



# COMMUNITY BOARD 6, QUEENS

104-01 METROPOLITAN AVENUE • FOREST HILLS, NY 11375-4136

TEL: (718) 263-9250 • FAX: (718) 263-2211

QN06@CB.NYC.GOV

WWW.NYC.GOV/CB6Q



HEATHER BEERS-DIMITRIADIS  
CHAIR

DONOVAN RICHARDS  
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

CHRISTINE NOLAN  
DISTRICT MANAGER

## CB 6 MEETING MINUTES

MAY 14, 2025

### PRESENT

HEATHER BEERS-DIMITRIADIS, CHAIR      SALUA BAIDA, SECRETARY OF ADMINISTRATION  
PETER BEADLE, 1<sup>ST</sup> VICE CHAIR      JOHN DERESZEWSKI, PARLIAMENTARIAN  
MARK LASTER, 3<sup>rd</sup> VICE CHAIR

E. ALFONSECA  
D. ARONOV  
A. AYON  
K. BATRA  
H. BIRNBAUM  
K. CLARK  
L. DAVIS  
A. FERATOVIC  
K. FUENTES  
N. GALIPEAU  
T. GAVRIELOF  
A. GUO

N. JOHNSON  
K. LY  
DR. R. MEHRRA  
P. MORGAN  
S. MUNAWAR  
N. PIENKOWSKA  
J. PRATT  
R. PUNJABI  
D. RACHNAEV  
G. RIVKIN  
L. ROBINS  
P. RODRIGUEZ

S. ROLNICK  
D. SCHANTZ  
H. SCHONHAUT  
A. PRATAP SHAH  
E. SHVARTSMAN  
J. SILVA  
D. SOLOW  
L. TECPANECATL  
M. TUCKER  
D. WALCOTT  
B. WINSTEAD  
E. ZAKRY

### ABSENT

R. ASHE\*  
J. AVILA  
LT. CIACCIO\*

K. ENGEL\*  
K. IMAS\*  
S. JAIN

M. LASHLEY-KABORE  
J. POORAN\*  
G. SANDOVAL

\*EXCUSED ABSENCES

### OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

CHRISTINE NOLAN  
HONORABLE LYNN SCHULMAN  
JORDAN GOLDES  
MERCEDES JENNINGS  
GIANNA VALENTE  
AMPARITO ROSERO  
KEVIN MCALEER  
SEAN MCCABE  
JESSICA CORTES  
MEGAN YUAN  
MARIA CONCOLINO  
BARBARA VULICH

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

## **COMMUNITY BOARD 6 MINUTES**

**MAY 14, 2025**

Chair Heather Beers-Dimitriadis started the meeting by paying tribute to the rich Jewish heritage of many families in our community, and to honor the contribution of Asian and Asian Pacific Islander members of our community. We are very excited tonight to have that opportunity to honor those two very vital portions of our community. We have a great, diverse community.

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

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

### **COUNCIL MEMBER LYNN SCHULMAN**

Council Member Schulman congratulated the new community board members and gave an update on the preliminary budget. The preliminary budget was in March; the executive budget is in session. The state just passed its budget. Our finance staff is looking at the budget so we can figure out what we can do. As a result of the preliminary budget response that the council had, they had a baseline of a number of things, including libraries to a certain extent, and 3K and other education programs.

I had a resolution passed by the Council called the Fair Pricing Act, and it was supported by the state legislature, which passed the bill, and the governor signed it. This bill is to make vaccines affordable and basic medical health care to be done on a certain percentage of Medicare. Big hospital systems are buying up small practices, and by doing that, they are adding overhead. We are trying to cap that and have organized labor on this.

A Woman of Distinction award was given to Chair Heather Beers-Dimitriadis.

Some events are:

- Movies in the park – starting May 17<sup>th</sup>, May 25<sup>th</sup>, June 7<sup>th</sup>, June 18<sup>th</sup>, June 29<sup>th</sup>, and July 1<sup>st</sup>, starting at dusk.
- Bike helmet giveaway – end of June, and another one will be held at the Overlook.

We held participatory budgeting, and all three projects that received the most votes were in Richmond Hill. We need to step up getting submissions from this community. Richmond Hill has a lot of needs for its schools, and I'm glad I was able to do this.

I was able to restore money for composting; Big Reuse will be at the green market.

Council Member Schulman took some questions from the board.

