



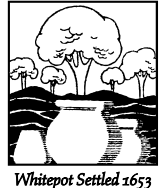
COMMUNITY BOARD 6, QUEENS

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HEATHER BEERS-DIMITRIADIS
CHAIR

DONOVAN RICHARDS
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

CB 6 MEETING MINUTES MARCH 13, 2024

PRESENT

H. BEERS-DIMITRIADIS, CHAIR
K. ENGEL, 2ND VICE CHAIR
L.T. CIACCIO, SECRETARY OF FINANCE
J. DERESZEWSKI, PARLIAMENTARIAN

P. BEADLE, 1ST VICE CHAIR
M. LASTER, 3RD VICE CHAIR

M. ARCATI	B. LEONG	J. SILVA
A. AYON	K. LY	M. TUCKER
K. BATRA	DR R. MEHRRA	B. WINSTEAD
H. BIRNBAUM	P. MORGAN	E. WONG
H. CHAIN	D. RACHNAEV	E. ZAKRY
G. CHEN	S. ROLNICK	
L. DAVIS	G. SANDOVAL	
K. IMAS	D. SCHANTZ	
S. JAIN	P. SCHNEIDERMAN	
M. FERNANDEZ-KONIGSBERG	H. SCHONHAUT	

ABSENT

D. ARONOV	B. GROSSBERG*
S. BAIDA*	M. LASHLEY-KABORE*
K. CLARK	M. SALTON
	T. YASUKAWA

*EXCUSED ABSENCE

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

CHRISTINE NOLAN	COMMUNITY COORDINATOR
AMPARITO ROSERO	OFFICE OF THE QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT
KEVIN McALEER	OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER LYNN SCHULMAN
JORDAN GOLDES	OFFICE OF CONGRESS MEMBER GRACE MENG
GIANNA VALENTE	OFFICE OF ASSEMBLY MEMBER ANDREW HEVESI
KELLY SEXTON	OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES GENNARO
SEAN McCABE	OFFICE OF SENATOR JOSEPH ADDABBO
THOMAS AURINGER	OFFICE OF ASSEMBLY MEMBER CATALINA CRUZ
PHIL WONG	OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER ROBERT HOLDEN
JAVIER FIGAROA	OFFICE OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY MELINDA KATZ

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, Heidi Chain and Shari Rolnick. The meeting will be recorded and posted on YouTube. Community Board meetings are posted on YouTube.com for transparency to the public (www.tinyurl.com/cb6youtube).

GOOD AND WELFARE

CB 6 MEMBERS

Jean Silva announced the following:

An article in the Chronicle about Flushing Meadows Corona Park Conservancy, the Alliance, and the AFACP Community Advisory Board CAB.

- Sponsoring a day of canoeing on May 25, 2024, along with a different program each month.
- Volunteers are needed in the park, see Jean to give your email or see the flyer. If you are interested in volunteering.

Anisia Ayon announced:

Monday, March 25th at 7pm Intergenerational webinar; Let’s talk with seniors and teens about the media revolution. Co-sponsored by Commonpoint, Aging, Social Services and Disabilities, the Education/Youth and Health/Mental Health and Substance Abuse Committees.

- Thursday, February 22nd held a webinar on “Nursing Homes After COVID 19”. The panelists were Senator Joseph Addabbo and Richard Mollot, the executive director of Long-Term Care Community Coalition. The webinar was very well received. It can be watched on Queens Community Board 6 YouTube page.
- Next meeting of the Aging, Social Services, Disabilities Committee will be on Thursday, March 21st at 6:30pm.

Mark Laster announced the following:

- Metro Village of Forest Hills, CB6, Forest Hills Green Team, Forest Hills Stadium, Councilmember Schulman, Assemblymember Hevesi and Senator Addabbo partnered for a successful clean-up along Metropolitan Avenue, with over 40 volunteers working on this. The next scheduled cleanup will be on Sunday, April 14th, more details to follow.
- Forest Hills Green Team, Queens Climate Project, New York Communities for Change, Food and Water Watch and NYPIRG will be co-hosting a panel discussion about Local Law 97. What it does, why we need it and how it works. The first panel will be held on Thursday, April 11th at 7pm at the First Presbyterian Church of Forest Hills and the second panel will be held at the Community United Methodist Church on Thursday, April 18th at 7pm more details to follow.
- March is social work month. We know social workers provide valuable services to our community selflessly. For all of you who receive assistance from a social worker, please remember to thank them for their assistance.

Heidi Chain, announcing the following:

- 112th Precinct Council meeting Wednesday, March 20th at 7:30pm at Ridgewood Savings Bank.
- Sunday, April 14th Street Fair. Also, Senator Addabbo is doing Narcan training in McDonald Park at 11am. If there is rain the Narcan training will be held in Forest Hills Jewish Center.

- Sunday, May 5th, Health Safety Fair. If anyone knows a physician or someone in the medical field that wants to participate, let Heidi know. If the Community Board would like to have a table there, let Heidi know.

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 but will be included in March's minutes.

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

Jennifer Martin – Dignity Memorial

My name is Jennifer Martin, I represent four funeral homes under one roof, five blocks from here. Schwartz Brothers-Jeffer Memorial Chapels, Sinai Chapels, Parkside Memorial Chapels, Forest Park Funeral Home, a non-sectarian component to serve the diverse queens community. We are holding free events.

- *Wednesday, March 20th at 4pm Ethel Merman presented by Marty Schneit located at Schwartz Brothers-Jeffer Memorial Chapels.*
- *Monday, April 15th at 4pm Love Songs Around the World with Irene Failenbogen located at Schwartz Brothers-Jeffer Memorial Chapels.*
- *Tuesday, April 2nd at 5:30pm located at Tuscan Hills Restaurant and Wednesday, April 3rd located at Forest Park Funeral Park a pre-arrangement seminar about pre-paying for a funeral. This seminar is appropriate for non-Jewish burials.*

Florence Arnow

I'm here today to speak about loud aircraft encircling our neighborhoods of Forest Hills, 66th Avenue to Rego Park. Incessantly, loud, too frequently, these planes hover and create pollution and noise. Let us contact the necessary government officials to try to put an end to this issue. Secondly, the legislation in New York, especially in our Queens buildings, that allows your heating to be cut, according to a metered allotment. In the cold months of October to May our comfort is controlled by Rule 97, allowing landlords to cut heat at 55 degrees and below if inside it reads out 68 degrees. This is uncomfortable for most. Heating should be given freely in apartments to tenants and not controlled by landlords. Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Margaret McGovern

