



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 NOVEMBER 8, 2023

PRESENT

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

M. ARCATI	L. DAVIS	M. SALTON
D. ARONOV	B. GROSSBERG	G. SANDOVAL
A. AYON	K. IMAS	D. SCHANTZ
K. BATRA	S. JAIN	P. SCHNEIDERMAN
M. BERFAS	M. FERNANDEZ KONIGSBERG	H. SCHONHAUT
H. BIRNBAUM	M. LASHLEY-KABORE	J. SILVA
D. BOWENS	K. LY	M. TUCKER
H. CHAIN	R. MEHARRA	B. WINSTEAD
G. CHEN	P. MORGAN	E. WONG
K. CLARK	S. ROLNICK	E. ZAKRY
		K. ZAPATA

ABSENT

V. ELLISON*	D. RACHNAEV*
B. LEONG	H. POLLACK
E. NEWTON*	T. YASUKAWA*

*EXCUSED ABSENCE

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

FRANK GULLUSCIO	CB6 DISTRICT MANAGER
KEVIN MCALEER	OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER LYN SCHULMAN
JAVIER FIGAROA	OFFICE OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY OF MELINDA KATZ
THOMAS AURINGER	OFFICE OF ASSEMBLY MEMBER CATALINA CRUZ
JORDAN GOLDES	OFFICE OF CONGRESS MEMBER GRACE MENG
SEAN MCCABE	OFFICE OF STATE SENATOR JOSEPH P. ADDABBO, JR
JAMES MONGELUZO	OFFICE OF NYC COMPTROLLER LANDER
AMPARITO ROSERO	OFFICE OF THE QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT
SANDRO NAVARRO	OFFICE OF STATE SENATOR JESSICA RAMOS

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, Miriam Berfas and Petrina Schneiderman. Chair Heather Beers-Dimitriadis reminded the board that Forest Hills Film Project LLC was welcome to film our meeting as per the Open Meetings Law. The meeting will be recorded and posted within 48 hours. Community Board meetings are posted on YouTube.com for transparency to the public (<https://www.youtube.com/@queenscommunityboard6>).

POLICE COMMANDING OFFICER CAPTAIN DAVID CORDANO – 112 PRECINCT

Captain Cordano gave a community safety update and answered the questions that Community Board Members compiled and sent to the Captain prior to our Community Board meeting concerning the Forest Hills/Rego Park area.

Where are we seeing improvements in crime in our community? What do you attribute this success to?

Some areas that 112Pct has been successful in is shoplifting; down 13% year to date, this decrease is due to a new Trespass Law Program that the Queens DA came up with. The Trespass Law Program is useful if someone comes into a store stealing and is arrested for petit larceny or grand larceny. Stores that have signed up for the Trespass Affidavit Program at the precinct, when taken into custody. The precinct has the person that is arrested to sign a Trespass Notice, which states that if they go back to the store you are trespassing. You go into the store and steal something the precinct will arrest you for burglary. This program helps the 112Pct by increasing the bail and the person will not get out right away. This has deterred people from shoplifting. Some of the stores that have seen results are Target which has had a 63% decrease, Rego Mall 19% decrease, Rite Aid located at 95-14 63rd Drive 50% decrease.

Where are we still being challenged in crime in our community? What changes are being made to address these challenges?

Grand larceny is one of the challenges. Some of the things that are helping with these challenges are LPR tracking, deployment zones, check points, and dedicated grand larceny auto unit to keep going after those crimes. We also use social media and prevention flyers.

Given the increased patrolling etc throughout the community due to recent international events, do you have sufficient staffing to properly cover the community?

The 112Pct received seven more police officers and the Captain feels the 112Pct. has sufficient staffing at this time.

Has there been a rise on antisemitic crimes since 10/6/23?

The precinct has had a slight increase this year, twelve incidents were reported to Hate Crime Unit Taskforce up eight from six. The Captain will report anything that has a bias twist to it, to the Hate Crime Unit Task Force to make the final decision.

Traffic**The slip lane coming down Yellowstone merging into Austin Street is never available for right turning vehicles. It is full of parked vehicles. This creates traffic build up throughout the day, especially during morning and evening rush. Is there a way for the precinct to keep this lane clear and available?**

This lane is by the precinct, there is a strip on Austin Street for police parking. There were unauthorized vehicles parking there. The precinct has given some warning by handing out some flyers, letting residents know that it is for police parking. The captain has also requested the Department of Transportation to come out on site to help with other options. The Integrity Control Officer goes out two times a day to keep an eye on that lane to keep it clear. It becomes a challenge when changing tours. Some other problems with keeping that area clear are a lot of people working in the area

and in the precinct building, construction going on both sides of the street and the school across the street from the precinct. The precinct will continue to work on it.

Theft

Is the police vehicle consistently parked on the South Side of Queens Boulevard by the bus stop near the CVS (100-02 Queens Boulevard) meant to deter theft?

Yes, due to the increase in theft at that location. In a 28-day period (four weeks) there were 33 incidents in that CVS. There was a police car with a missing powered steering waiting for service, so they parked it in front of CVS to deter theft. Since the police car had been parked there, within the next 28 days there were two incidents a drop from 33 incidents. The theft is under control at that location. The precinct used a different car at another CVS located at 118-10 Queens Boulevard where there has been a theft uptick and was successful.

Would you say retail theft is on the rise in the community? How is 112Pct. partnering with local businesses to prevent theft?

The captain answered the question in the previous question.

As we approach the holiday shopping season, many people in the community experience an increase in package theft both in private houses and in co-op buildings. How often do those who stole the packages get caught?

Year to date 145 package thefts classified as burglary or grand larceny. Nineteen percent are close to arrest.

Is catalytic converter theft still on the rise?

No, year to date 57 incidents this year versus 98 last year, 41% decrease. On a 28th day period it is down 57%, there is an overnight crime team that are dedicated officers and supervisors looking for catalytic converter theft and other theft like this.

Community Engagement

I would like to attend my sector meeting. But sometimes I don't see the announcement until 7 days in advance. Is there a mailing list I can get on for notifications? And is it possible for the sector meetings to be scheduled 2 weeks in advance?

It was asked of us to post a sector meeting ten days as opposed to fourteen days. The captain spoke with Sgt. Kim who heads the NCOs will try to have that out within two weeks in advance so that everyone can attend.

Vehicles

Proposed state legislation includes higher fines for obstructed license plates. The streets near me don't have alternate side of the street regulations, and there are many cars with the front license plate removed and the back license plate that the car is registered in a different state. Is this done to also evade paying tolls or fines? Do speed cameras take pictures of both the front and back license plate? Do cameras at the bridges and tunnels take pictures of the front and back?

People do that so they can get out of red-light, speeding tickets, and tolls. It is enforced by giving out 102 parking summons, 190 moving violations, 29 arrests with obstructed plates. Some paper plates are fraudulent, and some are not, 50 arrest in paper plates.

Does the precinct issue fine for obstructed license plates?

The 112pct. gave out 102 parking summons, 190 moving violations, 29 arrests with obstructed plates.

How long does a car have to be parked in a spot to be classified as abandoned? What happens next?

An auto with no plates more standing six hours is classified as abandon, an auto illegally parked within twenty-four hours, anyone that is legally parked initially then becomes illegally parked with alternate side 48 hours later it is considered abandoned, vehicles parked on private property more than 96 hours later it is considered abandon. Vehicles may not be parked more than seven days in a row. These parked cars can be reported to 311 or your Neighborhood Coordination Officer (NCO). Once this criterion is met, these cars can be towed.

Dealing specifically on 71st Ave between Queens Blvd and Austin St, what could be done about the aggressive panhandling at all hours on this specific block? We see a lot of vendors popping up on the 71st Continental selling flowers etc. Are these businesses properly licensed?

Some panhandling is legal, and some isn't. When reporting to 311 give as many specific identifications as possible: is it near a bank, does the person need some services etc. The more specific information that is given to the precinct, the more the precinct can do to help with panhandling.

Schools

How many crossing guards do we have in the precinct this year? What school are they stationed at?

The 112pct has nine crossing guards and one supervisor stationed at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs. Crossing guards are located at Austin Street and Ascan Avenue, PS 220 The Edward Mandel School crossing guard located at 108 Street and 62 Drive, PS 139 The Rego Park School crossing guard located at 63 Drive and Booth Street, PS 206 Horace Harding School crossing guard located at Junction Blvd, MELS - Metropolitan High School crossing guard located at Metropolitan Avenue and Selfridge, PS 144 The Col. Jeromus Remsen crossing guard located at 69 Avenue and Juno Street, PS 175 The Lynn Gross Discovery School crossing guard located at 102 Street and 64 Road, Our Lady of Mercy crossing guard located at Kessel Street and 70 Street. Anytime a traffic crossing guard isn't on the post there is a supervisor to cover the post. If more than one crossing guard is out, the captain will reach out to a sector car or a police officer inside the station to come out for the day and assist at the post.

Questions from the community board were asked and answered by Captain Cordano.

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. Chair Beer-Dimitriadis made an announcement that anyone who submitted a written public comment to be read by the chair will not be read tonight due to time constraints of the meeting. The comments will be included in November's minutes.

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis reported that the community board has received forty-eight public comments in favor of the practice of Forest Hills Stadium and nine opposed. Later in a presentation, Daylighting Resolution will be presented by Community Board Member Peter Beadle. In the written public comment regarding the Daylighting Resolution, thirty-two were in favor and none were opposed.

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis asked the residents for their cooperation, that there be no interruptions or defamatory comments when public speakers are speaking.

Jennifer Martin – Schwartz Brothers-Jeffer Memorial

My name is Jennifer Martin, I am a funeral director and director of community relations of four funeral homes under one roof a few blocks away from here. Schwartz Brothers, Sinai Chapels, Parkside, and Forest Park Funeral Home. We started an initiative to do programming that is not funeral related for the community. I am sharing two events that I left flyers on the table. The first is the New York Care Coat Drive that is on-going from November 6 to December 22, 2023. We are accepting coats in our lobby. Please drop off your clean, unstained, untorn coat to be donated to people in need

in New York City. The second flyer, we are having an illustrated lecture by Martin Schneit about "The Life and Times of Irving Berlin". Martin Schneit is a local historian; his programs are wonderful and well received. The program will be held on Tuesday, November 28 at 3pm at the funeral home. Free parking and free events. Both events will be posted on Facebook for Sinai Chapels, Schwartz Brothers and Forest Park. If you want to be added to our list of programs, grab a flyer. On the flyer is my name Jennifer Martin along with my email. I wanted to make people aware that during Hanukkah, December 14th from 3:30 – 5:30pm a Bereavement Workshop is about being sad, having a loss and coping with the holidays. This is a specific Hanukkah program; it will be limited. The program is on our Facebook page and the flyer will be sent to the Community Board. It will also be in our window. If interested follow-up with me. Thank you.

Martin Levinson

My name is Marty Levinson. I am a member of the Concerned Citizens of Forest Hills. This evening, I want to talk to you about \$54,000,000 and the disruption caused to our neighborhood by the concerts at the Forest Hills Stadium. Yes, the concerts are over, but we must look ahead to next summer. At the last Community Board meeting, I discussed the negative effects that the many concerts are having on the quality of life in our neighborhood. What happened the following days? Well, the Stadium capped off its concert season with DJ Fred Again. It was a three-night electronic dance festival. It literally shook the neighborhood. The noise level was deafening. This event probably resulted in a record number of 311 complaints to the 112 Pct. Fortunately, our story is getting out. During the last week of October there were reports on WNYC, WCBS and FOX News. Then on October 24, the Gothamist's lead article was entitled; "These Forest Hills Stadium concerts made residents most angry". I'm one of those angry residents. Why can't someone simply turn the volume down? It would greatly cut down on the number of intolerable noise complaints. We know that our elected officials are aware of our concerns. Ladies and gentlemen of the community board, here's what you can do to help. Please a resolution that states that you: 1) insist that the noise code be enforced by the Department of Environmental Protection. 2) ask for a drastic reduction in the number of concerts. 3) demand a written guarantee that a 10pm curfew will be observed. 4) assert that you are opposed to events scheduled on school nights and religious holidays. 5) urge that commonsense modifications be made to relieve traffic congestion on the heavily impacted streets. We hope for a traffic plan that relates to the arriving and departing drivers. Besides the performers, who else is making money? A few nearby restaurants and bars are profiting. For most other local businesses there are probably no financial benefits. And now, what about that \$54,000,000? I was curious to know how much money is being generated by these concerts. I went to the internet. This is a guesstimate. On one side I found that the average price of a ticket is \$140. The stadium's capacity is 13,000. This summer there were 30 concerts. That comes to over \$54 million dollars. In a mailing to its members, the West Side Tennis Club reported that \$1.3 million went to the Club. I think they received \$4 per ticket. And for that they cause havoc in our community. Where is the rest of the money going?