### **GOOD AND WELFARE CB 6 MEMBERS**

Chair Heather Dimitriadis:

- The 112<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council meeting will be held at the Ridgewood Savings Bank on Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 pm. If you have questions for the precinct, email [council112@yahoo.com](mailto:council112@yahoo.com).
- Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, from 11 am- 2 pm, Health and Safety Fair at the Rego Center.

Mark Laster:

- I want to thank Eric Arnum of the Forest Hills Green Team who escorted a group of Forest Hills High School students to the Columbia Youth Climate Conference on Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. The students won an award for their plans to eliminate single use plastic items in the cafeteria and were given a grant of \$500 to implement this plan. This is an example of how community groups could support and partner with local schools. Eric and I will be doing a presentation about climate change at PS 174 next Tuesday. If you would want to partner with the Forest Hills Green Team, please email [fhtinc@gmail.com](mailto:fhtinc@gmail.com).
- Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 12 pm, Metro Village in partnership with CB6, Senator Addabbo, Assemblyman Hevesi, Councilwoman Schulman, the Home Depot and Forest Hills Green Team will be doing a cleanup on Metropolitan Avenue. We will be meeting in front of Aigner Chocolate.
- I would like to welcome all of our new community board members. Within the next few months, we will all be asked to sign up for committees. Since I have been a social worker for over 40 years and a committed climate activist, I have a personal request. It seems that committees that deal with the most vulnerable population in our community and an issue that threatens the future of our planet are the very ones that do not draw as many people as they need and deserve. Therefore, please consider joining committees such as Aging, Social Services and Disability, Committee for Those Without Shelter, Environmental Committee, Health, Mental Health, Substance Abuse Committee and Veteran Affairs/Public Services Committee.

Amit Pratap Shah:

I am the founder and director of the open Foundation, in collaboration with the Queens Borough President's Office, we are celebrating Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage on Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, from 5 pm to 8 pm. We will have a cultural program and an art exhibit. Chair Dimitriadis introduced Mr. Bhupal Pokhrel, Chairperson (Mayor), Dhurkot Rural Municipality, in Gulmi, Lumbini Province, Nepal. We were glad to have him at the meeting.

Jean Silva:

Thanked everyone that came out and supported the Pat Dolan trail walk. Rangers were on hand to give information about the trail. Come out and enjoy the parks.

Edgar Alfonseca:

The New York City Parks Opportunity Program is a six-month employment program paying \$18.54 an hour, 40-hour week. Please spread the word, there are a lot of young people looking for work.

Daniel Solow:

- I am a member of a group called Central Queens Micro Mobility. We're a local group representing Forest Hills, Rego Park and Kew Gardens. We strive to grow that community with social rides, advocacy and events. On the weekends we meet at Trader Joes and explore different parts of the neighborhood. If anyone is interested in this, see me afterwards. We recently launched a mentor program in building your confidence on the road for people who are intimidated by Queens Boulevard traffic.

- Elmhurst Hospital is hosting a series of workshops, starting on May 21<sup>st</sup> together with the New York Transportation Coalition for transportation safety. You can speak with a neurosurgeon, fire department specialist and other safety experts.
- Please donate blood. It is very important for healthcare providers to be able to give blood to critically ill. You can donate at the New York Blood Center or Red Cross.

Pedro Rodrioguez:

I am with a group called Neighbors for Safer Austin Street and we advocate for a safer, more comfortable and better Austin Street. There is a lot of traffic on Austin Street. This year we decided to apply for an open street between 71<sup>st</sup> Avenue and 71<sup>st</sup> Road, during summer and fall on the weekends from 9 am to 5 pm. There will be tables, chairs and events from the local community, organizations and some of the businesses. We want to create more walking space since the sidewalk is narrow. We have been doing outreach to several organizations and businesses and have their support. This is to bring more foot traffic to the area, calm traffic and to have more face-to-face time with neighbors. We hope by June to have on the agenda a vote for this open street. When this street opens, we are going to call it Austin Day. If you would like more information [asaferaustinstreet.com](http://asaferaustinstreet.com) or google Austin Street safety.

Peter Beadle:

- I will be a panelist at the fair over at Elmhurst Hospital talking about electric micromobility.
- Queensboro Bridge is changing the configuration on the bridge. Starting Sunday, the southern outer roadway on the lower level against the fence is becoming a pedestrian ramp walkway. The north outer roadway will be for bicyclists. You won't be able to come down up from 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and enter the bridge on the lower level.

