



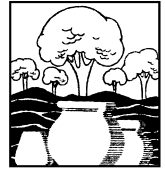
COMMUNITY BOARD 6, QUEENS

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Whitepot Settled 1653

HEATHER BEERS-DIMITRIADIS
CHAIR

DONOVAN RICHARDS
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

FRANK P. GULLUSCIO
DISTRICT MANAGER

CB 6 MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 13, 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
T. PADGETT, SECRETARY OF ADMINISTRATION	

M. ARCATI
A. AYON
S. BAIDA
K. BATRA
H. BIRNBAUM
D. BOWENS
H. CHAIN
G. CHEN
K. CLARK
L. DAVIS

B. GROSSBERG
K. IMAS
M. LASHLEY-KABORE
B. LEONG
K. LY
R. MEHARRA
P. MORGAN
H. POLLACK
S. ROLNICK
M. SALTON

G. SANDOVAL
D. SCHANTZ
H. SCHONHAUT
J. SILVA
B. WINSTEAD
E. WONG
T. YASUKAWA
E. ZAKRY
K. ZAPATA

ABSENT

D. ARONOV	J. LI
M. BERFAS	J. MEDINA
V. ELLISON	E. NEWTON
S. JAIN	D. RACHNAEV
M. FERNANDEZ KONIGSBERG	

P. SCHNEIDERMAN
M. TUCKER

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

FRANK GULLUSCIO	CB6 DISTRICT MANAGER
HONORABLE LYNN SCHULMAN	NYC COUNCIL MEMBER
JORDAN GOLDES	OFFICE OF CONGRESS MEMBER GRACE MENG
KEVIN MCALEER	OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER LYNN SCHULMAN
GIANNA VALENTE	OFFICE OF ASSEMBLY MEMBER ANDREW HEVESI
EVA GRECH	OFFICE OF SENATOR JOSEPH ADDABBO
THOMAS AURINGER	OFFICE OF ASSEMBLY MEMBER CATALINA CRUZ
JAVIER FIGOROA	OFFICE OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY MELINDA KATZ
AMPARITO ROSERO	OFFICE OF THE QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT

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: Dr. Renee Mehrra and Howard Birnbaum.

Chair Heather Beers-Dimitriadis started the meeting explaining the new time limits for public comments: Individual speakers living in CB6 get three minutes; organization representatives in CB6 will get five minutes; individual speakers living outside of CB6 will get two minutes; organizations representatives speaking outside of CB6 will get three minutes. We call speakers in the order that they signed up.

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.

Anna Guasto

It's nice to see familiar and new faces. First, I would like to thank Community Board 6 members for giving us the opportunity to have our concerns heard. Our community is appreciative of the local elected officials who are supporting us. A shout out to Senators Addabbo and Leroy Comrie, Councilwoman Lynn Schulman, Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi and Congresswoman Grace Meng.

These are letters from co-op owners whose wellbeing is affected by the constant damaging train noise. I am here today on behalf of hundreds of homeowners and Forest Hills Gardens residents. Our quality of life and property values have greatly decreased because of the constant barrage of trains that run day and night across from our homes between Tennis Place and 71st Continental Avenue.

When several of us purchased our apartments there was a wall that served as a sound and visual barrier. There had been a wall as seen in this photograph at least since 1963. The LIRR demolished the wall that gave us cover from the undercarriages, passengers, and train noise because it fell into disrepair. The LIRR has yet to replace it as was promised several years ago.

On April 22, from 12am until 1am we recorded 14 trains either pulling in or out of the station or just careening by. Here are two examples: (the constituent played a recording from April 22 1am train pulling in and 12:54am train passing by.

We would like to make a request the Community Board 6 members who will be attending tomorrow's LIRR meeting. We would like you to convey our need to have an open meeting with Forest Hills community members and the LIRR to discuss specific plans for a sound wall. Our health is being negatively affected 24/7. The 46% increase in the number of trains passing by day and night has made living here challenging. The solution is for LIRR to replace the 250 feet length wall that was 9 feet high from the platforms and thick enough to provide sound mitigation.

We look forward to the opportunity of meeting with LIRR reps to convey our needs and their participation in doing the right thing.

Victoria Zunitch

There are two locations where safety improvements have in fact caused dangerous conditions that should be addressed. If the relevant committees or anyone else would take action on this, discuss it or let me know how I could take it further. The first place is 72 Road and Queens Boulevard, the electric cars coming from Queens Boulevard to the service road near Our Lady Queen of Martyrs. When they cross over the bike path, they have a tendency to turn around and make an illegal turn onto 72 Road. They go the wrong way a few seconds on the service road. I almost got hit by a large SUV recently, but that is not the first time I saw this happen. We need more blockades there to prevent cars from going from the passageway and making the wrong way turn onto the service road on to 72 Road. The second area where a safety improvement is causing new dangers is the traffic triangle at Queens Boulevard at 75 Avenue and 112 Street. There has been a large area of pavement blocked off and this is unsightly and sad that I would like to think we could create a traffic park. If you know how I could get that started or if there is a relative

committee that could take it up. At that traffic triangle cars and trucks park there routinely, also used by UPS and other delivery trucks. Currently have an unloading zone there and an official unloading zone that's marked so that people walking by won't be surprised when the trucks stop over. Also, the way it's set up with the blockades is just so people can be interested in illegal parking. Of course, it deters people who follow the rules, but it creates here a very dangerous area. I was walking by there recently, thinking about talking about this. This car came from my right and another car came from my left; they were kind of quiet, yest going slowly they weren't supposed to park. The one was looking to illegal park, and one was looking to leave that illegal parking spot. My name is Victoria Zunitch. If anyone here wants to take me aside and let me know how I could work on these issues or provide my with the committees to work on these or discuss them I would be grateful.