My name is Margaret McGovern and I am a 20+ year resident of TVA (Tennis View Apartments). It has and is a privilege to live here in this wonderful, vibrant, and historic neighborhood of Forest Hills Gardens. In the past year or two, the quality of my life has been eroded. Due to the new East side LIRR train access, the number and volume of trains passing by and stopping across from our building has increased significantly. The shareholders of Tennis View Coop are bearing the brunt of the noise increase, especially those living in the front of the building where the noise from the train is strongly heard and felt. I live in the courtyard area where one would think I would be somewhat shielded from this constant train noise. That is not the case. I as well as other residents, hear the trains passing by and stopping at the station. I am experiencing vibrations to the point where my windows vibrate, and it affects my quality of sleep at night and while I am in my apartment in the daytime. My belief is that a substantial wall needs to be built to mitigate this noise that is eroding our quality of life here at TVA and in the community. Other residents in the area are also pointing to the increased noise levels from the trains, too. Originally, there was an historically significant wall that was taken down by the LIRR. This original wall helped mitigate the noise level. We have a photo of the original wall that extended along the entire embankment from 71st Continental to Tennis Place. A large percentage of the noise

is emanating further west of the current proposed length of a wall. A professional sound study verified what residents experience. Once the wall came down, the noise level increased by 20 decibels. Currently, the train noise often surpasses 85 decibels. As established by the health department, over a period, these high levels have a negative effect on one's health. Our quality of life must be restored, if we are to enjoy the full benefits of living in this wonderful, vibrant, historic, and accessible neighborhood. Having a substantial wall built will also enhance real estate value in this area. In addition, my hope is that the wall that will be built will be in keeping with the historic nature of our neighborhood, and it will enhance the beauty of the Forest Hills LIRR Station. I would also like to add that it would have been helpful for our community to know ahead of time what the proposed plans included for the upgrade of our station as we, the community, are impacted by these changes. The LIRR and the Community would have benefited by working together in a joint effort with the plans and suggestions that would and could make a definite improvement. Working together with the community is always the best way forward. In conclusion, I thank all who are present here this evening for listening to my plea for building a wall by our Forest Hills Garden station to mitigate the noise level as well as enhance and restore our quality of life here.

Edward McGinnis – Tennis View Apartments

I am an architect with 60 years of experience and a member of the FHGC Architectural Committee although I do not represent that entity. I have been a shareholder in Tennis View Apartments for 19 years. It is my understanding that the LIRR will present a design scheme at CB6 showing an opening in the proposed wall located at the present end of the platform and a fenced pathway (requiring a retaining wall) along the top of the embankment leading to stairs down to the street by the building at 71st Avenue. Such pathways/stairs would be unsightly within the landscaped area and do not conform to historic preservation and beautification efforts. The TVA shareholders are averse to such a design. Instead, they prefer the site plan attached, which funnels about 4,000 concertgoers to the other side of the maintenance shed, minimizing crowds on Burns Street would not benefit WSTC/Tiebreaker in any way. A pathway at the track level shown on the East would be less costly (shorter distance and simple construction) than the raised walkway along the station platform. It is my understanding that review and approval of the LIRR designs are not within the domain of the Architectural Committee. Said site plan is attached. Realize TVA is truly grateful for any efforts LIRR and the FHGC are making to retain the aesthetics and historical character of our community.

Stephanie Lin

My name is Stephanie Lin, a resident of Tennis View Apartments right near the LIRR Forest Hills Station. Thank you for the opportunity to speak and share my concerns.

Since the number of trains passing through Forest Hills increased, we've had to deal with the elevated noise and vibration, both in frequency and in level. We've requested the LIRR to replace a wall that was there to mitigate that effect. But today, I'm here to address another issue. A new stairway LIRR plans to build. It is good to know that the stairway will NOT be in the middle of our block, since that will create all kinds of problems for our residents: glaring light into our street and windows, removing a section of the beautiful, protective wrought iron fence, people loitering, littering, smoking, drinking, urinating, creating noise, etc. in front of our building. So, I am thankful for that.

However, the current plan puts the stairway near 71st Ave., and that creates problems of its own.

1) Many of the passengers using the new stairway would be heading toward Forest Hills Stadium or toward their homes west or south of the Stadium; so instead of simply continuing toward the direction they are heading, the passengers would have to walk back to Station Square to exit the street, and then double back again down Burns Street. It would do the opposite of diverting pedestrian traffic and relieving congestion. 2) By having the stairway near 71st Ave., it would mean chopping down even more established trees, less space for planting new trees, and expanded construction due to the steep slope, increasing the negative impact. 3) Finally, the proposed stairway is tucked behind an existing Station structure. That location is hidden from view, inviting people to loiter or, worse, potential criminals to hide. At best, it'd be a public nuisance; at worst, it'd create a major security issue. Can

you imagine coming home in the evening, walking down 71st Ave and about to turn the corner onto Burns Street, wondering who may be lurking behind the structure on the stairway? All who live nearby and use that passageway would have to deal with that daily stress of fear and would become vulnerable to possible crimes. Our Resident Architect has drawn up a new proposal that moves the stairway to the next block, a NON-residential block. I believe that location not only fulfills the need for a new stairway, but it also addresses the many problems that I just raised.

Michael Perlman – Rego-Forest Preservation Council

Good evening, Community Board 6, LIRR staff, and residents. I am Michael Perlman, Chairman of Rego-Forest Preservation Council, which advocates for the preservation, commemoration, and beautification of historic Forest Hills and Rego Park. I viewed the LIRR's renderings for Forest Hills Station. While it is beneficial to reconstruct the accessibility ramps and heat the pavement, as well as introduce a permanent extended platform to the west of Station Square, with shelter for passengers, there is a right way and a wrong way of designing it. Nowadays, there is much dialogue that revolves around greening our communities, but to construct stairways from the extended platforms in place of Evergreen trees, west of Station Square, each loss is counterproductive and one too many. We request the preservation of all precious trees, which are a home to wildlife and boost property values, purify the environment, absorb stormwater, provide shade, and add a graceful touch. The proposed stairway should be constructed further west of the Tennis Place utility shed, where there are no trees. The stairway within itself appears obtrusive and austere and does not respect the historic status and charm of Station Square and Forest Hills Gardens. The same holds true with the passenger shelter. We request the LIRR to head back to the drawing board and design a Tudor and Arts & Crafts style platform, shelter, and appropriately situated steps for our iconic station. Inappropriate aesthetics can have a Domino effect on Station Square and throughout a standout community. Station Square is named "one of the finest public spaces in America" by Robert A.M. Stern, former dean of the Yale School of Architecture and founder of architectural firm RAMSA. Numerous historic events also transpired, including annual 4th of July Festivals, where Col. Theodore Roosevelt delivered his "100 Percent American" speech on July 4, 1917, at Forest Hills Station. Adjoining the LIRR station are pedestrian bridges and arched underpasses, as well as the Raleigh apartments on the east, the Marlboro apartments on the west, and the iconic Forest Hills Inn. Near the evergreen trees is the historic Tennis View Apartments. Collectively, the station and its counterparts are acclaimed as a centerpiece of Forest Hills Gardens, a model residential community inspired by Sir Ebenezer Howard's Garden City Movement, and designed by foremost architect Grosvenor Atterbury and landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. The Tudor and Arts & Crafts style Forest Hills Station has existed in a largely intact and picturesque state since 1909. Nevertheless, the architecturally and historically significant Forest Hills Station, along with its lush trees, flowers, and bushes was endangered last summer, and is at risk once again. We respectfully request a historically minded approach, where architectural style and existing greenery are part of a collective first, in conjunction with accessibility and safety. We ride your trains daily, so please come aboard and respect our wishes by presenting us with revised renderings. Thank you.

Nauman Barakat

I live in the Tennis View Apartments. The reason why I am here is because of some serious concerns. Hopefully, I am wrong as to what the LIRR is proposing to do and that is to build a staircase right at 71st Street. Which is the entrance of Six Burns Street service entrance. A private street, a lot of cars are parked there. If I am parked on Burns Street and the staircase is built and people park or double park to pick someone up from the train station, I won't be able to get off the street. It will be a major traffic problem. I don't see how the LIRR would build a staircase there. If there is a staircase there, there is going to be lighting from the LIRR shining right into our apartments. With so much more traffic coming down, there is going to be so many more people coming in. A lot more criminal activity is going to be encouraged. Without the staircase, I've had soda cans thrown at me. What else is someone going to throw at me after this staircase is built? I think if the LIRR wants to do it, they must come up with a very serious reason as to why they want to put the staircase there. I hope the rumors that I am hearing are wrong.