Pat Morgan:

- Duane Reade and Walgreens have been sold to a hedge fund. The Duane Reade on 63<sup>rd</sup> Drive has had very bad service for the customers, they need more workers, they aren't answering the phone in a timely matter. Please call the corporate office 1-800-Walgreens to tell them they need more employees.
- If you are going to help someone who is disable, asked them first on how to help them.

Salua Baida:

Please urge your state leaders to pass the 2025 Protect Immigrant New Yorkers Package. There are a few bills that are a part of the package. The one that is called New York for All prohibits state and local agencies from collaborating with ICE; including sharing data or allocating resources to federal immigration enforcement. In the past there was protection that certain areas were off limits i.e. courts, hospitals and other city services. They are not protected now.

## **PUBLIC FORUM**

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis reported that we will not be reading written comments, but they will be in the minutes. You can submit your comments by Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. We received one comment on the NYPD and Forest Hills stadium, one comment on the Long Island Railroad and Forest Hills stadium, and seven comments in favor of the Open Street that board member Pedro Rodriguez spoke about tonight.

**Mike Sidell**

*Most of you know me as Mike Sidell, the mayor of Kew Garden Hills. I have had concern for Queens ever since the 50s. My main concern is when I was on Community Board 8, I put forth a proposal to the transportation committee of a bus line, not knowing what number to call it, just what I thought would be good for the people. There were*

*three people from the transit authority at the meeting. I didn't know they were taking notes. I don't care if they said it was Mike Sidell 's idea; as long as we get it done, folks. I haven't been on the community board in eight years, but I'm still active in the community. I understand the MTA is coming with the bus redesign tonight as I followed them wherever they go. They were hiding in the subway in Jamaica; you had to find them all the way in the back. I came up with a bus line for what is now called Q73 which would come from your community of Forest Hills 108<sup>th</sup> Street up Jewel Avenue, Utopia, Fresh Meadows and all the way to Queensborough Community College. I just spoke with a gentleman on the bus who goes to Queensborough Community College. Regarding the Q73, I use a walker, I am disabled and have limited walking ability. For the disabled, the seniors, we have to put the Q73 on the list.*

### **Jeff Fox – Foxy Management**

*I presented to the board before, and I come with some good news. We are an affordable housing developer; we are going to redevelop the Parkway Hospital. We will be getting our funding from HPD next month. We have a tentative date for closing in early June. We are expecting 2 ½ years of construction, we are hoping for occupancy in late 2027. The building will have 145 apartments, that are affordable to both seniors and families earning under 50% of the area median income. There will be 124 senior apartments and 20 two-bedroom family apartments, plus one apartment for the super. All residents will benefit from rental subsidies, no one will pay more than 30% of their income. We will be partnering with self-help community services, which will provide services for the senior residents in the building. We will also have about 35,000 square foot community facility that will be occupied by a religious institution, one that has been in the community for a while.*

Chair Dimitriadis asked Jeff to send to the office the unit breakdown, the allocation of the units, how many studios, how many one-bedrooms, how many two-bedrooms and what your affordability grid looks like as far as income. If anyone has questions for questions for Jeff email District Manager Nolan and the office.

Jeff Fox sent over the breakdown of affordable housing:

- 108 studio units set aside for seniors (age 62+) earning up to 50% of the AMI
- 39 of these studios will be set aside for homeless seniors
- 16 1BR units set aside for seniors (age 62+) earning up to 50% of the AMI
- 5 of these 1BR units will be set aside for homeless seniors
- 20 2BR units set aside for families earning up to 50% of the AMI
- All units will benefit from Section 8 rental subsidy, so no resident will pay more than 30% of their income towards rent.
- All utilities will be paid by the owner as well.

### **Sasha Cruz – PTA, PS139**

*Last month or the month before I did connect with CB6 regarding the education budget request, for the Department of Youth and Community Development which is due at the end of this month for 2027. PS139 currently has a grant with 21<sup>st</sup> Century, currently held by Common Point which provides free afterschool program for our children. That grant is set to expire in 2027. It puts hundreds of families in our school at risk of losing access to these essential programs. We are a title one school; it is important to receive those services. Our parents relies on the free afterschool opportunities to support their families. We also want to be able to bring Beacon to our school through the DYCD. We are looking for bringing that viable solution so that families have an afterschool program funded by the city instead of a grant. Beacon doesn't only support PS139 and their parents but the neighboring communities. I know we have Community House and Common Point on the other side of the boulevard. We don't have it on our side of the boulevard which would support our families from 6 pm to 10 pm and weekends. We are looking for support in the community to be able to help us in 2027. We are asking for this request now because we know how city budgets work, the time that it takes for everyone to get us on list. We hope you can support us.*