Kyle Weber – This comment was read by Chair Heather Beers-Dimitriadis

I'd like to suggest that the new Rego Park library includes a changing area for older children and adults. Several states, including California, have already mandated such amenities in public spaces. I believe New York should follow suit.

Nicholas Elizabeth Faby – This comment was read by Chair Heather Beers-Dimitriadis

I am glad that the new Rego Park library will be more accessible. I hope that this will include a changing places bathroom, with a Hoyer lift and adult sized changing table. Disabled people who need help transferring to a changing table or toilet deserve access to public spaces without being limited by lack of public bathrooms. I am not able to attend this meeting but would like to hear back by email from anyone with information about whether this will be included in the new library.

Neil Breitkopf – Fairview Apartments

Ida hits us September 1, 2021, our entire apartment was wiped out. On the second floor, we had a geyser on my terrace, and one person passed away. They just installed a bike lane between 62 Avenue and the entrance to the service road of Grand Central. It has created one less lane for us, it has also created a bottleneck for us. Because when you had traffic, we have commercial and residential traffic who need access. We had a situation where people double park and all the other stuff. I will make it quickly on this, the purpose of the bike lane is a noble purpose. The good governing groups had a good idea to have a bike lane path, it protects the pedestrians, bike riders that share the lane with the cars, it slows down the traffic.

Now here is the issue we are on a flood plain and we take in a lot of water. In my lifetime we have had six major floods. The last one was so bad, we lost our parking lot, our first floor, our laundry room. Our entire lower floor must be reconstituted. The park is across the street and bike lanes make it difficult for the kids to cross the street. When it rains it clogs the sewers, the city is not judicial in getting the sewers cleaned. We got a backup pipe coming down from Flushing Meadow Park so that the pipe wouldn't flood us again. We had to sue the city which we won. Again, the issue is with drainage. There is no enforcement in our area of the bike lanes. People drive, which is supposed to be 30/25 miles an hour speed limit in the city. I see motorcycles going at much higher levels. There are visual obstructions coming out of the parking lot, when I come out of the driveway or parking lot you can't see the cars especially if there is a large car there. There have been numerous accidents, especially when they must make turns out of the parking lot and driveway. There are no visual obstructions for the pedestrians. Commercial traffic, accidents, parked cars have taken place numerous times. When someone double parks the entire street from Horace Harding Expressway gets backed up. On the completion of the lane, we had a surprise inspection from the NYPD which really was unacceptable. There are no cameras there. There should be cameras to monitor speed. We don't have that.

On Queens Boulevard one of the things, I don't like about is that we had revenue due to parking, now it is being replaced by bike lanes. I think the Community Board did not do a study and I think that is one of the things that should have been done. I think that if you have the lane and have the cut out, it would make it a lot easier for us as part of the Fairview. Right now, the lane is not working to our advantage. It has been a bottleneck and dangerous for us.

Alana Lindsay – This comment was read by Chair Heather Beers-Dimitriadis

I am a volunteer with Neighbors for A Safer Austin Street (NASAS) and we have had support for our push to have DOT perform a safety study for pedestrians on Austin St. Over 1,000 signatures and 20 business sign-ups with our petitions have been recorded and we would really like more support with this initiative. Please visit asaferaustinstreet.com to learn more and if you are inclined even volunteer. Thank you, Alana

Stephanie Lin

Thank you for the opportunity to speak. I have lived at 6 Burns St. for over 7 years. Over the years, my husband and I learned to live with the train noise and to expect and tolerate the concentration of noises during rush hours. But when the LIRR opened the Grand Central/Madison stop, the frequency of trains passing through FH throughout the day increased dramatically (by 46% according to an article). As a result, the noise and vibration from the trains became relentless. There are times when we are invaded by the train noise every few minutes, and without the reprieve during midday and at night, the condition has become quite unbearable. It has negatively affected our activities and sleep. Even on the nicest of evenings, we cannot leave our windows open. In addition, it appears that the accompanying vibration caused some base moldings in our apartment to separate from the wall; a neighbor who has lived in the building for 25 years has also pointed out to me a new crack he recently noticed in the hallway wall. Our building is 100 years old and is vulnerable to the constant assault from the trains. The noise and vibration are affecting our physical and mental health. And they are hurting us financially by lowering the property values of this neighborhood and possibly by causing damage to our old building. I hope that the Community Board can help convey the following to the LIRR. There used to be a wall along the length of the platform at Forest Hills station that served as a sound barrier, but it was demolished. LIRR should replace that sound wall, and the wall must be designed to such specifications as to effectively absorb and block as much sound as possible from the trains. And the stakeholders such as the resident groups should see the design of the wall to be sure that it will achieve the purpose and fit in esthetically with the historic station and the Gardens. In addition, any LIRR meetings with potential impact on the community should be open to the community stakeholder so that we can share concerns that they otherwise might not be aware.

