

COMMUNITY BOARD 6, QUEENS

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HEATHER BEERS-DIMITRIADIS CHAIR DONOVAN RICHARDS BOROUGH PRESIDENT FRANK P. GULLUSCIO DISTRICT MANAGER

CB 6 MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 11, 2023

PRESENT

H. BEERS-DIMITRIADIS, CHAIR P. BEADLE, 1ST VICE CHAIR M. LASTER, 3RD VICE CHAIR J. DERESZEWSKI, PARLIAMENTARIAN

B. LEONG

M. ARCATI
A. AYON
K. BATRA
M. BERFAS
H. BIRNBAUM
H. CHAIN
L. CIACCIO
K. CLARK
L. DAVIS
A. DIAZ-HOUSTON
K. IMAS
S. JAIN

H. SCHONHAUT J. SILVA T. SIMMONS M. TUCKER S. WANDERMAN A. WEITZMAN J. WESTON B. WINSTEAD E. WONG T. YASUKAWA

ABSENT

S. CHU	T. PADGETT
A. COHEN	R. TAMAYEV
J. LI	I. TAMAYEVA
J. MEDINA	

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

FRANK GULLUSCIO	CB6 DISTRICT MANAGER
MERCEDES JENNINGS	OFFICE OF SENATOR MICHAEL GIANARIS
AMPARITO ROSERO	OFFICE OF BOROUGH PRESIDENT DONOVAN RICHARDS
MICHAEL CARLIER	OFFICE OF ASSEMBLY MEMBER ANDREW HEVESI
TARA CHESTER	OFFICE OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY MELINDA KATZ
JORDAN GOLDES	OFFICE OF CONGRESS MEMBER GRACE MENG
ARI INNISS	OFFICE OF SENATOR LEROY COMRIE
KEVIN MCALEER	OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER LYNN SCHULMAN
LORRAINE CHAMBERS	-LEWIS LIJ FOREST HILLS NORTHWELL HEALTH

COMMUNITY BOARD 6 MINUTES

JANUARY 11, 2023

This meeting was held in-person with a limited virtual option via WebEx for individuals with Extraordinary Circumstances. The following CB 6 Members joined the meeting via WebEx: Miriam Berfas, Alejandra Diaz-Houston, Dr. Renee Mehrra, Pat Morgan and Elizabeth Newton.

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

PUBLIC FORUM

All requests for public comment must be submitted via email to <u>QN06@CB.NYC.GOV</u> by 3pm on the day of the meeting. Public comments submitted by Friday at 5pm will be included in the minutes.

Michael Wechsler

I am the President of the Lafayette Owners Corp at 69-40 Yellowstone Boulevard and would like to bring up a few things that are affecting us:

1. Affordable Housing

- Thank you, Community Board 6, for fighting for more affordable housing

- The housing in our community is becoming unaffordable for many due to the requirements as a result of recent laws that were passed. Specifically, Local Law 11 has been a huge undertaking for many of the smaller low-rise buildings in our area. The law has the same requirements for large highrise buildings and smaller buildings. When the costs are split by more apartments, it is more manageable.

- I would like the Community Boards help in forming a coalition of other small buildings that are going through this to encourage law makers to amend the law and differentiate between different size buildings.

2. Hardening of the Bike Lanes on Queens Boulevard

- There were some locations on Queens Blvd where driveways and access were taken into consideration.

- The barriers were installed at the Exit from my building and causes a hardship for people exiting, for Sanitation to collect trash, passenger pick-ups from the building, etc.

- There is a traffic control right in the bike lane which causes bike lanes and pedestrian paths to converge. This is a dangerous situation.

3. Formation of a Community Watch Group that can help combat the increase in certain crimes and thefts, etc.

Dan Bianco

I would like to make comment in regard to Local Law 97's impact on multifamily owners in Community Board 6. Local Law 97 places a cap on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for buildings over a certain size. Starting in 2024, buildings exceeding their cap will be fined annually - in many cases, in the tens of thousands of dollars. The caps become more stringent in 2030 and 2040, thereby increasing the potential penalties to buildings that are not in compliance.

For many buildings, the capital investment to reduce GHG emissions under the cap will be expensive. Based on the Metered New York (<u>https://metered.urbangreencouncil.org/</u>) database of Local Law 97 buildings, dozens of buildings are facing fines: 2024 emissions target of 6.75 CO2e/SF: 25 buildings totaling 3.2M sq. ft. 2030 emissions target of 4.07 CO2e/SF: 142 buildings totaling 17.3M sq. ft The process to implement a capital improvement plan is complicated, and that is before taking into account any lack of expertise or lack of capacity on the part of co-op boards and property management companies. That is why I think an outreach effort to building owners in the district can be valuable service to building owners and residents living in those buildings. Education is the first step. A program could have the following framework:

1. Create an updated list of Local Law 97 buildings and estimated fines.

2. Partner with the NYC Accelerator in the Mayor's Office to coordinate outreach and to provide a point-of-contact for building owners.