### **Jeff Rosenstock – Queens College**

*I am grateful to have the opportunity to speak this evening on behalf of the Forest Hills stadium and the producers of the concerts which take place in this iconic and historic venue. I speak both as a former resident of Forest Hills, having lived there for five years, then moving to Westchester in 2023. I also as someone engaged in the bough of Queens in my capacity as AVP of External and Government Relations at Queens College. As a Forest Hills resident, living at Parker Towers for 3 years and Austin and 76<sup>th</sup> Road for an additional two years, there was always a sense of excitement and vitality on evenings when concerts would happen. Yes, it meant traffic moving more slowly as one crossed Queens Boulevard and Yellowstone and more difficulty finding parking spaces for friends who may have come to join us for dinner. But, at the same time, there was a wonderful sense of people gathering together to be part of a special concert and also coming early to dine in our restaurants and shop in our stores. Forest Hills felt more alive to me, and I was proud that we were hosting guests from across the city who would come to our neighborhood and discover all the riches in addition to the amazing Forest Hills stadium concert venue. As the AVP of External Relations at Queens College, I am grateful for the opportunities that Mike Luba and his colleagues provide our students. The chance to get some of the 600 jobs at the stadium, the job fair he hosts every year, opportunities for student internships which we are discussing with him, their representation on the college's Art Advisory Board, and their support of borough-wide initiatives like Queens Rising, a major cultural initiative every June to amplify all the cultural activities taking place in Queens are a testament to their community commitment. I know I only touch upon the tip of the iceberg in terms of the ways Mike is eager to support community events and organization in our borough because he values and respects that we must all work together to enhance the vitality and opportunities Queens affords to its residents, the organization in Queens and those who work in the borough too. If you haven't been to a concert at the stadium, you are missing a special experience because of its intimacy and sense of community being there creates. If you are a community member involved with a non-profit or important cause, I'm sure Mike and his team will be more than willing to see how they might help just as good neighbors do.*

#### **John Belter – Songs of Love Foundation**

*My name is John Belter, I'm the founder of the Songs of Love Foundation. I have been in Forest Hills for almost three decades. I actually was walking down the street in my neighborhood on 108th Street. I had this epiphany to start a charity that would help sick children and teenagers by giving each one of them a fully produced personalized song. I called it the Songs of Love Foundation, named after a song on my fraternal twin brother Julia wrote just three months before he passed away, he took his own life. That was three decades ago. I'm here in support of concerts at Forest Hills stadium. One thing that we did, we actually came on stage, and we engaged with the fans at the Paul Simon concert as they all added their voices over a song of love for a local sick child. We feel very blessed and lucky to be partnering with Forest Hills Stadium, and they're going to be choosing us as the charity that they will support this summer season. Let's get the music started playing at Forest Hills Stadium. I created a song to commemorate that.*

#### **Christina Towne**

*I am a neighbor who lives in the neighborhood. I'm here with my friend. We just wanted to come here to see this guy play, thank you so much. That was fantastic, I missed the last show, I'm always down for a show. You can ask anybody. I want to thank you guys for having us and we just want to come and support the stadium because we spend all summer over there. I live on Booth Street, behind the stadium, my friend lives in Parker Towers. If you ever come down on the floor at Forest Hills stadium, hang out with us, we are part of the community over there and I just want to say thanks for having us.*

#### **Maria Kaufer**

*Hello friends, neighbors and board members who I may not have organized with as of yet. It is so lovely to be with you. My name is Maria Kaufer, I'm a 33-year resident of Forest Hills and a 53-year resident of New York City. Since moving to Forest Hills in 1992 as a newlywed, I have raised my child here who attended our local public schools, P.S. 101 in Forest Hills Gardens. Just half a mile from Forest Hills Stadium and Russell Sage Junior High School P.S. 190 also in Forest Hills. I worked for 7 ½ years as a registered dietitian at Forest Hills Hospital and I serve as a primary caregiver for both of my elderly parents, who live in Forest Hills and Rego Park until their*