Ken Karp

This is about quality-of-life issues in general. I know that code enforcement can vary from town to town, you see it right here in the gardens. It is as strict as can be and that is fine. Is there any other kind of code enforcement for every place else that is not a private community here? I don't think so, to point out the issues that I think are a huge problem.

We never had graffiti like this before. It is up and down the entire length of Queens Boulevard from parts of Rego Park to Forest Hills, just Queens Boulevard is becoming a toilet. It is on everything: certain religious groups are posting their stickers on federal property and city property. I don't mind people proselytizing on the streets, but you can't deface property.

Trash is left out for days and days in front of store fronts. Does code enforcement call for trash not being allowed to be put out before 6pm the night before, which homeowners have to do.

Scooters on sidewalks, I have never gotten hit, I saw people who have gotten hit nearby. It is out of control. I never see 112 Pct. walking the streets. They talk about community policing. I see some cars from time to time, but I see some scooters turning around right in front of Police cars and they are not doing a darn thing. For years, I have been trying to get a police booth right by Queens Boulevard like you see outside of Embassies. Nothing.

The aggressive pan handling, one or two guys that are on Continental. I seen them pounding on trucks. I have put them on Facebook in two of the community groups. I took a couple of photos documenting all of this. The man that passed away in front of T Bone Diner, how do we allow this stuff to happen. The front of the T Bone is still a toilet. What about the open space by the burger place. It has been an open pit across from the Chamber of Commerce on Austin Street. It has been there for almost fifteen years. They took the scaffolding down, half the time the permits are expired.

What about that hospital down by the service road? There are like three or four schools back there and some religious institutions. It has been derelict for years. There are towns that just won't allow that. You find out who owns the papers, you give them x amount of time to sell it or it goes to auction. I love this town but I just get the

sense that there is no code enforcement. I would like to know if there is, and it is just not being enforced. Someone please tell us what's being done.

New homes are paving 100% of their property, some places you must allow for water absorption especially these new monstrosities.

Margaret McGovern

I am following on the heels of Anna Guasto and Stephanie Lin. This involves the sound level that is so annoying to us. I have been there for 20+ years at 6 Burns Street. There is a significant increase in noise, quite a bit in volume and certainly with trains going by at a rapid rate has increased exponentially.

Personally, my bedroom and living room furniture tends to rumble when the trains go by. I'm in the courtyard, I'm not even in the front of the building to give you an idea of how difficult it is.

I would appeal to Community Board 6, certainly all the honored guests here and all the guests in general, to bring this to the attention to the Long Island Railroad. This has been stated before. Many of our local politicians Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi, Senator Leroy Comrie, Councilwoman Lynn Schulman and Senator Joseph Addabbo support our cause. We gathered over 120 petitions, which is a good thing. What I want to add is a letter written by Senator Addabbo. Ms. McGovern summarized the letter: It is my firm belief that it is crucial to replace this sound wall, ensuring that it extends along the embankment where many of our community members reside. The initial removal of the sound wall, without an immediate replacement is unacceptable, and it is imperative that we work together to address this matter with the urgency it warrants. The reinstatement of the sound wall is not just about mitigating noise pollution, but it also stands as a testament to the protection and preservation of the heritage and aesthetic appeal of Station Square and the surrounding environs. Moreover, this initiative will be a significant step toward safeguarding the health and wellness of our constituents, providing them with the peaceful environment they deserve. I believe that with united efforts, including that of the MTA/LIRR, we can achieve a resolution that meets the expectations and needs of our community members.

Rachel Rath

I also live at 6 Burns Street and we are all here to discuss the train noise. With the frequency of the number of times the trains go by is also the amount of times we are speaking here tonight. My apartment is on the third floor, we are at the same level as the train platform itself. When we first moved into the building, we had trees we could barely see the platform. In the wintertime, I had friends waiting for the train, I waved out of my window to see if they could see me. They waved right back. We can't watch TV, we must pause as the trains go by, we can't sleep with the window open. Everyday I fix a painting that is a skew after the trains go by. This wasn't an issue before the Grand Central Station stop opened. Everyone mentioned about the train frequency around rush hour that makes sense. The trains are more frequent now. Newer trains are louder and when I have my windows open, I can hear the conductor make announcements.

We would appreciate it if the Community Board would take our pleading for the sound wall and help us with this endeavor. I know the meeting tomorrow with the LIRR about the elevator/ramp. I support their being more accessibility at the station. I can't image how difficult it is to access it right now without any ramp/elevator. I would implore that the placement of the ramp/elevator be considered. I believe that it is supposed to be across the street from our door. Our street is not well lit, and I would feel less safe in my home with the elevator / ramp directly across from our home. I think Station Square is well lit and I am very much in favor of accessibility but please keep in mind the safety of the rest of the neighborhood.