Roni Rabin

Good evening, my name is Roni Rabin. I live on Dartmouth St. about a block from the tennis stadium. Thank you for giving me time to address all of you. I came here several months ago to ask you to take action to prevent a concert from taking place at the outdoor Forest Hills stadium on the Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashanah. I also asked the promoter, Mike Luba, directly, to reschedule the concert. They declined to do so, and I for the first time in 29 years, which is when I first moved to this neighborhood, could not host a traditional holiday dinner for my family in my home. I live a block from the stadium, and the noise pounds against my windows; in addition, the traffic, the congested subways and trains, and lack of parking and general chaos make it impossible for people to come, especially elderly people who need to drive. Next fall, the somber holiday, called the Day of Atonement, AKA as Yom Kippur, falls on a weekend. It is supposed to be a day of quiet reflection and as I mentioned, even inside our homes, it is not quiet when there is a concert. Jewish holidays start at sunset, and the eve of Yom Kippur 2024 falls on Friday evening, October 11th, and the actual day is Sat Oct 12th, till sunset. (Rosh Hashanah falls Wednesday evening October 2nd and ends on Sunday Friday Oct. 4th.) This is a largely Jewish neighborhood, and I am requesting that the West Side Tennis Club and Michael Luba of Madison House Present, AEG Entertainment, refrain from scheduling concerts on these dates, with particular emphasis on Oct. 11th and daytime October 12th. I wrote to them directly to make the request and have not heard back. I am being very focused in my remarks today because this is the first time since I have lived in NYC that I have felt a disrespect bordering on contempt toward my religion and religious observance. I don't think that refraining from having a rock concert or electronic music concert at the volumes that have been held recently in the heart of a very Jewish neighborhood is asking so much. You would not have a concert like this on Christmas Eve. More broadly, however, I want to express my concern that we have come and spoken to you and yet, elected officials tell me, the community board has never relayed our

concerns about the concert's impact on our quality of life to them. Maybe they just weren't listening. But the concerts have become more numerous, and most importantly, louder. They stopped mostly at 10 pm in accordance with the noise code because we raised heck when they didn't but now, they're starting at 10 am with all day rock concert festivals that go on for three consecutive days. We do not now have a moment's peace – in our own homes. And the concerts have gotten incredibly louder. The type of music brought here has changed since these concerts started. It had been Brandi Carlisle, Everything but The Girl, Paul Simon, what was left of the Grateful Dead. Now we're getting electronic music that is incredibly loud and it seems like the amplification system has been upgraded to make it even louder. Fred Again, which was there for three nights in a row in mid-October, including a school night, is electronic music that was played so loud. I passed by the stadium and measured with my OSHA noise meter, it registered 100 decibels. It's not safe to listen to music that loud, it can cause hearing loss. If people want to pay for that, I can't stop them, though society bears the burden of caring for people who are deaf at a young age; loss of hearing also is linked to dementia. It is simply not appropriate for a residential area. To those who say it's good for the economy, fine. It doesn't have to be deafening. Turn the volume down.

Nicholas Tapert – Forest Hills Gardens Corporation

Good evening, Members of Community Board 6, my name is Nicholas Tapert, I am an attorney with the law firm of Carter Ledyard & Milburn LLP. I am here on behalf of the Forest Hills Gardens Corporation (the "Corporation") to voice its continued objection to the more than 30 illegal concerts that took place between May and October at the West Side Tennis Club Stadium. Without the condemnation of the community board, and those in other positions of leadership, the Club, and the for-profit concert promoter it has partnered with since 2013 (Tiebreaker Productions), will continue to grow their concert operations in the Gardens. There is no historical precedent for the 30 plus concerts which, because of the noise, crowds, and other effects, are a nuisance that severely harms the quality of life for the residents of this community. Moreover, the conversion of the West Side Tennis Club into a commercial music venue violates City zoning and the City's Noise Code. The narrative that commercial music concerts have always taken place at the club is false. Until 2013, there were an average of five concerts a year, and in many years, there were no concerts at all. Even from 2013 to 2020, there were about a dozen concerts a year. Something radically changed in 2022 with 27 concerts, and then 31 concerts in 2023. This is unacceptable. The concerts generate tremendous noise late into the night at decibels that shake houses and rattle windows. This past summer the corporation retained an acoustical consultant to take noise readings on the streets surrounding the stadium and in nearby homes and apartment buildings. The results showed staggering exceedances of the City's Noise Code, including those provisions that restrict the impact commercial music can have in residences. We understand that other citizens in the neighborhood have independently collected noise data that corroborates our findings. Beyond the crushing noise, concerts disturb the peace on the Gardens' private streets and sidewalks, with the 12,000 plus concertgoers who flood the neighborhood, resulting in NYPD directed closures of Gardens streets and sidewalks, and interfering with the Corporation's ability to safely manage its private property. The Corporation receives weekly complaints from its residents regarding concertgoers trespassing on their property, incidences of public urination, restricted ability to move freely through their neighborhood due to security and street closures, and traffic gridlock. These conditions have no place in a residentially zoned neighborhood like the Gardens. In fact, The Zoning Resolution flatly forbids stadiums in residential districts and requires stadiums to have a special permit from the City Planning Commission, which may only be issued in commercial/manufacturing districts. This is for good reason—stadiums are incompatible with residential neighborhoods. Without judicial intervention or meaningful pressure from community leadership, the number of concerts will continue to grow. Tiebreaker Productions is making money hand over fist, there is no reason for it to stop at 30 concerts if it can get away with 40 or 50. The concerts are illegal and are exacting an unacceptable toll on the surrounding community, as Tiebreaker and the Club profit handsomely. The Corporation asks that the Community Board take a firm and unequivocal stance against stadium concerts.

Luna Rios read by Amy Hu

My name is Luna and I live next door to Forest Hills Stadium. I want to start by saying thank you to the police officers who work during these events and overlook the safety of the neighborhood. Secondly, I appreciate the barricades that help limit event-goer traffic in the surrounding streets, which aid in public safety and deter illegal activities. However, there have been times where there has been available parking in my neighboring streets and yet police officers refuse to let me park my car simply because they are not being considerate. Furthermore, I have witnessed concert and event-goers pee and throw up in the private driveway behind my apartment. I have seen these event goers throw trash, leave behind

alcohol bottles and cans, smoke cigarettes, and loiter around in said private driveway. Last year I broke my wrist and still to this day face physical challenges because of it. Simple tasks like grocery shopping during any day an event is happening has been a nightmare, one because parking is near impossible and two because some police officers refuse to help the people who live in this neighborhood by being understanding and giving access to available parking in the neighboring streets to those of us that live here. Because of my wrist issues, bringing groceries to my apartment is unreasonably challenging. My asks are that events are limited to a reasonable number of days during the summer. It's completely inconsiderate that we the neighbors must put up with street closures, huge crowds, harassment from drunk event goers (which I have also experienced), rude police officers (again not all but some), all because an entity that isn't even in a correct zoning area gets to make tons and tons of money at the neighbors' cost. I ask that events end at an appropriate time, I ask that events be limited to a specific section of a day not a full day. I ask that the neighbors have access and priority to parking in the neighboring streets, I ask that police ask for IDs of those that live in the neighborhood so that we get priority to access parking spots, I ask that police officers be more considerate and more respectful of the citizens they are paid to protect. I ask that we have some weekends where the neighborhood can exist without the inconvenience that events cause so that we enjoy our beautiful neighborhood.

Andy Court - Co-founder and President of Concerned Citizens of Forest Hills

Good evening. My name's Andy Court, and I'm the president of Concerned Citizens of Forest Hills, a community group that's been calling for reasonable restrictions on the concerts at the Forest Hills Stadium. On October 12th, 13th, and 14th, there was a sonic assault on our neighborhood. People reported their homes shaking, objects within their homes vibrating, because of the strong bass coming from the stadium. Three weeks earlier, we had written to top officials at the city's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and asked them to take readings of the bass levels in peoples' homes. During the events, there were a lot of 311 complaints. But the DEP did not come. They did not take a single reading. For three nights, people's homes were shaking, and the DEP did not even bother to show up. What were the DEP's noise inspectors so busy doing those three nights in a row that they couldn't come and take a single reading in a neighborhood where people were saying their homes were shaking? There's something wrong here. The noise code isn't being properly enforced. The city's zoning ordinances aren't being properly enforced. The West Side Tennis Club is getting breaks other people don't get. Ordinary people, doctors, nurses, retirees, city workers are being harmed so that members of an exclusive tennis club can pay lower dues. This week, The Gothamist looked at concert-related complaints to 311 and found that "average daily noise complaints have roughly doubled in Forest Hills over the past two years compared to 2019. Our organization has been around for almost ten years. The last two years have been the worst we have experienced. And it's not just noise – it's traffic, disorderly conduct, parking problems, trash. And the DEP and our elected officials have done very little to help us. It's just not right. People sometimes say, "well what did you expect when you moved in next to a stadium?" When I moved into the neighborhood nearly 30 years ago, there were no concerts. Nor was there any expectation that there would be because the area was zoned residential, and concerts were not grandfathered because the activity did not operate continuously with a gap of no more than two years. So, where's their variance? They don't seem to have one. This is not about whether people like concerts or not. Or whether it's good for business. This is about the rule of law and basic common decency towards your friends and neighbors. No one in this room would want to be subjected to the noise pollution people in our neighborhood were subjected to last month. If it happened outside Mayor Adams' home, you could bet it would have been shut down in short order. Instead, the DEP did not even bother to show up. People are being harmed by unreasonable activity by an exclusive tennis club whose members want to pay lower dues, at their neighbor's expense. If unchecked, this unreasonable activity is going to get worse and worse and affect more and more of the community each year. In our view, the West Side Tennis Club needs to be told you can't have any more of these events unless you commit, in writing, to reasonable restrictions, and you abide by them. Here are some of the restrictions we're talking about: No all-day events. Follow the noise code. No events on major religious holidays or school nights. Independent monitoring of noise levels in people's homes, especially bass and low frequency bands. Limit the total number of concerts. Limit the length and noise level of sound checks. Address on-going problems with traffic, parking, and trash on the streets near the stadium. End all shows at 10 pm And give residents a seat at the table. The DEP says it's "working with" the promoter on a plan to reduce noise next year. How about working with us? Give us information, treat us as stakeholders. That hasn't happened so far, and it needs to. Thank you for this opportunity to speak.

Irina Vovsha

I painted this hydrant (showed picture of hydrant painted), it took me two months. I had to use all the different chemicals, and strippers. It was very difficult. But why did I do it because I wanted my neighborhood to be calm, peaceful, and beautiful. The captain of the 112 pct gave me permission to do this job. It was hard, two months. I have another project right now. I heard many critics about the concerts. People in the neighborhood who are very peaceful became ragged and belligerent people. Now they scream from the top of their lungs to stop concerts. Why? Somebody here said that there were only nine opposed for Forest Hills Stadium Concerts. I have here (shows petition) 145 signatures collected in the last ten days. Because my husband and I were so outraged by what was happening in our neighborhood. We cannot rest, we cannot sleep, we cannot do anything. The doctor can't make emergency calls because of the concerts. The person over there is responsible for the noise. Every root of money is the root of every evil thing that is happening here and everywhere in the world. We cannot live. These people take advantage of us. I have a list of 145 people who put their signature on here in just ten days. They say stop concerts, why, because it's not just the level of noise from these concerts itself. You can hear the concerts on Alderton Street, and someone heard the concerts from Union Turnpike. What I want to say is that the noise doesn't only come from the concerts. It also comes from the traffic, the drunk people, people who park their car in our driveway. Mike Luba is responsible, and the politicians are responsible that promote the concerts. DEP that refuses to measure the sound level. It's illegal, it's a crime against the community. Thank you.