deaths in 2022. During that time, I served on the parents' association executive boards and school leadership teams of P.S. 101 and Russell Sage. I was also elected and served as a parent member of our community school district CEC28, which is our local school board. Currently, I serve on Queensborough President Donovan Richards' civic engagement committee. I'm here tonight to speak on behalf of Forest Hills Stadium, and the concerts, to add what other people have said. This is my personal testimony. According to google walking directions, my home which has ten windows that look out over Queens Boulevard is 0.9 miles from Forest Hills Stadium. I never hear anything emanating from the stadium. At night when it's quiet, I do hear sometimes the announcements from the subway trains that come through the gates on the sidewalks. At different times during the day, I hear the Our Lady Queens of Marty's church bells which are really lovely, and they ring at quarter of an hour. I just want to say that it is wonderful to be able to walk to and from my home when I attend concerts and other events. I believe that non-local concert goers also find it more inconvenient to do this. I believe that post-COVID attendants, Forest Hills stadium saved our local businesses. I have bore and continue to bear witness to the increased economic activity and the growth in the neighborhood. When there is an event at the stadium, and the West Side Tennis Club are good neighbors. They open up their doors to hold community and civic events like the annual state of Forest Hills civic meeting. In this past winter they hosted the year-end holiday toy drive.

**George Hadjiconstantinou – Queens Chamber of Commerce**

For those who don't know me, I am with the Queens Chamber of Commerce. We have been working hard to help with Metro Village of Forest Hills, a wonderful merchant organization that works to help small businesses, along Metropolitan Avenue in Forest Hills. I want to let you all know that this Saturday, we are going to have a wonderful complimentary event called Taste of Metro Village, where restaurants along the avenue will be providing free samples, which will be held at the American Legion of Forest Hills, 107-15 Metropolitan Avenue. This is to raise awareness of our restaurant week, which will be held from May 25<sup>th</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup>. I happen to have a flyer for those who would like to attend.

**Cecil Brooks – Health and Hospital Advisory Board**

I wear a few hats, usually I'm wearing a hat for health and hospitals, New York City, the citywide community advisory board, a coalition. One thing I heard a lot about tonight and that I have continuously heard after canvassing working with dozens of businesses across the city, including central Queens, has been a lack of open and outdoor space. I implore this board to look into the wonderful family friendly programming that neighbors like Pedro are trying to share with us. As a product of Queens, I am always amazed at how we have some of the most beautiful, lush parks in the city, but we don't have the ability to enjoy the tree-lined avenues and streets, especially in some of the residential areas that Queens is honestly known for. For someone who might want to raise a family, maybe here, you can come get me while you can, in my 20s. I would love for everyone here to enjoy more of those events that fill such a vital social gap and void, especially during Jewish heritage month, as someone alluded, AAPI heritage month, as COVID taught us with antisemitism and anti-Asian sentiment streets and events that bring people together who otherwise would never cross paths. Those are what make New York what it is. We can do that without having hundreds of miles of farmland or national parks. With an open street, even if it's just one block, something on Austin Street. I don't work with federal grants, with canvassing door-to-door, a lot of businesses want more foot traffic. If anyone would like to work together or learn more, please contact me.

**Michael Niamehr**

I'm speaking in support of a once-a-month street activity permit for Austin Street in downtown Forest Hills. I constantly have an issue when I go onto Austin Street in being able to get around, with how crowded the street is, how crowded the sidewalks are, the constant traffic and speeding despite the traffic signs somehow, it's really hard to get around and I have neighbors that have limited mobility. I see them also struggling to get around. I can't imagine how much worse it is. I would love just some initiatives like the open street, like Austin Day, to come around to provide more open space. We also have heard a lot of stories of local businesses struggling. I think getting people on that street would help those businesses to get more foot traffic and more customers available to them. I also want to mention that other neighborhoods have had huge success with open streets. Especially in this

case assuming once a month activity, it's a low barrier to entry for this. I don't see any concern with once a month, a few hours of cars not being able to pass through just one block of the street. Other neighborhoods have had much wider streets without any issues. I feel very certain that this will work especially in the small trial run capacity that is going to be in the fall.

**The following comments were submitted in writing for minutes:**

**Jean Hahn**

*I'm greatly concerned about the NYPD & Forest Hills Stadium concert promoter's plan for security for the upcoming show on May 31 at the Forest Hills stadium. The public has yet to see a safety plan - how will it work? How will a private security company be able to manage crowd control when they don't even have the permission of the FHGC to be on their streets? What happens if there are nuisance issues - like trespassing, urinating on private property, vandalism, etc.? They can't hand out citations so how does this work? What happens if there needs to be an emergency evacuation? This hardly assures residents that safety is a high priority. It's also highly disturbing that 30% of the scheduled events are planned when children have school the next day, and even more appalling that none of our city officials, politicians, and community board members have bothered to publicly advocate on the behalf of students whose educational careers are impacted by the noise, vibrations, and disruptions that come with concerts at an open air stadium in a residential neighborhood that is only 50 feet from the nearest house. Why is it so difficult to speak up for students who are impacted by this? Couldn't they at least pretend to show they care about children and their educational futures, or has their silence been bought? I would love to see a show of hands from community board members and politicians who have received freebies from the stadium. Lastly, I would like to point out that the much-needed LIRR ADA improvements seem to be delayed accommodating the concert schedule. Again, why are government resources prioritized on the wants of a private corporate business who has yet to satisfactorily resolve quality of life issues over the needs of the disenfranchised from the local community?*