Michael Dunne – This comment was read by Chair Heather Beers-Dimitriadis

Good evening, Madam Chairperson,

I would appreciate you or the District Manager reading my questions aloud tonight, as I am asking on behalf of numerous people who will watch the video of tonight's meeting when it is posted on YouTube.

QUESTION 1: What is the end-state, or what will the purpose be, of the building that is being built at 92-54 Queens Blvd, currently owned by an LLC called "92-54 Queens Blvd Housing Development Fund" which in turn appears to be owned by Westhab?

The construction company has been a bad neighbor during the past year, shutting down Queens Blvd for long periods of time so they can offload their deliveries of building material, which results in backed-up traffic around

Eliot Ave to Saunders and Booth Streets and the Long Island Expressway exit ramp. They have parked flatbed trailers with building material wherever they feel like, including the Q60 bus stop. At times, they have created conditions that are unsafe for pedestrians to walk. On one occasion, they shut down the sidewalk without creating a safe alternative, forcing people to walk in the active Queens Blvd vehicular roadway. Under its previous owner, the building was initially promoted as open-market residential with retail on the 1st floor to replace the stores we lost when the original building was demolished.

QUESTION 2: Is it now going to be a homeless shelter? Or supportive, transitional housing? Or low-income housing? Or is there a possibility the City of New York may seize and re-purpose this building to house recent migrants?

Thank you very much, Michael Dunne

on behalf of my mother and her neighbors on the 6100-block of Saunders St. which is right behind this building

Pedro Rodriguez – This comment was read by Chair Heather Beers-Dimitriadis

Hello, and thank you for reading my comment. My name is Pedro, and I'm writing on behalf of Neighbors for A Safer Austin Street, local grassroots, volunteer-run group of neighbors pushing for a safer, better, more equitable Austin Street. I am updating you on our first event, held on Austin St. on August 12th at 10 am. At this event, we walked the length of Austin from Ascan Ave to Yellowstone Blvd, taking measurements of sidewalks, marking pedestrian obstacles, and documenting what we saw on the strip. You can find a write-up of our findings, with pictures and context, at <https://ASaferAustinStreet.com/news/mapping-access-on-austin-st>. Please read it, but here's a short summary of what we found. 1. As we've said before, the sidewalks are too narrow. According to the City, given Austin Street's use, the sidewalks should be at least 15 feet wide, with a 12-foot "walk lane." We measured the average width of the sidewalks to be about 10 feet, with a Walk Lane ranging from 3-6 feet. Please read the linked article above for more information. 2. The City's new containerized garbage can law, though welcomed in the long fight against garbage on the sidewalks, has introduced a new obstacle for pedestrians. We hope the city will eventually implement curb-side garbage management on Austin Street to get garbage off the sidewalk. 3. Through our walkthrough, we encountered instances of stagnant water that created an awful smell when combined with garbage. The 72nd Rd intersection smelled bad the whole day. 4. There are a lot of empty tree pits on Austin Street, with no explanation. Trees help regulate temperature and clean the air; having empty ones should not be tolerated. 5. We saw many bikes on Austin St. attached to trees and poles. This shows a significant unmet demand for bicycle parking on the strip that's not being met. Though 71st Ave has a lot of bike parking (always full), the rest of the strip lacks. We ask that the board keep these in mind as DOT studies Austin Street and ensure that any redesign considers these. The city has been pumping money into non-Manhattan downtowns for some years, and this study presents an opportunity for Austin Street, our Downtown, to get some love. The City can solve the issues we observed by redesigning Austin St. to prioritize people, comfort, transit, the environment, and garbage management. Such a redesign can create a better, safer, healthier, more environmentally friendly, and more economically vibrant Austin Street.

Daniel Solow – This comment wasn't read at the meeting but submitted to be included in the minutes

Neighbors for A Safer Austin Street (NASAS) held its first event last month. We called it "Mapping Accessibility on Austin Street". Our group's intention was to quantify the small and inadequate widths of the sidewalk on Austin Street. We used Field Papers, basic surveying equipment (i.e. measuring tape) and OpenStreetMap to quantify and record the dimensions. Next are some of our chief findings.

- Austin Street sidewalk widths, without obstruction, ranged from 11 ft to barely 6 feet wide. The widths of the travel pathway are compromised by an erratic mix of tree pits, various city utility infrastructure, cellar entrances and even automobiles parked on the sidewalk. In addition, we noted Austin lacks adequate seating and the tree pits are not universally well maintained. Interestingly, streets perpendicular to Austin were comparably wider.

According to the Americans with Disabilities Act, a standard wheelchair is 26 inches wide, wheel to wheel, and 42 inches long, handles to footrests. We all know someone directly or indirectly who relies on a walker, a wheelchair, or a power assist chair to transport themselves. It is unacceptable that the individuals who need these spaces are frequently squeezed and given the least while disingenuous voices claim that existing conditions are adequate. Any plan from the city should prioritize unlocking more space for individuals with limited mobility to also enjoy the shops and amenities found on Austin Street. Daniel Solow

COUNCILMEMBER LYNN SCHULMAN

Council Member Schulman asked the residents at 6 Burns Street to call her office, because she is involved in the noise issue and working with all state officials. The MTA hasn't been responsive in general. She will be speaking to Senator Leroy Comrie, who represents parts of the district; the committee he chairs in the senate oversees the MTA. Council Member Schulman added that she lives near Yellowstone Boulevard and Austin Street and her window faces the LIRR so she understands. She also introduced her staff member, Kevin McAleer who attends this meeting on her behalf.