Amy Hu

Thank you to all the elective officials for all the work you do for us. I spoke here in June and last month my statement was read out loud. I continue to express my frustration with the concerts at Forest Hills Stadium, the promoter Tie Breaker and the landlord West Side Tennis Club. I am hoping again that Community Board 6 and our elective officials can support those of us who want the concerts to continue but with reasonable restrictions. My main concern is how loud the concerts are. I live two blocks away and can hear every song clearly. It's worse for my neighbors who live closer to the stadium. My question is do the concerts have to be this loud. If the current volume is at a ten, why can't it be lowered to a seven. A decrease in volume would not be noticed by the concert goers but would be appreciated by the community. The base is causing homes to shake, neighbors tell me not only do their homes and buildings shake, so do plants, water bottles, and picture frames on walls. I wonder why the base cannot be turned down. It's doable, it's another small adjustment that can be made. Residents would not feel so helpless when they have already closed their windows, turned on the air conditioning and still hear and feel something in the background. Another concern is that thirty concerts is excessive. There used to be less than ten, but thirty shows that big business and big money can force their way into a neighborhood that was not built for an influx of 10,000 people. Why can't only ten or fifteen permits for concerts be issued? Why is thirty allowed? The stadium was built for tennis matches. I have spoken to some local officials, and some are supported. On a zoom call with Assemblyman Andy Hevesi, he appeared sympathetic, he himself stated that some of the concerts are too loud and I think he said his building shook. A staff member from Councilwoman Lynn Schulman's office reported that she lives nearby, and she also agreed that the concerts were too loud. She felt the bass. Senator Joseph Addabbo is supportive as well. I along with the concerned citizens group have met with Captain Cordano at the 112th pct., he too is supportive. I have not received a call back from Borough President Donovan Richards. I may be idealistic; I envision that with collective action with our elective officials' changes can be made to our quality of life. I want to add that there is a misconception that the residents of Forest Hills who are unhappy are being typical not in my backyard (NIMBY) complainers. Many of the residents who live closest to the stadium are in apartment buildings that are not luxury apartments. Having a house in the neighborhood does not mean they are wealthy. Even if so, that doesn't mean they have to be subjected to loud music. I have spoken to some neighbors, who are very upset but haven't spoken out about it. Some are busy working and find it easier to look the other way. Some are afraid to sign the petition or speak publicly. The bottom line is there is right and there is wrong. It's wrong to have this stadium right in the neighborhood.

Mike Luba – Forest Hills Stadium Concert Promoter

I came here tonight, to thank CB6, Frank, Heather, Captain Cordano and the neighbors for allowing us to try to keep the stadium alive, that is where we are at. There is information that is untrue, being circulated or being repeated. I want to put some things out there. I would like to suggest giving everyone my email. If anyone has a direct or solid issue that I or my team could help with, e-mail me. We had a conversation with Ms. Rabin and asked her if there was anything that they could do. What can we do to make your family comfortable, safe, welcome, and happy? She replied nothing. There is literally nothing you can do, stop the concerts. I think what Heather said earlier is the most important thing. Which is currently what we need is the ability to not be super polarized at all or nothing, right or wrong, black or white. I think

what is most important and I think most folks in the room don't realize is that when we started in 2013, we started with one show. We weren't sure how it was going to go, we worked closely with Forest Hills Garden Corporation, Councilwoman Karen Koslowitz, Assemblyman Andy Hevesi, Senator Joseph Addabbo, at that time Borough President Melinda Katz (those conversations have continued). What has changed in the last two years is coming out of the pandemic, we had a whole backlog of stuff. We held several meetings to discuss going from sixteen concerts from the previous year to twenty-seven and the concept was to see how it went. In the previous nine years we held community meetings to have a conversation with us, the promoters, and the Forest Hills Corporation. What happened was in December 2022, we had a meeting with the Forest Hills Garden Corporation, to discuss the agreement. We paid them a check for \$200,000 for twenty-seven concerts. The Forest Hills Garden Corporation took the check and refused to meet with the Forest Hills Stadium promoter for the first time in a decade. There was no further conversation. As we get closer to the start of the concert season the Borough President holds a meeting, to discuss what this year of concerts will be like, the Forest Hills Garden Corporation isn't at the meeting. The Borough President invites: the police, the promoters, the Forest Hills Tennis Club and the Forest Hills Garden Corporation. The Forest Hills Garden Corporation lawyer called the Queens Borough General Counsel to say it's none of your business to tell us what to do in our neighborhood. At the beginning of the concert season that starts in May the Forest Hills Garden Corporation threatens to shut down Burns Street. In previous years when the US Open was held at the stadium which was three weeks and ten/twelve concerts for the season. That didn't work, the stadium was abandoned. Keep in mind, the main entrance was at the back of 69 Avenue and Clyde Street. We moved it to Burns Street in coordination with the Forest Hills Garden Corporation. The Forest Hills Garden Corporation tells the Forest Hills Stadium promoters that they can't let pedestrians or anyone on Burns Street. Which is now the only exit or entrance to the stadium. We should have a proper community meeting with us the promoters, the Forest Hills Gardens Corporation, the neighborhood, Assemblyman Andy Hevesi and the police to have a discussion. My email is mluba@foresthillstadium.com.

Christopher Jaray

My name is Christopher Jaray, I was born and raised in Forest Hills. I am in the fourth generation, the house that I live in in Clyde Street and 69th Avenue, the house was originally owned by my great great Grandfather, past down from generations. My mother who lives next door to me was born in 1954 well before there were concerts, she can remember all the concerts by the Four Tops, The Monkeys. I will admit when the concerts first started, I was a hug fan getting concerts back in the stadium. I thought the concerts were a good thing for the neighborhood. The concerts were five per year, I thought that was a good number, fourteen concerts per year OK, things were OK. Nothing was shut down; it wasn't out of control. When they went to twenty-seven concerts per year, it started to get crazy. It's not just the noise from the concerts, the concert promoters use the public streets as a loading dock. I live on 69 Avenue and after Eats Con, they had two dumpsters, two dump trucks on 69 Avenue. The bus couldn't pass. The bus hitting the dumpster, the staff said to the bus driver to get out of here quickly. Because they didn't want to report an accident. There were two dump trucks coming out at 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning. That's what bothers me, something like Eats Con that starts on a Saturday, they started unloading outside my bedroom window at 4 o'clock in the morning that Tuesday. It's a no parking zone and no standing zone, they shouldn't unload industrial equipment at 4 o'clock in the morning. There shouldn't be twenty four buses lined up on 69 Avenue at 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning. This is a neighborhood; people must sleep. Unexpected sound checks, a lot of people work from home, 3 o'clock in the afternoon two days before the concert bass overload. How can I live my life when I don't know when sound checks are going to happen? How am I supposed to live my life when the concerts end at 10pm. People don't leave until 12pm, then at 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning they start cleaning up. Am I supposed to sleep three hours a day? It's ridiculous the way they take over the neighborhood. There are days when they are preparing for a concert and on its alternative side they put the motor scooters, road cones out for the staff to park so the people on the block can't park. They invade everything, I'm fed up, it's too much. Thank you.

Lawerence Pearlstein

My name is Lawerence Pearlstein, I live in a house that has been in my family for 66 years on Dartmouth Street. My backyard borders the clay courts of the West Side Tennis Club. I am here to say that it's a tradition in this country that you have a right to enjoy yourself in your own home. I believe it's derived from the English common law. For 31 days and nights a year of my life, my family's life has become a living hell. The house shakes from the foundation to the roof. I have spoken with Mike Luba about turning the stadium flood lights off at night. He promised me two years ago he would do it. It still hasn't happened. I have a home security system, I have photographs from my home security system of kids getting high in my backyard, of trespassers trying to climb the fence to get to the stadium, and a private rent-a-cop

chasing concert goers through my backyard. Nobody hears us, I have been in touch with Assemblyman Andy Hevesi, Mr. Gulluscio, Senator Joseph Addabbo, Councilwoman Lynn Schulman we have no support. Our lives are unbearable on concert days. The noise sound checks start at 9:15 to 9:30am and continue unabated all day. An hour before show time the concert sound checks stop, then the real noise begins that continues past 10pm when City ordinance states to stop at 10pm. Nobody hears us! We are in this alone. It's nearly a money-making scheme, it has nothing to do with the people living in the community and their right to enjoy their homes. Please somebody help us. This is a quality-of-life issue, you are just killing us, Luba.

The following comments were submitted for inclusion in the minutes.

Danielle Orsini

To Community Board 6, as a pregnant woman who has increasing struggles walking, I found myself avoiding Austin as much as possible due to its hectic and unsafe nature. I want a better and safer Austin for my family and my future son. I would like to raise my son here in Forest Hills and I want Austin to be safe for pedestrians so that when he is older, he can travel to Austin with his friends on their own. Because of my hopes for the future, I believe in Safer Austin Street so much that now I joined the cause and am walking down Austin as much as possible. With swollen feet and a sore back, for hours at a time, I am collecting signatures from people and from businesses who also believe that something must be done. I hope that you will look at the data, recognize our efforts, and not be fearful of change. Please support the Safer Austin Street proposal for a DOT study. Thank you for your time.

Shalom Weberman

Dear Members of Community Board 6, I'm writing to express my support for reasonable restrictions on events at Forest Hills Stadium. Quality of life and economic prosperity don't have to be mutually exclusive. Shows at the Stadium shouldn't come at the cost of neighborhood safety and security. Any assertion to the contrary is a false dichotomy. The 2023 concert season was the most burdensome yet for area residents, with no meaningful support from our elected officials or the community board. The buildings in the blocks surrounding the stadium have suffered vandalism and security breaches, in addition to the effects of noise code violations. The concert promoter, Madison House, and stadium owner, West Side Tennis Club, operated with impunity, routinely violating noise code limits without penalty. There is no reason for the Stadium concerts to be so loud that I can hear them from two blocks away through closed windows and earplugs. I request the following restrictions to balance the needs of all stakeholders: Scheduling Limits: no all-day or weekend-long events (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday); no events on religious holidays; limit the total number of concerts to 20 or less; end all shows at 10 pm. Noise Limits; enforce the noise code consistently for every show; limit the start time, duration, and volume of sound checks before shows; DEP sound monitoring inside residents' homes for each show, including bass and low-frequency sounds; share any noise mitigation plans with and solicit input from neighborhood stakeholders. Safety: address traffic congestion to ensure that residents and emergency services can easily access the streets surrounding the stadium; ban fireworks from all shows. Please partner with neighborhood residents instead of facing off against us. Let's find a compromise that works for all of us.

Joanne Sullivan

At the September 13, 2023, Community Board 6 meeting, City Council Member Lynn Schulman explained that a window in her home faces the LIRR, so she understands the concerns of her constituents who live near the LIRR. She said she is working on mitigating the LIRR noise that disturbs residents, and she invited the residents of 6 Burns Street to call her office. If Council Member Schulman were to live right next to the proposed Queensway linear park, she might understand the concerns of her constituents on Alderton Street and Selfridge Street who fear that a new park would bring not only noise to their homes, but it would also bring the following problems that have plagued Forest Park to their backyards: unhoused people living in the park; illegal structures made from trees cut down from the park (including a large tree house and a tiki bar); illegal fire pits with cooking utensils and knives; men cruising for and engaging in sex; assaults; public indecency; drug use and drug sales; dumping and littering; graffiti (including swastikas); vehicles traveling at excessive speeds; biking on pedestrian trails; off-leash dogs on pedestrian trails. We residents whose backyards about the proposed pedestrian and biking trails fear that those trails would compromise our privacy and safety. Currently, thick vegetation keeps out most intruders. Trespassers are rare and can be expelled, but if the land behind our homes becomes a public park, anyone will have the right to loiter behind our homes. Many residents of Forest Hills and Rego Park oppose Queensway, but Council Member Schulman and other local leaders have failed to address our concerns. They

blindsided us when they joined Mayor Adams at a news conference announcing the first phase of the new linear park. We're afraid that they will continue to ignore our concerns and will blindside us again by approving Queensway's North Passage that will abut the backyards of homes on Alderton Street and Selfridge Street.