3. Develop a simple one-pager for each building with information on Local Law 97, its impact on the building, and a point-of-contact for more information.

4. Establish a mailing list for future outreach and for possible meetings to share best practices. I live in a co-op that is dealing with this issue and I would be happy to assist with this effort.

MINUTES

The minutes from the December 14, 2022, meeting were approved as written.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Heather Beers-Dimitriadis reminded everyone to sign in, so their attendance is recorded accurately. The Borough President is taking attendance seriously.

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis announced that Community Board applications are open and the deadline to apply is February 16, 2023. All members that are up for renewal must submit their application by this date. Also, feel free to share this information with individuals you know that might be interested in applying for the Community Board.

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis also announced that the application period is open for the following: Community Education Council, Citywide Council on High Schools, Citywide Council for Special Education, Citywide Council on English Language Learners, and the Citywide Council for D75. Applications will be accepted until February 13, 2023.

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis reminded everyone that the curbside composting program is on hold for the winter months. Please set out you're composting with trash, not recycling. It is scheduled to resume in March, but we will keep everyone updated.

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis announced that as we move into 2023, she and the District Manager have been working to connect CB 6 Committees with City Agencies. This week, Breaking Ground will be meeting with the Committee for those without shelter, Northwell Long Island Jewish Forest Hills will be presenting to the Health Committee this month and we are currently scheduling meetings with the Queens Library and the Parks Department. Please keep in mind that you can attend any committee meetings that interests you, even if you aren't a member of that specific committee.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

District Manager Frank Gulluscio thanked everyone who donated socks and gloves to our drive for Queens Community House.

District Manager Gulluscio also announced the following:

- He, and Chair Beers-Dimitriadis, attended a meeting regarding federal funding for carbon free schools
- He attended a meeting about rats
- The Community Boards will be audited shortly
- He met with the Office of Cannabis Management. They will be coming to a CB 6 meeting in the future. We currently have no legal Cannabis shops in our Community Board. We can report shops in our community to a complaint line and have them inspected.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Chair:

Heather Beers-Dimitriadis was the only nominee. 2^{nd} Vice Chair Keith Engel cast one ballot for Heather Beers-Dimitriadis to serve as Chair.

First Vice Chair:

The nominees were Peter Beadle and Kevin Ly. Each candidate had 2 minutes to speak. Votes were taken via open ballots and google form (individuals joining via WebEx). Peter Beadle received 21 votes; Kevin Ly received 19 votes.

Second Vice Chair:

Keith Engel was the only nominee.

1st Vice Chair Peter Beadle cast one ballot for Keith Engel to serve as 2nd Vice Chair.

Third Vice Chair:

The nominees were Mark Laster and Howard Birnbaum. Each candidate had 2 minutes to speak.

Votes were taken via open ballots and google form (individuals joining via WebEx). Mark Laster received 31 votes; Howard Birnbaum received 9 votes.

Secretary of Administration: Tania Padgett was the only nominee. 2nd Vice Chair Keith Engel cast one ballot for Tania Padgett to serve as Secretary of Administration.

Secretary of Finance:

L.T. Ciaccio was the only nominee.

2nd Vice Chair Keith Engel cast one ballot for L.T. Ciaccio to serve as Secretary of Finance.

Parliamentarian: John Dereszewski was the only nominee. 2nd Vice Chair Keith Engel cast one ballot for John Dereszewski to serve as Parliamentarian.

PRESENTATION BY LORRAINE CHAMBERS-LEWIS, CEO – LONG ISLAND JEWISH FOREST HILLS, NORTHWELL

Lorraine Chambers-Lewis announced that LIJ Forest Hills is located at 102-01 66th Road in Forest Hills. She introduced Stancy Saji as the Government / Community Relations Project Manager.

Ms. Chambers-Lewis stated that Local Community Healthcare is very important (Queens has lost 5 hospitals in the past) and community hospitals must perform at a high level. She reminded everyone that LIJ Forest Hills offers many services that people think they can only receive at larger hospitals. She encouraged people to keep up with their preventative care, which so many people neglected during the pandemic.