Jerry Mastriano

I don't have too much to add to the people that have spoken about the railroad. I will emphasize two things. The wall that is being proposed as far as I know is replacing 2/3 of the wall that was removed by the LIRR. I don't see why they shouldn't replace the extent of the previous wall; we need it as a barrier to mitigate some of the sound. As far as the staircase is concerned, I heard rumors that it is being built in the middle of the block or on 71st Street. I agree with Ed McGinnis to have the staircase a little more west of the Forest Hills Garden Corporation maintenance shed, which will be a little more out of the way and make more sense.

Natasha Diaz – Civilian Complaint Review Board

I am the Queens Coordinator for the Civilian Complaint Review Board, I'm here to introduce myself and we are participating in voters' registration. If you have any organizations or constituents that want to register to vote, we are participating in registering voters. I will be going out and educating the people about the CCRB, what we do, and our jurisdiction. You can check our website ccrb.nyc.gov as to where we have sign-up for voters' registration.

Anthony Oprisiu – Forest Hills Garden Corporation

I heard a lot of people here. I want to say thank you to the people that have come from TVA, and from other places in Forest Hills and outside the perimeter. It is very important because the historic nature of Station Square is something that we need to keep. It is paramount that we mindfully take the right approaches. I want to let everyone know; we have been talking with the LIRR today. They are going to give a presentation tonight. Our position is exactly what you said. The elevators were a big concern for everybody, placement was very important. We worked very closely with Community Board 6 to see if there was an option for the elevators. Since that is off the table, we are looking very diligently at other impacts. I know everyone wants the wall; the former president of the Forest Hills Garden Corporation is also on my board. Anna Guasto has also expressed concerns about the wall. We put it first and foremost and the stairwells, that are very important to us. There are safety concerns, we are speaking with the LIRR and are bringing some possible solutions. We have not agreed on anything yet. To dispel any rumors, we didn't have closed door meeting with the LIRR. The meeting with the Community Board 6 and the LIRR presentation was specifically designed for the Forest Hills Corporation to see renderings. We are taking it seriously because anything that is a change is a change. I want to mention that the original design of use and intent is in the square. When you think of Station Square, the square is where the station is to be commercialized. This new concept is something that we brought to the LIRR, introducing a concept to a residential portion out of the square both on the east and west side which will impact people. I want our residents to know and everybody else that unfortunately with ADA compliance and with code we are mandated to upgrade. We must find a balance. The LIRR is under fire too and will look at both perspectives. I want to bring that to your attention. As they are coming up here, don't kill them, they are doing their job. There is a big lawsuit in New York State for ADA upgrades. They are mandated to come in here and do that. Our station is grouped with two other stations which are more complex. If we don't do something with the funding, it goes a part this benefits a lot of people. Keep that in mind, doing it right is important and we should have done it a little more diligently, we all agree. I'm just trying to find a balance to move forward. You might not like where the placement of the stairs is, it's not going to be a straight L cut. We are looking for an architectural design that respects Homestead Design. As we heard, that is very critical along with safety and security which will impact people coming home at night. I have friends and family in TVA and live across Burn Street. We will do our best; your concerns are first and foremost. I will also mention the extension that is being proposed towards the yards. Why is that not feasible? There is a cross bridge there, which doesn't allow the platform to extend in that direction. You can't extend any platforms in that direction for many reasons which the LIRR will go into. The second interesting point is that there are a lot of people who have been followed from Station Square Station who are going down Burn Street in that direction. There is a lot of safety consideration going into our yards in which people have jumped the tracks and have gone into our rail yards which is where our maintenance crew houses all our machinery. There is no

wall there, there are safety considerations for many things. It is not that simple to move it out of the way, it's not going to stop concert goers from going into your streets. There are 14,000 concert goers, keep that in mind. This is going to be used as an emergency egress.

Anna Guasto – Station Square Preservation

Good evening, my name is Anna Guasto. I am co-chair of the group Station Square Preservation League. First, I would like to thank Chairwoman Heather, Christine, Maria, and the community board members for all their hard work in helping to provide the opportunity for community members to voice their concerns. We are in favor of the upgrades. In the face of so many challenges, more than ever we need spaces for beauty and respite in historical reassures. In my opinion, the most noteworthy contribution made by Teddy Roosevelt was in his establishment of national parks, forests, and monuments. Imagine without their protections, the developers would be able to build an abundance of cookie cutter condo apartment buildings and McMansions to boot! So too, the founding fathers of Forest Hills Gardens have the foresight to incorporate the gardens for their own protection. Its covenant states: "The prime objective of the incorporation is to sustain in Forest Hills Gardens, and vicinity all suitable ways, the living and aesthetic conditions, for which the Gardens was founded, and to act as common agency of the people of the place attaining those ends." There has been a lack of transparency with Forest Gardens Hills residents, on the part of the LIRR, concerning proposed upgrades to the FH Station. Because of the lack of outreach, we have not been included in the process. It would have been very helpful for all interested parties to meet as a group: LIRR, FHGC, TVA, leaders of CB6, Station Square Preservation League, Burns Street Alliance, and local elected officials. Instead, there was one meeting with BSA 2 years ago with only three of their members. The representatives insisted no other people could attend. It took three years for Station Square Preservation League members to attend a meeting that Senator Addabbo hosted to discuss the issues. We sent in our questions and concerns to Mr. Fasano requesting the design plans before the meeting to no avail. During that meeting we were told that a partial wall would be built, a foot thick in width and 12 feet in height from the embankment up, although there were no design plans as we had requested, just renderings. Last night, I got a third hand account that we are getting a decorative, visual wall and not to mention a wall or we won't get anything. Only one person was invited to that last-minute meeting with the FHGC and LIRR to speak on behalf of the entire co-op. There was no survey made to garner co-op residents' concerns. Station Square Preservation League gathered letters from TVA residents to submit to the local elected officials asking for representation to get the wall replacement, and no staircase across from our building. Architect Ed McGinnis drew a very plausible alternative to building the egress stairway on the corner of 71st Street. Why wouldn't a FHGC committee architect create a plan to alleviate the enormous crowds that should be funneled closer to the Forest Hills Stadium. It is the same old story of miscommunication or is it subterfuge? In the end, the community was left out of the process. We are requesting that the LIRR sit down with those most affected and come up with a compromise for the betterment of the community. An egress stairway that fits in with the historical character of Forest Hills Gardens, its placement at the end of Tennis View past the shed, and a replacement wall that buffers the train noise.

Chair Heather Beers-Dimitriadis closed the public comments. The following written comments were submitted but not read into the record.

The following comments were submitted in writing for the minutes.