Kitty Dadi

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the noise levels and how our quality of life has been impacted every weekend from around May to the end of October, and sometimes during the week as well. And then of course, even on one of our Jewish Holidays....I don't think they would schedule Easter or Christmas, right? The noise and traffic generated by these events at the Forest Hills Tennis Stadium is taking a toll on our daily lives. I can't even leave the house with my car on those days as my on-street parking which I normally have is taken up by concert attendees or workers should I leave my spot. Then because of the concert traffic, it makes it difficult to even get on our street to go home, and, the noise generated by honking horns and blaring music from vehicles before and after the concert, as well as trash littered on our lawns by concert attendees who could care less for residents who live here and this is even before I really address the concerts when the music and vibrations begin. The noise generated by events at the Forest Hills Tennis Stadium has become increasingly disruptive, and no amount of complaining has resolved anything for the community. The excessive noise, especially during late hours and on weekends, is making it challenging for residents to enjoy their homes in peace and tranquility, with the volume and frequency of these activities causing significant disturbances. For the past 2 summers the Forest Hills Stadium has not shown any concern whatsoever for the residents in the area and has only increased the number of concerts and noise levels with total disregard. There should be no reason that I feel the vibrations in my living room as I watch TV or must increase the volume of my TV or speak louder due to the volume of the music. I have called numerous times to complain about our quality of life in this area. We have been longtime residents for many years and have only seen this problem get worse each year. It is disheartening to observe that the stadium seems to prioritize financial gains without regard for the residents who have made this neighborhood their home. The noise pollution not only affects our physical well-being but also disturbs our mental peace and quality of life. I kindly request that you consider these concerns seriously and work towards a solution that benefits the residents of the area, so our community remains a harmonious and welcoming place to live.

Jerry Mastriano

Forest Hills Stadium concerts 1960-2013 (54 years), I did some research on the music concerts held at the Forest Hills Stadium from 1960 to 2013. Unfortunately, the available public data doesn't provide a precise list of days on which there were concerts there before 2013, but it's clear that there were a lot less than there are currently. The position of the Westside Tennis Club (which owns the stadium) and the current concert promoter (Madison House/Tiebreaker) that the Forest Hills Stadium has been a music venue for its 100-year history is false. In 1923 the stadium was originally built and originally used as a sports stadium for the annual US Open tennis matches. In the early 1960s, the tennis club began to apply for ad-hoc permits to host occasional music performances at the stadium. For the stadium's first 37 years there are no records I could locate of music concerts. From 1960-2013, there were approximately 18 years where some concerts were held at the stadium, and 36 years where no concerts at all were held there. The average number of concerts per year in those 54 years was about 2 to 3 concerts. There had never been a time, until the past few years, when the number of concerts exceeded 10 per year. In answer to the concert fans who have derided people like me for complaining about the noise and chaos "knowing we moved next to a 'historic' concert venue," I'll say that I've been in Forest Hills for 25 years, and for the first 15 years there were no concerts at the stadium. So, we didn't know, and could not have known, that our quiet peaceful neighborhood would be invaded by 15,000 people every weekend from May to October, upending our quality of life. This sports-arena-turned-music-venue should not be permitted in a residential area that is clearly not zoned for large stadium music performances. I don't know how it is allowed to continue. Thank you.

Ann Whyte

On October 14th, I called Borough President Donovan Richards, Councilwoman Lynn Schulman, Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi and Senator Joe Addabbo about the sound problems I was experiencing with the Forest Hills concert that night (as with many other concerts from the same venue during the summer). I live one block from the stadium. Only Senator Addabbo called me back. I feel that our politicians should be looking into what can be done to solve the noise levels - especially bass and low frequency bands, to limit the total number of concerts, to change the problems with traffic, parking, trash left behind by concertgoers, and to make sure all concerts end by 10 p.m. I sent Senator Addabbo more information about similar noise problems a few years ago at the Central Park Summer Stage music festival and what was

done after Fifth Avenue residents complained. I hope that all our politicians will investigate how the problems mentioned above can be solved.

Kaity Iaquinta

Good afternoon, I am writing on behalf of myself and my concert going neighbors to persuade local officials to keep Forest Hills Stadium intact. My husband and I have been living in Forest Hills for 5 years and one of the reasons we moved here was for the stadium. I am a 12-year NYC teacher, and my school is also located in Forest Hills. I love this neighborhood. My husband and I love living near the stadium because we can hear the music in our apartment, just a few blocks away. I can understand how the noise and foot traffic could bother some of our neighbors, but I think it is important to focus on how concerts in Forest Hills bring visitors to our neighborhood. The visitors spend money at our favorite restaurants, bars, and shops, which keeps our neighborhood thriving. Not to mention the joy and connection that music brings to people. Forest Hills' diverse community should be celebrated and by keeping the stadium and keeping our music and festivals, we can do that! Keep in mind that additional police presence, like we have on concert weekends, never hurts, and it's a great way for us to form connections between law enforcement and our community. Thank you for your time.

Ken Karp

In consideration of concerts at Forest Hills Tennis Stadium (FHTS), please know I have no affiliation with the promoters, nor do I attend shows. Seems the Forest Hills Gardens Association is suing the FHTS promoters over noise and curfew issues. By every account, the promoters have been valued and responsible partners with the community, demonstrating full compliance with the terms of their permits. I've been to plenty of loud shows... walking outside FHTS shows, these are not loud shows. The plaintiff, of course, will be providing documentary evidence to the contrary; anything less is unsurprising Gardens' NIMBY. What town wouldn't kill for the kind of revenue and employment FHTS shows attract? An extraordinary mass transportation hub, there's no strain on roadways. Ask any police officer, there's been no FHTS-related crime. Pre-show Forest Hills is a street scene. Concertgoers arrive in waves; up from the subway, down from the LIRR. Bars, restaurants (and their sheds), stores and such are packed. (The Forest Hills Chamber of Commerce is remiss not promoting coinciding 'show nights out.')

It's a great street vibe reflecting well on the town. (Anecdotally, a neighborhood pizza shop has a standing order for 30-50 (additional) pies/show day for staff and crews; one-of-two pizza shops with that order. It's fair to assume other local, unseen benefits). Vastly underpromoted this year is the historic FHTS' 100th Anniversary... where The Beatles helicoptered-in (1964); where Hendrix (in)famously opened for The Monkees (1967); where decibel-shattering The Who's (1971) show didn't start till 8p... and so many more like them. Those were loud. Living near a stadium and not expecting its use is a get off my lawn sense of entitlement that should not outweigh the far greater good FHTS shows do for the community. Thank you,

Karen Koffler

I am a resident of Forest Hills Gardens and live about a mile away from the Forest Hills Stadium and even at that distance, I can hear the noise with all my windows closed and my HVAC system on. I am frankly relieved that my home is not close to the venue. In addition to the noise, the excessive number of performances this past season has strained our community in terms of congestion, traffic, street closures and trash. My 83-year-old mother visited Rosh Hashanah, while a concert was happening, and I was unable to meet her at our usual spot because of closed streets. Efforts to engage any agency or elected official have been supremely dissatisfying. Calls to 311 have led to almost comical discussions with operators telling me that they can't take a complaint for the address of the Stadium. Online complaints have similar results, with an email sent back to me minutes later saying that the complaint was canceled as there was not a problem. Meanwhile, I can still hear bass at my home, which is still about a mile away from the Stadium. Repeated phone calls to the relevant elected officials (the mayor's office, the Borough President, Councilwoman Shulman, and Assemblyman Hevesi) have sometimes allowed me to leave a voicemail and have not once resulted in a return phone call. I love music and I love live performances. I am not asking for the Stadium to be shut down as a concert venue. I am asking for a reduction in the number of performances, to have them end promptly at 10:00 pm, and to have them comply with DEP noise regulations. It feels like the residents who live in the community are the lowest priority while the West Side Tennis Club and Mr. Luba are busily making money at the expense of our quality of life. Some compromise must be possible. Thank you for your consideration.

Jennifer Sellers-Dimitrov

As a Queens resident, live music enthusiast, event curator and supporter of the arts, culture and touring artists, Forest Hill Stadium is a beacon of history, opportunity, and economic value in the borough. There are few things that bring a diverse community together, but music and sports have always been that. Does the frustration of a few out-weigh the community of many? This has and will always be a bone of contention between quality-of-life advocates versus economic and community values. This is a world that offers both, as Forest Hill Stadium abides by the city's outdoor venue curfew when it comes to sound. If the crowd is an issue, perhaps the local police can be more involved or private security can be added to the budget. We know that the patronage of guests attending events at FHS adds economic value to the neighboring communities and maybe for some, allows them to remain in business. Live music is a part of the fabric of NYC and frankly, we live in such a small space, it's important to offer locations for large scale concerts and event experiences. The Queens should be proud to have FHS in the borough.

Anthony Vitale

My name is Anthony Vitale, manager at La Vigna Restaurant on Metropolitan Avenue. I am voicing my support for Forest Hills Stadium concerts throughout the summers. They've been extremely beneficial to local businesses. I look forward to next year's lineup.

Michael Civins

We love the concert series at Forest Hills Tennis Stadium every year. It gives us an opportunity to show friends from elsewhere how great our neighborhood is and there's a real sense of community when we see our neighbors there. I can think of numerous supporters off the top of my head who would be devastated if the shows did not continue. Please keep it going. There are so few venues to see great music nearby after Covid. We're so lucky to still have the Stadium.

Yohav Abraham

I just want to say that I only have positive things to say about Forest Hills Stadium.

Sara Barasch

I wanted to express my family's support for Forest Hills Stadium. My husband and I have attended numerous concerts there over the past few years, and we even brought our elementary school-aged child to 2 concerts: one last summer and one this summer. The stadium was actually one of the reasons we chose to move to Forest Hills in 2019. I work in the music industry, and I can attest that the sound quality is one of the best of any outdoor concert venues I have been to. The sound is not too loud and is extremely clear (not muffled/muddy). There are clearly measures taken to keep the sound in the stadium and not let it bleed out beyond the stadium walls. I imagine this excellent sound quality, combined with the incredible history of great performances there, is what entices top performers to come to the stadium. The lineup is always amazing - every year we say, "I can't believe _____ is coming to OUR neighborhood!!" The stadium clearly draws thousands of people to support local businesses, before and after every show. I have friends and family who have traveled from upstate New York, Connecticut, Long Island, New Jersey, and of course all over NYC to the stadium. They shopped at the local shops on Austin and grabbed drinks/food as well. The stadium itself supports local businesses by having them sell food, etc. inside the stadium: Nick's Bistro, Aigner Chocolates, and more. I know there are neighbors who complain about the stadium/noise, but I truly believe the pros outweigh the cons - especially because the shows end by 11pm and it's seasonal. I could not imagine our neighborhood without the stadium concerts, and it would be detrimental for the community if the stadium could not continue to function fully.

Rachel Kellner – Aigner Chocolates

On behalf of Aigner Chocolates, a local business and myself, as a community member, we can't say enough about what FH Stadium has done and continues to do for the community. We are so fortunate to have them here and look forward to all that is to come from their contribution to enriching this community.

James Cribbins

Reaching out again to express how important the concerts at Forest Hills Stadium are to our community! I am a resident of Forest Hills Gardens - I live on Burns Street - and I am writing because I love the concerts at Forest Hills Stadium and I want to ensure they remain a part of our community! I'm aware that a small minority is lobbying to put an end to the concerts, but it should be known that most of us love them. They make our community unique! They bring in Tons of

business for local store owners! The concerts are part of the fabric of Forest Hills! We attract incredible artists from all over the world and that should not be taken for granted. We should be PROUD of that! The concerts are infrequent and always end by 10PM. That is hardly inconvenient. The concerts are so so so important to the Forest Hills community and to all of New York City.

Marla A. Cornejo - 5 Burro Café

Hi. Just writing in support of the FH Stadium. As the owner of 5 Burro Cafe I appreciate the boost in business that the concerts bring. The neighborhood comes alive on concert days. We've once again become a mark on the map for events. The communication between the staff and local businesses is great and their generosity with free tickets for employees doesn't go unnoticed.

