeguarding the well-being of our neighborhood.

Thank you for your unwavering attention and kind consideration. I look forward to your response and working together toward a positive resolution.

Renee Capell – This comment was read by the CB6 Chair

To the members of Community Board 6:

I am the Treasurer of the Thornton Tenants Corporation located at 6820 Selfridge Street in our community. I have been authorized by the full board of directors to submit our strong opposition and serious concerns regarding the installation of Zipcar No Parking designated spaces on the location of Nansen Street and Selfridge Street. While this is a dead-end street you have permitted the NYC DOT to remove valuable parking spaces in a neighborhood of limited parking capacity. Just as concerning is the influx of a transient population in our community. That specific street includes an outside staircase that enters our building causing a very unsafe condition for those residents on the first-floor apartments that use that staircase to enter and exit their apartment. Children use that space to ride their bicycles and play outside. We are opposed to the Zipcar parking along that street and no agency has had the courtesy of engaging the occupants directly impacted before this decision was made. We are asking for a relocation of the Zipcar only parking sign to an alternate location. Respectfully submitted on behalf of the 89 residents of our building.

Kaleena Ma - This comment was read by the CB6 Chair

My name is Kaleena Ma, a business owner in the Austin Street area and am very concerned about the parking situation that is currently being hindered upon by a group that claims to be "Saving Austin Street" I am a long time resident and business owner and feel that Austin Street is busy during the rush hour which is normal and feel like there should be changes to make it safer for pedestrians in the intersection of 71st and Austin but do not believe we need more sitting areas or bicycle lanes or outdoor eating areas. We need to accommodate the disabled and elderly to be dropped down in offices along Austin Street. We need to accommodate delivery lanes as well for trucks. I would like to know if there is follow up in a nonpartisan study on the safety of the streets instead of having an outsider conduct these. We need to think about the businesses that are on Austin Street instead of a utopian ideal. We are already affected by bike lanes on Queens Blvd that hinder upon customers parking and i hear daily that they struggle to find parking and most of my customers do travel by car to visit my store. I would like to have more studies and information that may support change and hope that we can find a happy medium. Thank you.

Amy Hu

Thank you to all the elected officials for the work you do for our community. It is greatly appreciated. I would like to express my frustration with the concerts at Forest Hills Stadium, the promoter Tiebreaker, and the landlord WSTC. I am hoping that Community Board 6 and our elected officials can effect some changes so that the concerts can continue with community support rather than opposition. I live a quarter mile from the stadium and can hear every song clearly. It is difficult to leave the windows open during the summer months, unless I want to hear a lot of noise and bass. The thumping of the music is something I would like to turn off but have no control over. I am hoping that our elected officials can intervene and subject the stadium to obey noise codes. The bass causes my neighbors' homes to shake, and the DEP has not taken any bass measurements. In the past, I wanted to hear some of the music, but it wasn't loud enough to reach my house. Now I get up to close the windows on concert nights only to realize they are already closed, and I can still hear the bass. The loudness of the concerts can be improved. It does not have to be this way. The Summer stage concerts at Central Park had angered some residents, and the venue took action to mitigate the noise, and now there are no complaints. They hired sound engineers and used sophisticated software and contained the noise. Further, The NY Times just published an article entitled "Noise could take years off your life". Other issues include the number of concerts this year. Our small neighborhood is not built to have 30 concerts. The street closures, re-routing, and traffic are a burden to us. We can't handle 10,000 concertgoers, all the extra cars, all the Ubers, all the honking, and all the garbage left behind. We don't have a parking lot. Also, the concerts are supposed to end at 10pm, but many times they extend to 11pm. Children have Saturday and Sunday activities to go to. Many concerts are on school nights. There is a show today, right now, ending at 10pm, and it's a school night. Some events are all day, over two days in a row. This year there's a concert on Rosh Hashanah. Please help improve the current situation. Limit the total number of concerts, Enforce the city noise code, Address problems with traffic, parking, and trash, End all shows at 10pm, Discontinue day-long events, I thank you for your time.

Marty Levinson

My name is Marty Levinson. I am a member of the Concerned Citizens of Forest Hills. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to voice my concerns about the very negative effect the many concerts are having on the quality of life of my family and of my neighbors. I have lived on Exeter Street in Forest Hills since 1967 - that's over 56 years. From my house I can hear the deafening sounds coming from the Stadium. It hasn't always been this way. Let's look at the history. Several years ago, when the West Side Tennis Club was in danger of financially going under, and a program of concerts was proposed as a possible remedy, we were not opposed to a concert program.

What are our main concerns? They are the noise, not observing a 10 pm curfew, the number of concerts and traffic. At home, searching for peace, we are obliged to close our double paned windows, pull down the Venetian blinds, draw the drapes, and turn on the air conditioners. All this does not keep the windows from rattling.

Our school aged neighbors' children are unable to concentrate on homework or get to sleep.

What's been happening recently? The Head in The Clouds Festival on May 20 & 21, was essentially seven hours of music each day two days in a row.

This season there are 30 events planned: 30 events in a season is unprecedented. 30 events equals greed. That's what I said, greed. I have heard that 30 events or more is what the promoter wants to do every year. 30 events equals one month at the nicest time of the year. On these days it will make our life unbearable. There will continue to be road closures, traffic jams and people urinating on lawns and in driveways; and at the end of the concerts, people yelling on the streets.

When Concerned Citizens of Forest Hills, using the Freedom of Information Law, requested noise reports from the DEP for the last few years, they were told that no data of bass readings was available. Isn't the DEP supposed to rigorously enforce the noise code?

Things don't have to be that bad. For example, two Fridays ago the event ended at 10 pm. The bass was imperceptible.

May I add that concerts in both Central Park and Prospect Park must end by 10pm.

I want to end by thanking Commander David Cordano of the 112th Precinct and all the officers under his command. Under the most difficult circumstances they have done a very effective job helping our community. Ladies and gentlemen of Community Board 6, I ask that you please use your influence to ensure that a 10 pm curfew remains, as it is elsewhere in the city, to ensure that the number of events is reduced, not increased, to ensure that the noise code is enforced.

Ladies and Gentlemen of Community Board 6, please help us.

Daniel Solow

My name is Daniel, and I am a member of Neighbors for A Safer Austin Street. Tonight, I will speak as a resident of FoHi. I have a few people and groups to thank tonight.