Russ Gundlach

The founders of the Forest Hills Gardens strived to create an idyllic village that offered a respite from the hustle and bustle of the city for working-class families. There has always been an emphasis on melding the architectural elements of the community with the natural beauty of open spaces and communal parks. All aspects of this community were designed to encourage residents to be out and about enjoying the community. It is precisely because we want to maintain that aesthetic and sense of community that we, who call this place home, are so concerned about what proposed changes and expansions to the existing station would bring. We

are concerned about a proposed stairway that would lead from an extended platform onto our quiet streets. We are concerned this would negatively affect the aesthetic character of our community as well as the well-founded fears that they would become nothing more than an open-air toilet and magnet for crime and mischief. We are concerned that without understanding the community, its needs and existing norms, placing stairs where it is most convenient for the railroad may have serious and deleterious consequences to our safety and quality of life. I, like many people here in the community, would hope to have a staircase on Burns Street located beyond Tennis place to the west. This would route the thousands of concert goers attending events at Forest hills stadium closer to the event and not add to the chaos and congestion that takes place in front of our building every evening there are events at the stadium. I have been a shareholder and resident of Tennis View apartments for the last 26 years. During that time, I have witnessed many changes, good and bad. One issue that falls squarely in the bad column is when the LIRR demolished a wall that stood at the top of their embankment and extended east for approx. 150' from tennis place. It had been part of a platform that was demolished in the mid 1960's. That wall not only acted as a visual barrier it also served to buffer the noise from the trains as they passed. I worked from home and was at my desk the day that wall came down. My life has never been the same from that point forward. Not just because it altered my ability to peacefully enjoy my home, but it got me involved with other neighbors who also felt the negative impact from the loss of that wall. Over the last 16 years I've been advocating and organizing to try and get that wall rebuilt. I've also come to learn many things about how and why the loss of the wall had such a negative impact on our quality of life. It stood parallel to a portion of the tracks known as a signal track. They are portions of track that are designed to move up and down as a train passes over it. It acts as a switch and is connected electrically to signal lights mounted on a bridgework above the tracks. These lights signal to motormen about trains ahead of them on the tracks. These sections of tracks are by Nature of their design much louder than the rest of the tracks. Under the current plan the platforms are being extended 200' west of the station. The wall incorporated into that platform design therefore will not extend far enough west to cover the area the previous wall once stood upon. That leaves the loudest part of the tracks and the quality-of-life issues it imposes on us unaddressed. All I and the community are asking is that a wall that existed at the location and the railroad agreed to repair be rebuilt and incorporated into the new upgraded station. Thank you all for your time and interest.

Rachel Rath

I live at 6 Burns Street, directly across from the Forest Hills LIRR station. Since the railroad has added the Grand Central line, train traffic and train noise have gone up exponentially. My husband and I are aware that there used to be a sound mitigation wall that was removed several years ago. As the LIRR is making improvements to the Forest Hills station, we request the following: 1. That the LIRR ensures that any wall erected has sound mitigation qualities. 2. That no trees are removed from the embankment (now, the trees are the only thing that offer any visual and audio privacy). 3. That if an additional staircase is added then this staircase will not be directly across from our building. There are many safety concerns with an egress directly across from the entrances to our building. We have already had to deal with large amounts of package theft, and a staircase will be a perfect place for people to loiter while waiting to follow someone inside. There is plenty of space further down the tracks closer to the stadium, which will also help mitigate pedestrian traffic on concert nights.

Mary Logerfo

I am writing to you to leave a comment for the CB6 meeting on Wednesday, March 13th, concerning the LIRR proposal for changing the Forest Hills Station. I am unable to attend the meeting, but I was told that my comments would be read. As a resident of 6 Burns Street, our quality of life has been seriously diminished by the demolition of the LIRR barrier wall in 2008. I once actually enjoyed the soothing sound of the trains entering and leaving the station, yes, the sound was soothing! Sadly, since the LIRR demolished the wall, the cacophony has become unbearable. The peaceful life in Forest Hills Gardens has been replaced by the feeling of living in a train yard, with extreme noise and extreme stress. Please hear our plea to rebuild a noise mitigation wall beyond the platform, to prevent our peace from being disrupted by the constant banging from

the signal tracks and restore the magical quality that once permeated this beautiful, historic neighborhood.

Keith Mazzaello

I am writing today to urge you to oppose the City of Yes proposals that you will be voting on soon. These proposals will have negative impacts in both low-density and high-density areas of our city. While the City of Yes – Housing Opportunity proposal will frankly have catastrophic consequences on our residential communities, the matter at hand now is the City of Yes –Economic Opportunity proposal which, if passed, will allow unregulated commercial uses throughout all our neighborhoods. This pressing matter must be rejected to help preserve communities across the city and allow us to consider better solutions that will get our city back on its feet – the right way. While many of the aspects of these proposals will have dire impacts on our community, some of the worst include allowing owners of houses and apartments to open business establishments including massage parlors, nail salons and barbershops which will disrupt the quality of life in neighborhoods across the city and negatively affect the residential atmosphere that we have fought to maintain. This proposal will allow businesses into commercial areas where they shouldn't be able to locate, creating dangerous conditions on neighborhood retail commercial strips. Expanding the areas where cabaret licenses will be granted will diminish the quality of life in residences that are in close proximity to these areas. Allowing retail/office/storefronts such as corner stores up to 2500 square feet on all properties within 100 feet of every corner on every residential block, transforming the quieter areas of our city into an unrecognizable commercial nightmare. These changes, along with many others proposed alongside them, will lead to a need for increased enforcement from various city agencies that are already not equipped to take on the volume of issues we have today, let alone in the future. Between staffing shortages and newly announced budget cuts these changes are all but guaranteed to place the burden of enforcement on already strained city workers. In addition, when considering zoning proposals with a citywide impact like these to the zoning code, collateral damage must be taken into consideration. In this instance, the myriad unintended consequences that would occur from adoption of these zoning changes are immense – and unacceptable. As a resident of New York City that will unquestionably be affected by the negative impact of these proposals, I urge that you take these points into consideration, and that you further research and weigh how these proposals can affect myself as well as all your constituents.

MINUTES

There is one change to the minutes, John Dereszewski abstained on the vote on the resolution regarding the shelter because he works for DSS. Mark Laster made a motion to approve the minutes as written with the one alteration and it was seconded by Howard Birnbaum. All were in favor.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Heather Beers-Dimitriadis reported at the end of February, Queens Borough President Donovan Richards spent a week in Districts 6 and 9. To explore a variety of issues in the districts, DOT and Parks were at sites visit. Some of the issues that were brought up were traffic challenges on Yellowstone Boulevard. We are already seeing some progress on Yellowstone Blvd. DOT started doing some traffic studies around Parker Towers. We met with civic and business leaders one day. The Chair thanked all the board members that attended the town hall meeting. Borough President Richards spoke about Forest Hills Stadium. He noted that the stadium is here to stay and proposed to bring together a group that has concerns and issues with the concerts that can be resolved. Some scheduling is already being worked out.

Chair Dimitriadis also reported that on March 21st the community board will be distributing the job vacancy notice for the District Manager position. An email will be sent out to all board members for the members to share on social media and share post with their networks. The board wants to get a good applicant pool for this

position. All applications must be postmarked, with no electronic submission. The postmark should be no later than April 11th, certified mail attention Job search at Community Board 6, sent to the office. At the end of April, the hiring committee will start to review the resumes.

The Chair asked the board members if anyone was renewing their application to be on the board. Board members Petrina Schneiderman and Beatrice Leong aren't renewing their application. The chair thanked both for their work on this board and for Petrina attending QSWAB (Queens Solid Waste Advisory Board) Meeting.

