



HEATHER BEERS-DIMITRIADIS
CHAIR

COMMUNITY BOARD 6, QUEENS

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CHRISTINE NOLAN
DISTRICT MANAGER

CB 6 MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 11, 2025

PRESENT

HEATHER BEERS-DIMITRIADIS, CHAIR	SALUA BAIDA, SECRETARY OF ADMINISTRATION
PETER BEADLE, 1 ST VICE CHAIR	LT. CIACCIO, SECRETARY OF FINANCE AND PERSONNEL
KEITH ENGEL, 2 ND VICE CHAIR	JOHN DERESZEWSKI, PARLIAMENTARIAN
MARK LASTER, 3 RD VICE CHAIR	

E. ALFONSECA
R. ASHE
A. AYON
K. BATRA
H. BIRNBAUM
K. CLAR K
L. DAVIS
K. FUENTES
N. GALIPEAU
T. GAVRILOF
A. GUO

N. JOHNSON
K. LY
R. MEHRA
P. MORGAN
J. POORAN
J. PRATT
R. PUNJABI
D. RACHNAEV
G. RIVKIN
L. ROBINS
P. RODRIGUEZ

S. ROLNICK
D. SCHANTZ
H. SCHONHAUT
A. PRATAP SHAH
D. SOLOW
L. TECPANECATL
M. TUCKER
D. WALCOTT
E. ZAKRY

ABSENT

D. ARONOV
J. AVILA
A. FERATOVIC
K. IMAS*

S. JAIN
M. LASHLEY-KABORE*
S. MUNAWAR*
N. PIENKOWSKA*

G. SANDOVAL
E. SHVARTSMAN*
J. SILVA
B. WINSTEAD*

*EXCUSED ABSENCES

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

CHRISTINE NOLAN
JORDAN GOLDES
MERCEDES JENNINGS
AMPARITO ROSERO
KEVIN MCALEER
FARAN SHARIF
JOSE VALERA
MEGAN YUAN
JAMES MONGELUZO
MARIA CONCOLINO
BARBARA VULICH

DISTRICT MANAGER
OFFICE OF CONGRESS MEMBER GRACE MENG
OFFICE OF SENATOR MICHAEL GIANARIS
OFFICE OF QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER LYNN SCHULMAN
OFFICE OF SENATOR JOSEPH P. ADDABBO
OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES GENNARO
MAYOR'S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS UNIT
OFFICE OF NEW YORK CITY COMPTROLLER
COMMUNITY BOARD 6 STAFF
COMMUNITY BOARD 6 STAFF

COMMUNITY BOARD 6 MINUTES

JUNE 11, 2025

Chair Heather Beers-Dimitriadis opened the meeting, and paid tribute to Pride month to members of our community.

This meeting was held in person with a limited virtual option via Webex for individuals with extraordinary circumstances. The following CB6 Member joined the meeting via Webex: Dr. Renee Mehrra. The meeting was recorded and posted on YouTube (www.tinyurl.com/cb6youtube).

Chair Heather Beers-Dimitriadis opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

GOOD AND WELFARE

CB 6 MEMBERS

Kevin Ly

I am speaking tonight in strong support of the resolution from the Education Committee, Chair Shari Rolnick calling on our schools to fully recognize Jewish American, Asia American and Asia Pacific Islander Heritage month. This resolution reflects who we are as a community and who we hope our children grow up to be. Forest Hills and Rego Park are some of the most diverse neighborhoods in New York City. Nearly a third of our district identifies as AAPI outside of Asia. Our Jewish community is not only deeply rooted, but also one of the largest in our country. We are home to tens of thousands to Jewish residents including the largest Bukharian Jewish community outside of Israel. These are not just facts, they are families, business owners, teachers, students and elders. They're part of the fabric of this district and this city. It is important that our students see their heritage reflected in schools. Even more important, all students see it. Education isn't just about who's in the classrooms today; it's about preparing young people for the world they are stepping into. A world that is diverse, interconnected, often divided. Understanding of another's story of resilience, empathy and unity. Even in schools where there are a few Jewish or Asia students this resolution still matters. It says we teach not just to reflect the present but to shape a more inclusive future. Posters and bulletin boards are meaningful start it helps set the tone in our hallways, but real inclusion is what we teach. We are calling for a stronger presence, social studies curriculum, materials and resources that meaningfully recognize and reflect Jewish and AAPI heritage. That shows every student no matter what background they belong to. This does not come at the expense of any other group. Just as we uplift Black History Month, Arab American Heritage Month, Pride Month and Veterans Day. This resolution simply broadens the circle and ensures more students walk away with a deeper understanding of the world around them. Chair Rolnick, thank you for your leadership. To the board let's make this a district that leads with inclusion, compassion, and courage. Let's vote yes.

Mark Laster

- Next Breaking Bread Building Bonds luncheon will be on Sunday, June 29th at 2 PM. If you want to receive an invitation, please email fhginc@gmail.com. Thanks to Apple Bank for funding this.
- Next meeting of the Forest Hills Green Team will be on Monday, June 16th at 6 PM. Among the topics we will be discussing is our presentations at schools. When we have presented at High Schools, we remind students that only 8% of 16–17-year-olds are registered to vote and only 39% of 18 years old are registered in Queens. We are among the lowest registrations in all the counties of New York State. If you are involved at a school that would be interested in having us discuss this and other

issues regarding climate change, please email fhgtinc@gmail.com and we would gladly come to discuss this important issue.

- With the start of the summer, we are gearing up to work on the Forest Hills Green Team Street Garden, on Yellowstone Boulevard, between Burns and Austin Street. Dan Miner, co-chair of the team, is looking for volunteers to assist us in maintaining this street.
- All community board members will be receiving a questionnaire about which committees you would want to join. I'm repeating my request from last month, as you consider which committees to join, keep in mind some of our smaller committees, such as Aging, Health, Recovery Services Committee, For Housing Stability and Social Services Committee, Environmental Protection, Sanitation Committee, Veteran Affairs and Public Service Committee could use your support. For members of the public, we will also be sending out an application for you to join one of our committees. Please also consider joining one of our smaller committees.

Pedro Rodriguez

I am representing Neighbors for Austin Street; I want to talk about the agenda which we were supposed to be voting on Austin Day at tonight's meeting which has been cancelled. Some background, Neighborhood for a Safer Austin Street, we started this project in 2023 to get a petition for the city to look at Austin Street. With the congestion on Austin Street, narrow sidewalks etc. We sent to the city a petition to do a study of Austin Street that prioritizes pedestrian safety in 2023 and haven't received a response from the city. Last year we decided to start a street on Austin Street to open the street for pedestrians to attract more foot traffic and to increase the quality of life. We canvassed the community and businesses on the block as well as around the block. We received overwhelming support from everyone and thought that was going to be enough. We went to the DOT, and they told us no at the last minute and weren't going to give us a permit. It was going to be held once a month in the summer or fall. They were going to give us one day for this year. We decided to do it tentatively on Sunday, September 14th at Austin Street between 71 Street and 71st Road, 11 am to 5 pm. This whole process has been very confusing. Speaking with others who have open streets they tell me it shouldn't be this complicated. It seems that the city is dividing open streets, giving some locations the permit and others not a permit. Next year we will try again. We started this process in 2022, and the letter was sent in 2023 from the community board. Nothing has been fixed, there is still congestion, and the sidewalks are still too narrow. They are narrow for ADA accessibility, accidents still happen, seeing the same issues of sanitation and small businesses closing down. Now that the bus is leaving, we are concerned that it's going to draw more business. We still believe that open streets will be beneficial to attract more attention to the area. It's a shame that the city is making us jump through hoops. We will keep trying.