I spoke here a few months ago to thank the CB6 transportation committee for their leadership passing the resolution asking for a safety study on Austin. Tonight, I want to thank CM Schulman for her leadership and courage in penning her letter in support of a study. We shall all see, when the time comes, what DOT has in store for Austin Street.

Year after year I have seen the lion share of our taxpayer money used to fill in potholes and widen our roads. All these actions induce more driving, more CO2, more lousy air quality and drain any remaining funds towards improving the quality of life for residents. In the context of our climate crisis, this is unsustainable, and we need to counter the status quo. The study we are discussing tonight will put our residents and the planet first.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Forest Hills chamber for showing our community what Austin can look like when pedestrian safety is prioritized. Although members of their group are fighting our effort with slogans like "Save Austin Street Parking", the Austin Street Fair showed us again what our streets can transform into if we have a little imagination.

With all the passion on this issue I find it is necessary to remind everyone here tonight that our group only has asked for a study that explores pedestrian improvements. There is no plan. This study, we hope, examines the current conditions from the context of over 70 crashes involving an automobile and finds ways to make improvements for pedestrians.

Michael Corwin - This comment was read by the CB6 Chair

I am writing to you to express my family's wholehearted support for pedestrianizing a section of Austin Street in Forest Hills, as proposed in <https://www.change.org/p/pedestrianize-austin-street-forest-hills-ny>. And I want to thank you for supporting a DOT feasibility study on the matter. We agree that reducing vehicular congestion can literally save lives while bringing more people to the neighborhood to spend money in stores and restaurants. We know there will be opposition for the usual reasons, but the recent wildfire smoke reminds us of the critical need to do all that we can to improve air quality. And a more pleasant, livable city ultimately results in an economic boon and better way of life for all.

Eric Zolov

As a long-time resident of Forest Hills, I am speaking today in strong support of the proposal to consider pedestrianizing a portion of Austin Street, and more generally to prioritize pedestrian safety over cars. As any casual visitor to Austin Street can attest, the corridor is routinely clogged with honking cars, double-parked vehicles, and a blatant disregard for pedestrian crossing.

Recently I learned that the Chamber of Commerce is resisting this proposal with the argument that pedestrianizing streets directly leads to a loss of shoppers who need parking. More foot traffic does not equal less commerce. Indeed, the trend in numerous cities across the country and globally would clearly suggest the opposite.

I strongly urge the Queens Board to examine how other cities have discovered how pedestrianizing commercial corridors has led to a boon for businesses and the quality of life in general. I, too, want our local businesses to succeed and thrive. Our family shops locally and we visit multiple businesses on Austin Street on a daily basis. Imagine how transformative a pedestrianized Austin Street from Continental to Ascan would be for the neighborhood! Restoring the street to its original cobblestone substratum (likely, lying just beneath the pavement) would dramatically add to the neighborhood's appeal and markedly increase property values. There are ample access points for public transportation and, no doubt, the vast majority of visitors to Austin Street already arrive by foot, bus, subway, or train.

Especially distressing to me is the strident “anti-“stance the Chamber of Commerce insists on taking. I think it’s fair to say that a proposal to prioritize pedestrian safety, public accessibility, and a reduction of noise and car pollution is worthy of serious, engaged conversation.

I am hardly a traffic expert, but it does not take one to recognize that Austin Street has become utterly dysfunctional, especially at certain hours of the day. Let’s take this opportunity, with a DOT study in the works, to reimagine Austin Street and make it worthy of its true potential — as a commercially vibrant, culturally exciting place to live, visit, and shop.

Sue Peters

To Queens Community Board 6, I applaud you for putting a moratorium on any new towers in May. They are 32 feet tall jumbo 5G cell towers on our sidewalks. Putting a moratorium on that in your community, you have protected your citizens. And I just want to repeat something that you should think about and find out more about. I discovered this when I was speaking out to the community boards. The federal agency, the FCC, Federal Communications Commission, they have the power to regulate these towers in our 5 boroughs. They were taken to court in 2019 by a federal court of our country because their guidelines for protecting our health. are from 1996. 23 years old, 23 years ago. Very few people in the community had cell phones. And these guidelines are based on science from the 1980’s and 1990’s. And the federal court said to the Federal agency: You have to change those guidelines, you have been presented with 11,000 pages of proof that wireless radiation in our communities below those guidelines are causing harm to humans, the health of humans. That was in August of 2021, when that was decided by the federal court. The federal agency, the FCC has ignored the court. Think about that. We are not being protected. So, please research. And talk among yourselves. Thank you.

Pedro Rodriguez – Neighbors for a Safer Austin Street

Hello, everyone again! My name is Pedro, and I am here as a member of Neighbors for A Safer Austin Street. We are a 100% grassroots, volunteer-run group of neighbors in the Rego Park/Forest Hills/Kew Gardens area concerned with Austin Street's current situation regarding safety, equitability, and overall pedestrian comfort. Now we admit that we do not know the solution to the Austin Street problem; we are NOT traffic experts. But we know many things. We know that the sidewalks on Austin St need to be wider. We can see it with our eyes every time someone with a wheelchair or stroller struggles to get through, but we also know that the city agrees! According to the city's Pedestrian Mobility Plan, Austin St sidewalks should be at least 15 feet wide based on usage! Imagine how incredible that would be! Is it any surprise that people with wheelchairs, walkers, and strollers tend to sign our petition most consistently? And they need to be wider ASAP! We all see the new buildings rising in our neighborhood. Our population has grown since those sidewalks were built, and it is still growing! We may not be traffic experts, but we see how Q23 users are constantly stuck in traffic; and

how their bus stops are blocked perpetually, forcing elderly and disabled people to get on and off in the middle of the street—such disabled people as Chris, who I met on Sunday. Chris is a man who uses a wheelchair; after signing our petition, he told us how he's constantly forced to get on and off the bus on the street due to the blocked bus stops. A non-disabled person can easily mount the curb, but someone like Chris must ride in traffic to the crosswalk before getting on the sidewalk. And his situation isn't unique; stand on Austin St on a regular day, and you'll see many similar examples. Chris, and every other bus user, even non-disabled ones, deserve respect and admiration. After all, we are in a climate crisis; everyone using public transit should be prioritized, not treated as second-class citizens. And it is not only the buses stuck in traffic; I can't tell you how often I've seen an ambulance stuck on Restaurant Row or an NYPD cruiser between 71st Ave and Yellowstone Blvd. We may not be traffic experts, but we know that the 87 traffic injuries that happened on Austin St over the last four years are 87 injuries too many.