Ms. Chambers-Lewis announced the following statistics about the hospital:

- In 2017, the hospital received Baby Friendly Hospital Designation
 - Increase breast feeding rates and mother baby bonding.
 - This has a long-term effect on community health.
- Since the hospital is in the most diverse borough
 - They are proud to have a very diverse workforce.
 - Meditation Room in the lobby for employees, patients, and visitors to pray or practice their faith.
 - Video Interpreter Devices that connect patients with live interpreters so they can communicate in their preferred language.
- In 2020, the hospital received Age Friendly Designation
 - First in the network to receive this designation.
 - Focus on Four M's (What matters most, medication, mentation and mobility)
- In 2020, Queens Medical Associates joined Northwell to provide a higher level of oncology care in Queens. A new facility will be opening in Rego Park soon.
- In 2021, the hospital received the Gold Beacon Award in Critical Care. This was award to the ICU team, and they worked especially hard to receive this during a pandemic.
- These designations are hard to get and hard to keep. There are inspections to make sure the hospital is keeping up with the standards.
- Ms. Chambers-Lewis worked with Congress Member Grace Meng's Office to obtain \$1million for an Orthopedic Robotics Program. This will lead to less infections and quicker recovery times.

Ms. Chambers-Lewis thanked everyone who attended the Community Connection Event at Queens Museum.

Last, Ms. Chambers-Lewis announced a Lunar New Year event on Saturday, January 28, 2023 at 1pm at the Great Wall Restaurant. It is in honor of Zhiwen Yan to offer solidarity to his family and the community.

Chair Heather Beers-Dimitriadis thanked Ms. Chambers-Lewis and the entire hospital team for all their hard work during the pandemic.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT

Elizabeth Newton, Co-Chair, reported that CB6 received 1 new application: Amar Peruvian Kitchen, 68-60 Austin Street, FH This is a family restaurant / bar that opened in 2019. They would now like to serve liquor.

CB 6 received the following renewal applications:

- 1. Cabana 107-10 70th Road, FH
- 2. Cobblestone Pub 117-18 Queens Blvd, FH
 - *2 licenses; one for inside bar and one for outdoor bar*
- 3. SAI 95-34 Queens Blvd, RP

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

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

EDUCATION / YOUTH COMMITTEE REPORT

Shari Rolnick, Chair, reported that the committee met on 1-3-23.

The Committee discussed the bill to reduce class size in public schools in the next 5 years. This will be difficult due to the time it will take to physically increase space at schools. The committee proposed the following resolution:

Whereas, in June 2022, the Legislature overwhelmingly passed S9460/A10498 by a vote of 59-4 in the Senate and 147-2 in the Assembly, requiring that NYC implement a five-year class size reduction plan beginning in the fall of 2022.

Whereas, on Sept. 8, 2022, Gov. Kathy Hochul signed the bill into law, based upon a statement that the bill will be amended to begin the five-year phase-in period on Sept. 2023;

Whereas, the law calls for class size caps to be achieved over this period of no more than 20 students per class in grades K-3, no more than 23 students per class in grades 4^{th} - 8^{th} , and no more than 25 students per class in high school, with physical education and performing art classes capped at forty students per class;

Whereas, each year starting in September 2023, 20 percent of all classes must achieve these caps, with an additional 20 percent of classes added each year, until all schools comply with these caps by the end of the 2027-2028 school year, with the documented attainment of these caps due Sept. 2028.

Whereas, the city's plan is supposed to prioritize schools with high levels of poverty to reduce class size first.

Whereas, the law says the plan shall be a product of negotiation between the Department of Education, the United Federation of Teachers and the Council of School Administrators;

Whereas, parents, advocates, students, community members and elected officials must be included to help develop this plan in the most transparent and accountable manner and to guarantee that there will be sufficient space, funding, and staffing to achieve the goals within the timeframe specified by the law; Whereas, the planning process needs to start now, especially to ensure that the capital plan includes sufficient new space in our most overcrowded communities;

Whereas, reducing class size is a critical need to ensure equity for all NYC school students and there is no time to waste;

Be it resolved, that **Queens Community Board 6** calls on the Chancellor, the UFT and the CSA to establish a Task Force that includes parents, advocates, students, community members and elected officials to work with them in the most transparent and accountable manner to develop an effective, equitable, and achievable class size reduction plan.

Titilayo Yasukawa made a motion to accept the resolution. David Schneier seconded the motion. The resolution passed unanimously on a voice vote.

The Committee also discussed that funding for 3K programs will decrease despite how successful the program has been. The committee put together a letter regarding this that will be sent out later this week.