NYC Council passed the budget: \$17 Million in capital funding for District 29:

- Upgrades at several schools, restored full funding for the Public Library System, restored programs that had been cut at CUNY, increased Sanitation pick-up and other things.
- We did several things in healthcare.
- Gave money to the barking lot in Forest Park at the Overlook

Council Member Schulman announced that there were several street re-namings in Richmond Hill and Kew Gardens.

She recognized that the budget is questionable moving forward. The Mayor sent out an announcement about cuts. The City Council hasn't been briefed; the lawyers are reviewing the Mayor's letter.

The councilmember passed her illegal weed shop bill, which holds landlords (not just the businesses) who knowingly rent to an illegal weed shop financially liable. When the business is raided, a notification will go out to the landlord stating they are renting to a business that is conducting illegal activity. When the sheriff goes back to these locations and finds they are still operating, the landlord will get fined. There are two ways the landlord can get potentially bypass fines: 1) appeal (they have a fifteen-day period) 2) show efforts to evict the tenant. If the landlord doesn't do any of this, they will be fined \$5,000 for the first violation and \$10,000 for each subsequent offense.

Council Member Schulman is working with the NYC Department of Health to codify a Public Health Agenda for the next ten years to deal with chronic disease. The life expectancy went down during COVID so they are trying to bring it back up.

Council Member Schulman took questions from the Board.

MINUTES

CB6 Minutes from the June 14, 2023, meeting were approved as written with one discussion. CB 6 Member Herb Schonhaut brought up that the FDNY presentation in the minutes was missing a section on batteries. Mark Laster made a motion to approve the minutes as written, and it was seconded by Salua Baida. All were in favor.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis started her report by addressing questions that were raised about 92-54 Queens Boulevard. This location will be a rapid rehousing project for 88 New York City families with children. The site will be managed by the organization West Hab. The Committee for those without Shelter will be having a briefing on this matter June 20th. In June, the District Manager, two executive committee

members and the Chair met with the agency overseeing the project to cultivate a list of stakeholders in the immediate community so the agency can begin engagement work in the fourth quarter. We have a list of questions for them. There is a tentatively planned combined committee meeting with Land Use and Committee for those without Shelter for the month of November. If any member has any concerns with a construction site, file a complaint with 311, then e-mail the complaint number to the office. Please report when the work is being done, not after the fact.

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis announced that we seated new committees and selected chairs to lead those committees. She thanked the outgoing chairs who served on this board, Jonathan Li, Elizabeth Newton, Anisia Ayon and Mark Laster. She also recognized new and returning chairs: Bruce Grossberg, Latrice Davis, Beatrice Leong, Gladys Sandoval, Shari Rolnick, Matt Salton, Petrina Schneiderman, LT Ciaccio, Kandra Clark, Diana Rachnaev, Keith Engel, John Dereszewski, Martha Tucker, Kavish Batra, Jean Silva, Tania Padgett, Dr. Renee Mehrra, Peter Beadle, Michael Arcati, Mark Laster. Over 50 members of the community applied to be Public Members of our committees.

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis announced that the Emergency Order that has allowed us to conduct meetings online wasn't renewed. We are committed to transparency but do not want to burn out members with too many in-person meetings. There are a limited number of accessible, free meeting spaces in our community. The Executive Committee came up with a configuration that they believe works. There will be briefings and meetings. Meetings have consequential votes, text amendments, etc., and will be held in person. Briefings are more informative or organizational in nature; this characterizes many of our committee's meetings. Votes taken are relative to the committee. These briefings will be held remotely, meeting notices will be issued, and members of the public will be able to attend by signing up via WebEx. We will record and post those meetings on YouTube. The exception is meetings held in Executive session; they will not be posted. She added that Chairs don't necessarily have to hold a monthly meeting unless there is something important to talk about. Consider meeting every other month or every third month (at least once a quarter) unless there is a matter that requires attention.

There was some discussion about privacy concerns with committee meetings being posted on YouTube. Chair Beers-Dimitriadis explained that we are a public body, and our meetings are public. You can turn off your camera during the meeting if you need to.

Over the summer three of our board members have moved on Giovanni Gioia, Steve Metz and Julie Milner.

DISTRCT MANAGER'S REPORT

The District Manager reiterated what Chair Beers-Dimitriadis reported about board members calling complaints into 311 and then reporting it to the office. He said that it is important because the agencies use 311 stats to make decisions.

District Manager Gulluscio welcomed back the volunteers on the board.

He reported that September is a busy month. He had borough budget consultations where the fourteen community boards meet with the agencies. There will be more meetings held September 21 and September 27. Today's meetings were held with the Department of Health and Mental Health, Department of Human Resources, Homeless Services, New York City Police Department and the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation. When he puts together the needs statement, he includes issues raised by the

community as well as the agencies. It is a rather involved statement. All capital and expense items are only recommendations.