We may not be traffic experts, but we see Austin's issues clear as day. We may not know how to fix them, but we know it will only get fixed if we dare to ask. A Safer, Better, More Equitable, Move Environmentally friendly, More Beautiful, and More Economically vibrant Austin Street is possible, but we must first dare ask for it.

That's the end of my comment. I want to thank the board for listening and sending that request to DOT. I would also like to thank CM Lynn Schulman for her letter to DOT. A big thanks to our volunteers for helping collect signatures on Sunday; we've now surpassed 1000 signatures because of it. And a special thanks to the Forest Hills Chamber of Commerce for hosting the Fair! The reality is that Neighbors for a Safer Austin St wouldn't exist today without the Fair. That Fair shows the whole community that Austin can be better.

Amy Iwanowicz, Crime Victims Treatment Center

We are nonprofit in New York City that provides free counseling and legal services to survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence and trauma.

One of our flagship programs that I run is our Volunteer Rape Crisis and Domestic Violence Advocacy program. We have volunteers that go through a 40-hour training to become certified by the Department of Health as rape crisis counselors and they partner with some of our ED's to provide support to anyone that goes into the ED and discloses sexual assault or domestic violence. This can look like: getting them access to shelters, advocating for them with medical staff or police, overall help and support to get through their ED stay. It can be really traumatizing for them. Our advocates basically cover the hospital social workers when they are not present, so they are on call from 7pm – 7am on weeknights and then they are on call 24 hours on weekends and holidays to fill in the gaps when social workers are unavailable. We are very excited to bring our advocate program to LIJ Forest Hills so starting on June 30th, any person that goes to the ED and discloses sexual assault or domestic violence will have an advocate called and they will be able to come and support them throughout the stay and connect them to CVTC for further resources. LIJFH also has some specially trained sexual assault forensic examiners, and these are nurses and doctors who went through another separate 40-hour training to learn how to collect evidence and provide care in a real trauma informed manner. If anyone is interested in becoming an advocate and volunteering at the hospital, we are hosting a 40-hour training in October, and I have some handouts with QR codes where you can go to our website and learn more. I also have a few business cards if folks on the board want to get in contact with me and learn a little bit more. Thank you for your time and again that is stating on June 30th, our advocacy program will be launching.

Joshua Putnam Peskay

I am writing support the Safer Austin Street initiative that could significantly benefit our community both economically and environmentally.

Promoting Walkability: Increasing walkability within our neighborhoods could greatly boost local economic prosperity and support our businesses. Research has shown positive correlations between walkability and local retail spend, employment opportunities, and the value of local services and goods¹. Furthermore, walkable neighborhoods can attract skilled professionals, stimulate property values, and save households an average of \$9,000 a year per car through reduced motor vehicle usage and associated costs.

(<https://www.cnu.org/publicsquare/2021/08/18/ten-economic-benefits-walkable-places>).

Implementing Parking Management Strategies: Proper management of our community's parking resources could help to reduce traffic congestion, roadway costs, pollution, and more

(<https://www.cmap.illinois.gov/about/2040/supporting-materials/process-archive/strategy-papers/parking/impacts-of-parking-strategies>).

Reducing Environmental Impact: By optimizing our parking spaces and encouraging more environmentally friendly alternatives, we could significantly reduce vehicle emissions and improve the overall health of our community (<https://www.cmap.illinois.gov/about/2040/supporting-materials/process-archive/strategy-papers/parking/impacts-of-parking-strategies>).

I understand that these proposals may initially face resistance due to changes in habits and perceived inconvenience. However, the long-term benefits such as increased economic prosperity, improved environmental health, and a more vibrant Forest Hills are of great value.

I am confident that our community can adapt and thrive in these changes. By promoting walkability and implementing effective parking management strategies, we can foster a more sustainable, prosperous, and livable community. I am eager to discuss these proposals further at this evening's community board meeting.

Roni Rabin

Hello, I've lived on Dartmouth Street for 30 years. When we bought this home, the stadium didn't host concerts or tennis matches on a regular basis. When the concerts started 8 or 9 years ago, Mike Luba's gave his word to the community that there wouldn't be more than 5 or 6 acts a season and all events would comply with the city noise code and end at 10:00. Those promises have not been kept. This year, there will be 29 or 30 events. Some will be mellow, others will not. When rock or electronic music is playing, it invades our homes and you can feel the base pumping in your chest, even when you close all the windows. Last year, many concerts went way past 10:00. Noise is defined as sound that is undesired. We now know, due to the NY Times Series, that research has shown that the louder your environment is, the higher risk of high blood pressure, heart disease, heart attack and stroke, which are the main killers in this country. Unpleasant noise is connected to the stress detection center in your brain causing stress chemicals like cortisol to spike, raise your heart rate, raise your blood pressure, and cause inflammation. The concerts have prevented me from enjoying and using my home for several years now. I can't have people over for summer barbecues without checking Mike Luba's schedule. If I have a migraine, my home offers no refuge and no quiet. If my daughter, a medical student, needs to study for exams in neurology, oncology, gynecology, and there is a concert, tough luck. This year, the promoters went even further. They scheduled 2 concerts on one of the most significant Jewish Holidays, Rosh Hashanah. One concert is on Friday night and the other on Sunday. It is affecting my ability to practice my religious traditions and that's where I draw the line. During this time, families go to synagogue to pray and then gather at home for a meal. I have hosted my adult children, cousins, and family in my home for the past few decades. We light candles, we dip apples in honey, we say blessings and sing songs. This will not be possible this year on Dartmouth Street. I will not be able to practice my religious traditions in my home this year. The band Cigarettes After Sex will be playing on Friday Evening and the noise will penetrate our home. Not to mention, the traffic congestion will prevent family from driving to us and parking. On Sunday, there is an Outlaw Music Festival starting at 3pm. The promoter Mike Luba is well aware that this is a major Jewish holiday, and he doesn't care. Religious freedom is a cornerstone of American Democracy. We are calling for cancellation of these outdoor performances on these significant days and ask you, the Community Board to relate the concerns of the community that you represent to our Elected Officials, the West Side Tennis Club and Mr. Luba.

Thane Terrill - This comment was read by the CB6 Chair

While I love Austin Street for all its diversity and because my gym is there, I find the sidewalks jammed, the crosswalks dangerous, riding my bike there near suicidal with all the double-parked cars forcing me into oncoming traffic or having oncoming traffic in my lane. I attended the recent street fair and could not help but notice that the entire street was jammed with people, and not one car was in sight.