Christina Towne

I am writing to thank you for your support for Forest Hills Stadium and urge you to continue supporting the Stadium in the future. I am a musician and live music lover. I average about 70 shows a year at a wide variety of venues from 200-person clubs to 70,000 person stadiums. I travel to festivals and shows all over the country and occasionally to Europe. Forest Hills Stadium is the best venue I have ever been to. It's an absolute gem. Only the iconic Hollywood Bowl even comes close for me. We are so blessed to have had promoters come to re-vitalize this historic venue. My family is originally from Maspeth, but I love living in Forest Hills, it's a great neighborhood generally...but by far Forest Hills Stadium is the best thing about it. I go out sometimes to frequent our bars and restaurants and other neighborhood businesses. But by far the most money I spend in the area is on show nights. Because even as a resident, if it weren't for Forest Hills Stadium - I would be out in Midtown at Madison Square Garden or Radio City or on the Upper West Side at the Beacon or even at Jones Beach. Since shows really came back to Forest Hills...there's 25 nights a year I can go out, usually with friends from Brooklyn, and keep my entertainment dollar right here at home. And I will go to any Forest Hills show! Pop, rock, punk, Kpop, EDM, jam bands...they are all fantastic! So not only is it bringing money into the neighborhood, but it also keeps people from the neighborhood spending money here at home. I also want to give special thanks to Mike Luba for organizing the amazing neighborhood event this past fall with Bobby Weir and Willie Nelson. Tickets were available for free for people in the neighborhood and I walked down with half a dozen people from my building (including some kids) most of whom had never been to the Stadium before. All my neighborhood friends were there! (I co-run an animal rescue based in Forest Hills and at least a dozen of our foster parents and adopted parents were there too.) It was a lovely time for camaraderie and togetherness. I know the people behind the Stadium also produced Grateful Dead's Fare Thee Well shows - so they are part of the culture for sure. But my first show I ever went to was Grateful Dead in 1988 with my now deceased mom...and she would have LOVED to have been there with us and the kiddos singing and dancing. It was really a fantastic thing to share with a new generation of fans. I recognize there may be some complaints, but rarely (when the weather is muggy and overcast) can you even hear a show taking place outside the stadium and when you can, mitigation is as simple as closing a window. The FHGC is a gated community with very little credibility in the community, particularly after offering to pull their opposition to the Stadium in exchange for millions of dollars. And the few folks outside the Gardens complaining incessantly are mad they must move their cars on show days. Let's not pretend this is about anything but parking. If they lived in the Gardens and had private parking passes...you wouldn't hear a peep from them. But the city doesn't exist to serve private cars. Private cars on Burns Street don't support small businesses, nor do they make Forest Hills a nationally known name in the music touring businesses. Thank you so much for your support for the past seasons and for many seasons to come! Here's to an amazing 101st year!

Shoshanna Segal

I am writing in support of the concerts at the stadium. The music is great, and the added foot traffic on concert nights is a boost to local businesses.

Betty Cheung

I am writing to say that I am a proud supporter of the Forest Hills Stadium. Not only have I enjoyed numerous concerts and events over the years, I believe the stadium provides our neighborhood with an identity. When asked where I live, I tell people that I live across the street from Forest Hills Stadium, then they get an idea of where that is. It certainly ups

the "coolness" factor and the stadium brings additional revenue to our community every year. Please don't listen to the naysayers since they do not speak for me or for the neighborhood!

Liz Kennedy

Forest hills stadium brings so much positivity to our neighborhood. The range of concerts they offer brings a little something for everyone. To lose that from our neighborhood would be a major loss culturally and economically.

Lance Kim

As a resident of Forest Hills who lives close to the stadium, I think the stadium is a positive force for the community. It provides boosts to local businesses, entertainment, and helps keep Forest Hills relevant as a historic center for live events, whether it was tennis or now concerts / food festivals / etc. If anything, I think the Stadium can buy earplugs / noise isolating headphones in bulk and provide them to people around the stadium who request it.

Beth Goldstein

I am writing to show support and enthusiasm for Forest Hills Stadium. As a resident that lives just a few blocks away from the stadium, with a backyard that faces the stadium, I LOVE the stadium and all that it brings to Forest Hills. My family and I (my children included) truly look forward to concert nights. There is always excitement in the air in Forest Hills on those nights and we look forward to walking around the stadium to see the concert goers arriving and to just "feel the vibe" and see our local businesses thriving. The concerts bring life (and commerce) to Forest Hills. People are always jealous when we talk about how close we live to the stadium and how much fun the concerts are, even when we aren't attending the concert. If we were to want anything to change, it is that we would want more concerts and a longer concert season! It is always so disappointing when the last concert rolls around, and we know that we will have to wait months for concerts to start up again.

Hernan Poza

I'm writing to voice my support for the concerts at Forest Hills Stadium.

I have been a resident of the neighborhood for more than 35 years, live several blocks away from the stadium and enjoy and appreciate having the concerts back. My family and I have attended many concerts and look forward to attending more in the future!

Amy Diamond

To the members of the board, I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express my strong support for Forest Hills Stadium and its continued presence in our community. As a long-time resident of Forest Hills, I have witnessed firsthand the rich history and significant value that this iconic venue brings to our neighborhood. Forest Hills Stadium has been an integral part of our community for decades, hosting countless memorable concerts and events that have become an important cultural cornerstone for our residents. Its storied past includes performances by legendary artists like The Beatles, Bob Dylan, and The Rolling Stones, and it continues to attract world-class acts today. Beyond its historical significance, Forest Hills Stadium plays a crucial role in our local economy. The concerts and events held at the stadium bring in visitors from near and far, resulting in a boost for the small businesses along Austin Street and the surrounding areas. These events provide an economic lifeline to our community, supporting local restaurants, shops, and service providers. The revenue generated from ticket sales, merchandise, and concessions not only benefits the stadium but also circulates through our neighborhood, ensuring that our small businesses thrive. Additionally, the increased foot traffic during concert days creates a vibrant and welcoming atmosphere, making Forest Hills a destination for entertainment, dining, and shopping. I believe that preserving Forest Hills Stadium is essential for maintaining the cultural vitality and economic well-being of our community. Its unique blend of history and contemporary entertainment offerings make it an asset that we should continue to cherish and support. I kindly request that the Community Board consider the positive impact of Forest Hills Stadium on our neighborhood and take any necessary steps to ensure its continued operation. It is a cherished part of our community, and its value goes far beyond the walls of the stadium itself. Thank you for your attention to this matter, and for your dedication to maintaining the vibrancy of Forest Hills.

Eric Connelly

I would like to share my support for the Forest Hills Stadium. I live just a block away from it and consider it a huge benefit to living in this neighborhood. I have two small kids and we love to sit outside during the summer concerts and listen to live music. I hope we can continue to have this great opportunity in our backyard for many more years.

Catherine Jarrat Koatz

I would like to add my name to supportive voices for the Forest Hills Tennis Stadium. As Forest Hills resident since 1989, my friends and I are always talking about what a great addition this has been to our beloved community. We are proud of Forest Hills, and we love showing it off, and hearing comments like, "I had no idea this place existed!" from Manhattan residents. I attended a concert there in the early 1980s and was so happy when concerts came back. We've been to SO MANY since they started. I hope that noise concerns can be addressed and that the concerts can continue. If the concerts were to stop, it would have harsh impacts on our local businesses.

Forest Hills Station House

The stadium has an extremely positive impact on the economic environment in Forest Hill's. If you want business to continue coming here and you want a vibrant community. The people against the stadium should back down. You want to drive business away and not encourage new business, I guess they can keep complaining.

Great for parking garages, restaurants, MTA, all small businesses, and shops it keeps Forest Hill's on the map!! Brings people into the neighborhood not just from the Borough's, but upstate New York, New Jersey, Long Island, even people from all over the Globe depending on who's playing. Diverse crowds, all backgrounds exactly what Queens is.

Garvin Mui

As a resident of Forest Hills, I would like to express my support for the continued operation of the West Side Tennis Club stadium and their well-run concerts and events. Overall, the events have been well managed and bring diversity and customers to the local businesses of Forest Hills.

Keith King

Hi, since there has been a lot of negative talk surrounding Forest Hills Stadium, I'd like to share a positive story. Before attending a show at the stadium, I had never visited Forest Hills nor had it on my radar to check out. Upon arriving for my show, I fell in love with the neighborhood. Dirty Piere's has become my favorite restaurant and I absolutely love walking down Austin Street. I enjoyed my concert experience and the neighborhood so much that when my lease was up I moved here in 2021 and have loved being a part of the community ever since! While some may not like that their hidden gem of Forest Hills is being discovered I welcome it! Whether we're sharing our neighborhood for a night or even if it opens an outsider's mind like it did mine and inspires them to move here or frequently visit, I feel it is both an honor and a privilege. The best thing about New York is the many different neighborhoods and the cultures within those neighborhoods that make it great, and Forest Hills Stadium is a huge part of that culture and I'd absolutely hate to lose it!

Howard Klein

Is a jewel in this community! Bring entertainment, culture, art and so much more, helping local businesses and increasing home values in the neighborhood. We should do everything in our power to continue the great work by the managers of this great institution.

Arlene Chernenko

I am writing to your Board to voice support for the concerts being held at Forest Hills Stadium. As a resident of 6 Burns Street, our co-op is a half block away from the Stadium. While concert days may pose some inconvenience for our residents in terms of restricted parking, package/grocery deliveries, etc., I believe the positive aspects outweigh the inconvenience. The concerts help promote both Forest Hills and Forest Hills Gardens to thousands who would never come to our neighborhood otherwise. And the additional crowds increase business activity for our local merchants. While noise has been a factor, the concert promoters have already spent a good deal of money to mitigate the noise. And I understand that DEP is working with them to further help mitigate the noise emanating from the stadium.

Grace Galicia Lee

I live at 4 Dartmouth Street, and a half block away from Forest Hills Stadium. The concerts and events have made our community more vibrant. Forest Hills Stadium has a rich history and what better way to preserve this than holding concerts and events there?

Sebastian Lyner and family

My family and I live on Clyde Street a block from Forest Hills Stadium and all four of us are huge supporters of the events and all it brings to the neighborhood. I'm aware that a vocal minority are flooding the board, press, and community meetings with complaints, and indeed people who have an axe to grind are far more likely to comment than a satisfied and happy resident. I wanted to write to confirm that there are a significant number of supporters of the events at the stadium – all the neighbors I know love the events (we're a tight-knit community, so I know a lot of people). The benefits to the local businesses, the easy access to amazing events for residents, the positive publicity for the area, the music itself (when not attending), and the family picnics and children playing on the close streets (Burns), far outweigh the fact that 10pm-10:30pm is 'Uber central' on Clyde St and parking in the afternoon is scarcer. The concerts ending at 10pm means that my kids have never inconvenienced by the noise – from birth to the age of 8, my daughter, who sleeps in the front room, never had a problem (and she is a light sleeper).

Rachel Schwartz

I am writing to keep the stellar 2022 & 2023 concert series at Forest Hills Stadium continuing well into 2024 and beyond! Forest Hills Stadium is one of the last venues that is safe for fans of all ages to camp out on the day of the show. The stadium has done a fantastic job of booking diverse acts for the season ranging from Rock The Bells for Hip Hop, Head in The Clouds festival for the Asian-American community, Lane 8/Fred Again for EDM fans, Zach Bryan for Country Fans, and Duran Duran for older rock fans. Considering the stadium has been in Forest Hills for 100 years it is great to see that the venue is able to continue generating revenue for the surrounding neighborhood instead of shuddering its doors. If we were to shut this venue down, we're effectively sacrificing thousands to millions in revenue that goes to new businesses such as Forest Cafe, as well as existing businesses such as Mr. Vino & Forest Hills Station House. If we were to stop holding these concerts what is the plan to continue generating this consistent seasonal revenue? Additionally, what would the plans be for this venue if concerts were no longer allowed to be held at Forest Hills Stadium? I urge you to not let a vocal minority curtail what has been an incredible return to form for Forest Hills Stadium. This stadium has been the best way to show friends & family the beauty of Forest Hills, while simultaneously allowing attendees at the show the ability to forget about the pressures of the outside world, if only for a couple of hours. Please keep this in mind when deciding on the future of Forest Hills Stadium!