**Seth Kaufman**

*I am writing in support of bringing open streets to Austin Street in Forest Hills as a current resident. Open streets have been a proven success in other communities around NYC, including on Montague St in Brooklyn where I grew up, where the weekly open street brings out the community, businesses and family-oriented activities to a fun and safe environment. When Austin St. shuts down occasionally for street fairs, we see how popular the area can truly be and how much the community yearns for this sort of open space on a main thoroughfare. Further, considering Austin St.'s proximity to Queens Blvd, it doesn't make sense to regularly keep it open for non-commercial traffic. Creating a regular open street would be beneficial to the community and I hope to see it implemented here soon.*

**Tamar Melman**

*I am writing as a Forest Hills resident, in support of Austin open streets, an effort I am 100% behind. Here are 2 reasons. 1. It will improve quality of life and air quality for folks like me who love walking, as well as for kids and families living in the area, a goal that we should all be behind. 2. Additionally, I am so proud to live in such a walkable neighborhood. As a new resident, it has been one of the key factors in deciding to purchase here. No doubt open streets will attract more interest in our quiet little neighborhood, and not only will it improve life for those of us already here, but it will also raise property values. I really hope we can make this dream a reality!*

**Jae Yong Eom**

*My name is Jae, and I would like to leave a public comment for today's CB6 meeting in support of an Austin Street open street. It will be beneficial to open up space for the community.*

**Katie Ryan**

*I hope that one day Austin Street, especially the commercial zone, can become an open street on weekends during the summer. It would be safer and more enjoyable for the community. In fact, I envision it eventually becoming a full-time one-way street. This could be a compromise that satisfies both sides of the conversation. There simply isn't enough space for pedestrians, and reclaiming some of the roadway would significantly enhance recreation and street life in the area.*



**Steve Strauss**

*I write to express my support for an Open Streets trial on Austin Street in downtown Forest Hills. With the upcoming removal of Q23 from Austin Street it is time for the board to start thinking about a vision for a new Austin Street with wider sidewalks, sidewalk dining options, fewer cars, better maintained tree pits and parking meter rates that encourage more turnover and availability.*

**Cynthia Stone Unger**

*I am writing in support of making Austin St more pedestrian friendly. There are many families with young kids living in the area (my grandkids, for instance) and the specific intersection under consideration is very busy and dangerous.*

**Deborah Van Dermark**

*While researching the MTA website, I read that the LIRR weekend service will change to accommodate mandated accessibility construction activities and will bypass the Forest Hills Station stop. I also noted that the LIRR will accommodate and suspend construction activities on days when concert events at Forest Hills Stadium are scheduled. For the record, I request the CB look into this matter and address suspending this very important work to accommodate a convenience to sponsored by Tiebreaker LLC (private enterprise).*

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

**MINUTES**

A motion to accept the minutes for April 9, 2025, was made by Sabah Munawar and was seconded by Brently Winstead. All were in favor.

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

On Ascan Avenue, there were multiple complaints from businesses and area residents regarding the materials from the construction of the LIRR. With some great interagency cooperation, we are pleased to share that this week, we were notified by Nick Fasano at the MTA that there will be a reconfiguration of the materials on Ascan Avenue. This should help the area businesses. The LIRR project is behind schedule due to the delays caused by a pause in congestion pricing. In March of last year, they discussed that they would work on the eastbound side and the westbound side. They also mentioned that there will be interruptions to service from time to time. Sometimes work will be done on the weekdays, weeknights and weekends. When there is a track outage, they will be cross-honoring through the subways, and they will let us know. We have received some inquiries about this. When we get information about these changes, if they are going to be shut down for a certain period of time, we will send them out to the board, social media, and the MTA will do so as well. We want to explain that any changes to decrease service are due to the ADA project. This has nothing to do with Forest Hills stadium, as has been attempted to circulate that story.