I write to express support for traffic-safety initiatives on Austin Street. It serves many functions: a commercial strip with busy sidewalks; a thru-street for city buses; a curbside loading zone; and a parking lot for private vehicles. It cannot do all four safely. I ask that private traffic in cars and trucks receive new limits to prioritize safety for pedestrians and delivery cycles. I ask for new limits on general street parking, to be replaced by temporary loading zones and increased disability accommodation.

Businesses will claim that they need street parking to survive. I submit that any business which requires a parking subsidy to thrive on Austin Street has chosen the wrong location. Thank you for your consideration.

Chris Ashley - This comment was read by the CB6 Chair

I write to express support for traffic-safety initiatives on Austin Street. It serves many functions: a commercial strip with busy sidewalks; a thru-street for city buses; a curbside loading zone; and a parking lot for private vehicles. It cannot do all four safely. I ask that private traffic in cars and trucks receive new limits to prioritize safety for pedestrians and delivery cycles. I ask for new limits on general street parking, to be replaced by temporary loading zones and increased disability accommodation.

Businesses will claim that they need street parking to survive. I submit that any business which requires a parking subsidy to thrive on Austin Street has chosen the wrong location. Thank you for your consideration.

Chris Vena - This comment was read by the CB6 Chair

As a long-time Forest Hills resident, a driver, a parent, and a regular patron of many Austin Street businesses, I strongly support pedestrianizing Austin Street. I can drive my car almost anywhere, but our neighborhood is sorely lacking a pleasant and safe place to walk, shop, and gather with friends and family. We need this type of space now more than ever.

Donna Leal - This comment was read by the CB6 Chair

I support a safer Austin Street. I support efforts that will research minimizing traffic, minimizing double parking, rerouting the q23, creating one-way streets, creating more walking areas, having more police presence. I do not support a campaign that simply states to save Austin Street parking. Because I ask, is there really parking available to be saved? I am yet to speak to anyone who does not agree that the Austin St area is bursting at the seams with vehicle traffic. So, I ask of you. Do you agree with that observation, and if the answer is yes, what measures are you taking to address it. I do not see this vehicle congested condition as beneficial to business. And if you do, I welcome to hear how double parking, and overflowing vehicle traffic does.

And May I add, that to state that the area must be saved from a car free scenario, is an oversimplification, and misses the point of creating a safer, less vehicle congested space to attract business and consumers. It is my hope that the Chamber of Commerce will consider this and frame their efforts in a positive, looking for solutions way.

Blair Kitchen - This comment was read by the CB6 Chair

I am a resident of Forest Hills and would like to communicate my support for the ongoing petition as well as the plans to review equitable access to Austin Street.

As the parent of a young child and a NYC resident, I welcome any opportunity to increase the walkability of our neighborhood. I think it enhances the sense of community, increases business opportunities, and leads to increased property values. I have seen firsthand how many school age children frequent Austin Street after school and on weekends and enjoy visiting local businesses there myself. Anything further that can be done to improve pedestrian access will be a fantastic improvement for the community.

Anne Sexton - This comment was read by the CB6 Chair

Austin Street is a vital part of Forest Hills -- a thorough unbiased study is needed to determine the safest and best configuration for all stakeholders. The current configuration is unsafe. The unencumbered car access proposed by the Forest Hills Chamber of Commerce is short sided and dangerous.

Terri Gordon - This comment was read by the CB6 Chair

Hello, I would strongly support a cobblestone, pedestrian walkway on Austin Street. This would increase property values and the foot traffic to restaurants and stores. I have been a resident of Forest Hills for 10 years. In the time I have lived here, I have seen the value of stores on Austin Street decline. We lost Barnes & Nobles, Laytner's Linens, and Staples. The main clothing outlets, such as Loft, Ann Taylor, and the Gap, became factory stores. As it is now, Austin Street is loud, congested, and unsafe. A pedestrian street would enable the area to become more aesthetically pleasing and more commercially viable. It seems to me that the main issue with this proposal is how

to allow for deliveries of supplies to stores and restaurants. One could imagine various solutions, such as an early morning time zone for deliveries. I believe that a pedestrian main street would be utterly transformative for the neighborhood.

Natalie Bump Vena - This comment was read by the CB6 Chair

As a long-time Forest Hills parent and regular patron of many Austin Street businesses--from Pink Forest to Target--I strongly support converting Austin Street into a pedestrian mall. I do not feel safe as a pedestrian or as a biker on Austin Street. Furthermore, I do not feel safe on the rare occasions that I do drive on Austin Street, as trucks are inevitably double-parked in front of businesses, leading drivers to swerve into oncoming traffic to continue their journeys. I strongly believe that if the Department of Transportation converted Austin Street into a pedestrian mall, it would become an even greater commercial destination. Right now, Austin Street is thick with air pollution from idling cars and trucks. Instead, as a pedestrian mall, it could be a vibrant center of community life.

Joanna Gallai - This comment was read by the CB6 Chair

Anyone who visits Austin Street on fair day sees its potential as a pedestrian-friendly place. Americans go to Europe to enjoy their bustling, car-free districts where they enjoy shopping and dining and especially safety. More people - by a lot - visit Austin Street by foot, bike, or public transit than by car. Please make Austin Street and its feeder streets car-free to benefit residents, visitors, and commerce. Just because pro-car people are loud does not mean they are right. Please do the research.

Irina Vovsha

My name is Irina Vovsha and I have been a FH resident for many years. What is happening in our area is a disaster. We are going from a residential area to a commercial area. Let me ask you a question, if you live in an apartment building and you hear a noise at 10:00 at night, what are you going to do? Ask the neighbor not to make noise? Call the police? You can do both. Are they going to react? At one meeting on Metropolitan Avenue, I asked the police officer what I should do? Do I have rights? He said, you have no rights. What? I paid for my house, I pay my bills every month, I pay property tax. Why do I need to suffer? Our lives have become literally a disaster. We cannot listen to this music. I love music, I graduated from a music school, and I love jazz music, but this isn't music. It is booming on your head all the time. We can't even live there. My windows and doors are closed all the time.

These concerts are illegal. According to NYS Law, the concerts are only allowed 42 decibels and only 7 decibels after 10pm.

Also, when the concert is over, the patrons leave all their trash on the sidewalks, and we have to be janitors. The promoters get the money, and we have to pay. I can't live and I can't sleep.

Should I pay my property tax? Maybe the promoters of the concerts should pay for me and all the residents in the area. I live several blocks away and I am suffering. I wonder what the people that live right near the stadium must feel.