Alex Sanders

I hope this email finds you in good health and spirits! I heard that there were a few people voicing their desire to shut down Forest Hills Stadium concerts and I would like to express my strong feelings of opposition to such an action. Forest Hills Stadium has been a staple of the community since it used to be the home of the US Open and it now stands as a beautiful venue for art and music that is unlike any other in NYC. The venue's richness in history brings music lovers from all over and shows them that Forest Hills is a vibrant community hub with so much to offer to both locals and visitors alike. The spike in business is essential to the community and assures us that Forest Hills will remain a core neighborhood of the larger metropolitan community for years to come. I understand the concerns of some of the locals, but I must say that the initiative to end shows promptly has proven very effective and feels like an incredible compromise that is not normally afforded between those with differing ideas of how a neighborhood or community should function. Going to a concert there is unlike anything else in the city. With its original architecture, it's balance of intimacy and vastness, and its community food and service providers, it welcomes a diverse community to an unexpected experience that leaves them wanting more. And as we all know, diversifying communities is the path to success and growth. I would hate to see this gem of a venue be shut down simply because it slightly inconveniences a few neighbors. The number of people this space helps and supports is far larger than the number of people who it creates dissonance for. Thank you for your time and I hope my expression of support, along with the many others that I know share my feelings, will encourage you to continue to build this venue up rather than tear it down.

Adam Haas

I am writing to keep the stellar 2022 & 2023 concert series at Forest Hills Stadium continuing well into 2024 and

beyond! Forest Hills Stadium is one of the last venues that is safe for fans of all ages to camp out on the day of the show. The stadium has done a fantastic job of booking diverse acts for the season ranging from Rock The Bells for Hip Hop, Head in The Clouds festival for the Asian-American community, Lane 8/Fred Again for EDM fans, Zach Bryan for Country Fans, and Duran Duran for older rock fans. Considering the stadium has been in Forest Hills for 100 years it is great to see that the venue is able to continue generating revenue for the surrounding neighborhood instead of shuddering its doors. If we were to shut this venue down, we're effectively sacrificing thousands to millions in revenue that goes to new businesses such as Forest Cafe, as well as existing businesses such as Mr. Vino & Forest Hills Station House. If we were to stop holding these concerts what is the plan to continue generating this consistent seasonal revenue? Additionally, what would the plans be for this venue if concerts were no longer allowed to be held at Forest Hills Stadium? I urge you to not let a vocal minority curtail what has been an incredible return to form for Forest Hills Stadium. This stadium has been the best way to show friends & family the beauty of Forest Hills, while simultaneously allowing attendees at the show the ability to forget about the pressures of the outside world, if only for a couple of hours. Please keep this in mind when deciding on the future of Forest Hills Stadium!

Amanda Broomer

I understand a review is to take place regarding the concerts held at the Forest Hills Stadium. I am a local resident and believe the Stadium and its current use is valuable to the neighborhood. In a 365-day calendar year, the events amount to less than 10% of the annual time frame. The promoters have aggressively tackled many of the noise issues and reduced the performance end times. The concerts provide income for Austin Street businesses, and seasonal work opportunities for many of our seniors and students. Please consider their continuance.

Daniel Eghdami

I am writing to keep the stellar 2022 & 2023 concert series at Forest Hills Stadium continuing well into 2024 and beyond! Forest Hills Stadium is one of the last venues that is safe for fans of all ages to camp out on the day of the show. The stadium has done a fantastic job of booking diverse acts for the season ranging from Rock The Bells for Hip Hop, Head in The Clouds festival for the Asian-American community, Lane 8/Fred Again for EDM fans, Zach Bryan for Country Fans, and Duran Duran for older rock fans. Considering the stadium has been in Forest Hills for 100 years it is great to see that the venue is able to continue generating revenue for the surrounding neighborhood instead of shuddering its doors. If we were to shut this venue down, we're effectively sacrificing thousands to millions in revenue that will go to new businesses such as Forest Cafe, as well as existing businesses such as Mr. Vino & Forest Hills Station House. If we were to stop holding these concerts what is the plan to continue generating this consistent seasonal revenue? Additionally, what would the plans be for this venue if concerts were no longer allowed to be held at Forest Hills Stadium? I urge you to not let a vocal minority curtail what has been an incredible return to form for Forest Hills Stadium. This stadium has been the best way to show friends & family the beauty of Forest Hills, while simultaneously allowing attendees at the show the ability to forget about the pressures of the outside world, if only for a couple of hours. Please keep this in mind when deciding on the future of Forest Hills Stadium! Thank you for your time and attention, we appreciate it and the chance to advocate for the things that make Forest Hills special in our lives.

Andrew Cunningham

I'm writing as I moved to 68-29 Burns St, Forest Hills on March 15th 2020 from my hometown of Wantagh, NY. After having to wait over a year to enjoy Forest Hills Stadium concerts due to COVID I have been incredibly impressed with how the 2022 & 2023 concert series have been. Living next to the stadium has been the best reason to move to this new neighborhood. While I attended 10 shows this year at the stadium, for the shows that I wasn't able to get a ticket for, they were over by 11PM latest. Every time there is a show the street becomes a block party for me and my neighbors. Seeing my younger neighbors drawing with chalk on the sidewalk, while their parents get to enjoy some time outside as I would head to shows has been a wonderful & unexpected benefit. Additionally, as a lifelong music fan at 32 years old it is great to see Forest Hills Stadium as one of the last venues that is safe for fans of all ages to camp out on the day of the show. The stadium has done a fantastic job of booking diverse acts for the season ranging from Rock The Bells for Hip Hop, Head in The Clouds festival for the Asian-American community, Lane 8/Fred Again for EDM fans, Zach Bryan for Country Fans, and Duran Duran for older rock fans. Considering the stadium has been in Forest Hills for 100 years it is great to see that the venue is able to continue generating revenue for the surrounding neighborhood instead of shuddering its doors. If we were to shut this venue down, we're effectively sacrificing thousands to millions in revenue that goes to new businesses such as Forest Cafe, as well as existing businesses such as Mr. Vino & Forest Hills Station House. If we

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Suzanne Cribbins

We've been very distressed to hear the small group of FH residents complaining about Forest Hills Stadium this year, when it is a beloved venue that is TREASURED by most of the FH community. We truly think it is one of the most wonderful things about the community. Beyond that, it is a unique and special musical venue loved by artists from all over the world and enjoyed by people throughout NYC, Long Island, and NJ. The concerts are only a handful of days throughout the year, and end by 10 pm or so. It would be a tragedy if a small number of noisy contrarians ruined this cultural gem for everyone. Thank you for reading this and please keep the stadium as is!

James Cribbins

I am a resident of Forest Hills Gardens - I live on Burns Street - and I am writing because I love the concerts at Forest Hills Stadium, and I want to ensure they remain a part of our community! I'm aware that a small minority is lobbying to put an end to the concerts, but it should be known that most of us love them. They make our community unique! They bring in Tons of business for local store owners! The concerts are part of the fabric of Forest Hills! We attract incredible artists from all over the world and that should not be taken for granted. We should be PROUD of that! The concerts are infrequent and always end by 10PM. That is hardly inconvenient. The concerts are so important to the Forest Hills community and to all of New York City.

Claire Rosenzweig

No all-day events (like the 10-hour-long Rock The Bells festival) No events on religious holidays or school nights. (There were concerts on Rosh Hashanah this year.) Independent monitoring of noise levels in people's homes -- especially bass and low frequency bands -- to make sure the noise code is followed and people's homes do not shake. This should be for all concerts, with real consequences if there are violations. Limit the total number of concerts. (30 is way too much.) Address on-going problems with traffic, parking, and trash on the streets near the stadium. Limit the length and noise level of sound checks End all shows at 10 pm, Ban fireworks. Treat residents (and organizations like Concerned Citizens of Forest Hills) as stakeholders. If the DEP or the stadium has some plan for noise mitigation next year, let us and the Community Board see it. Give us a seat at the table. Be transparent with the data.

Carol Paplin

I live in Forest Hills, just 3 blocks from the Stadium in question - I love the Stadium and LOVE THE CONCERTS - and I VOTE FOR KEEPING THE CONCERT SERIES OPEN EVERY YEAR - as it brings lots of activity into our neighborhood and fills the local stores with patrons. The Restaurants are active and lots of other stores can make money. It's a world-renowned stadium and has had concerts since the late 50's? or early 60's. People who have bought houses in the vicinity and now complain about noise should have done their research, about his well know venue, and perhaps not purchased on the block next to the Stadium. Living 3 blocks away I do at times 'hear' music but am so happy that the Stadium is used and that we can increase revenue for our local shops.

Patti Burns

The stadium has just been voted one of the top ten outdoor venues in the country. When traveling to other states, people have commented on what a great space it is. The stadium highlights our neighborhood and brings many dollars to local businesses. I don't think that having music till 10:30 pm is such a hardship. There were concerts in the 60's and the tennis open was played at the stadium for years. I don't recall anyone complaining then, and all the "disruptions" that existed then as well. The stadium is a huge asset to this community.

Stacy Smith

I have lived in FH for over 15 years, and I am a huge supporter of the stadium and attend multiple events there every year. Starting with its history as the US Open site and the venue for legendary concerts, it has brought joy and

entertainment to residents and visitors alike over the years. I ask that you consider the stadium's amazingly rich history, as well as its history that is yet to be written. I look forward to attending events there in the years to come!

Bethany Thomas

Forest Hills Stadium is an integral part of our local community now as well as a large part of the history of Forest Hills. Having the stadium active as a current venue that hosts a multitude of concerts, shows and events is something that has added culture to not only those who live here, but also Queens as a whole. People coming from Manhattan or Long Island who come to shows help put our local chefs and boutiques on the map as well. Every show I have gone to has been wonderful. From the food and beverages to just knowing that when I walk in the gates, I am sure to see my neighbors makes it more enjoyable. Please support the stadium and make decisions that will continue to showcase the amazing talent that comes by entertaining us for years to come.

Jonathan Kawka

There has been a lot of controversy surrounding the stadium in recent months. I live practically next door to it. The concerts should remain. I have never once been disturbed by the music volume. Not once. Does losing parking a few blocks get annoying? Sure. But the benefits of having an outdoor space where friends and families can hang out on Burns Street far outweighs it. I have never seen people act rowdy or urinate in public the way people would at Philadelphia's Piazza venue. The stadium immediately clears up any litter and by the next day it is as though nothing has happened. I do not own a restaurant or food truck here, but I cannot imagine that their business would get worse on concert day. Please keep the stadium as a concert space. Thank you very much.

Betty Chen

I read on a Facebook group that people are being asked to send comments in support of the Forest Hills Stadium to counter the "minority" of those against the stadium concerts. As a homeowner for over 30 years, living five blocks away, I didn't have any issues with the rare concert being held at the stadium. However, the last two years have been awful when the "music" would be so loud and unpleasant — especially the bass beats — even with my windows shut. In addition, the loud explosions are terrifying for our dog. I do appreciate it when the concerts end at 10. If the stadium could do more to lower the volume and limit the total number of concerts, then it may be acceptable again. Until then, our family is not in support of the stadium hosting concerts.

Victoria Klinger

I will be attending your next meeting on Wednesday Nov. 6th virtually. Although it is not on your agenda, I am hoping that you will bring up the subject of concerts at the Forest Hills Stadium. I know there have been many requests on both sides of the argument. I have lived in Forest Hills for over 60 years. I attended the earliest concerts during the 60's and 70's. I continue to attend concerts when there is an artist who appeals to my era. Many of the artists appearing now do not personally appeal to my musical tastes. However, I feel that this venue is extremely important to the entire neighborhood and to all people who enjoy music and travel hear for that purpose. I live not far from the venue and many nights do hear music in my apartment. It may not be my music, but I am not offended by the sounds. The concerts start early enough and end at a reasonable hour. I do not understand the reasons that people protest this venue. The next day, the streets were clean. I know that concert goers cannot randomly walk through private streets in the Gardens. I do not comprehend what all the fuss is about. The concerts are not year-round, and most are at the weekends. People buying homes should be aware of the venue prior to purchasing a home. The concerts bring good business into the neighborhood as well as a pair of culture. This is our history, proud longtime residents of Forest Hills. Please do not allow a few complainers to end this tradition. Compromise can be reached. The Stadium has installed noise hampering equipment and may be able to assist with more noise abatement or a more limited season. There is no reason to stop the concerts all together. I do hope this comes up for discussion this month or in future months and the venerable hundred-year-old stadium remains the fabulous concert venue it is attracting top artists who appeal to many generations.