District Manager Gulluscio had a meeting with the Department of Motor Vehicles Commissioner and spoke about bikes and e-bikes. A suggestion was made to the State Department of Motor Vehicles that some legislation be passed regarding bikes and e-bikes.

District Manager Gulluscio said there is no checkbook with respect to our budget. It consists of salaries; OTPS (other than personal services) are for other office expenses, i.e., paper, copy machine and mail.

Last, District Manager Gulluscio spoke about the Mayor's proposed budget cuts. Every agency has been asked to cut 15% of their budgets over the next few months.

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis encouraged the board to contact the Mayor and the city council regarding these budget cuts.

FOREST HILLS VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE CORP.

Aviv Citron, President, and John Alber, Director of Development, announced the following:

- FH VAC has been around since 1971; in 1995, they expanded service into Rego Park. In 2023, they included Richmond Hill and Kew Gardens.
- Responded to many disasters, such as the first World Trade Center bombing, September 11th, Hurricane Sandy, Miracle on the Hudson, etc.
- Participated in health fairs, including the Austin Street Fair.
- The membership has gone down throughout the years to about 60; the organization is and always looking for volunteers.
- FHVAC has a back room to hold meetings if CB6 needs it. The room can fit about 50-55 people.
- It relies on donations, grants and insurance reimbursement for funding
 - o If they transport you, they bill insurance; and it is free to you if you don't have insurance.
- They would like to add a top floor to the building for community events and training.
- They receive their calls from police radios, fire department radios and EMS radios. The New York City Police Department starting to encrypt its radio frequency. Only the Police Department will be able to listen to it, which will be problematic for the organization.
 - o They sent a mutual aid request to the Police Department, for a radio assigned to them, which has fallen on deaf ears.
 - o They e-mailed the Fire Department Bureau of EMS for access to the CAD System (911 computer) which has been denied.
 - o They sent a letter to the New York City Fire Commissioner for STAR Fire (dispatched through 911 to fire department). If there is a medical assignment in the area, they could respond too. This hasn't been answered in over a year.
- Their annual budget is about \$200,000 which includes workers comp, insurance, electricity, gas, training material, equipment, fuel for vehicles, etc. They get funding from Councilmember Schulman, Senator Toby Stavisky, Senator Joseph Addabbo and Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi. With grant money you must lay out the \$200,000 and wait a year to get it back. They don't have the money to lay out. This is a big issue and has been brought up to the State; They encouraged the Board Members to bring it up as well.

Mr. Alber and Mr. Citron explained the importance of the community ambulance corp:

- When you call 911, the published response time is seven to nine minutes.

- They pick up the calls through EMS radios and the response time is two to four minutes in Forest Hills/Rego Park.
- When the Fire Department and FHVAC unit arrive at the same time, they usually take the patient to relieve the Fire Department to go back out into the field.

Mr. Citron announced that Saturday, September 16, is Run for Richie, an event held in honor of a member that passed away on 9/11.

Mr. Citron and Mr. Alber answered questions from the board.

The emergency number is 718-793-7747.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT

Gladys Sandoval Co-Chair reported that CB 6 received the following new applications:

1. Rafaeli's Palace LLC, 113-09 Queens Blvd, FH

This is a kosher restaurant that serves gourmet grilled beef, steak and some fish dishes. The president has many years in the restaurant business as an Executive Chef. The restaurant will be open from 11am – 11pm with 138 seats, two restrooms, one full bar, will play recorded soft background music, no outdoor service, no event promoter.

2. Amar Peruvian Kitchen, 68-60 Austin Street, FH

Is a full-service Peruvian restaurant. They opened back in 2019, due to COVID-19 pandemic, withheld their RW application to SLA. They reached out to your office a couple of years ago and again recently right before coming to our office. Currently they close at 10PM, but plan to extend their hours gradually since business is picking up. Soft background music only and no outdoor seatings up until now. She's still deciding whether to take advantage of the NYC Open Restaurant Program, but at this point only indoor seating.

3. Fuji Japanese Sushi and Steak, 113-27 Queens Blvd, FH

This application sent in their response after the meeting: This is their response: it is a Japanese sushi cuisine, the manager at Fuji holds a managerial position at another well-established restaurant known as Xaga, where she has gained years of valuable experience.

4. Alberto Italian Steakhouse, 98-31 Metropolitan Avenue, FH

We are a Mediterranean restaurant with Italian and Greek influence called MELI ESTIATORIO – meaning honey. The applicant has worked in the restaurant business for over 20 years. He was the manager of the Franklin Steakhouse in Nutley, N.J. for 21 years. It was a family friendly restaurant, and the general manager and owner of Terrazza restaurant in Nutley, N.J.

5. Kuku Korean Cuisine, 107-12 70 Road, FH

This is a Korean restaurant. They already have two locations, one in Long Island City and Williamsburg. This is their 3rd location in NYC, and are currently working on another location in Roslyn Heights, Nassau County. They plan to open by late August, the hours of operation will be 11am – 1am, background music only.

6. TWM Cuisine, 72-06 Austin Street, FH

The applicant has many years of experience in the restaurant industry. Ms. Tan has been running two restaurants in Syosset and Port Washington since 2019. This restaurant will be Chinese Sichuan type.