We need to measure the decibels because it isn't right. The houses are shaking because of the vibrations.

Ben Helmer

I'd like to echo comments others are saying about the need for a safer experience for people walking along Austin Street. The sidewalks are too narrow, and the car situation is a mess, and makes me feel unsafe at times. It's also so bad that I can see the frustration of the drivers, and them becoming aggressive when they finally make it out of the congestion at every major intersection. Can we do something about this? Can we make more room for people? Can we rethink the driving patterns on this street, and give pedestrians more space? The way it is now, it discourages me from visiting the commercial area, and I live on Austin St.

Danielle R.

My name is Danielle and I've been living in Forest Hills since 2019. I'm writing today after seeing the Chamber of Commerce's reaction to the resolution that was sent to the DOT regarding making Austin Street a safer place for our community. I avoid Austin Street often not only for its noise and air pollution but as a new mother it is too

difficult to push a stroller down the narrow sidewalks. The chamber's priority for street parking over safety is concerning. I truly question how many of its members took the time to read the resolution. I also question how many of these members are actively on Austin Street to see what the problems are, or if they are landlords who drive to Austin every now and then and need their parking spot.

For someone who is rarely on Austin Street, I have already personally witnessed two crashes this year alone. I support the resolution, a resolution that plainly asks to put safety for people first. I trust in the expertise of the DOT and my community board to come up with a solution that will benefit us all. Please consider, how many lives are worth a parking spot?

Emily Chingay

I go to Austin St almost every weekend and am there often throughout the week whether it's to run some errands, meet up with friends or to just do some window shopping. Like (MANY) others, I get to Austin Street by train, bus, walking or biking. Truly whichever is most convenient. Sometimes I even uber!

It's a wonderful street. There are so many amazing restaurants, shops and more. I love buying my seafood fresh there. What's not wonderful is the loud honking coming from cars. Or the double-parked cars that make it hard to "watch where you're going" as drivers often love to say when they're speeding down the road. I often feel unsafe crossing the street, and it only gets worse during rush hour. I can't even begin to imagine how children, seniors and folks with disabilities must feel!

We need to see some infrastructure and policy improvements to Austin St. We're not saying that cars need to go, and all drivers are the worst. We simply want to make sure that everyone is protected and that all modes of transportation are accommodated. We NEED to support each other.

Hazal Turgutlu

I had a great time at the Austin Street Fair last Sunday. It was amazing to see how busy the streets were, not with cars but with pedestrians. It shows how you can attract many people to walk on a street they wouldn't normally frequent by creating a vibrant destination with many things to do.

There were plenty of vendors, both local and visiting, and delicious food. Most people walked there. I would love to see more fairs like this, especially during the summer when people prefer to enjoy the outdoors.

As we all know, cars and driving are bad for the mental and physical health of both drivers and pedestrians.

Honking and noise pollution can even cause heart problems. With the population of New York City growing, car drivers will soon face more traffic, honking, and wasted time looking for parking.

Given the current traffic congestion and reckless behavior by drivers on Austin Street, it is necessary for the city to weigh in on solutions for making Austin Street a safe and vibrant destination. The residents of Forest Hills deserve nothing less.

Shalom Weberman

I am writing to express my frustration and disappointment with the current state of our community. First and foremost, I am concerned about the negative impact on residents' safety and quality of life caused by this season's concerts at Forest Hills Stadium. The performers and promoters at the Stadium routinely violate the city's noise code with impunity. This year's concerts have been so loud that they can be heard indoors with windows closed and earplugs in use.

The streets surrounding the Stadium are littered with trash after shows, posing hazards to residents and their pets. Walking around the streets of Forest Hills should never be an exercise in avoiding broken glass and food waste.

The frequency of Stadium shows this season presents an unreasonable burden to the broader neighborhood. Four shows will be held this week between today and Sunday, June 17th. Each show causes traffic backups that impede access by emergency vehicles, not to mention residents of the immediate area.

The dismissal of these concerns by our elected officials and community board members is deeply troubling and represents an abdication of duties. One can only hope that residents hold these individuals accountable during this month's election.

Jonathan Howard

There are two matters of street safety that require urgent attention.

First is on Austin Street. The congestion has reached a hazardous level. Drivers park in crosswalks, blocking wheelchair ramps, with impunity. Bus stops are also inaccessible due to illegally parked cars. The status quo makes it very difficult for the elderly and disabled members of our community to access Austin Street and its businesses and I am appalled to see the Chamber of Commerce apparently satisfied with the exclusion of disabled and elderly from our business district in favor of car madness. I applaud the transportation committee for its past actions in supporting a DOT study and implore the board to continue to advocate for changes to make Austin Street safe and accessible to all, and not dominated by car and truck congestion and illegal parking.

Second, I implore the board to support implementing barriers to improve traffic flow on the service road of Queens Blvd between Yellowstone and Union Turnpike. The barriers for the bike lane have been implemented west of Yellowstone and there has been a considerable improvement in traffic flow and a reduction in illegal double parking. The section near the Kew Gardens subway station is unsafe and uncontrolled with rampant double parking especially in the afternoon and someone will be seriously injured or killed without immediate action.

MINUTES

CB6 Minutes from May 10, 2023, meeting were approved as written.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis reported the following:

- Saturday, June 17, 2023, there will be a clean-up with Assembly Member Hevesi on 63rd Drive. Ms. Beers-Dimitriadis encouraged board members to try to attend these events that we co-sponsor throughout the year.
- Committee selection forms will be going out in the next week. You can indicate on the form if you wish to Chair a committee. We will also be sending out forms to the Public, giving them the opportunity to serve on committees. These forms are due back by July 14, 2023.
- Committee attendance is important. Recently, 2 committees met and didn't have a quorum so they couldn't take necessary votes. If you can't attend a committee meeting, please notify the office or the Chair as soon as possible. We are also required to submit committee attendance to the Borough President for review.
- On May 12, 2023, we were asked to provide a reference letter to the NYPD Chief of Patrol for FH Stadium. The executive committee voted to approve a brief letter that simply spoke to the responsiveness and continued investment in the community.
- Northwell Health is investing in our local hospital. Due to funding from Congress Member Grace Meng, they will now be able to offer robotic knee and hip replacement surgery.
- She and District Manager Frank Gulluscio met with LIRR this week to discuss the elevator project. There has been a recent change in the scope of the project that does not appear to comply with the Congress allocation. There will be a Joint Committee Meeting with the Transportation, Public Transit, Street Safety Committee and the Land Use, Housing and Landmark Committee in the Fall.