The Chair reported that our April meeting will be earlier, April 3rd, and new board members should be at that meeting.

Some upcoming events:

- Sunday, April 7th Queensway is giving an exclusive walk through for CB6 through the right of way for the park phase of the project (more details to come). Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and Senator Chuck Schumer gave \$117 million towards the next phase of the project that will connect Forest Hills with Ozone Park.
- Sunday, May 26th Forest Hills Memorial Day parade. The past two years the community board has marched in the parade and would like to participate this year. Email the office if you would like to participate so we have an idea how many people are participating.
- Saturday, March 23rd from 10am – 1pm cleanup at MacDonald Park.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

Christine Nolan, Community Coordinator reported that:

The responses to our budget requests are sometimes vague and just advise us to reach out to agencies/elected officials for more information. After meeting with Heather and Mark to go over the responses from last year, the staff sent letters to 14 agencies and all elected officials (city, state and federal) making them aware of these priorities. We did receive some responses and we will forward them to the appropriate committee chairs once the budget process starts up again for Fiscal Year 2026.

The Applications are open for Dining Out NYC, which is the permanent outdoor dining program. Any establishment that has a current outdoor dining structure will have to apply by August 3, 2024. Any business that does not apply for the new program will have until November to remove their dining structure. If there are locations that have outdoor dining structures that aren't being used, let us know and we can report them to the DOT. Also, if there are current locations that you think pose a specific issue, please let us know so we can let DOT know. This new program will have much stricter rules, especially the roadway portion.

Christine is working with the Public Relations Social Media Committee to make some changes to our website. For those that don't know, our website is nyc.gov/cb6q. We have added a section where residents can make a 311 complaint and then send us the 311 number for follow up. We also added some useful links such as our YouTube page, ZOLA (Zoning and Land Use Map), and Queens Public Library. If you have any suggestions of links that might be helpful to add, please let me know.

As always, the office staff is available to answer any questions you may have or troubleshoot any issues/complaints so feel free to reach out.

Mark Laster thanked Christine and staff for following up on the budget requests and sending letters to the elected officials and department heads of the different city agencies. We have received some responses. We have learned by doing this process that some changes will be made to next year's budget i.e. to give less

general requests or multiple requests combined into one because the city will focus on one request. A meeting with the committee chairs will be scheduled to review some of the results so that the chairs can bring it back to their committees April-June.

PRESENTATION FROM LONG ISLAND RAILROAD FOREST HILLS LIRR ACCESSIBILITY PROJECT

A letter was read by Sean McCabe representing Senator Joseph P. Addabbo that was written to the community board.

I hope this letter finds you well and thank you for your commitment to improving the communities of Community Board 6. I am writing to bring to your attention an upcoming extensive project that will have a significant impact on the Forest Hills community. Particularly the residents living near the MTA Long Island Railroad (LIRR) Station Square. As you may be aware the MTA is scheduled to commence construction at the Forest Hills Station Square LIRR station in April/May.

Given the potential disruptions and changes that this project may entail, remember my experiences with similar large projects throughout my district. I am reaching out to suggest that Community Board 6 consider establishing a committee would serve as a vital means for updates to be disseminated to the community, ensuring transparency and accountability throughout the duration of the construction process, while answering related issues with the project that may arise during its progress.

Furthermore, I strongly recommend to the MTA that it implement a hotline and email specifically designated for receiving resident concerns regarding the construction at the Station Square LIRR stop. This hotline would provide residents with a direct line of communication to voice their questions, complaints and suggestions thus fostering a collaborative and responsive approach to addressing community needs.

As a representative of the Forest Hills community, I understand the importance of ensuring that this project is executed smoothly and with minimal disruption to the daily lives of residents. By establishing a monitoring committee, along with implementing a resident hotline and email, we can proactively address concerns, facilitate communication, and ultimately enhance the overall experience for our constituents.

I kindly request that Queens Community Board 6 consider these proposals and take appropriate action to support the residents of Forest Hills throughout this process. Please let me know if my office or I can be of any assistance with the above or during the project.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your efforts throughout the year.

A presentation was given by Nick Fasano, Director of Government and Community Affairs. The contractor will restore any vegetation that is disturbed during the project. We are legally mandated to bring all our stations to ADA compliance across the MTA system i.e. subways, Metro North and LIRR through a combination of elevators and ramps or one or the other.

Regarding the platform extension, going west doesn't work due to a signal bridge there. We would have to take the signal bridge down and rebuild it elsewhere without affecting train movement and then extend the platform. That would cost a lot more than the project has in its budget. This is the reason why we have to go to the east.

Stairs – the MTA is obligated with NY State building codes to provide safe egress from our stations. This is something that must be done and are willing to work with the community provided it is within what NY State allows. We are committed to preserving the stations in their current form while doing this current project. We went to SHPO (State Historic Preservation Officer) (and they approved all our designs. Funding came through in December/January, we have preliminary designs this is something called design build.

— ADA and quality improvements to the station - upgrading ADA accessibility on the north and south side.

- Extending the platform to the east to make a much better ride for the community.
- Snow melt system for the platforms and ramps to accommodate the melting of the snow in the winter months.
- Forte Construction will design and do the construction. Will provide outreach to the community regarding this project and will work with the Forest Hills Garden. Their website LIRRoutreach@fortecc.com.

Project Intent

- ADA and Quality improvements to the Station
- Part of a wider project to bring improvements to Forest Hills, Hollis and Babylon LIRR Stations
- Start-Date: February 2024
- Completion: December 2026

Customer Benefits

Improved Station Components:

- Installation of ADA Ramps and ADA Accessible paths of travel
- Platform Replacement – exposed concrete finish
- New Platform extensions
- Snow-melt System – tactile warming strips

Additional Scope Items – station wall and ramps

- South-west wall, visual barrier consistent with historical features
- ADA accessible ramps with snowmelt system
- ADA accessible pathway from Ascan Ave

Preliminary Presence – early work – starting March.

- Test pits to determine utility locations and building foundations – which include test pits, street evaluations, electrical feeds, gas lines.
- Street and station surveys – for ramps to restore back to the original condition.
- Design work – graphing.
- Geotechnical Borings & Clearing/Grubbing – didn't start.
- Setup Work Zones – designing and will be viewed before they go into the heat ramps.

Forest Hills Station Construction Schedule

Early works March 2024 – August 2024

- Boring
- Surveying the business to make sure they understand what is going on the sidewalks, streets working in and around.

Phase 1 – East side August 2024 – 2nd Quarter of 2025

- Four new car platforms on Ascan Avenue side.
- Improved southeast ADA compliant ramp.
- New southeast stairs.

Phase 2 – Westside 2nd Quarter of 2025 – 2nd Quarter 2026

- Replacement of existing west side platforms.
- New northwest ADA compliant ramp.
- New southwest stairs.

Phase 3 – 2nd Quarter 2026 – 4th Quarter 2026

— To be determined

Service Impacts & Alternatives

- Weekend outages – subways cross-honoring.
- Front four train cars will be in service.
- Nightwork – not during events.
- Public outreach as to when the work will be done.

Public Communication

- Project email: LIRROUTREACH@FORTECC.COM
- Project hotline:
 - Dedicated 24/7 hotline to receive and respond to non-emergency complaints and issues from the public. Will be set up in the future.
- MTA government & community relations representative: Nick Fasano & Anabel Frias
- Forte CC Public Information Officer & Construction Liaison: Margo Cargill & Dio Arias

Forte has developed an additional ADA accessible ramp on the northside of the platform on Ascan Avenue. It is required to add an egress at the northeast side of the platform.