Latrice Davis

I am the chairwoman of the Committee for Those Without Shelter and want to give an update on the recent meetings. On May 21st, there was a meeting with the family shelter at Lionheart, which is located on Queens Boulevard near the post office. They currently have 66 families now staying there and there are 14 vacancies. Since the shelter opened last year, five families have moved into permanent housing, and they are continuing to address support to help families regain their footing in society. Now that summer is around the corner, they've engaged the children who live there to sign up for summer camp. Ten children signed up for summer camp and three adolescents have obtained jobs through the summer youth employment program. There are staffing issues, they need security officers, case managers, and program assistance. If you know anyone in this field that is looking for a job, let them know. There has been disturbance at the Bodega, the shelter met with the store owner to speak about it and work things out.

The police haven't gotten involved. The program director gave the store owner his card in case problems arise. On May 28th, there was a men's shelter CAB meeting at 93rd Street behind Burger King, where the hotel used to be. After being in operation for a year, there are 96 individuals staying there, with an average stay of 160 days. They have placed eleven individuals in permanent housing. One out of three men who are living at the shelter is working full time jobs across the five boroughs. The men were hired for seasonal positions and asked if they will continue in the jobs. They are continuing to work by registering with Job Corps or going through a union apprenticeship.

Peter Beadle

- Thanked Chairperson Latrice Davis and her committee for being proactive and having an oversight into the men's and family shelter.
- Announced that bus routes are going to change and the biggest bus route change is the Q23 will no longer go down Austin Street. It will stop at Queens Boulevard and 70th Road. Q38 will be the same in our district, will no longer go into Maspeth and Elmhurst. To view all the changes, go to the MTA website mta.info/queenbus. There is a planning tool where you can look up each route. There are some new routes, i.e. Q74 and Q4, which will take you to Queens College.

Kavish Batra

The Civic Engagement Commission is facilitating a voting session for participatory budgeting process. If you have any school groups or other groups that would like to hold voting sessions, speak to me after the meeting. You can also vote on-line at participate.nyc.gov, voting closes on June 25th.

Salua Baida

- Q300 school is an elementary and middle school in Astoria; a lot of the students are citywide, many from our community. They are collecting eyeglasses donations, if you would like to participate let me know.
- Reach out to elected officials about New York For All, a package of legislation asking to standardize that the police not collaborate and not use funding for ICE and CBP. This is a package act that includes several bills for protections for migrants.

Chair Beers Dimitriadis

In the summer for people that need meals they can get meals in our community for lunch and breakfast. Lunch will be served at our libraries: Rego Park, Forest Park and North Forest Park. Breakfast and lunch will be provided at Russell Sage; you can go to the DOE website for more information. Two years ago, the library didn't participate in summer meals, and I want to thank them for participating in summer meals.

Pat Morgan

Happy Pride!

I made a resolution that every time we have new board members that we say a quote by our former Chairperson Joseph Hennessy. *"You have one responsibility, not to yourself, but to your community. When you vote, make sure you vote for your community. It's a commitment you've made to the city."*

PUBLIC FORUM

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis reported that we will not be reading written comments and there were no written comments to report. You can submit your written comment by Friday, June 13th.

Heidi Chain:

112 Pct. Council meeting will be held Monday, June 23rd at the American Legion Hall at 107-15 Metropolitan Avenue, it's at 7:30 pm. Refreshments will be served.

Night Out Against Crime, located at MacDonald Park, August 5th from 5 pm to 8 pm. If you have a business or organization and would like a table, contact me at the Council112@yahoo.com. In the event of rain Forest Hills Jewish Center will host the event.

I received a crime update from crime prevention about a recent crime trend within the confines of the 112th Pct. There have been individuals posing as Amazon delivery workers, they wear visibility vests and carry packages to create a false sense of legitimacy before attempting to gain access into residential buildings or private homes. 112 Pct. has also reported packages being stolen, grand loss in auto and theft. For residential burglary prevention do not open the door to delivery workers, use intercom or video doorbell to identify identities before opening the door. Secure all entry points, including front doors, rear doors, window and fire escapes. Report any suspicious individuals or activity to 911. Contact the Police Officer Cumbo at 718-520-9319 for a free security service in your home.

Thane Terrill

I have lived in Forest Hills for about 30 years, and it was the best decision I ever made. I remember at the time that a lot of things were going wrong. Queens Boulevard was known as the boulevard of death; airplane noises were so loud that they would set off my car alarm in front of my house and the train noise was so loud on Burns Street. The reason why I bring this up is that things from the past are better than they are now. Things in the future are going to be worse than they are now. When in fact things have improved. One of the reasons I am bringing this up is because Queens Boulevard is a lot safer, no one has died since 2007, it used to be 15 to 20 people a year dying. Austin Street has also improved between Ascan and Union Turnpike since that has been converted into one direction. The intersection between Ascan and Austin Street is a lot safer. Two major schools pass through that intersection. I support Austin Street safety, when you go there it is a frustrating experience. I have friends that have been hit by a car over there. I would like to propose that we consider Ascan and Union Turnpike into turning parts into one direction and at night close it so it can become a pedestrian way. I submitted the plans to the district manager.

Camille Dee – NYC Organization of Public Service Retirees

I'm a member of the New York City Organization of Public Service Retirees, a grassroots organization of some 50 thousand plus NYC retirees and some active workers, founded in 2021 by Marianne Pizzitola, a retired FDNY EMT worker. Since 2021, we've been fighting the city, the Municipal Labor Committee and, sadly, many of our own former unions, to preserve the healthcare we were promised in our retirement, and we earned: traditional Medicare, plus a supplemental plan, at little-to-no cost. The current Mayor, as well as the previous Mayor, the MLC, and our former unions (who no longer even represent us) want to force us into a for-profit Medicare Advantage Plan in order to pay back one billion dollars taken from the Health Insurance Stabilization Fund in 2014 and 2018. The funds were used for raises, instead of offsetting increases in healthcare costs. Raises are a good thing, but that's not the purpose of that fund. And, by the way, there is funding for our healthcare in the city budget. It's been a line item in the budget since 1967. The cost is less than 6/10ths of 1% of the city budget! Also, Medicare Advantage is the default healthcare plan for seniors in Project 2025. These plans delay and deny care. They overcharge taxpayers by a minimum of \$88 billion per year, up to \$140 billion a year. They also use AI to review claims. We've been fighting this battle with Litigation and Legislation. Our litigation has been successful: We've won 11 unanimous victories in the courts, despite the mayor's consistent appeals. However, litigation is expensive, and we have no guarantees the higher courts will support previous decisions. Legislation: Last year we had a City Council bill to protect our healthcare, Intro 1099. Unfortunately, that bill never made it out of Committee, so several months ago, Council Members Chris Marte and Robert Holden introduced another bill, Intro 1096-2024, to preserve our healthcare. This would codify the healthcare of NYC retirees once and for all. Right now, we have 16 Council Members who have signed up. Your very own Robert Holden and Joann Ariola have signed on. Thank you to the Veterans' Affairs and Public Service Committee for their support on this issue. I'm asking Queens Community Board 06 to please vote to pass a resolution or letter of support for Intro 1096. Your endorsement will strengthen our position immensely. 250,000 lives depend on it.