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis clarified something that was stated during the public forum. The suggestion was that a "nonpartisan" study be conducted of Austin Street. Ms. Beers-Dimitriadis stated that all traffic studies within New York City are conducted by the Department of Transportation. This is a nonpartisan city agency.

DISTRICT MANAGER’S REPORT

District Manager Frank Gulluscio had no report.

BEACON PROGRAM – JHS 190

Students from the Youth Council at the JHS 190 Beacon Program, which is associated with Queens Community House, spoke briefly about the benefits of the program.

They said the program:

- Encourages young people to be vocal in their community
- Teaches skills such as organization, decision making, and leadership
- Educates about the importance of civic engagement.
 - o Speaking on community issues and potential solutions
 - o Being here today serves as a great opportunity for us to give a better understanding of participating in a local board
- Takes them on trips to QCH Older Adult Centers to speak with senior citizens and learn from them.
- Sponsors a Youth Council, which is made up of young people from different backgrounds and different groups. It is important to show respect for everyone’s opinion, culture, religion, and nobody is judged. We don’t support or accept bullying.

FDNY – FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION UNIT

Captain Jerry Rocco spoke about fire safety. He explained that the Fire Safety Education Unit is responsible for visiting groups in the community and educating them on what to do and not do during a fire.

Some of the dos and don’ts he discussed were:

- Have a plan and practice the plan
- Do not charge items unattended (phones, laptops, etc.)
- Do not leave your dryer on when you leave the house

The unit also does CPR trainings in the community. If anyone is interested in having a training, reach out. This is important for everyone to know.

The Red Cross has a program for free smoke detectors to be installed in your home. Anyone can get these free detectors by calling 877-RED-CROSS to schedule an installation appointment.

Captain Rocco took questions from the Board.

LAND USE AND HOUSING COMMITTEE REPORT

CITY OF YES FOR CARBON NEUTRALITY (COYCN) – NON ULURP - VOTE

The NYC Department of City Planning in close consultation with the Mayor’s Office of Climate and Environmental Justice (MOCEJ) is proposing a citywide zoning text amendment to implement changes to the City’s Zoning Resolution to remove impediments to, and expand opportunities for, decarbonization projects within all zoning districts, and across all 59 of the City’s Community Districts.

Keith Engel, Chair, announced that a Land Use, Housing and Landmark Committee Meeting and Public Hearing was held on June 1, 2023. There were no requests for public comments.

He also stated that although this Text Amendment isn't directly correlated with Local Law 97, it will help comply with the requirements of this law and others.

Hye Kyung Yang, Queens Department of City Planning, presented the following:

There will be 3 Text Amendments coming up:

- for Carbon Neutrality: Expanding opportunities for decarbonization projects
- for Economic Opportunity: Growing jobs and small businesses with more flexible zoning
- for Housing Opportunity: Ensuring all neighborhoods are meeting the need for housing opportunities

Why Carbon?

- We are in a climate emergency, caused by greenhouse gas emissions.
- Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is the primary greenhouse gas (GHG) emitted through human activities - 80% of U.S. GHG emissions in 2019.
- CO₂ is largely produced through the burning of fossil fuels
- Paris Agreement aims to limit global warming to 2°C and avoid greater climate damage by curbing GHG

What do we mean by Carbon Neutral City?

It's a city where we have:

- Reduced our energy needs (retrofit buildings to be efficient)
- Cleaned the grid (decarbonize the source of electricity)
- Electrified buildings + vehicles (all remaining energy needs are powered by the clean electric grid)

What has the city done to date?

- Four open-to-the-public pre-referral info sessions
- 100+ meetings with stakeholders
- Two in-depth working sessions convened with Urban Green Council

Where do we need to go and how can zoning help?

Meeting the challenge of our climate crisis is a massive undertaking. We've worked with our partner agencies, as well as dozens of non-profit and private-sector groups, to understand what they're working on –and how zoning can help support their efforts.

Goal 1 - Decarbonize our energy grid

1. Rooftop solar: remove zoning impediments to allow up to 100% coverage
2. Parking lots: ensure zoning always allows solar canopies
3. Community Solar: allow renewable energy generation in all zoning districts
4. Energy Storage: allow some facilities as-of-right in all zoning districts
5. On-shore wind: create a tool for future review of proposed wind

Goal 2 - Decarbonize our building stock

1. Electrification retrofits: Expand rooftop and yard allowances to accommodate increased need for outdoor electrified equipment like heat pumps
2. Building exterior retrofits: Fix rules to ensure that the widest range of exterior retrofits are allowed.

3. Fix Zone Green: Update and improve this floor area exemption to ensure it continues to promote better-than-code performance.
4. Funding? NYC Accelerator from the MOCEJ can help connect homeowners to funding assistance.

Goal 3 – Decarbonize our vehicles

1. Vehicle charging: expand allowance to all Commercial Districts
2. Charge-sharing: allow a % of residential spaces to be shared w/ the public
3. Parking flex: streamline car-sharing, car rental, and commercial parking rules in non-residential facilities
4. Automated parking: expand rules to encourage more automated facilities outside the Manhattan Core
5. Bike parking: add rules for storage and charging

Goal 4 - Decarbonize our waste streams

1. Porous paving: clarify language to ensure permeable paving is allowed.
2. Street Trees: update rules to accommodate new raingarden prototypes
3. Organics: add new use regulations clarifying when composting and recycling are allowed.
4. Rooftop greenhouses: simplify the process for adding them by allowing as-of-right

This text amendment is currently in the Public Review Process. In July, it will go to the City Planning Commission for a Vote and then to the NYC Council for a vote.

Committee motion is to strongly support approval of the City of Yes for Carbon Neutrality (COYCN) text amendment due to the flexibility it would provide to facilitate and ease the financial burden on residents complying with local laws.