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis spoke to the MTA stating that the MTA said the community's input is important. The chair went on to say the community board members that have worked on this project find it hard to have any credence regarding their input due to the history with the MTA. The Chair said the following:

- Input was elevators. We negotiated with local stakeholders to position the ramps in a way that worked for all of us. Even when funding was secured from our Congress Member, we still didn't get elevators.
- Input was covered ramps. There is no design for a covered ramp, yet you find them throughout the world.
- Input was to create a stakeholder and not these siloed conversations that keep taking place. We didn't get initial renderings they were provided to us by members of the community that felt we needed looped in.
- When we asked about vegetation that was removed a year ago, that provided much needed sound abatement, and could you replace the trees – we were told that is not how the MTA/LIRR does things. However, when you do this project, you have to replace everything. Our input was why don't we plant evergreens.
- Our community bears the brunt of every line that runs from the city to Jamaica. We bear the brunt of the noise and the dust and yet we have to beg for our congress members' money to be use the way it was intended.

In closing she said it is hard to take the agency seriously when they haven't considered our input to date.

Questions and comments were taken. Some of those questions included:

- 1) Where do you stand on the LIRR platform when there are six cars and when there will be four cars during construction?

Response: Someone will be on the platform; an announcement will be made on board. You can download the app. to position yourself on the platform.

2) How much is the footage of the ramp?

Response: Approximately 200 feet long

3) How many city blocks is that?

Response: One city block, 500 feet

4) Is there going to be a covering over the ramp?

Response: No, it is not in the design, we can look at the design.

5) Why can't we have an elevator?

Response: Ramps satisfy our requirement to make it accessible to everyone.

6) Why ramps versus elevators?

Response: Ramps satisfy our requirements. Quemuel Arroyo said we have a legally binding mandate to make all our train stations accessible to all riders. There is no definition of what accessible is, we are having a snow melt system in the ramps, which the ramps will be accessible to all during the snow or ice. They will be ADA compliant ramps for the aging community. There will be a gradual ramp with the appropriate slope, for commuters to walk, roll, and rise smoothly, which is being provided. Canopy has some security concerns; you can't see through a canopy. We look at ramps first with all our projects. This project was never funded for the cost of an elevator. The policy of the MTA is to look for ramps system wide.

7) We need to have visuals as to where to stand on the platform for the open cars, not everyone speaks English.

Response: We have SHPO requirements.

8) Is the snow melt system only going to be used on the ramps?

Response: There will be a snow melting system on the ramps, platform, and stairs.

9) What is the longevity of the snow melt system? What happens when the system breaks down?

Response: Maintenance crews will be at the station to make sure the snow melt system is up and running. If it was to break down, we would replace it.

10) What is the cost of the snow melt system versus putting in a canopy?

Response: With the canopy you are not capturing the snow on the canopy, ramp, or platform.

11) Going east bound a new entrance with a ramp is it going up to Ascan Avenue?

Response: On the north side only.

12) The rendering on the page is what the train station will look like?

Response: The rendering is a preliminary rendering. That is the stairs on the southwest side.

13) Are there going to be benches on the platform?

Response: Yes

14) When construction begins are you going to have someone out there for the hearing impaired?

Response: There will be plenty of outreach at the station along with signage. Let the conductor know that you are going to Forest Hills, they will make sure you will be accommodated in that matter.

15) Is there any discussion as to where the stairwell will be placed?

Response: I haven't seen the proposal. Chair Dimitriadis replied asking if they can take the proposal back and respond later.

16) What is the project hotline phone number?

Response: It hasn't been established.

17) Are there going to be any improvements to the indoor waiting areas? Need to post the hours of the indoor area of the waiting room?

Response: The bathroom will be ADA compliant. Regarding the hours, waiting rooms are open when there is someone there, usually 5am-2pm weekdays, 6am-3pm on weekends. If there is MTA PD, or cleaning of the bathrooms the waiting rooms will be closed. There will be signage.

18) During the construction of the ramps, will there be an alternative to ramps?

Response: No

19) How long will the ramps be open during construction?

Response: There will be limited down time of the ramps. The ramps must be open from May to Columbus Day. From Columbus Day until the end of May the ramps will be closed. We are trying to minimize construction as much as possible. We will be cross honoring the subway stations and make announcements to which stations will have accessibility.

Chair Dimitriadis told the LIRR that we will get back to them with some other questions that they might have. She also told everyone if you have any questions that weren't answered tonight regarding the LIRR to email them to the Community Board. The Community Board will submit the questions to the LIRR/MTA.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE REPORT

Co-Chair Gladys Sandoval gave the following report:

CB6 received the following new liquor license applications:

1. Pho Thai Inc. 95-25 Queens Blvd., RP

Vietnamese & Thai full-service restaurant. Principles/ Operators have many years of experience in operating a restaurant. They currently operate Pho Tan Restaurant, another Vietnamese & Thai restaurant located at 147-34B Northern Blvd Flushing, NY since March 2021. Prior to owning restaurants, the principles have over 20 years of experience working in many restaurants a sous chef, head chef in various Korean, Malaysian, and Chinese restaurants in Queens, NY. The last restaurant he worked as a chef prior to opening his own was Pho Best II located at 39-07 Prince Street, Flushing, NY 11354. The new restaurant will also be Vietnamese & Thai restaurant, full service, and waitress service. The new restaurant operation will be the same as our restaurant on Northern Blvd. We recently opened the restaurant, and the hours of operation are 12pm to 9pm daily, 7 days a week, with background music only, no live entertainment or happy hour. The restaurant attracts large family dinner groups, people who work nearby and local residents. The restaurant is always family operated and on-site owners.

2. Art of Grill, 97-13 Queens Boulevard, RP

There was previously a business called Kazan Mangal. The owner of Art of Grill was involved in that business previously.

CB6 received the following renewal applications:

1. Mas Tortilla 113-27B Queens Blvd., FH

2. Reef 108-02 72nd Avenue, FH
3. La Boulangerie 109-01 72nd Road, FH
4. Shogun 111-16 Queens Blvd., FH
5. King David 101-10 Queens Blvd., FH
6. Bloom Botanical Bistro 103-19 Metropolitan Avenue, FH
7. American Legion Continental Post 1424, 107-15 Metropolitan Avenue, FH
8. Tamashii Red 71-34 Austin Street, FH
9. Austin Street Pizza 71-63 Austin Street, FH

The 112th Precinct didn't have any issues/complaints with these establishments. A voice vote for the new and renewal liquor licenses was approved. All were in favor.

CB6 received the following street activity permit application:

Queens Boulevard Forest Hills Fair
August 31, 2024, 3:00pm – 10:00pm

Robert Ashe – Clearview Productions spoke briefly about the application.

I work on the streets fairs and want to bring a night market concept pilot program as a fundraiser for the 112pct. Last week we had a committee meeting to discuss the night market for Labor Day weekend as an Asian theme from Yellowstone Blvd. to restaurant row. If the concept works, we will have more night markets next year with different themes. We will need approval from the mayor's office since this is a pilot program.