The Transportation, Public Transit, Street Safety Committee has been working on getting Circuit Ride for our community. It would be a beneficial program to young moms, to those who are disabled, etc. I'm glad to report that the District Manager and I, along with the Committee Chairs, had a productive discussion with Senator Addabbo regarding the need for funding for the program. Thank you, Edgar and Peter, for spending your time in the afternoon meeting with us.

An update for the class size mandate. I will continue to work with the select members of the CEC in District 28 to ensure a fully transparent implementation of the class size mandate. We recently met with

the chief of staff to Speaker Adams, and we're looking forward to a future meeting with the speaker. I will have more to report later.

Considering recent safety issues in air safety at Newark Airport and the assessment of the current Secretary of Transportation that this problem will continue and spread to other airports. We sent a letter to Congress Member Meng expressing our concern for the safety of our skies as we see a considerable amount of air traffic for both LaGuardia and to a smaller extent JFK Airport. A 90 second air traffic control blackout could be catastrophic, and we just can't have that in our communities.

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis asked the board to do their best to attend your committee meetings this month. Each meeting discusses budget priorities. This is the best place to engage on this issue. In late September, it is not really the best way to engage in this process. If you want to be part of a discussion on a committee that you aren't assigned to, you can go to that committee meeting. In the Friday email, we include details for all briefings that are coming up.

As a reminder we are about eight months away from the election of a new Executive Committee. If you're interested in running for any of the positions, reach out to myself, District Manager Nolan or any current member of the executive committee, to learn more. This is a big commitment; you should have all the facts and give yourself enough time to consider it. A lot of this executive board is term limited; we can spend four years in our role.

## **DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT**

District Manager Nolan reported the following:

Thank you to the Board Members that volunteered for the May 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Fair. We are still taking volunteers for the June 8<sup>th</sup> Street Fair on Austin Street where the CB will have a shredding truck. If you can't volunteer, bring your papers to be shredded and spread the word. Austin Street and 71 Avenue.

Thank you to the Board Members that attended the Queens Community House Open House. There was a great CB6 presence, and I am sure you all learned a thing or 2 (I certainly did).

We are probably one of the few boards that starts our budget priorities in April. The only downside is that the city likes to change things. This year, we will be submitting our budget priorities by agency. The good thing is that we don't have to argue about whether affordable housing is more important than composting or whether bike lanes are more important than water fountains. We will prioritize each agency. The only downside is that we will need to change our process a little bit. Some committees have already started discussing their budget priorities, which is great. The only caveat is that you will now need to separate them by agency. The good thing is that instead of submitting 10 priorities and splitting them between the agencies your committee represents, you can submit up to 5 for each agency. However, you will no longer be able to "farm out" your budget priorities to other committees. For example, if a program is funded by DOT, it needs to be a part of the Transportation Committees list, even if it impacts other committees. Please attend your committee briefings. Please reach out to the Chairs with your suggestions. Rather than having an All-Chairs meeting to prioritize our list, we will be sending out a survey to ALL CB6 Members in early September. Please make sure you fill out the survey if you want to have a say in the budget priorities. After the survey is complete, there will be a mandatory budget briefing on September 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm via WebEx. This will be your opportunity to ask questions and voice your concerns about the budget priority list. Don't wait until the October meeting. From now until

October, there are a lot of opportunities for you to be a part of the budget priority process. In October, we should be prepared to hold our public hearing and vote on the list of priorities.

Questions were taken from the board.

## **NEW CB6 LOGO UNVEILING**

District Manager Nolan presented the new CB6 Logo and thanked all the board members that helped the committee design the parameters for the competition, the rules and regulations for the competition, the board members that volunteered to collect votes for the logo competition. She also thanked the Public Relations and Social Media Committee, and public relation member Emily Otalora, who designed all of the Facebook posts and flyers. Also thanked everyone for submitting a logo design. Michael Niamehr was the winner of the logo design.

## **PRESENTATION BY MTA ON QUEENS BUS REDESIGN**

The presentation was presented by Cate Contino, Ryan Wilkinson and Andrey Prigov.

Ryan Wilkinson, a transportation planner at New York City Transit, gave some background information about the project. We are redesigning the bus network in Queens because jobs have changed in terms of their density, demographics, locations and people living in new places. The borough has changed a lot.