Odette Wilkens – Wired Broadband

I'm Odette Wilken, president and general counsel of Wired Broadband, Inc., a non-profit in Forest Hills focusing on safe technology for the public. I also have been a technology transactional attorney for over 20 years. I am also executive director and general counsel of the NYC Alliance for Safe Technology. A 5G tower has been installed next to the school playground at 69-20 Juno Street on the sidewalk of P.S. 144. A rally was held prior to the installation, attended by local residents, including residents across the street, and parents opposed it. A petition to protest the 5G tower now has about 2000 signatures. The 5G tower is 32' high with 5 bays, one for public wi-fi and four for 4G and 5G wireless services. People who attended the rally were saying that there is no gap in service, so why is the city putting a 5G tower in front of an elementary school playground? Especially now, with the mandate that children do not have cell phones at school. The NYC Council Committee on Technology held a hearing on April 29th of this year. Council Member Lincoln Restler, who represents Williamsburg and Greenpoint, Brooklyn, was irate about the city's deployment of wireless facilities. Disgraceful of OTI's complete lack of community engagement. On private property in front of people's homes. No communication with property owners whatsoever. He pointed out that there was no communication from OTI other than letters to the community board, borough president and himself. Never have I encountered a process that is so inconsiderate. He said that even DOT talks to every property owner before installing City Bike lanes. OTI's Brett Sikoff countered that OTI has spent many hours attending community board meetings. Restler corrected OTI, that instead of OTI taking responsibility to notify the stakeholders, it's the responsibility of the community boards? I don't understand how an agency can be so inconsiderate without meaningful community engagement. He said that today, he was going to write legislation that would delineate the process that OTI should take to talk to every stakeholder. The Van Court Association in whose district is PS 144 invite me to give a presentation on the 5G tower deployment earlier this month. I am also available to give a presentation to the Environmental Committee at CB6 and provide a full description and a power point presentation.

Ines Guerra – Park Plaza Board of Directors

I am here with Yvonne; we are residents of Park Plaza in Rego Park on 97th Street across from Rego Center. We are concerned about the traffic congestion along 97th Street due to the lack of proper regulation. When the Rego Park Center was being built there was a lot of excitement in the neighborhood, there was a lot of apprehension about what kind of change. Today the area is burdened with constant congestion, there's food trucks, there are heavy vehicles waiting for delivery assignments from Costco and Aldi that idle for long periods of time and double-parked cars. This has impacted on traffic and pedestrian safety. In the past we reached out to the local precinct, gather signatures to the concerns about this. As a result, it has not met our concerns. With Marshall being relocated, the anticipation of DSW and Burlington moving into the same area. Without additional safety measures, this situation poses a serious risk to both residents and shoppers. We respectfully ask for your assistance and guidance in identifying the most effective course of action to address this growing problem. One suggestion from our community is installing traffic cameras, a prominent stop sign, speed humps this will slow down the traffic and improve safety. Thank you for your attention and for your continued service to our community.

Yvonne Wajcicki

Those of you that shop at Costco at the Rego Center know that the trash and boxes are left behind on our sidewalks as a result of people filling up their trunks and leaving the trash behind the shopping carts. In this day and age of active shooters. The carts lock and form a wall in the galleria on the first level of Rego Park Center. I have asked Costco to collect their carts. God forbid there was an incident, we would have to get out of the way, for those with children or are elderly it would be very hard. It's an area that needs attention.

Leslie Brown – Forest Hills Chamber of Commerce

Stand in line it is not just the newest group open plans to want to claim Austin Street parking. Now the Neighbors for a Safer Austin Street, the initial group requesting Austin Street be closed to traffic, is trying to find a new way to get Austin Street close to cars. They are now requesting an Austin Open Streets Day. They want to close Austin Street between 71st Avenue and 71st Road to traffic on Sundays. I ask you how can a non-incorporated group of residents (not all from Forest Hills) close off part of a commercial street in the business district on one of the busiest days of the week? It will be a big traffic jam as the cars cannot go through Austin Street in either direction. And what are

they promoting on Austin Day? What is planned to happen on this day that will close one block of the street and interrupt business? The Neighbors for a Safer Austin Street website is no longer available. What is available is a website that wants you to sign on for their open streets petition to submit to DOT. So, you do not know who is in charge of Friends for a Safer Austin Street, is there a board, are they a corporation, a not-for-profit organization or what? You are encouraged to sign your name to something that you really don't know much about except that this group thinks they know best for the Forest Hills business community that has been thriving and growing for over 100 years. The Neighbors for a Safer Austin Street may or may not be residents of Forest Hills, be able to provide staff and everything necessary to run a closed street event and do not have a relationship (i.e. own a business or own property on Austin Street etc.) to the commercial business district that they want to close down for what exactly. I spoke to CB6 and DOT and was not given any direct information on what would be happening at this closed street event and was told the information was unavailable. Originally the request was for a block party. To get a permit for a block party you must be a member of a block association and get permission from everyone on the block. So, it was fast tracked to an open street request. I have had studies done by engineers on the traffic, safety and number of cars that come to Austin Street. I will present this information when the time is right. Over \$25K has been spent on these studies that prove to our point that Austin Street is safe. I will not go into all the reasons why the merchants need parking tonight as I have said why so many times before. But I will say that Austin Street is united in keeping the street fully open to cars and parking. Austin Street is safe! This is just another attempt of Friends for a Safer Austin Street agenda to close off all of Austin Street and get one foot in the door and keep going. Please also note that the chamber has been reaching out to the Department of Traffic to come to a resolution that serves the business community and the residential community. But this test does not serve us. On the DOT website there was a list of comments on open streets, and I made a copy.

Manuel Pena – Public Health Solutions

I am a community engagement specialist with Public Health Solutions. Public Health Solution is the largest public health non-for-profit organization in NYC. In January we became the lead social care network entity for the boroughs of Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Queens. What this means is that through the NY State Medicaid, 1,115 waivers were provided with \$152 million dollars to give to CBOs and other nonprofit providers to build capacity by hiring staff and buying IT supplies for the goal of screening 2.6 million Medicaid members for any unmet health related social needs that they may have. Example of services: a diabetic patient's first concern may not be to take their insulin but instead needing help to pay their rent or find a nutritious meal. We work with CBOs that can help them find services once they are screened in the domains of housing, nutrition, transportation, and care management. There are services in housing like rent assistance helping Medicaid members pay for up to six months of backpay on rent, and home remediation services. In nutrition they may be eligible for food vouchers or MTM from organizations like GLWD. CBO Partners, our ambitious goal to screen to 2.6 million Medicaid members requires us to work with our amazing partners such as Forestdale, Child Center of NY, Project New Yorker, and Queens Community Houses. We currently have 200 live partners in our network. They are screening, navigating, and delivering services and getting reimbursed through every step of the process. If Medicaid members are not eligible for enhanced services, they can still be referred to state, federal and local services. So, if you know of any other local CBOs who may be interested in joining our SCN please reach out to me at mpena@healthsolutions.org or visit our Whole You NYC website. For Medicaid Members, who are interested in getting screened to see if they are eligible for this service. I have some flyers with QR codes for our website and will share materials with the Board. You can visit some of our CBO partners or get self-screened at our Whole You NYC website.

If there are any community events or opportunities to share more information about this new initiative our community engagement team is looking forward to attending and spreading awareness of the program.

David Zucker

I'm here to support the resolution on Jewish Heritage month. I have experience antisemitism, but the most unusual experience in my life was in Arizona in advanced training for a special mission we worked in teams. In a casual conversation, I would hear things like if I took my money out, they would say is this a Jew roll. If I was speaking about something, they would say, don't Jew me. I am a laid-back guy. I would ask them what they meant. They said it was just the way they spoke at home. It was what they learned when they grew up. Really it was very civil, I

wouldn't let them get away with it because it was essential that we learned to listen to each other, to act as a team, and it paid off when we went on missions. The antisemitism in all its variations focuses on turning the Jews into stereotype. While the minds of young students are still open to hearing and learning, it is critical that they experience the history and culture of their classmates. You heard about Queens being the home about diversity population, which is true, and that's the reason I leave the specifics for public school lesson plans to the professional educators who I respect as my mother was a teacher. I wholeheartedly propose that Queens Community Board 6 endorses the resolution for responsive inclusive education within public schools.