Motion seconded by Peter Beadle

This motion passed on a roll call vote (39 Yes, 2 No, 0 Abstentions)

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ROCKAWAY BEACH RIGHT OF WAY COMMITTEE REPORT

Keith Engel, Chair, reported that the committee had its first meeting on May 17, 2023. The purpose of the meeting was to set the initial context, providing the overview of the projects that are looking to use the right of way. They are also operating with understanding that CB’s have no charter mandated role in this process. Frank provided a historical overview and an update of where the projects are today. The committee established content and dates for the next series of meetings that will occur. The next meeting is scheduled for September 21, 2023. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss protocols and procedures that will outline the overall process.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT

Elizabeth Newton, Co-Chair, reported that CB 6 received the following new applications:
FABRIKA RESTAURANT 102-15 METROPOLITAN AVENUE, FH

“It will be a modern restaurant. My family has been in the hospitality / Restaurant business for over 20 years in which time we have managed and own several restaurant / bars. I currently own a successful restaurant in

Jackson Heights with a 4.8 review rating and top 3 recommendations by Yelp! I am a 73-year-old Air force retired veteran that's looking to expand my restaurant business into another great neighborhood such as Forest Hills. I am certain it will fit perfectly in the community and at the same time it will be a great addition to this family-oriented neighborhood."

JULIEAT'S BUBBLE TEA & DESSERT CAFÉ, 102-13 METROPOLITAN AVE, FH

"It is a cafe that serves coffee, soft drinks, various types of dessert and simple foods. Mr. Lee, Yunsoo, the president of YS Forest Hills Inc., has currently on premises liquor license, serial number of 1331558 under YSNI Corp, DBA: Pelicana chicken, at 102-07 Metropolitan Avenue, Forest Hills NY 11375. Proposed premises are within the half of the same block of YSNI Corp. Mr. Lee also had a restaurant wine license with serial number of 1344166 under YS Bayside Corp, DBA Pelicana Chicken, at 43-13 Bell Blvd Bayside NY 11361. He just sold the business a couple of months ago. He is the co-owner with his wife of Pelicana Chicken franchise".

CB 6 also received the following renewal applications:

1. PORTOFINO RESTAURANT 109-32 ASCAN AVENUE, FH
2. EL POLLO INKA PERU 112-20 QUEENS BLVD., FH
3. 5 BURRO CAFÉ 72-05 AUSTIN STREET, FH

There were no major issues / complaints from the 112th Precinct.

The committee motion was to approve the new and renewal applications. This motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Chair Elizabeth Newton announced that she will be stepping down as Co-Chair of this committee.

EDUCATION, YOUTH COMMITTEE REPORT

CB 6 Chair Heather Beers-Dimitriadis gave the report on behalf of Shari Rolnick. She reported that the committee met on May 24, 2023, and had a presentation from an Assistant Principal at PS 196. This was helpful to understand the needs and concerns, many around safety. The school needs crossing guards and traffic safety measures. The committee would like to invite more of these administrators to meetings in the fall.

COMMITTEE FOR THOSE WITHOUT SHELTER

Latrice Davis, Chair, reported that the committee met on June 8, 2023. There was a presentation from Wendy Prudencio from Queens Community House. Ms. Prudencio spoke about programs offered by Queens Community House to combat food insecurity. These include Meals on Wheels, Food Pantry and Congregate Meals. The food pantry is open on Thursdays from 8:30am – 10:30am. The Congregate meals are every weekday from 12:00 – 1:00. There is a site in Rego Park and one in Forest Hills. Last, Meals on Wheels delivers meals to homebound residents every weekday and they deliver extra for the weekends.

The committee also discussed budget priorities, but they couldn't vote because they didn't have a quorum.

AGING, SOCIAL SERVICES, DISABILITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

Mark Laster, Co-Chair, reported that the committee met on June 12, 2023, and discussed the following:

- The committee held a presentation from the NYS Department of Health regarding recertifying

health insurance that people signed up for via the NYS Exchange on May 18, 2023. 9 million people in NYS will need to recertify within the next year. Many of these live in Queens. They have been in touch with the Civic Engagement Commission and the Borough President's Office regarding scheduling more presentations to inform people of this.

- Tuesday, June 27, 2023, there will be a presentation from LiveOnNY about Organ Donation.
- CB 6 will co-sponsor the 6th Intergenerational Panel on June 22, 2023, at 7:00pm. The topic will be related to Pride Month. They are looking for one more older panelist.
- The committee is planning a presentation on nursing homes for Department. The next meeting will be September 11, 2023.

Mark announced that he and Anisia Ayon will be stepping down as Chairs of this committee.

GOOD & WELFARE

CB 6 MEMBERS:

Jean Silva reminded everyone that there are a lot of things going on in Flushing Meadows Corona Park; They are trying to build a casino on parkland and parkland is very important to all of us. Go out and enjoy your parks.

Matt Salton announced that the City Council passed a law, making curbside composting mandatory. He also announced that through his job at NY League of Conservation Voters, they came out with an IRA guide for consumers. It can be accessed here: <https://nylcvef.org/ira-guide/>

Heidi Chain announced that the 112th Precinct Community Council meeting will be on Wednesday, June 21, 2023, at 7:30pm at the 112th Precinct. Ms. Chain also announced that National Night Out Against Crime is on Tuesday, August 1, 2023. All community groups are welcome to participate.

Mark Laster announced that the Central Queens Against Hate Coalition will be holding a community meal as part of the mayor's "Breaking Bread, Building Bonds" Initiative. It will be on Sunday, June 25, 2023. Contact Mark if you are interested in attending.

Mark also announced that on Friday June 9, 2023, the FH Green Team partnered with Metro Village of Forest Hills to clean the tree pits along Metropolitan Avenue. There will be another clean-up at the end of the month. They will then place wood chips in the tree pits.

Brently Winstead announced that the Child Center of NY, a local nonprofit, is doing a backpack drive over the summer to collect backpacks and supplies to distribute to students before school starts in the fall.

Latrice Davis asked that the Chair and District Manager advocate to keep committee meetings virtual in the future.

Pat Morgan spoke about Access A Ride. She explained that they are using broker vehicles that don't have full handicapped accessibility. They don't have lifts and it is difficult to get in and out of them. The drivers aren't trained or willing to help. The only assistance many of them have is a stool to help step up. Pat encouraged everyone to watch the Intergenerational Event for Pride month. There will be differing viewpoints and experiences between generations.

Pat participates in many events with the Gay Officers Action League. They have marched in many parades. However, they are not permitted to march in NY Pride because Heritage of Pride doesn't want any police officers marching in the parade.

Salua Baida announced that there is a free webinar on June 15th sponsored by Hand in Hand, to educate people on the best practices as employers to domestic workers (house cleaners, nannies', etc.)

Edwin Wong announced that the Forest Hills Asian Association (FHAA) & The Church-in-the-Gardens are hosting an Asian American Family Cultural Festival on Sunday, June 25, 2023, 1:30-4:00pm. At The Church-in-the-Gardens, Community House, 15 Borage Place, Forest Hills, NY 11375.