AGING, SOCIAL SERVICES, DISABILITIES

Anisia Ayon, Chair, reported that the Committee met on Monday, January 9, 2023, and agreed to schedule the following presentations:

- Intergenerational Presentation regarding Resiliency on January 31, 2023
- *February* Presentation by the Department of Finance regarding programs they run for senior citizens and people with disabilities.
- *March* Presentation by the New York State Taxpayer's Right Advocate on services they offer.
- *May* Presentation on recertification for people who are receiving health care through the New York State Exchange
- June Presentation for Pride month.

Anisia thanked committee members Latrice Davis and Teresa Simmons and Public Member Dana Kaufner for their ongoing work with the Senior Survey.

The next meeting will be Monday, February 13, 2023, at 6:30pm

GOOD & WELFARE

CB 6 MEMBERS:

Heidi Chain announced that the 112th Precinct Council Meeting will be Wednesday, January 18, 2023, via Zoom. If anyone would like to attend, they can email <u>council112@yahoo.com</u> to receive the link. Also, if anyone has questions for the Deputy Inspector, they can be emailed to the above address.

Edwin Wong announced that there is a Lunar New Year Celebration on Saturday, January 28, 2023 at 1pm. It will kick off at the Great Wall restaurant and then proceed down Queens Boulevard and conclude at Austin Street and 70 Road.

Teresa Simmons announced that on January 24, 2023, from 10pm - 4am, DHS is having their Annual Hope Count. This gives the agency a better idea of how many people are living on the street. You must be 16 and over to participate. If you are interested, call 646-783-8716.

Mark Laster announced that there are alternatives for individuals who wish to continue composting while the curbside composting is on pause:

- Every Sunday from 10am 1pm, the FH Green Team runs a food scrap drop off program at Commonpoint Queens.
- Every Sunday from 9am 1pm, GrowNYC runs a food scrap drop off at the FH Green Market.
- Every Saturday, the Compost Collective runs a food scrap drop off at Yellowstone Boulevard and Kessel Street from 12pm – 2pm.

Jean Silva announced that there is a proposal to build a casino on parkland at Flushing Meadows Corona Park. This project will also add more traffic to the location since they are already planning a soccer stadium and housing to be added there. The community will have to fight to keep the parkland and Jean ensured that she will fight for the park.

ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPRESENTATIVES:

SENATOR MICHAEL GIANARIS

Mercedes Jennings introduced herself since Senator Gianaris now represents parts of CB 6. She said that the office is available to help with any concerns residents may have including, but not limited, to Immigration, Education and Housing.

QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT

Amparito Rosero announced the following:

- Community Board Applications are open. They can be found at <u>www.queensbp.org/communityboards</u> and the deadline is February 16, 2023.
- Queens BP Richards will be hosting:
 - Lunar New Year Celebration on Thursday, January 19, 2023, from 6pm 8pm at the Helen Marshall Cultural Center.
 - Haitian Independence Day on Thursday, January 26, 2023, from 6pm 8pm at Helen Marshall Cultural Center.
- Citizenship Services are available at Queens Borough Hall. If you need assistance with this, contact the Immigrant Welcome Center at 718-286-0444.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER ANDREW HEVESI Michael Carlier announced the following:

- Assemblyman Hevesi is back upstate in Albany this week to kick off the 2023 legislative session. This will be his second term serving as the Children and Families Committee chair. In his first term his accomplishments included:
 - The passage of legislation to give children in foster care with developmental disabilities adequate support. The signing of his bill into law to prevent kids under 11 years old from being arrested/processed except in instances where homicide has occurred and instead redirects such children towards appropriate support services
 - The mandating that people who work with kids are required to be able to identify signs of childhood trauma
 - The advocating for the first installation of the Children and Families Reinvestment Act (CFRA), which included making more than 400,000 kids eligible to receive adequate childcare
- This year, Assemblyman Hevesi will be continuing his push for such initiatives, starting with his advocating for the second iteration of the CFRA.
- Last year, we distributed more than 50,000 protective masks, 16,000 rapid test kits, and thousands of other supplies directly to our communities. We have resumed appointments to pick up free protective supplies at our district office. As infections increase this winter, it's important that people have access to necessary supplies -- which will include KN95 face masks, rapid test kits, and hand sanitizing wipes amongst other things. To arrange an appointment, we may be contacted at 718-263-5595 or hevesia@nyassembly.gov.
- Finally, we are making plans to resume our community cleanup series and will keep the board apprised as we lock in dates.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY MELINDA KATZ

Tara Chester announced the following:

- International Animal Rights Day was commemorated in December. The DA's office has an animal cruelty unit. The DA announced charges in a 90-count criminal complaint against an individual that failed to provide proper care and sustenance to 45 dogs.
- Two high profile cases that lead to the defendants pleading guilty:
 - Queens man pleaded guilty to manslaughter in a rock attack of an elderly woman while she was sweeping the street. Victim died as a result of the attack.
 - A male defendant was sentenced to 8 years for sex trafficking a homeless woman.
- Collected over 300 toys for the holidays.
- Martin Luther King Day event on January 12, 2023 at York College from 5:30pm 7:30pm.
- Lunar New Year event on January 18, 2023, at Queensborough Community College from 6pm 8pm.
- Webinar: "No Price on a Child's Life, Combatting Youth Exploitation and Trafficking" on January 25, 2023.