Edward Torres

I am Edward Torres CPA, and I have been a certified public accountant on Austin Street since 1995. My firm was located at 71-34 Austin Street above Pinsky's Stationary Store until 1999 when we moved to our new location. We have been located at 70-50 Austin Street since 1999 and remain in the same office space and we love it here. I also live in Forest Hills and my family loves it here. I have many clients from Forest Hills and many clients from many other locations, all of them come to meet us here in the office. When my clients come, they usually drive here and need access to the street parking. This is true for local residents and others that travel from further away. When they come, they love walking down the various streets to many of the wonderful shops and restaurants that are located here. All of these businesses depend on customers having access to parking so they can enjoy our wonderful neighborhood. I oppose this street closure as a bad idea that will not make living or working in Forest Hills any better but rather make things much worse. My clients and other businesses on or near Austin Street rely on our customers being able to drive here and park to visit us. Whenever one block is closed on Austin Street it causes tremendous traffic and problems for everyone in the neighborhood. During the day, I often look out my window at Austin Street and Continental Avenue and there are almost never any problems here on these streets. I implore you to reject this notion of closing one block as it seems it will disrupt residents, businesses and visitors. We love Forest Hills and want to see the neighborhood continue to prosper and be the wonderful place it is to live and work. Please help keep Forest Hills special and reject this notion of closing one of the blocks on Austin Street.

Deanna Contino

I am a retired teacher. I want to thank Community Board 6 for letting me know that my retirement health benefits are in danger. The union doesn't tell us things they don't want us to know. All these years the United Federation of Teachers has told its members that they would get original Medicare and GHI as their retiree health plan. Michael Mulgrew, head of UFT, has been trying to take away our benefits and give us a privatized advantage care plan that is not very good. We fought in the courts, and we won, and Michael Mulgrew said, "it's ok you are going to keep original Medicaid. All of a sudden Community Board 6 let me know that they are voting on retired benefits. I listened to the debate between Brennen and Levine, and they mentioned about city retirees keeping Medicaid. Now he's trying to force the retirees to switch to an inferior plan. I'm 80 years old and I have had hip replacement surgery. I have macular degeneration, and I have collapsed arches. When a person gets older, the body begins to deteriorate. It's cruel to take away promised benefits. When a person is most vulnerable, please help me. Do not let Michael Mulgrew take away our health benefits. I'm also going to speak on behalf of my friend Kathryn Mets. She is a retired city librarian. Thank you for letting me know that Michael Mulgrew wants to take away the promised retiree health benefits and give city workers a privatized advantage care plan. I worked diligently and even students who had little interest in the library enjoyed coming to the library. Once the principal came to the library and wondered, how is it possible to get so many students to come to the library? I think he thought I didn't know what I was doing. I enjoyed working with my students and joining in creative projects with them. Having a national ability with people, I am not afraid of trying new ways of working with children and adults alike. I am 80 years old and have a heart condition. Please let me get the medical assistance I need with the original Medicare. Do not let the city take away our promised health benefits.

The following comments were submitted in writing for minutes:

Jae Yong Eom

My name is Jae, and I submitted a public comment at the last meeting and would like to leave another public comment in support of Austin Street open street. It will be beneficial to open up space for the community.

Chair Dimitriadis thanked all the public speakers and closed the public forum.

MINUTES

A motion to accept the minutes for May 14, 2025, was made by Howard Birnbaum and was seconded by Edgar Alfonseca. All were in favor.

CHAIR'S REPORT

I would like to remind everyone that we will be on summer hiatus for July and August. Our next full board meeting will be on Wednesday, September 10th. Committee chairs, as we prepare for summer break, we need each of you to ensure that all of your committee reports have been submitted to the office and that your budget priorities have been finalized and submitted to the office by close of business by June 30th.

Over the summer break, each board member will receive a budget priority survey that must be completed. This survey will help us finalize our budget work that is due in October.

We will also select committees for the next session, which runs from September 2025 to June 2026. In this session, there will be 12 committees to choose from. This is down from 15 last year, and here are the changes. The Public Relations/ Social Media Committee will be eliminated for the 2025/2026 term because the activities of this committee will now become the responsibility of the office staff by mid-summer. We are hiring a community associate, and this will be folded into their responsibilities.

The scope of the By-Law Committee will now fall to the executive committee, under the leadership of the Parliamentarian. Just to be clear, we are not changing the process to the By-Laws. It will still be approved by the Executive Committee and the entire board. We are also adjusting the scope of two committees, made necessary by the new approach that DCP is taking to budget priorities. Currently, we have the Aging, Social Service, and Disabilities Committee and we have the Health, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Committee. Moving forward, we will have an Aging, Health and Recovery Services Committee, which will cover the scope of the Aging, Social Service and Disabilities Committee and the work of the Health, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Committee. Their scope of work will be to oversee Aging, Health, Mental Health, Substance Abuse, Equity of Services within all of the above, and infrastructure and investments to oversee the above. The other change will be the Committee for Those Without Shelter, which will now become the Housing Stability and Social Services Committee. They will be overseeing transitional emergency housing and overseeing services that the city provides to help people who are housing insecure. That addresses food insecurity and deals with the social services that support independent living so that you don't have to leave your home. This will fall under the umbrella of Housing, Stability, and Social Services.

We gave you a list tonight to look at and consider what committee you would like to join. We are going to ask that each committee consider accessibility in the scope of their work by addressing the challenges of the disabled is the responsibility of each committee. This issue cannot be relegated to one committee. For example: elevators for schools have to fall under SCA, which goes to our Education Committee. If we need elevators at our train stations, this will go to the Transportation Committee. There are components that you need to consider for every committee, which can't be relegated to one committee. When we do the committee selection this year, we will be taking committee attendance into serious consideration when seating committees. Every year, we appoint board members and public members. The public member

process is last. You are mandated to serve on two committees but are free to serve on 3 if you choose. You can express interest in committee leadership at any time. This will be on the application.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

District Manager Christine Nolan thanked the volunteers who represented the Community Board at the 112th Precinct Community Council Health and Safety Fair and the volunteers who participated in the street fair on Sunday. Our shredding truck was a big success. We had about 70 people participate, and we had the opportunity to speak to a lot of people in the community. If you didn't get a chance to volunteer and you are interested, we will need volunteers for National Night Out Against Crime on August 5. We will send information.

District Manager Nolan also reported:

For the month of May, the office handled about 45 complaints. The top agencies being DSNY (sidewalk obstructions, missed collections, illegally posted signs), DOT (Traffic signal requests, potholes, streetlights) and Parks (Overgrown branches, tree roots lifting the sidewalk).

Reminder for Committee Chairs; budget priorities are due by the end of June.

Keep in mind, committee attendance for the committees which you are appointed to is not optional. You are required to attend your committee briefings as well as the Community Board Meetings. If you can't attend a committee briefing, please notify your Chair and cc Heather and me.

Although the board is off for the summer, the office is not. We will be available to answer any questions you have or issues that might arise. Don't wait until the September meeting to tell us about issues that you experienced in July. Call them into 311 and then email the office with the 311 number and we will follow up. Keep looking out for Friday Emails.

As Peter Beadle reported, Queens Bus Redesign is coming up. We will send documents and brochures in your Friday email that you can review and share with anyone you know who uses the buses.

CENSUS RESOLUTION

Mark Laster read the Census Resolution.

Whereas advocacy around the 2020 census generated 1.8 billion extra funding annually for New York State services

Whereas, in order to ensure a complete count of all New York City's residents we need similar advocacy efforts

Whereas we need to start preparing for the 2030 census now

Be it resolved Queens Community Board #6 asks all of our City Council representatives to support and advocate for, The New York City Council Int 1225-2025, which would amend the City Charter to establish an office of the census

Be it further resolved that the efforts of New York City's Department of City Planning be provided all the necessary resources for the Local Update of Census Address (LUCA) operations.