7. Bombay Grill House 71-51 Yellowstone Blvd., FH

New owners of this Indian restaurant, currently operating as Forest Hills Indian Cuisine. The seller did not serve beer/wine before. New Owner, Mr. Basudeb Shaha, currently has another restaurant in Brooklyn (with beer/wine license). His wife has her own restaurant in Manhattan and is still in operation, over 10 years now. Background music only (low volume) and will close on or before 11pm, every day. Bombay Grill House will serve authentic Indian Cuisine and will be a wonderful addition to Forest Hills.

8. Rove, 72-25/27 Austin Street, FH *Alteration and Renewal*

Alteration application will add a warehouse permit cellar to the licensed premises under the new SLA rule announced last year.

9. Bloom Botanical Bistro 103-19 Metropolitan Avenue, FH *Corporate Change*

This is a corporate change. The previous license had 3 owners. One owner is leaving, and the other 2 owners will each own 50% of the corporation.

CB 6 received the following renewal applications:

1. Forest Hills Deli Bagels, 112-10 Queens Blvd., FH
2. YSNI Corp, 102-07 Metropolitan Avenue, FH
3. Dee's Pizza, 107-23 Metropolitan Avenue, FH
4. Marani Restaurant, 97-26 63 Road, RP
5. Tikka N Talk, 70-11 Austin Street, FH
6. Bareburger, 71-49/51 Austin Street, FH
7. White Radish, 108-25 Ascan Avenue, FH
8. Forest Hills Station House, 106-11 71 Avenue, FH
9. Nick's Bistro, 104-20 Metropolitan Avenue, FH
10. Matiz Latin Cuisine, 110-72 Queens Blvd., FH

The 112th Precinct has no issues with these establishments.

Committee motion was to approve new applications and renewal applications. The motion passed unanimously on voice vote.

AGING, SOCIAL SERVICES, DISABILITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

Bruce Grossberg, Chair reported the following:

Held a WebEx briefing on September 11, 2023 to discuss the intergenerational forum that was held in June. Thanked Pat Morgan for coordinating the forum. Speakers talked about transitioning, teens talked about identity and fitting into the community. They expect to participate in more intergenerational forums over the course of the year as well as another forum for Pride Month next June. We will consult with our partners, Education Committee for Board 6 and Board 9, Common Point Queens and Queens Community House.

The committee also discussed having a seminar/webinar regarding nursing homes after COVID. It would include the following:

- New regulations
- Different points of view that the providers and patients bring
- The problems that overlap between the fact that nursing homes are being run simultaneously often in the same building as long term/short term care facilities.

- Trying to look at issues regarding overall services.

The committee then spoke about the LIRR meeting that will happen on 9-14-23, regarding elevators versus ramps. The consensus was that they would prefer covered ramps. They seem to work well with the population. Even though there are problems with snow or weather-related activity. The problem with elevators is that they break down, find themselves with other people in the elevator that are not using it for transportation. He will bring this up at the meeting tomorrow.

Last, the committee spoke about the matter that since the COVID crisis is over, many people in NY will need to recertify eligibility with health insurance that was obtained through the medical exchange that was set up by the NY State of Health.

Next briefing will be Monday, October 23rd, at 7pm via WebEx.

GOOD & WELFARE

CB 6 MEMBERS:

Heidi Chain announced that the 112th Pct Community Council Meeting will be on September 20th at 7:30pm located at the American Legion Hall.

Pat Morgan announced that the CVS on 63rd will be closing. Individuals that use Medicare Part D should look for other pharmacies. Open enrollment is in October – December for Medicare Part D. For individuals on Medicare using Part D or Medicare Advantage Plans are forced to use CVS through their plan. On Part D preferred there is a list of providers that tell you what they cover. Each pharmacy can have a big price difference in plans.

Edwin Wong announced the following:

- The Alliance of Flushing Meadows Corona Park will hold a fundraiser on September 28th from 6pm – 9pm. The cost is \$50 per person, and there will be food from the Queens Night Market vendors and it is outdoors by the Unisphere.
- The Forest Hills Asian Association Annual Mooncakes for Mid-Autumn Festival on Wednesday, October 4th, at 7pm at the Ridgewood Savings Bank.

Jean Silva spoke about the Community Advisory Board, which advises the Alliance of Flushing Meadows Corona Park on the needs and wants are for the park.

Mark Laster announced the following:

- Borough President Civic Engagement Committee will have a borough wide briefing this week regarding the Asylum seekers in Queens. If you are interested, he will share the link.
- Central Queens Against Hate held an informative by-stander training last evening. They plan to have a Breaking Bread building bonds luncheon on Sunday, October 15th.
- There will be a street naming for Dr. Karl Neumann, who was a member of the board, and a pediatrician on Saturday, October 14th.
- The Forest Hills Green Team in partnership with Earth Citizens Club of Queens will be the new stewards of Yellowstone Park. The kickoff event will be on Sunday, October 22, from 11am-2pm, and feature bench painting and other family activities.

Latrice Davis announced a Food Insecurity Presentation on Sunday, September 17th, from 1:30pm – 3:30pm at the Church in the Gardens Community House.