Nancy Nisselbaum

I am writing as a resident of Forest Hills who loves being able to walk to a beautiful outdoor venue and then walk home afterward. Forest Hills Stadium brings much needed commerce to the neighborhood. It brings people together, creating community and socialization. A small faction of entitled neighbors is trying to shut down the Stadium rather than working with organizers. Sure, I hear the music from my apartment. I also hear firecrackers that went off tonight and drag racing

down Queens Blvd. I urge you to keep Forest Hills Stadium thriving as an excellent member of the Forest Hills community.

Diana Kashunsky

I am submitting my position on the stadium among the pros and cons. Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion. Although there are plenty of pros for the stadium, I feel the promoters have not abided by the original agreement and have expanded their privileges beyond the original agreement with no consequences for the financial gain. The number of concerts is ridiculous - the season which was a summer activity expanded into October with a 3-night concert that vibrated throughout the neighborhood. Concerts that go for many, many hours vs. in the beginning for a couple of hours (all day rap concerts, concerts that begin at 4 pm and go to 10) impose noise, crowds and generally impose on nearby residents. Concerts that are so loud that although I am several blocks away, I still feel the bass vibration for many hours. DJs on microphones with speakers that reverberate throughout the entire area. Concert goers that aren't respectful of the neighborhood and residents. The promoters should address the noise, soundproofing, number of concerts, etc. and address the community issues to go forward into a new season. Thanks for taking this into consideration.

Howard Kramer

The sound is unbearable in my apartment in Gerard Towers. There should not be so many concerts and the volume needs to be lowered. Thank you.

Chair Heather Beers-Dimitriadis told the residents their comments will be published on our website once they are adopted by this board in thirty days. The board should receive them about two weeks prior to our meeting to consider at that time.

Chair Heather Beers-Dimitriadis closed the public comments. She welcomed the public to stay and listen to the rest of the meeting.

Assemblymember Sam Berger

The Assembly Member represents a small portion of Forest Hills in Community Board 6. The Assemblyman had handouts of the area that he represents. The Assemblyman told our residents, even though it is a small area (of our district) he represents you. Please, come to his office, call or reach out to him. His office is located at 159-06 71st Avenue, Flushing, NY 11365, 718-969-1508 and e-mail: bergerS@nyassembly.gov. His office is holding a toy, toiletries, and non-perishable food drive for multiple not-for-profit and community organizations such as NYC City Harvest and Vietnam Veterans of America. The donations can be dropped off at his District Office 159-06 71st Avenue, Flushing.

MINUTES

Board Member Ephraim Zakry, also speaking on behalf of Howard Pollack, brought up an excused absence from a community board meeting, regarding appearing on board related business the same time as a regular monthly community board meeting. His question was if an elected official sends them to a meeting as an ex-official board member would that be considered as an absence? Chair Beers-Dimitriadis replied with “the meeting you attended last month, did not come to the board, that request came to you personally you were not there for-board business”. You were there representing something that you are a leader of, not representing the board. It isn't board business. It is not an excused absence. Chairs John Dereszewski and Peter Beadle explained what is in the community board by-laws regarding excused absences. On-line are the by-laws, excused absences, and extraordinary circumstances for any board member to reference.

CB6 Minutes from the October 11, 2023, meeting was approved as written with one change. CB 6 Member Herb Schonhaut suggested the following change on page 12 in the October 11th minutes regarding “outside Borough Hall there is no lighting which makes it dangerous to trip over the cobblestones when leaving the meeting” would like to change it to outside Borough Hall there is no lighting which makes it dangerous when walking which can cause one to trip. Howard Birnbaum made a motion to approve the minutes as written with the above correction, and it was seconded by Shari Rolnick. All were in favor.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Heather Beers-Dimitriadis began by saying that the board understands the shift from meeting on WebEx to in person has been a challenge for board members traveling for business that conflict with committee meetings. The Chair has spoken with the General Counsel at Borough Hall to amend the open meeting law. The General Counsel is aware of the situation and the Borough President is looking to advocate to make some amendments. As of right now the law is written that board members must be present and or on WebEx for board meetings to be marked present.

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis reported that DSS will open an adult male shelter at 61-18 93rd Street, current home of the Wyndham Hotel. It will open in March 2024. The board has been speaking with DSS to give a presentation regarding this men's shelter due to the community's concerns. The community board will send out an agenda as soon as a meeting is set up.

The Chair also spoke about the December 6 meeting, nominations will be open, and elections will be held at January's meeting. The by-laws have a list and explanation of each executive position and what it entails for that position.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

The District Manager Gulluscio spoke about the Forest Hills Stadium being in litigation and the community board cannot comment on it. The elected officials, the West Side Tennis Stadium and Forest Hills Corporation need to resolve the matter.

Board Member Michael Arcati - why don't we remind people that we can't comment, it is the same topic from ten to twelve people, can we limit the number of people speaking on the same topic at the same meeting? It is exhausting, we are an hour and a half into the meeting.

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis - that is why we are not reading any public comment. Will continue to improve time at Community Board meetings as noted, while trying to balance free speech.

Board Member Martha Tucker - stated that residents don't realize that the board members live in the neighborhood and are not affected by the Forest Hills Stadium. She feels the concerts are not a problem for her, feels secure walking through the neighborhood with all the police present at the concerts.

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis – I can't speak to what they think about who we are but will keep working with District Manager Gulluscio and Executive Committee on how to improve the time at Community Board meetings. The chair gave instructions to the public speakers to be respectful and that was misunderstood, which has also been part of the problem.

Board Member Latrice Davis – that was not a misunderstanding, it just went out the window. What is the plan for next year? How many concerts are there going to be held?

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis – none of that will be known, until after litigation is settled. If you follow Forest Hills Stadium on Twitter that is how I find out about concerts. Everything is under litigation; we must be careful. We have communicated on Facebook, Twitter, and have responded personally to people explaining that Forest Hills Stadium isn't on the agenda.

Board Member Hedi Chain – agreed with the other board members about the public speaker's speaking about the same topic. She asked if there is a presentation about a topic at the Community Board 6 meetings can we just get written public speaking? We will publish it; we will send it to every board member.

Board Member Peter Beadle – no, it is a public speaking right and a first amendment right. I understand everyone's frustration, it is the undertaking of being a community board member. There is some point where the chair has discretion how many people are for and how many people are against it. That might be one way to do it, as a rule we can't stop people from coming in and speaking.

Board Member Hedi Chain – I think this is going to need to be addressed, at some point there will be a topic where there will be many people for or against that topic.

Board Member Keith Engel – we must let them speak no matter how many people show up. On the Land Use Committee sometimes there are thirty people waiting to speak.

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis – we have several repeat public speakers, maybe we can say to them we need to make room for people to come and speak, unless you have something new. We need to make room, to encourage new people to come back. Can you come next month? That could be something we could explore.

Board Member Jean Silva – can we cut back the time from three minutes to one minute?

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis – if there are more than twenty-five speakers, we cut it back to two minutes. If you don't live in the district you don't get as much time as someone who lives in the district.

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis entertained two motions that were recommended at the October 11th meeting to be tabled for this month's meeting. The motion was put forward by Pat Morgan once a year at the new member meeting by the late chair Joseph Hennessy will be read "you have one responsibility not to yourself but to the community when you vote, make sure you vote for your community it is a commitment that you made to the city" and was seconded. Salua Baida made a motion to accept and was seconded by Jean Silva. All were in favor.

The second motion relocating Good and Welfare on the agenda was entertained by Pat Morgan and was second. Some discussion took place and was decided to table this matter for the December 6 Community Board meeting. Pat Morgan made a motion and was seconded by Effie Zakry.

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis reminded the community board members the Consumer Affairs/Economic Development/Small Business Committee Report along with a cannabis retail dispensary license application will be presented tonight. The board will not be approving a vote to approve cannabis retail dispensary license application. The board will vote to approve the recommendation of the committee after chair Gladys Sandoval gives a presentation and the owners of the cannabis dispensary make a presentation.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT

Cannabis Dispensary Retail License

Gladys Sandoval Co-Chair reported that on October 19th the Consumer Affairs/Economic Development/Small Business Committee meet with the owner of MAD NY 1 LLC who are interested in opening a retail cannabis dispensary located at 108-18 72nd Avenue, Forest Hills, with business partners Ari Jubes, David Benlolo and Micheal Pagan. The applicants filled out in advance a questionnaire: day to day operations, security strategy, and the impact on our community. Some concerns were raised at the October 19th meeting and need to be answered at the Community Board November 8th meeting. The two questions are: will the dispensary adhere to the business plan and is the dispensary close to a learning center.

MADD NY 1 LLC presented at the Community Board 6 November 8th meeting. The presenters were Ari Jubes, David Benlolo (who was on WebEx) and Micheal Pagan. Some questions from the community board were asked and answered. Chair Beers-Dimitriadis will make sure that the community board members will get the questionnaire and the YouTube meeting before the community board meeting, a lot of the questions that were asked were on the questionnaire and answered. The Consumer Affairs/Economic Development/Small Business Committee is improving on the questionnaire for the retail cannabis dispensary applicants. Next month's Community Board meeting on December 8th will have three applicants. Board members will receive the questionnaire along with the applicant's answers and the YouTube video. Board member John Dereszewski made a motion to approve the position that was taken by most of the committee members at its meeting and was second by board member Kandra Clark. A roll call vote was called nineteen were in favor of and seventeen were opposed. The recommendation carries.

A point of order by board member Bruce Grossberg can you repeat; what we are approving, what the recommendation does and why the community board is in the process at all?

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis – we are given notice of intention from every applicant and are asked by the applicant a letter of support. The committee made a recommendation to write a letter of support for this business that is opening in this community.

Board Member Bruce Grossberg – who is the letter going to?

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis – New York State Office of Cannabis. Some questions were asked by the board members and answered.

New Liquor License Applications

Co-Chair Gladys Sandoval reported that CB6 received the following new applications.

1. T Bone Diner & Deli Inc. 107-48 Queens Blvd., FH
It is a diner/restaurant with a full kitchen. The location was previously operated as the T Bone Diner and closed around February of 2022. The principal of the applicant owns Jade Eatery at 1 Station Square, Forest Hills and is also opening a restaurant at 758 South Broadway, Hicksville.
2. Kyuramen 108-50 Queens Blvd, FH
It is a Japanese cuisine restaurant. Owners have experience operating a restaurant named Boil Shack Seafood in TN. At the same time, he owns a gas station business in Astoria, NY. It is a full menu restaurant. alcohol is going to be less than 5% of sales. no dancing, no DJ, we are applying for a beer and wine license just for customers and neighbor needed while they have their dinner.
3. Paul G. Enterprises LLC 108-23 Ascan Avenue, FH
Food service establishment. (Cafe/restaurant). The applicant is currently operating a restaurant next to the location of interest. The name of the restaurant is "White Radish" and there is another restaurant at 107-02 70th Rd, Forest Hills, called "Aged". This restaurant has been operating since 2014. The owner is expanding the food service establishment to introduce different types of food that can be introduced to the neighborhood.
4. The Aged Bistro 107-02 70th Road, FH
The owner is changing the corporation's name and the name of the restaurant. Everything will remain the same as before. The method of operation of the restaurant will remain the same as prior, where the same owner will be operating as it was before. The same cuisine will be served to the community.

CB 6 received the following renewal applications:

1. Agora Taverna 70-09 Austin Street, FH
2. Manor Oktoberfest Forest Hills 73-11 Yellowstone Blvd, FH
3. Tandoor & Company 95-24 Queens Blvd. RP

The 112th Precinct has no issues with these establishments. The motion passed unanimously on voice vote.