Background

April 1 marked the halfway mark between the 2020 and 2030 decennial census counts. New York State may lose at least two congressional districts and potentially three or more after the 2030 census, according to Census Bureau population projections. New York currently has 26 congressional districts, down from the 1950 high-water mark of 45. Since then, the state began losing districts due to population drops and increases in other states' populations, especially in the southern and western regions. In fact, in each census since 1950, New York has lost a minimum of two congressional seats (and in some decades three to five seats.) In the 2020 census, New York had its best result on congressional seats since 1950, losing only one seat and falling just 89 people, the equivalent of a packed subway car during rush hour, short of losing any seats. New York City's investment in the 2020 census effort was significant, with a budget of \$40 million and a fully staffed outreach and operations office. Those efforts led to New York City finishing first in the census count of major cities across the country, resulting in 600,000 more people counted, meaning approximately \$1.8 billion a year for a decade.

This resolution calls for two actions: Establish a permanent Office of the Census in New York City and preparing for the critical "Local Update of Census Addresses" (LUCA) effort to ensure that every household address in the city receives a census questionnaire in 2030. LUCA provides New York City with the ability to update and correct address lists used to send out census questionnaires to every household in 2030. Without accurate addresses, the census misses people.

Questions were asked by board members. Anisia Ayon made a motion to accept the Census Resolution, and Pedro Rodriguez seconded. All were in favor on a voice vote.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS, CULTURAL AFFAIRS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Heather Dimitriadis gave the following report:

NEW LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS

1. STELLAR POKHARA INC., 70-17 AUSTIN STREET, FH
This is going to be a Nepalese restaurant opening this Summer. This is my first restaurant in the restaurant/bar business
2. ROTANA CAFE & GRILL, 68-60 AUSTIN STREET, FH
This is a restaurant. The business has been open and operating at this location for more than a year. In addition to being a licensed pharmacist, the applicant, Wana Khalil, a well-respected member of the Queens community, also had another restaurant in Manhattan for many years, located at 1161 2nd Avenue, New York, NY 10021. The name of the business was Naima Corp. Mr. Khalil also had a liquor license there with a clean operating record. This is a family restaurant with a specialization in different types of coffee.
3. DIRTY PIERRES, 13 STATION SQUARE, FH (alteration)
The establishment forgot to include their outdoor space on the original application that we approved in December 2024.

A voice vote was made to accept the new applications. All were in favor.

RENEWAL LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS

CHEBRUECHNAYA, 92-07 92-09 63RD DRIVE, RP
STAR OF SIAM THAI KITCHEN, 103-18 METROPOLITAN AVENUE, FH
PORTOFINO RESTAURANT, 109-32 ASCAN AVENUE, FH

TROPIX BAR & LOUNGE, 95-32 QUEENS BLVD., RP
5 BURRO CAFE, 72-05 AUSTIN STREET, FH

The 112th Precinct didn't have any issues to report.

A roll call vote was taken; all were in favor of Chebruechnaya, Star of Siam, Tropix Bar and Lounge, 5 Burro Cafe. 38 Yes and 1 No for the renewal of Portofino.

District Manager Nolan explained to the new board members that the community board doesn't vote on the outdoor dining applications, due to the limited turnaround time for approval. The Consumer Affairs and Transportation Committee are notified about the outdoor dining applications, and if they have concerns, we will comment to the DOT. We also list them on the agenda, so if anyone has concerns, we can submit them to DOT.

EDUCATION, YOUTH COMMITTEE REPORT – RESOLUTION

Chair Shari Rolnick reported the following: We received a lot of feedback on making this resolution more inclusive. We are here to vote for our community, not for ourselves. We have taken your notes and implemented them. To implement your comments, I asked members of the executive committee, Peter Beadle and Mark Laster, to work with me and the Education Committee. We created the resolution before you. Instead of creating two resolutions, we created one resolution that emphasizes the importance that all schools should recognize, celebrate, and acknowledge all months, nationalities, backgrounds equally. This resolution is about providing a better environment for our children. An environment that fosters understanding of cultural and ethnic differences. All nationalities and backgrounds should be included in our students' education. This is not happening right now. Instead, the recognition of certain heritages and heritage months is not equivalent among various local schools. As a multicultural society, we need to support each other, especially during these difficult times. This will not necessarily fix what is happening today, but it will do its best to ensure that we, as a society, do not go back to such times ever again. We need to ensure that we see each other and that it's done in a fair and equitable way.

We received the following comments:

Back in 2003, Queens Borough President Helen Marshall, created something called the Queens General Assembly, a group representing communities across the borough. She said, "This group reflects my firm belief that building relationships across lines of race, ethnicity, religion, nationality, and sexual orientation will have a positive impact on developments in our borough as a whole." After checking with the Borough President's Office, CB6 has more delegates and alumni than any other Queens Community Board and General Assembly. In my opinion, this resolution fully reflects our board's commitment to the ideals of our Borough President Marshall and Borough President Donovan Richards.

This resolution is necessary due to people experiencing antisemitism.

The purpose originally was to highlight the Jewish Heritage month and more Jewish education, which it does. Black History Month is well celebrated in February, Women's Month in March, and Pride Month in June. In May, a lot of people don't know that it is Jewish Heritage Month. The chancellor sent a message in May celebrating Asian Heritage Month and left out the Jewish community. This resolution is diluted

towards everyone; I don't see the purpose of this resolution. We should emphasize the original purpose, which was to educate the people to reduce antisemitism in the city. It starts with the education of the children in schools.

Last year I sent a proposal to Assemblyman Hevesi's office, incorporating some ethical values in our school's education. About kindness, compassion, and respecting everybody. Above all, having quiet time at the beginning and end of the day. We don't want to call it mediation; it is too strong a word. Children see too much violence and all kinds of behavior that is inappropriate. Having these ethical values is very important during this time. I'm waiting for the proposal to move forward and will keep you posted.

Questions were taken from the board members.

I am still struggling a little bit with the inclusivity piece; you are just highlighting Jewish and Asian Heritage and our biggest concern in the school system is undoing racism within the school pedagogy. If we are highlighting certain groups over others in a letter it could be perceived as doing the opposite of that. I think everybody should be included.

Response: This came to us a year ago, we received the same reports from last year, that some of the schools in our area do not do a good job with heritage for the month of May. We found out in our local schools that they were facing these challenges they weren't being treated equally. They had no displays or curriculum for Jewish, Asian, and Pacific Islander heritage. There is no implementation or emphasis on these groups. There is no equity for these groups of heritage.

During our classes, we used to have neuroscience classes in the beginning, and in the class, we learned how to respect all other human beings, and respect for other cultures. Can we suggest to the Department of Education; to have a class like that, along with the cultural programs that you are suggesting? It will be helpful, at the beginning of the class, if there could be meditation for the children to calm their minds, which will help with their work in the classroom.

Response: There is a curriculum that schools rolled out a long time ago, "Respect for All". They would do a variety of things within that broad work, from elementary to high school. It was to amplify diversity. In this resolution, not every ethnicity gets a month; it is teaching children how to respect one another.

I am looking at clause two, where it states, "Whereby requiring all schools to designate a centrally located and welcoming space." If we are stating this, where is the available funding? We don't have funds in our school for things including social studies programs. What is the process we, as the board are require an organization or a school to do something? Do we set aside funding? I would like to make a friendly amendment that we, as a community board, would support funding social studies programs in all schools.

Response: Our resolution is stating we want our elected officials to act; we don't have a checkbook. This will get sent to all our elected officials along with a letter, and we hope they pass legislation. To make sure important pieces of curriculum, like Hidden Voices get funded.