Kevin Ly announced that Metro Village of Forest Hills is hosting its third annual Community Day on Saturday, September 30th from 12 – 3pm. It is an initiative to help support the stores, small shops, and businesses on Metropolitan Avenue.

Chairwoman Beers-Dimitriadis announced that Long Island Jewish Forest Hills will march in a Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk on Sunday, October 15th at 8am at Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

ELECTED OFFICIALS / AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES:

CONGRESS MEMBER GRACE MENG

Jordan Goldes announced:

- Congress Member joined the Governor to sign a bill to make Lunar New Year a public-school holiday in New York State and is also pushing to make it a federal holiday.
- Congress Member brought the US Envoy Deborah Lipstadt to monitor and combat antisemitism to this district and secured \$2.6 million for her office.
- Did an event with the US Postal Inspection Service with the NYPD with the ongoing problem of mail theft. Provided tips to the public on how to keep mail safe. Postal Service made a major arrest to individuals stealing mail from relay boxes.
- After a complaint from CB6, about two mailboxes with graffiti, the Congress Member's Office was able to get it removed.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER ANDREW HEVESI

Gianna Valente announced the following:

- Office hosted rain barrel distributions and recently did a backpack giveaway.
- During the last legislative session, AM Hevesi expanded the child tax credit distribution to include families with children from ages 0-4
- In the upcoming year the Assembly Member will chair the Children and Families Committee again. He is calling on the Governor to pass his bill which will allow the state to identify the number of children in foster care that have disabilities to provide them with the needed services.
- Fall cleanup series will begin with an event on September 23rd at 63 Drive. There is a flyer for all dates/locations. If anyone has suggestions for a cleanup area, contact the office.
- If the Community Board needs masks or test kits, please contact the office.

QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT DONOVAN RICHARDS

Amparito Rosero submitted the following:

- During the last week of August, we wrapped up our 3rd series of Borough Hall on your Block, a weeklong initiative launched by the Borough President in August of 2022. Our goal is to bring programs and services to each part of the borough. So far, we have brought this initiative to Community Boards 1,2,3,4,12, & 13. Our most recent series in community boards 3 and 4 included a Self-defense workshop for Seniors, a Job Fair, an Immigrant Resource fair, a Youth Summit, a Nonprofit Resource fair, a Town hall, a Jamboree bike giveaway and much more. Our office looks forward to continuing this initiative to each community board throughout the borough. Announcements on the next BHOYB will be made in the coming months.
- QUEENS CLIMATE EXPO will be held on Wednesday, September 20th, from 3-7pm at the Helen Marshall Cultural Center at Queens Borough Hall - 120-55 Queens Boulevard, Kew Gardens. To

mark Climate Week NYC, Queens Borough President Donovan Richards Jr. will host a Climate Expo, highlighting various Queens-based zero waste businesses and offering information sessions on efforts like Local Law 97, New York City's groundbreaking emissions reduction legislation. Workforce development opportunities, family-friendly activities, and refreshments will be available to all attendees.

- Columbian Resource Fair will be held on Saturday & Sunday, September 16&17, from 11am-4pm at the Helen Marshall Cultural Center 120-55 Queens Blvd., Kew Gardens. This is a free event that includes local and Colombian organizations tabling, performances, food.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maria Concolino
Community Service Aide

CB 6 VOTING SHEET 9-13-23	NEW LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS	RENEWAL LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS		
MICHAEL ARCATI				
DAVID ARONOV	Absent	Absent		
ANISIA AYON				
SALUA BAIDA				
KAVISH BATRA				
PETER BEADLE				
MIRIAM BERFAS	Absent	Absent		
HOWARD BIRNBAUM				
DANNY BOWENS				
HEIDI CHAIN				
GINA CHEN				
L.T. CIACCIO				
KANDRA CLARK				
LATRICE DAVIS				
JOHN DERESZEWSKI				
HEATHER DIMITRIADIS				
VALLON ELLISON	Absent	Absent		
KEITH ENGEL				
BRUCE GROSSBERG				
KAREN IMAS				
SARINA JAIN	Absent	Absent	A	A
MATT FERNANDEZ KONIGSBERG	Absent	Absent	L	L
MARCELLE LASHLEY-KABORE			L	L
MARK LASTER			I	I
BEATRICE LEONG			N	N
JONATHAN LI	Absent	Absent	F	F
KEVIN LY			A	A
JACK MEDINA	Absent	Absent	V	V
DR. RENEE MEHRRRA			O	O
PAT MORGAN			R	R
ELIZABETH NEWTON	Absent	Absent		
TANIA PADGETT				
HOWARD POLLACK				
DIANA RACHNAEV	Absent	Absent		
SHARI ROLNICK				
MATTHEW SALTON				
GLADYS SANDOVAL				
DAVID SCHANTZ				
PETRINA SCHNEIDERMAN	Absent	Absent		
HERBERT SCHONHAUT				
JEAN C. SILVA				
MARTHA TUCKER	Absent	Absent		
BRENTLY WINSTEAD				
EDWIN WONG				
TITILAYO YASUKAWA				
EPHRAIM ZAKRY				
KATHERINE ZAPATA				
TOTALS:	ALL IN FAVOR	ALL IN FAVOR		