HEALTH/MENTAL HEALTH/SUBSTANCE ABUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

Kandra Clark, Co-Chair reported the following:

A presentation was given to the Health/Mental Health/Substance Abuse committee by St. Xavier Home Care Service, those present from St. Xavier were Alfred Mitchell, Amit Malla and Alex Syed. Their facility is an opioid treatment program, who work with people that have a traumatic brain injury. They are applying for an OASIS (Office of Addiction Services and Support) license to provide opioid treatment at 68-12 Yellowstone Blvd, Suite AA, Forest Hills for current clients and to expand services. They have been there for twelve years and have another location at 110-11 Queens Boulevard. Both buildings were notified that St. Xavier is applying for an OASIS application, so they can expand group services. It is not going to be a walk-in clinic, by appointment only. Their clients are children and adults. They are

required to get a letter of support from the community board or have a conversation with their community board. The community board's letter of support will not determine if St. Xavier Home Care will get this license or not. The committee took a vote and was in favor of their support. The presenters Alfred Mitchell and Amit Malla on WebEx, Alex Syed were there to answer questions from the community board members. Board Member Mark Laster made a motion to approve the OASIS license for St. Xavier Home Care and was seconded by Board Member Brently Winstead. The motion passed unanimously on voice vote.

TRANSPORTATION, PUBLIC TRANSIT, STREET SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Peter Beadle reported the following:

On October 26, 2023, the committee met to discuss the intersection daylighting resolution, a copy of this resolution was included in the e-mailed to all board members in the Friday flyers. Daylighting is the concept of making sure corners are cleared so that drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians can all see each other approaching the intersection. Most crashes happen at intersections. We have had six fatalities in this community in the last five years and hundreds of injuries. Other community boards were acting on this resolution to the city because the Vehicle Traffic State Law Section 1202 states that you cannot park within twenty feet of an intersection for this reason to daylight. In New York City the Department of Transportation has ruled to exempt the city from State Law VTL1202 meaning that you can park all the way up to the intersection. You can't park at a crosswalk. This creates an obstruction of the views of each other in a business industrial heavy city. Queens Community Board 1, Brooklyn Community Board 6 have already passed resolutions calling for the DOT to remove this exemption and to have the city follow State Law VTL1202. The committee used their resolution as a template with further discussion. The committee had a straw vote, the resolution was passed unanimously and is being brought to the full board. The four planks to the resolution: 1) DOT amends its own rules so we can follow State Law VTL1202; 2) DOT would make it illegal to park within twenty feet of an intersection and to physically secure the intersections i.e., extending the curb out with concrete; 3) the committee added to the resolution that DOT would meet with the community board office and board members about other intersections that could be included; 4) the committee would call upon city representatives to support Councilwoman Julie Menin's bill to be put into law throughout the city. The committee's vote was unanimous to support the intersection daylighting resolution. Board member Peter Beadle made a motion to move that the full board approve this resolution and was seconded by John Dereszewski. A voice vote was passed with the abstention of Shari Rolnick. Questions were asked and answered by the Chair Peter Beadle.

GOOD & WELFARE

CB 6 MEMBERS:

Michael Arcati announced the following:

- Saturday, November 11th is Veterans Day. American Legion and Community Board 6 is holding a Veterans Day breakfast at the West Side Tennis Club from 9am to 10:30am
- Veterans Day Parade Sunday, November 12 at 12pm
- American Legion Post is having a meal for the needy on Thanksgiving Day 1pm-3pm

Heidi Chain (Chair Beers-Dimitriadis) announced the following:

- November 15th is the 112nd Council meeting.

Mark Laster announced the following:

- Breaking Bread Building Bonds thirty-five people came together with very positive feedback.
- Central Queens Against Hate on December 12th will organize a virtual how to meditate techniques.
- January 21, 2024, at 2pm is the next Breaking Bread Building Bonds
- Tree Pit Cleaning – Forest Hills Green Team and Metro Village organized a tree pit cleaning along Metropolitan Avenue. Several teenagers along with Rachel Aigner, Assemblyman Hevesi and Senator Joseph Addabbo helped with the cleanup.
- Beautification of Yellowstone Park - Forest Hills Green Team in conjunction with Earth Citizens Club did a clean up at Yellowstone Park and children painted bird houses. The bench painting has been postponed to Sunday, November 19th due to rain.

ELECTED OFFICIALS / AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES:

QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT DONOVAN RICHARDS

Amparito Rosero announced the following:

- High School Selection and Awareness Fair, Thursday, November 9 from 5:30pm to 8:30pm at Queens Borough Hall. Representatives from dozens of high schools from across Queens will be on hand. For a full list of participating schools, go to www.queensbp.org/education
- Transgender Day of Remembrance Ceremony, Tuesday, November 21 at 6pm at Queens Borough Hall
- Our office will be hosting a tree lighting ceremony at Queens Borough Hall in December. The details will be communicated to the board in the upcoming weeks. People can RSVP to our events by going to www.queensbp.org/rsvp
- Community board applications will be live on our website at the beginning of the year. Our Director of Community Board's has reached out to each community board to receive their attendance records from January until the month of October. If your attendance has been poor, you will receive an email from our director with a chance to explain your absences before your reappointments. More information regarding our application will be communicated to the board in the coming months. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to our Director, Kahleel Bragg at kbragg@queensbp.org or (718)-286-2974.
- Queens Tech + Innovation Challenge - BP Richards has teamed up with the Queens Economic Development Corporation to re-launch the Queens Tech + Innovation Challenge for a second-straight year. The Queens Tech + Innovation Challenge is a multi-month competition for Queens-based entrepreneurs in search of funding. The initiative includes entrepreneurial classes, one-on-one mentorship opportunities and networking events to help applicants develop their pitches, which will be heard by a panel of judges next spring. Five winning start-ups will each receive \$20,000 in seed funding. The application is open until March 1, 2024. To apply, go to queensstartup.org.

CONGRESS MEMBER GRACE MENG

Jordan Goldes announced:

- The Congresswoman introduced a bill helping female entrepreneurs across the country.
- Legislative seeking for a stamp of Lewis Latimer he was a pioneer inventor living in Queens in the 1900's, he invented the incandescent light bulb and the telephone.
- Legislation that would prohibit certain types of body armor from being purchased by the public.
- During the pandemic the congresswoman helped secure \$7.1 billion to increase internet access in public schools, school buses and libraries. Is continuing to seek more funding so the programs continue.
- Rego Park Post Office update on the postal vehicles parking in the bike lanes on Queens Blvd. in front of the building. That has stopped, the postal trucks are parking in no stand zones and in front of fire hydrants around the corner on Elliot Avenue working to arrest that as well.
- Happy Veterans Day

SENATOR JOSEPH ADDABBO

Sean McCabe announced:

- Coat Drive started October 23 drop off you gently used coats at 66-85 73rd Place, Middle Village Office or 84-16 Jamaica Avenue, Woodhaven from 9-5pm
- Job fair at Resorts World Casino Friday, November 17th, 10am – 1pm
- The Senator is working with OCM (Office of Management Cannabis) and Sheriff's office to combat the illegal pot shops. If you see any illegal pot shops call the office at 718-738-1111.

NEW YORK CITY COMPTROLLER BRAD LANDER

James Mongeluzo announced:

- The Comptroller released the 2023 fiscal year annual report. The report is on the Comptroller's website to view <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/newsroom/nyc-comptrollers-office-releases-fiscal-year-2023-annual-comprehensive->

[financial-report/](#). The economy continues to surpass expectations of recovery from the economic challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Rehab Program Curb Reckless Driving, there are about 5,000 drivers that go through the red light and speed through school zones that are caught on the camera. The program would hold reckless drivers accountable. DOT would be partially part of the program. If anyone is interested in reading the report, <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/newsroom/re-up-program-to-curb-reckless-driving-comptroller-lander-recommends-in-new-policy-study/>.
- Court case with Charan Electrical the company defrauded New York City, is ordered to pay \$200,000 in violations in back-wages, benefits, interest, and civil penalties and barring both the company and owner from bidding for City contracts for five years after a judge found Charan Electrical guilty of multiple labor violations.
- If you have any comptroller issues: filing a claim, thoughts about contracts that might registered, ideas about audits my phone number is 646-689-6509.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Maria Concolino
Community Service Aide

CB 6 VOTING SHEET 11-8-23	QUOTE FROM JOE HENNESSY	CANNABIS DISPENSARY 108-18 72 AVE	NEW LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS
MICHAEL ARCATI		N	
DAVID ARONOV		N	
ANISIA AYON		Y	
SALUA BAIDA		Y	
KAVISH BATRA		N	
PETER BEADLE		Y	
MIRIAM BERFAS		Y	
HOWARD BIRNBAUM	A	Y	A
DANNY BOWENS	L	Y	L
HEIDI CHAIN	L	N	L
GINA CHEN		N	
L.T. CIACCIO		Y	
KANDRA CLARK	I	Y	I
LATRICE DAVIS	N	Y	N
JOHN DERESZEWSKI		Y	
HEATHER DIMITRIADIS		Y	
VALLON ELLISON	Absent	Absent	Absent
KEITH ENGEL	F	Y	F
BRUCE GROSSBERG	A	N	A
KAREN IMAS	V	N	V
SARINA JAIN	O	N	O
MATT FERNANDEZ KONIGSBERG	R	N	R
MARCELLE LASHLEY-KABORE		N	
MARK LASTER		Y	
BEATRICE LEONG	Absent	Absent	Absent
KEVIN LY		Abstain	
DR. RENEE MEHRRRA		Y	
PAT MORGAN		N	
ELIZABETH NEWTON	Absent	Absent	Absent
HOWARD POLLACK	Absent	Absent	Absent
DIANA RACHNAEV	Absent	Absent	Absent
SHARI ROLNICK		N	
MATTHEW SALTON		Y	
GLADYS SANDOVAL		Y	
DAVID SCHANTZ		Y	
PETRINA SCHNEIDERMAN		N	
HERBERT SCHONHAUT		Y	
JEAN C. SILVA		N	
MARTHA TUCKER		N	
BRENTLY WINSTEAD		Y	
EDWIN WONG		N	
TITILAYO YASUKAWA	Absent	Absent	Absent
EPHRAIM ZAKRY		N	
KATHERINE ZAPATA		not present for vote	
TOTALS:		Yes-19, No-17	

CB 6 VOTING SHEET 11-8-23 PAGE 2	RENEWAL LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS		INTERSECTION DAYLIGHTING RESOLUTION		
MICHAEL ARCATI					
DAVID ARONOV					
ANISIA AYON					
SALUA BAIDA					
KAVISH BATRA					
PETER BEADLE		A		A	
MIRIAM BERFAS		L		L	
HOWARD BIRNBAUM		L		L	
DANNY BOWENS					
HEIDI CHAIN		I		I	
GINA CHEN		N		N	
L.T. CIACCIO					
KANDRA CLARK					
LATRICE DAVIS		F		F	
JOHN DERESZEWSKI		A		A	
HEATHER DIMITRIADIS		V		V	
VALLON ELLISON	Absent	O		Absent O	
KEITH ENGEL		R		R	
BRUCE GROSSBERG					
KAREN IMAS					
SARINA JAIN					
MATT FERNANDEZ KONIGSBERG					
MARCELLE LASHLEY-KABORE					
MARK LASTER					
BEATRICE LEONG		Absent		Absent	
KEVIN LY					
DR. RENEE MEHRRRA					
PAT MORGAN					
ELIZABETH NEWTON		Absent		Absent	
HOWARD POLLACK		Absent		Absent	
DIANA RACHNAEV		Absent		Absent	
SHARI ROLNICK				Abstain	
MATTHEW SALTON					
GLADYS SANDOVAL					
DAVID SCHANTZ					
PETRINA SCHNEIDERMAN					
HERBERT SCHONHAUT					
JEAN C. SILVA					
MARTHA TUCKER					
BRENTLY WINSTEAD					
EDWIN WONG					
TITILAYO YASUKAWA		Absent		Absent	
EPHRAIM ZAKRY					
KATHERINE ZAPATA					
TOTALS:					