Are there teachers in implementing this resolution for May? May has a unique problem. Why is that the case? Why are teachers not able to do this? What input from the school side that you heard of in this process?

Response: I heard from a few teachers regarding this matter. There is a clear discrepancy going on in various schools in some of the districts, including our district. On a school-by-school basis, an individual

teacher can do something in the classroom, but we can't force the school to create a display unless the school agrees.

I believe we're still doing the work around budget priorities on the Education Committee; we might want to add a budget expense around funding social studies curriculum for K-fifth grade. This was raised during our committee discussion, social studies is the stepchild when it comes to math and reading, which is important. We must embrace social studies as important. Learning about civics, America, and different communities.

Response: The Education Committee can discuss this at the end of the month. Part of the meeting is going to be a presentation from the SCA on the Forest Hills annex.

I do think that Karla's comment, part of what could fix the issue: "therefore be it resolved that Queens Community Board 6 encourages New York public schools," for instance the first one is embracing and implementing. 2) it said, "by requiring", we could just say encouraging designating a central location space".

Response: Encouraging doesn't necessarily enforce anything, it brings us back to the problem that we're currently facing right now, which is that the schools can determine on their own volition, because of that, nothing has happened for months.

Herb Schonhaut suggested the resolution to have it mentioned by the congress members and senators in Congress to advise them that we are passing this resolution. This was added to the end of the resolution below.

A motion was made by Herb Schonhaut and was seconded by Diana Rachnaev. A roll call was taken; all were in favor of the resolution below:

WHEREAS, New York City Public Schools are committed to recognizing and celebrating the diverse cultures represented in our community, which is essential in creating inclusive environments.

WHEREAS, the DOE social studies curriculum includes the following Heritage and History Month recognitions: February - Black History Month, March - Women's History Month, April - Arab American Heritage Month, May - Jewish American Heritage Month, May - Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, June - Pride Month, September 15th through October 15th - Hispanic Heritage Month, November - Native American Heritage Month
WHEREAS, Former President George W. Bush first declared Jewish Heritage Month on April 20, 2006, and Presidents Obama, Trump, and Biden have all issued annual statements in recognition of it. Following the 350th Anniversary of American Jewish History in May 2004, May was selected as Jewish American Heritage Month.
WHEREAS the United States Congress in 1992 designated May as National Asian-American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month in order to celebrate and commemorate the first Japanese immigrant's arrival in the United States on May 7, 1843, and the fundamental role Chinese immigrants played in completing the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869.

WHEREAS, therefore, the month of May is acknowledged as both Jewish American Heritage Month and National Asian-American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month both federally and, more specifically, by the NYC Public School system.

WHEREAS, the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution guarantees that all children are entitled to fair and equitable treatment in public school education;

WHEREAS Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance, including public schools;

WHEREAS, New York City Public Schools are committed to recognizing and celebrating the diverse cultures represented within our communities as a cornerstone of creating inclusive learning environments;

WHEREAS, acknowledging the global diversity of students' heritages, races, ethnicities, and genders promotes understanding, tolerance, and an appreciation for differing backgrounds, enriching the educational experience for all students;

WHEREAS, New York City is an international city, and its students, families, and staff often experience global events firsthand or indirectly, bringing diverse perspectives to discussions of global and social issues;

WHEREAS, hate crime incidents in New York City increased by 59.3 percent between 2019 and 2023 with even higher growth statewide (87.5 percent), and in 2023, New York City accounted for 61.4 percent of reported hate crime incidents;

WHEREAS, New York City has witnessed a sharp increase in violence and harassment against the Asian-American and Pacific Islander population and the Jewish population in recent years.

WHEREAS, Asian-Americans have endured an 800% increase in hate crimes during and after COVID.

WHEREAS, Anti-Semitism increased 360% across the United States since 2023. In NYC alone, the first three months of 2024 had 96 Anti-Semitic hate crimes compared to 66 for the same time period the year prior. And in K-12 schools, incidents of Anti-Semitism increased by 135%.

WHEREAS, celebrating both months in May honors the many contributions of Jews and National Asian-American and Pacific Islanders to our schools, our community, and our nation.

WHEREAS, it has been reported in the community that some schools in our District have not provided displays and information addressing Jewish American Heritage during the month of May.

WHEREAS, it is essential to have a display in schools for Jewish American Heritage Month and National Asian-American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, and all other heritages celebrated in their respective months, showcasing the contributions, experiences, and cultural richness of these populations, because such a space provides an opportunity for students of all backgrounds to learn about and appreciate America's diversity, encourages dialogue, curiosity, and understanding, while promoting empathy and respect for different cultures and backgrounds.

WHEREAS the designated display space should serve as a platform for educators to learn about and incorporate discussions and activities related to Jewish American and National Asian American and Pacific Islander and other heritages into their curriculum, further enriching the learning experience and promoting cross-cultural appreciation.

WHEREAS, suppressing discussions about race, gender, national origin, or systemic inequities harms and disadvantages all students by failing to prepare them for participation in a diverse and democratic society. Inclusive curricula that highlight the contributions, cultural richness, and experiences of all backgrounds and communities foster empathy, respect, dialogue, and critical thinking.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Queens Community Board 6 encourages NYC Public Schools to further elevate and celebrate all heritages in our community, and specifically in the Month of May, Jewish American Heritage and National Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage, by:

- 1. Embracing and implementing culturally responsive education, guided by the NYS Education Department and in alignment with the rights and protections afforded to students under federal and state law.*
- 2. By requiring all schools to designate a centrally located and welcoming space to showcase meaningful displays that honor our students' heritages, ensuring they are easily accessible to all students and educators, they do not discriminate against any heritage of our students, and continue to maintain such spaces for cultural celebrations throughout the school year.*
- 3. Providing accessible resources and guidance to support all NYC Public Schools in recognizing and uplifting these heritage months, alongside the full spectrum of cultural observances included in the DOE's social studies curriculum in a sustained and meaningful way throughout the year.*
- 4. Ensuring the intentional lesson planning and implementation of this program at all grade levels.*
- 5. Continuing to support and invest in inclusive education initiatives such as Hidden Voices that broaden students' perspectives, cultivate understanding, and deepen appreciation for the diverse cultural tapestry that defines and enriches our city.*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as exemplified in the work of this Community Board in the most diverse borough in the United States of America, we are requesting that our Congressmembers Grace Meng and Gregory Meeks and our US Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand make known our Resolution in Congress. This will, in some way, show our continued commitment to diversity and differences within our community.

VETERANS AFFAIRS, PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE REPORT – RESOLUTION – CITY RETIREE HEALTH BENEFITS

Chair Salua Baida read the resolution proposed by the Veterans Affairs, Public Service Committee.

Whereas more than 50,000 municipal retirees are left to repeatedly turn to the New York City Council for protection, each time City administrations attempt to remove the medical benefits they earned, paid for, and were promised during their employment.

Whereas new health insurance modalities differ from the Summary Plan Descriptions, which, under federal law, govern the benefits that retirees should be able to rely on;

Whereas these changes reduce and diminish health care consumers' access to medical care and providers, increasing the risk of retirees' reliance on costlier emergency room use, urgent care, and Medicaid,

Whereas many Medicare-eligible City retirees and their Medicare-eligible dependents seek at least one Medigap plan with benefits equivalent to or better than those available to City retirees and their dependents as of December 31, 2021;

Be it resolved that Queens Community Board 6 respectfully requests that all of its City Council Representatives support and advocate for Intro 1096-2024: a Local Law to amend the Administrative Code of the City of New York, to protect the vested health insurance coverage and contributions of retired employees of the City of New York.*

**Intro 1096-2024 web address: [https://legistar.council.nyc.gov/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=6902538&GUID=935D7515-AC4a-4DA1-B73F-DD1COFOF4582&Options=\\$Search=](https://legistar.council.nyc.gov/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=6902538&GUID=935D7515-AC4a-4DA1-B73F-DD1COFOF4582&Options=$Search=)*

Chair Baida made a friendly amendment to her resolution to add an asterisk at the bottom of the resolution, including the entire language of the bill's website. For accessibility reasons and posterity, if that hyperlink goes dead at any point, at least we have the written-out language of the web link. I think that in all of our resolutions, it would be useful to include the links or some sort of citation to the statement that we are making, specifically if there are statistics, add a lot of clarity, credence, and credibility to what we are drafting.