CONGRESS MEMBER GRACE MENG

Jordan Goldes announced:

- New Government Spending Bill passed and includes:
 - \$7 million for FH LIRR Station, elevators and lengthening platform
 - \$1 million for LIJ FH
 - \$1 million for Commonpoint Queens
 - Other funds will go to Queens organizations
- Defense Spending Bill passed that would authorize funding to address flooding in Queens

SENATOR LEROY COMRIE

Ari Innes announced the following events:

- "Together We Can Be the Dream" event on Monday January 16, 2023, from 1pm 3pm at the Jamaica Performing Arts Center
- Metrocard Sales event on January 19, 2023, from 10am 12pm at the Theodora Jackson Senior Center and from 1pm 3pm at the Robert Couche Senior Center
- Tax Talk Thursdays Virtual Clinic for free legal advice on Thursday January 12, 2023, from 11am 1pm.
- Metrocard Sales event on January 30, 2023, from 10am 2pm at the Greater Allen Senior Residence
- Free E-Waste Recycling event on Saturday January 21, 2023, from 10am 2pm at 113-43 Farmers Boulevard (In front of Sen. Comrie's Office)

Ms. Innes reminded everyone that Tax Exemption Season has begun; and applications are due by March 15, 2023. If you need help, contact the office at 718-765-6359.

COUNCIL MEMBER LYNN SCHULMAN

Kevin McAleer announced

- There will be an oversight hearing with the Department of Consumer and Worker Protection on Wednesday, January 18, 10am regarding the Proliferation of Unlicensed Smoke Shops across NYC

- PPE Giveaway will be scheduled this month. Additional information will follow. Kevin introduced new constituent liaison Kelly Sexton.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Nolan Community Coordinator

CB 6 VOTING SHEET 1-11-23	NEW LIQUOR LICENSES	RENEWAL LIQUOR LICENSES	EDUCATION RESOLUTION	
MICHAEL ARCATI	YES	YES		1
ANISIA AYON	YES	YES		
KAVISH BATRA	YES	YES		
PETER BEADLE	YES	YES		
MIRIAM BERFAS	YES	YES		
HOWARD BIRNBAUM	YES	YES		
HEIDI CHAIN	YES	YES		
SHERIDAN CHU	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	
L.T. CIACCIO	YES	YES		
KANDRA CLARK	YES	YES		
ALEXANDER COHEN	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	
LATRICE DAVIS	YES	YES		
JOHN DERESZEWSKI	YES	YES		v
ALEJANDRA DIAZ-HOUSTON	YES	YES		0
HEATHER DIMITRIADIS	YES	YES		
KEITH ENGEL	YES	YES		. C E
KAREN IMAS	YES	YES		
SARINA JAIN	YES	YES		0
MARK LASTER	YES	YES		т —
BEATRICE LEONG	YES	YES		E
JONATHAN LI	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	
KEVIN LY	YES	YES		A
JACK MEDINA	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	. L L
DR. RENEE MEHRRA	YES	YES		. –
STEVEN METZ	YES	YES		N
JULIE MILNER	YES	YES		_
PAT MORGAN	YES	YES		F
ELIZABETH NEWTON	YES	YES		v
TANIA PADGETT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	- O R
HOWARD POLLACK	YES	YES		
DIANA RACHNAEV	YES	YES		
SHARI ROLNICK	YES	YES		
GLADYESS SANDOVAL	YES	YES		
PETRINA SCHNEIDERMAN	YES	YES		
DAVID SCHNEIER	YES	YES		
HERBERT SCHONHAUT	YES	YES		
JEAN SILVA	YES	YES		
TERESA SIMMONS	YES	YES		
DR. ROBERT TAMAYEV	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	
IRINA TAMAYEVA	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	
MARTHA TUCKER	YES	YES		
SUSAN WANDERMAN	YES	YES		
ALEXA WEITZMAN	YES	YES		
JOAN WESTON	YES	YES		
BRENTLY WINSTEAD	YES	YES		
EDWIN WONG	YES	YES		
TITILAYO YASUKAWA	YES	YES		•