Bruce Grossberg announced that June 25th is the last day to vote in the Civic Engagement Commission's "The Peoples Money," which allows residents to vote on projects they would like to see money being spent on. Anyone over age is eligible to participate.

ELECTED OFFICIALS / AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES:

QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT DONOVAN RICHARDS

Amparito Rosero wished everyone a safe and happy summer.

CONGRESS MEMBER GRACE MENG

Jordan Goldes announced:

- Congress Member Grace Meng had a great time participating in the following events in our community:
 - o Forest Hills Memorial Day Parade
 - o Flag Day Event in the Gardens
 - o Joseph Hennessy Street Co-Naming
 - o Street Fair on Austin Street
- There was an event at FH Hospital for the grant that Congress Member Meng was able to secure for them.
- There was another passport event in Woodside
- The winner of the Congress Member's Annual Art Contest is from Rego Park. Her artwork will hang in the US Capitol.
- Queens received over \$72 million for highway upgrades.
- Congress Member was able to get funding for NY Hall of Science to study Artificial and Natural Intelligence.
- The US Postal Service announced a national plan to combat mail theft. They are waiting for more information on this.

SENATOR LEROY COMRIE

Ari Inniss announced the following bills that has been passed:

- S00365: Enacts the New York privacy act to require companies to disclose their methods of de-identifying personal information, to place special safeguards around data sharing and to allow consumers to obtain the names of all entities with whom their information is shared

Ms. Inniss also announced the following events:

- June 15, 2023 – Life 101: The Series – Senior Scams and Elder Abuse Webinar from 3pm – 5pm
- June 15, 2023 – Housing Listen Tour: Jamaica – 6pm – 8pm at Roy Wilkens Recreation Center
- Rain Barrel Giveaways. For more information call 718-765-6359

- July 8, 2023, at Pat Williams Playground from 8:30am – 10:00am
 - July 9, 2023, at Judge Moses Weinstein Playground from 8:30am – 10:00am
 - July 15, 2023, at Detective Keith Williams Park from 8:30am – 10:00am
 - July 23, 2023, at Archie Spigner Park from 8:30am – 10:00am
 - Home Energy Savings Help provided by HeartShare Human Services in partnership with Senator Comrie
 - June 7, 2023 / June 20, 2023 / June 22, 2023
 - Office of Senator Leroy Comrie (113-43 Farmers Boulevard)
 - June 24, 2023 – Health Awareness Fair at Baisley Pond Park from 11am – 5pm
 - July 8, 2023 – Free E-Waste Recycling at the Greater Allen AME Cathedral from 10am – 2pm
- For more information, please contact the office at 718-765-6359 or sign up for the Senators E-Newsletter.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER ANDREW HEVESI

Gianna Valente announced the following events:

- Community clean-up on 63rd Drive in Rego Park on Saturday, June 17, 2023, at 10am. Meet at 63rd Drive and Booth Street
- Rain Barrel Giveaway on July 15, 2023, from 10am – 1pm at MELS

SENATOR MICHAEL GIANNARIS

Irene Stathatos announced that the Senators Office is available if anyone needs assistance.

NYC CIVILIAN COMPLAINT REVIEW BOARD

Maroua Righi, Deputy Director of Outreach and Intergovernmental Affairs, announced that the CCRB is the city government agency that investigates police conduct. The CCRB is holding a Queens Public Board Meeting on Wednesday, July 12th at 6:30pm at the Robert Ross Johnson Family Life Center located at 172-17 Linden Boulevard, Queens NY 11434. The discussion will focus on the relationship between Queens residents and the NYPD. The CCRB welcomes and encourages all to participate in this discussion about police-community relations and to learn more about civilian oversight of the NYPD.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Nolan
Community Coordinator

CB 6 VOTING SHEET 6-14-23	CITY OF YES CARBON NEUTRALITY TEXT AMENDMENT	NEW LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS	RENEWAL LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS
MICHAEL ARCATI	YES	YES	YES
DAVID ARONOV	YES	YES	YES
ANISIA AYON	YES	YES	YES
SALUA BAIDA	YES	YES	YES
KAVISH BATRA	YES	YES	YES
PETER BEADLE	YES	YES	YES
MIRIAM BERFAS	NO	YES	YES
HOWARD BIRNBAUM	YES	YES	YES
DANNY BOWENS	YES	YES	YES
HEIDI CHAIN	YES	YES	YES
GINA CHEN	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT
L.T. CIACCIO	YES	YES	YES
KANDRA CLARK	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT
LATRICE DAVIS	YES	YES	YES
JOHN DERESZEWSKI	YES	YES	YES
HEATHER DIMITRIADIS	YES	YES	YES
VALLON ELLISON	YES	YES	YES
KEITH ENGEL	YES	YES	YES
GIOVANNI GIOIA	YES	YES	YES
BRUCE GROSSBERG	YES	YES	YES
KAREN IMAS	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT
SARINA JAIN	YES	YES	YES
MATT FERNANDEZ KONIGSBERG	YES	YES	YES
MARCELLE LASHLEY-KABORE	YES	YES	YES
MARK LASTER	YES	YES	YES
BEATRICE LEONG	YES	YES	YES
JONATHAN LI	YES	YES	YES
KEVIN LY	YES	YES	YES
JACK MEDINA	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT
DR. RENEE MEHRRRA	YES	YES	YES
STEVEN METZ	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT
JULIE MILNER	YES	YES	YES
PAT MORGAN	YES	YES	YES
ELIZABETH NEWTON	YES	YES	YES
TANIA PADGETT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT
HOWARD POLLACK	YES	YES	YES
DIANA RACHNAEV	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT
SHARI ROLNICK	YES	YES	YES
MATTHEW SALTON	YES	YES	YES
GLADYS SANDOVAL	YES	YES	YES
DAVID SCHANTZ	YES	YES	YES
PETRINA SCHNEIDERMAN	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT
HERBERT SCHONHAUT	YES	YES	YES
JEAN C. SILVA	NO	YES	YES
MARTHA TUCKER	YES	YES	YES
BRENTLY WINSTEAD	YES	YES	YES
EDWIN WONG	YES	YES	YES
TITILAYO YASUKAWA	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT
EPHRAIM ZAKRY	YES	YES	YES
KATHERINE ZAPATA	YES	YES	YES
TOTALS:	39-YES, 2-NO	ALL IN FAVOR	ALL IN FAVOR