Board Member Heidi Chain spoke about the night market having a nonprofits area for the Precinct Council, Community Board and other nonprofits that want to join. According to Co-Chair Gladys Sandoval, a straw poll was taken, the committee recommendation voted yes. All were in favor with abstention from Pat Morgan, Heidi Chain and Dr. Renee Mehrra, they are on the 112pct Community Council.

LAW/BY-LAW COMMITTEE REPORT

AMENDMENT TO EXCUSED ABSENCE BYLAW: ARTICLE XIII, SECTION 2(d)

Revision to Excused Absence Bylaw, Article XIII, Section 2(d)

The purpose of this revision is to bring the criteria constituting an excused absence in conformity with those contained in the Borough President's Code of Conduct for community board members. This will have the effect of adding employment conflicts and scheduled vacations to the list of items qualifying for an excused absence. The revision also further clarifies the situations where a member who is authorized to represent the board at an event held at the same time as the board's monthly meeting can claim an excused absence.

After discussion, the committee unanimously voted to approve the revision. In its view, the revision will remove any confusion that board members may experience through differing excused absence criteria. The new language also clarifies exactly when a member can be excused for missing a monthly meeting when duly authorized to represent the board on official business. John Dereszewski made a motion to approve the amendment and was seconded by Mark Laster. The motion was then unanimously approved by a voice vote.

A copy of the revised section appears below. The new language appears in bold; any deletions are bracketed out.

d. For purposes of this Article, an excused absence shall mean appearing on **board related business properly authorized by the Chair or otherwise mandated that occurs** at the same time as the regular monthly meeting; **illness**, including having a medical, mental or physical ailment that effectively prevents attendance; the need to perform one's military **or other compulsory** service; (and) the need for such absence due to **family**

emergencies, including childbirth, or death or illness of a family member (;or); the need to attend a significant religious or secularly equivalent event; **employment obligations; or planned vacations.** Proof of such excused absences must be provided **in writing** to the (board’s district office) **Community Board Chair** before the time of the meeting except for situations of imminent emergency where **such** notice must be provided as promptly as reasonable possible. Requests for excused absences that meet (this) **these** criteria shall not be unreasonably denied.

EDUCATION, YOUTH COMMITTEE REPORT CLASS SIZE RESOLUTION

Chair Dimitriadis reported that a year ago the committee voted unanimously to support the Governor’s unfunded class-size mandate law. It became a law without any financial backing, to provide extra classes, we are going to need more funding which must come from the state. The Educational Committee put together a resolution, if passed tonight, will go to the state representative to put money aside to meet our mandate by 2029. Peter Beadle made a motion to amend the proposed resolution, to change “Youth, Education Committee to Community Board 6” since it is a resolution from the Board. The amendment was accepted as a friendly one to approve this motion as amended. Mark Laster seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, on June 2, 2022, the NY State Legislature overwhelmingly passed S9460/A10498, and Governor Hochul signed an unfunded mandate requiring NYC Public Schools to implement a five-year plan reducing class-sizes beginning in the fall of 2022.

WHEREAS, S9460/A10498 amends the Contracts for Excellence law, passed in 2007, following the resolution of the Campaign for Fiscal Equity case that started in 1993. In that law, class size reduction was one of six eligible uses of Contracts for Excellence funds, provided as a set-aside with foundation aid from the state to school districts. This amendment is specifically focused on class size reduction and does not provide additional funding to meet the new requirements.

WHEREAS, the high schools, middle schools, and elementary schools with Queens Community District 6 are severely overcrowded, and according to the latest available data, student enrollment at these schools given the current available instructional space will far exceed the mandated class sizes as dictated in law S9460/A10498.

WHEREAS, smaller class sizes would improve academic outcomes for our students, including students with students with special education.

WHEREAS, in order to fulfill the Governor’s mandate, planning and finding sufficient space to build new education spaces or expand existing ones must commence now as these projects on average can take five years or more to complete.

WHEREAS, elementary school children must be able to attend their zoned elementary school or a neighboring elementary school within one mile or less from their home.

WHEREAS current foundation aid levels do not adequately fund the capital expenses needed to meet the class size reduction amendment.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Queens Community Board 6 requests the NYS legislature to pass a funding bill in a timely manner that would provide schools with the necessary funds to fulfill this legislation.

HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH, SUBSTANCE ABUSE COMMITTEE REPORT SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER TREATMENT FACILITY

The Kenneth Peters Center for Recovery – Rego Park Satellite Location
95-20 63rd Road – Rego Park, NY 11374

Co-Chair Diana Rachnaev reported the committee met on February 12th, with the Kenneth Peters Center for Recovery which is located at 95-20 63rd Road, Suite K. The committee had some questions and received responses regarding the questions. All board members agreed to the Kenneth Peters Center responses and had no other concerns. The center is for substance abuse counseling, they have received approval from OASAIS and would like to receive a letter of support. John Dereszewski made a motion to accept Kenneth Peter Center for Recovery and was seconded by L.T. Ciaccio. All were in favor.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, SANITATION COMMITTEE REPORT COMMUNITY COMPOSTING RESOLUTION

Mark Laster reported that this past November, Mayor Adams announced that the NYC budget will cut sanitation's \$3 million in composting. The cuts were protested by the composting coalition, council members, four borough presidents and nearly 50 thousand petitioners. The cuts were not restored to drop off food scape and processing sites, the budget wasn't restored and will close after June 2024. A motion to approve was made by Michael Arcati and seconded by Brently Winstead. All were in favor.

The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the impact of the proposed 2024 Budget has led to the City of New York to defund community composting in NYC (\$3M) which will impact the NYC Compost Project and GrowNYC.

WHEREAS, The NYC Compost Project funds seven community compost programs and partners with 75 community drop-off sites citywide to collect and haul scraps which are then composted for use in community green space; and

WHEREAS, GrowNYC provides food scrap collection, organics processing, outreach and education, and partners with a network of over 200 drop-off sites, including the Forest Hills Greenmarket will be impacted by this loss of funding, and

WHEREAS, the loss of funding and subsequent cutting of community composting and outreach programs will result in the elimination of over 115 green jobs in NYC; and

WHEREAS, the local community compost programs provide local compost processing capacity and are critical to education of NYC residents on the benefits and necessity composting; and

WHEREAS, community composting diverts more than 8.3 million pounds of organic waste from landfills each year; and

WHEREAS, community composting supports soil health and addresses the critical issue of climate crisis; now
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Community Board 6 advocates for the restoration of funding for the NYC Compost Project with the DSNY budget.

GOOD AND WELFARE

Chair Dimitriadis reported our next meeting is April 3rd. Council Member Robert Holden's representative asked the chair to report if you live in Council Member Holdens district you can reach out to him at district30@council.nyc.gov.

Queens Borough President Donovan Richards
Amparito Rosero reported:

- Application to become a community board member is now closed.
- We have concluded our interview process, and we are in the final stage before appointments are announced.
- I am proud to announce that we received 592 new applications throughout the borough and 843 total applications including reapplicants. Not our personal best, but still a very solid number.

- If you have any questions in regard to the application or the process, please feel free to reach out to our Director of Community Boards, Kahleel Bragg at kbragg@queensbp.org.
- Monday, March 18th at Queens Borough Hall our office will host a Phagwah (Holi) Celebration at 6pm.
- Thursday, March 25th at 5:30pm our office will host our inaugural Irish Heritage Celebration. The event will take place at Sunnyside Community Services which is located at 43-31 39th street Sunnyside, NY.
- You can always RSVP to these events on our website at queensbp.org/rsvp.