Questions were taken from the board members.

Is it for the reason of legislation that the court case only applies to this situation, or are we concerned about this happening in the future? What is the risk that the legislation is trying to solve?

Response: The last case was heard in the New York State Court of Appeals in the state, where the oral arguments were heard, was April 17th. We are waiting for that decision. It is not over yet. Even if you do win the case, we need the legislation because it can start all over again.

Members of the community who are also former City workers and now retirees, contributed their experiences. John Dereszewski made a motion to accept the City Retiree Health Benefits resolution, and it was seconded by Nick Galipeau. A voice vote was taken; all were in favor.

REPORTS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPRESENTATIVES

COUNCIL MEMBER LYNN SCHULMAN

Kevin McAleer reported the following:

- The council members are finalizing the budget negotiations. The budget needs to be voted on by June 30th. The biggest priority is making sure the city can weather the federal government and ensure that services are maintained for vulnerable communities.
- We are having a Health Committee hearing on important legislation on June 17th, including the resolution regarding nutritional standards and nutritional information in our stores and restaurants, as well as reforms to our childcare system.

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis asked Kevin to take back the comments made earlier this evening with concerns regarding local law enforcement cooperation with ICE.

CONGRESS MEMBER GRACE MENG

Jordan Goldes reported the following:

- The passport event that we had last month at the Forest Hills Post Office was very successful. We had 115 passport transactions in just a few hours. We will be holding another passport event for new and renewals on June 22nd, from 9 am to 2 pm, at the Forest Hills Post Office. First come, first served, we will be partnering with elected officials, Senator Addabbo, Senator Comrie, Assemblyman Hevesi, Assemblyman Burger, and Councilwoman Schulman.
- We received a complaint about the Forest Hills Post Office that the grass and landscaping were overgrown. We reached out to the postal service; over the weekend, the lawn was mowed and trimmed.
- The congresswoman held a listening session about potential cuts to Social Security. We had representatives from local organizations and constituents speaking about possible cuts in how it would impact them. Queens Community House and a constituent who is a cancer survivor also participated who depends on social security, who received a big back payment with our help. We plan to do more listening sessions in the future. We will keep you up to date.
- We will be doing a small business and community leadership grant briefing with a group called Citizens NYC. They provide grants to community leaders and small businesses to improve the quality of life in neighborhoods throughout the city. This will be held on June 10th at 6 pm in Brierwood.
- The congresswoman visited with local firefighters at Squad 288, and Hazmat 1 in Maspeth to underscore her commitment to the FDNY funding.
- It was great to march in the Forest Hills Memorial Day parade.
- In terms of legislation, we introduced a bill last week that would require back pay for veterans and other employees at the VA who were laid off and reinstated.

SENATOR JOSEPH P. ADDABBO

Faran Sarif read a letter from Senator Addabbo regarding the temporary closure of Austin Street between 71st Avenue and 71st Road for Austin Day open street.

I hope this letter finds you and your members well. I would like to take this opportunity to express my opposition to the proposed closure of Austin Street between 71st Avenue and 71st Road for potential "Open Streets" -style events currently under consideration by the Community Board's Transportation Committee. While I understand the intention behind these proposals, particularly as expressed by the applicant, Neighbors for a Safe Austin Street, which I believe is to enhance pedestrian safety and explore community-friendly use of our shared public space, I remain concerned about the logistical, economic, and public safety impacts such closures could impose on the area.

Austin Street is a vital commercial corridor that plays a central role in the daily life of Forest Hills residents, surrounding neighbors, visitors and business owners. Any disruption, even on a temporary basis, risks significant consequences for local businesses that rely on steady foot traffic, street access for deliveries and accessible parking for customers. I have heard directly from several constituents and business owners who are concerned about how these closures may negatively affect their ability to operate or patronize businesses in the area.

As you know, Forest Hills uniquely has private streets that prohibit non-residents from parking. Such a proposal to create a pedestrian-only Austin Street with no available parking there could create a major problem of illegal parking and a negative economic impact on local stores.

Moreover, while the proposed events are still in the discussion phase and no dates have been finalized, the lack of specific planning at this stage creates a myriad of questions about how traffic, emergency access, sanitation, and other city services would be managed. Until there is a clearer, more comprehensive operational plan with concrete coordination from NYPD, DOT, local stakeholders and the business community, I cannot support any endorsement or pilot of such closures.

Additionally, Austin Street already is witness to pedestrian-only days with its street fairs held throughout the year.

I urge Community Board 6 to consider the concerns of residents, businesses, and all stakeholders in their deliberations. While I appreciate the spirit of community improvement that motivates this proposal, I believe that any initiative involving significant street closures must be approached with thorough planning, transparent communication, and broad-based support. As such, I do not support the closure of Austin Street at this time.

NEW YORK COMPTROLLER BRAD LANDER

James Mongeluzza reported the following:

- New York City Comptroller Brad Lander surveyed over 600 school principals, revealing that the City's afterschool programs left out students with disabilities. The report finds that schools serving students with the most intensive needs—especially District 75 schools—lack access to core afterschool funding, appropriate vendors, and basic bus transportation.
- The threats posed by the Trump Administration to New York City, its people, its economy, and its finances have only intensified over the past several months. It has attempted to terminate, pause, or rescind hundreds of millions in Federal grants already awarded to the City through its flurry of executive orders and policy changes. This is even before considering the potential devastation that the Congressional Budget Reconciliation Bill could have on Federal aid flowing not only to the city government, but also to New York State, as well as directly to New Yorkers. The Mayor's Office of Management and Budget continued its practice of unreasonable and inappropriate underbudgeting of known costs in the May Plan, totaling \$4.05 billion in FY 2026 and averaging \$3.60 billion annually in the outyears.
- As summer temperatures begin to rise, New York City Comptroller Brad Lander published a new report, [*Record Highs: Tackling Energy Insecurity in the Heat of the Climate Crisis*](#), warning that New Yorkers are on the brink of a utility bill affordability crisis. Rate hikes coupled with increased heat waves brought on by climate change are hurting families' bottom lines; worse, the Trump Administration called for cancelling both the Low-Income Heating and Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and the ENERGY STAR program, two federal initiatives that reduce household energy costs. The report outlines four recommendations to rectify the issue.
- New York City Comptroller Brad Lander launched the [*Claims Dashboard*](#), a real-time, comprehensive transparency tool to visualize claims filed to and settled by the Comptroller's Office.

This new dashboard will replace the Annual Claims Report, which was an annual summary of claims filed against and settled by the City in a fiscal year. In FY 2024, 13,397 claims against New York City were resolved for \$1.94 billion, the most ever for one fiscal year, up from \$1.5 billion in FY 2023.

- New York City Comptroller Brad Lander announced that nearly 1,600 workers have outstanding funds to claim, totaling over \$4 million from prevailing wage settlements with companies that worked on City-funded projects across the five boroughs. The Office of the Comptroller's Bureau of Labor Law is attempting to find workers who are owed wages from these settlements. Check the online database at [File a Complaint - Office of the New York City Comptroller Brad Lander](#)
- You can call the office at 646-668-9650.

QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT DONOVAN RICHARDS

Amparito Rosero reported the following:

- Happy Pride Month! Here in Queens, there's a home for everyone, no matter who you love or how you identify. We are in tough times in which we have folks who aren't as open-minded as us here in Queens. Trans and queer folks are in danger, and we will do everything we can at the local level to protect them. That is why our office was glad to march with our trans and queer community at Queens Pride on June 1st in Jackson Heights.
- We also want to thank those who attended our own Pride Month Kickoff and Flag Raising Ceremony at Queens Borough Hall on Tuesday, June 3rd.
- On Wednesday, July 16th, 6 pm we're hosting our Colombian Independence Celebration at Queens Borough Hall.
- On Wednesday, August 6th, 6 pm we're hosting our Ecuadorian Independence Celebration at Queens Borough Hall.
- You may RSVP to any of these events on our website at queensbp.nyc.gov.
- If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to our office. You may call us at 718-286-3000.
- Happy Father's Day and enjoy the summer.

SENATOR MICHAEL GIANARIS

Mercedes Jennings reported the following:

- The Senator was marching alongside Queens Borough President Donovan Richards on June 1st at Queens Pride.
- Happy Juneteenth!
- Starting June 18th, parents who have school children, who have EBT benefits will receive \$120 on their card for their children.
- There has been a Medicaid and Medicare scam, where they were reaching out to residents through text messages asking for their personal information in order to enroll in certain programs.
- Inflation Refund Check, which is the first ever done in NY State. It will be direct payments mailed to New Yorkers from the state to help combat inflation of products and services. As of right now, it is estimated that a single person who has filed taxes will receive \$100-\$200, while married couples/filed jointly will receive \$300-\$400. It has been announced by my Governor Hochul that payments should begin being mailed out in mid-October.
- Senator Gianaris remains committed to doing more REAL ID Events. Our office is working with the DMV to see if we can schedule more in the district. I'll make sure to update CB6 when we are doing one in your area.

- State Sen. Michael Gianaris has been working with the 11th grader who was detained by ICE agents at Grover Cleveland High School in Ridgewood.
- The state senator called attention to the student, who was taken away after showing up to a routine immigration check-in on Wednesday with his family. Gianaris said the family was split apart and told to go into different rooms. Everyone but the high school student was released. The principal of Grover Cleveland High School told State Sen. Mike Gianaris and Assemblymember Claire Valdez of the student's detention. The legislators say they were told the student who attends the school in Ridgewood, hasn't seen his family since he was detained on Wednesday. Senator Gianaris said he was told that the student's family members “are understandably frightened, and keeping a low profile” as both the school and elected officials attempt to find more information. Senator Gianaris did not disclose the students’ names or provide information on their current location or duration of detention, while ICE has not responded to requests for comment. Both Gianaris and Chancellor Aviles-Ramos have called for the student's release.
- Please continue to see our office as a support and resource to you. Again, our office is currently located at 4502 Ditmars Blvd, Astoria, NY 11105. During the summer, the Senator will be moving our office location and will remain in touch with the CB6 board of this change. I will also announce this change at the CB6 September meeting. Our office contact will remain the same during this office transition: [718-728-0960](tel:718-728-0960) or via email at gianaris@nysenate.gov or jennings@nysenate.gov.

Chair Dimitriadis announced that if you spend your EBT at the Green Market, you will get an extra \$10.

MAYOR’S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Meagan Yuan reported the following:

- The Mayor and NYPD Commissioner made an announcement creating a Quality-of-Life Division in the NYPD. This division will deal with non-emergency 311 complaints such as noise, illegal parking, etc. The goal is to build trust between the NYPD and the community.
- New York City will be hiring more teachers for 2025/2026. They will be hiring 3,700 new teachers; the goal is to reduce class size.
- Since last May, the city has shut down 1,400 illegal smoke shops; and 95 million illegal products. The city is working with the closed smoke shop owners to reopen and reapply legally as a smoke shop or a different type of business.

NEW BUSINESS

Peter Beadle - The Citi bike expansion is coming to half of our district, north and east of the Long Island Railroad mainline, towards the end of the year. On July 1st there will be an online portal opened from DOT that will provide all of us with the marked places where we will be able to say good or bad places for a station, and you can make your own suggestion. We will email the information out when it comes in. For those online, you can check our socials, Facebook and Twitter, for the link when it becomes available.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm.
Minutes submitted by Maria Concolino

CB 6 VOTING SHEET 6-11-25	CENSUS RESOLUTION		NEW LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS		RENEWAL LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS	EDUCATION RESOLUTION		CITY RETIREE BENEFIT RESOLUTION	
EDGAR ALFONSECA					Yes	Yes			
DAVID ARONOV	Absent		Absent		Absent	Absent		Absent	
ROBERT ASHE					Yes	Yes			
JULIETH AVILA	Absent		Absent		Absent	Absent		Absent	
ANISIA AYON					Yes	Yes			
SALUA BAIDA		A		A	Yes	Yes	A		A
KAVISH BATRA		L		L	Yes	Yes	L		L
PETER BEADLE		L		L	Yes	Yes	L		L
HOWARD BIRNBAUM					Yes	Yes			
L.T. CIACCIO					Yes	Yes	I		I
KANDRA CLARK		I			Yes	Yes	N		N
LATRICE DAVIS		N			Yes	Yes			
JOHN DERESZEWSKI					Yes	Yes	F		F
HEATHER DIMITRIADIS					Yes to all No to Portfino	Yes	A		A
KEITH ENGEL				I	Yes	Yes	V		V
ALEM FERATOVIC	Absent		Absent	N	Absent	Absent	O	Absent	O
KARLA FUENTES					Yes	Yes	R		R
NICHOLAS GALIPEAU		F		F	Yes	Yes			
TAMARA GAVRIELOF		A		A	Yes	Yes			
ANDY GUO		V		V	Yes	Yes			
KAREN IMAS	Absent	O	Absent	O	Absent	Absent		Absent	
SARINA JAIN	Absent	R	Absent	R	Absent	Absent		Absent	
NILE JOHNSON					Yes	Yes			
MARCELLE LASHLEY-KABORE	Absent		Absent		Absent	Absent		Absent	
MARK LASTER					Yes	Yes			
KEVIN LY					Yes	Yes			
DR. RENEE MEHRRA					Yes	Yes			
PAT MORGAN					Yes	Yes			
SABAH MUNAWAR	Absent		Absent		Absent	Absent		Absent	
NATALIE PIENKOWSKA	Absent		Absent		Absent	Absent		Absent	
JESSICA POORAN					Yes	Yes			
JOI PRATT					Yes	Yes			
RAJ PUNJABI					Yes	Yes			
DIANA RACHNAEV					Yes	Yes			
GARRI RIVKIN					Yes	Yes			
LIZ ROBINS					Yes	Yes			
PEDRO RODRIGUEZ					Yes	Yes			
SHARI ROLNICK					Yes	Yes			
GLADYS SANDOVAL	Absent		Absent		Absent	Absent		Absent	
DAVID SCHANTZ					Yes	Yes			
HERBERT SCHONHAUT					Yes	Yes			
AMIT PRATAP SHAH					Yes	Yes			
EUGENE SHVARTSMAN	Absent		Absent		Absent	Absent		Absent	
JEAN C. SILVA	Absent		Absent		Absent	Absent		Absent	
DANIEL SOLOW					Yes	Yes			
LOU TECPANECATL					Yes	Yes			
MARTHA TUCKER					Yes	Yes			
DIANA WALCOTT					Yes	Yes			
BRENTLY WINSTEAD	Absent		Absent		Absent	Absent		Absent	
EPHRAIM ZAKRY					Yes	Yes			
TOTALS:	ALL IN FAVOR		ALL IN FAVOR		1 no Portofino 38 Yes	38 in favor		ALL IN FAVOR	