New York City Council Member James Gennaro

Kelly Sexton reported:

- He hears everyone's concerns about the shelter in Rego Park. He received Rego Park district after the shelter was signed and is currently trying to fight the shelter. The council members are going to set up a Community Advisory Board.
- Monday, March 27th at 10am – 4pm Blood Drive at Queens Community House

Chair Dimitriadis wanted to clarify that there is already going to be a Community Advisory Board for both shelters which was settled months ago. To be clear the resolution that was put forth by the board isn't against the shelter. It was in support of them meeting their objectives and support of maintaining and sustaining community safety. The clamming isn't coming from this board, it is coming from East Elmhurst and Corona.

Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi

Gianna Valente reported:

- Thanking everyone who came out for the Metropolitan Avenue clean-up last weekend, forty volunteers turned out. Another cleanup is scheduled for Sunday, April 14th on Metropolitan Avenue.
- E waste and paper shredding event in the Spring to be determined.

District Attorney Melinda Katz

Javier Figaroa reported:

- Teamed up with the NYPD on illegal scooters which are used to commit violent crimes and robberies. As of February, DA Katz took 250 illegally parked and not registered scooters off the street.
- Announced 130-count indictment charging two men from Astoria for making homemade bombs and firearms.
- Monday, April 1st by 5pm Request for Proposals (RFP) applicants to implement the Queens District Attorney Community Youth Development and Crime Prevention Project.
- Tuesday, April 26th Women's History Month at Queens College

Assembly Member Catalina Cruz

Thomas Auringer reported:

- Thursday, March 21st, the New York Legal Assistance Group will be coming back to the office.
- The last coat drive was held at the end of February. Over 500 coats were distributed to people in the community.
- Pop up vaccination for flu and COVID was held for community members.
- Friday, March 22nd Women's Day Event at the LaGuardia Marriott Hotel
- Saturday, March 23rd Trans Day at Queens Community House
- Wednesday, March 28th first session of mental health with Common Point Queens First Aid

New York Council Member Lynn Schulman

Kevin McAleer reported:

- April 6-14 Participatory Budgeting eight or nine projects on the ballot i.e. tree planting, road repaving etc.

- Is having budget negotiations and is committed to restoring the compost budget and saving library budget cuts.

Congresswoman Grace Meng

Jordan Goldes reported:

- Sent a letter to the Secretary of Transportation requesting the Queensway funding and to pass the legislation to fund the Queensway.
- State of the union presidential speech a guest came down to Washington DC, a local student who depends on the local connectivity program. The nationwide program provides discounts on internet services and devices. The program may be expiring in April and have been pushing to get it refunded.
- Thursday, April 11th, Veterans Administration will be at Congresswoman Grace Meng's office.
- Secure funding for local groups, projects \$13.1 million in the government spending bill includes several organizations within CB6. La Jornada \$500,000 a Rego Park food assistance group, \$300,000 for the American Legion in Forest Hills to renovate the facilities, \$1 million to help mitigate flooding and \$500,000 for the Queens DA Cold Case Unit to identify unidentified remains.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Maria Concolino
Community Service Aide

CB 6 VOTING SHEET 3-13-24	NEW LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS		RENEWAL LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS		STREET ACTIVITY PERMIT QUEENS BLVD FAIR 112 PCT CC		BY-LAW CHANGE EXCUSED ABSENCE ARTICLE XIII SECTION 2(d)	
MICHAEL ARCATI			Abstain from American Legion					
DAVID ARONOV		Absent		Absent		Absent		Absent
ANISIA AYON								
SALUA BAIDA		Absent		Absent		Absent		Absent
KAVISH BATRA								
PETER BEADLE								
HOWARD BIRNBAUM								
HEIDI CHAIN						Abstain		
GINA CHEN								
L.T. CIACCIO								
KANDRA CLARK		Absent		Absent		Absent		Absent
LATRICE DAVIS	A		A		A		A	
JOHN DERESZEWSKI	L		L		L		L	
HEATHER DIMITRIADIS	L		L		L		L	
KEITH ENGEL								
BRUCE GROSSBERG	W	Absent	W	Absent	W	Absent	W	Absent
KAREN IMAS	E		E		E		E	
SARINA JAIN	R		R		R		R	
MATT FERNANDEZ KONIGSBERG	E		E		E		E	
MARCELLE LASHLEY-KABORE		Absent		Absent		Absent		Absent
MARK LASTER	I		I		I		I	
BEATRICE LEONG	N		N		N		N	
KEVIN LY								
DR. RENEE MEHRRRA	F		F			Abstain	F	
PAT MORGAN	A		A			Abstain	A	
DIANA RACHNAEV	V		V		F		V	
SHARI ROLNICK	O		O		A		O	
MATTHEW SALTON	R	Absent	R	Absent	V	Absent	R	Absent
GLADYS SANDOVAL					O			
DAVID SCHANTZ					R			
PETRINA SCHNEIDERMAN								
HERBERT SCHONHAUT								
JEAN C. SILVA								
MARTHA TUCKER								
BRENTLY WINSTEAD	↓		↓		↓		↓	
EDWIN WONG								
TITILAYO YASUKAWA	Absent		Absent		Absent		Absent	
EPHRAIM ZAKRY								
TOTALS:	ALL IN FAVOR		YES 30	ABSTAIN 1	YES 28	ABSTAIN 3	ALL IN FAVOR	

CB6 VOTING SHEET 3-13-24 PG2	CLASS SIZE RESOLUTION	SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER TREATMENT FACILITY 95-20 63 ROAD	COMMUNITY COMPOSTING RESOLUTION	
MICHAEL ARCATI				
DAVID ARONOV	Absent	Absent	Absent	
ANISIA AYON				
SALUA BAIDA	Absent	Absent	Absent	
KAVISH BATRA	A	A	A	
PETER BEADLE	L	L	L	
HOWARD BIRNBAUM	L	L	L	
HEIDI CHAIN				
GINA CHEN	W	W	W	
L.T. CIACCIO	E	E	E	
KANDRA CLARK	R Absent	R Absent	R Absent	
LATRICE DAVIS	E	E	E	
JOHN DERESZEWSKI				
HEATHER DIMITRIADIS	I	I	I	
KEITH ENGEL	N	N	N	
BRUCE GROSSBERG	Absent	Absent	Absent	
KAREN IMAS	F	F	F	
SARINA JAIN	A	A	A	
MATT FERNANDEZ KONIGSBERG	V	V	V	
MARCELLE LASHLEY-KABORE	O Absent	O Absent	O Absent	
MARK LASTER	R	R	R	
BEATRICE LEONG				
KEVIN LY				
DR. RENEE MEHRRRA				
PAT MORGAN				
DIANA RACHNAEV				
SHARI ROLNICK				
MATTHEW SALTON	Absent	Absent	Absent	
GLADYS SANDOVAL				
DAVID SCHANTZ	↓	↓	↓	
PETRINA SCHNEIDERMAN				
HERBERT SCHONHAUT				
JEAN C. SILVA				
MARTHA TUCKER				
BRENTLY WINSTEAD				
EDWIN WONG				
TITILAYO YASUKAWA	Absent	Absent	Absent	
EPHRAIM ZAKRY				
TOTALS:	ALL IN FAVOR	ALL IN FAVOR	ALL IN FAVOR	