We had over 250 total events over the past six years, including pop up events, open houses, workshops, town halls, meetings with our labor partners, meetings with elected officials, community board presentations. Comments from the public are important and influential in informing us of our planning process and our planning decisions and the bus network that we're bringing to Queens this year. The new bus network has 124 routes with 94 local routes and 30 express routes. Buses are arriving every 10 minutes from 6 am to 9 pm.

### **Why are we doing it?**

It's been several decades since we made major changes to Queens bus routes. Since then, we've seen development in new areas, new travel patterns, declining reliability

### **How we got here**

Riders identified four priorities for the new network: reliable service, faster travel, better connections, and simplified service. From these priorities, we developed several design strategies. To learn more about the planning process, go to [mta.info/queensbusredesign](https://mta.info/queensbusredesign).

These routes will take people further out where the subway doesn't run and will connect them to rail connections faster. We plan on implementing this in two phases on June 29<sup>th</sup>, those routes are the majority of the routes that are changing and on August 31<sup>st</sup> the second phase will happen.

### **Proposed Final Plan**

- Developed/published plan – Fall 2022 – December 2023
- Conducted public outreach – Winter 2023 – Summer 2024
- Developed/published addendum – Summer 2024 - December 2024
- MTA Board vote – January 2025

### **Implementation**

- Preparation & public education campaign – Winter 2025 – Fall 2025
- Phase I – June 29, 2025
- Phase II – August 31, 2025
- Post implementation analysis – Fall 2025 – Spring 2026

### **The New Bus Network**

- 124 total routes (vs. 113 existing), 94 local routes (vs. 83 existing), 30 express routes (vs. 30 existing)

### **Expanded access for Queens**

- 124,000 more people will have access to a bus that arrives every 10 minutes or better, 6 am – 9 pm (+5% over existing)
- 68,000 more people will have access to 24-hour bus service (+3% over existing)

### **Changes Riders Will See:**

- Changes to stops – adding, relocating, and removing hundreds of stops to make rides faster, more reliable, and more connected.
- Changes to routes – rerouting some routes for faster and more direct service, some routes are getting new numbers.
- New routes – expanding the network with new and extended routes in more areas.
- New rush routes - newly designed routes make local stops far from the subway, with limited stops on major streets and near hubs.

### **Changes in Community District 6 - Local**

The majority of the routes in the local network will change on June 29; that's the introduction of new Q14 and Q74.

June 29 - Q14, Q23, Q29, Q38, Q54, Q59, Q64, Q67, Q74, Q88

August 31 - Q10, Q11, Q37, Q52, Q60, Q72

### **Changes in Community District 6 – Express**

June 29 - QM4, QM10, QM11, QM12, QM40, QM42, QM44

August 31 - QM15, QM18

### **Implementation**

DOT is responsible for changes in all the bus signage and maintenance. Riders should refer to the bus stop guide-a-ride boxes, which is the metal cannister on the bus stop pole.

#### **Bus stop changes**

- Changes began in February and will continue through the fall in some locations.
- Current service continues until the change date for each respective route.
- Riders will see new signs at existing bus stops, as well as bus stop signage at new locations due to new routings, changes in route designation, or ADA compliance.

### **Learn about the new network**

## Future Trip Planner

Check out your trip on the fully implemented network at [futuretrips.mta.info](http://futuretrips.mta.info)

- Enter your starting and ending locations to see travel options
- Select dates between September 7 - 13
- Drag and drop start and end flags to see additional trip options

## Learn about implementation

### Project Phasing Guide

- Shows the date every route changes
- Available to view or download on the project webpage with a corresponding color-coded map

## Stay connected

- Use the MTA app, Check bus time, Call 511, Sign-up for alerts at [mta.info/notify](http://mta.info/notify).

Questions were taken.

I have a bus stop by me that's going to be eliminated. How far in advance will we be notified that the spot is eliminated?

**Response:** Because of the volume of changes, Andrey went through and prioritized all of the stops according to when those stops are being changed by DOT. We can't guarantee a specific amount of lead time, but plenty of lead time before the stop change goes into effect.

Andrey Prigov: We are basically sending out the work orders to put those guide-a-ride inserts, (little yellow panels) for phase two, starting on August 31<sup>st</sup>, I would expect to see them up by early July, about 60 days.

On the north side of Queens Boulevard, Q73 to the last stop, it said Rego Park, the people will get on the bus around the corner where Marshalls was. Why don't you move to the Q60 stop where Citibank is? When the new bus comes, they will have three doors.

**Response:** For Q72, we have looked at Q54; the volumes are very high on the first stop, and it's harder to move it to the other side. The Q60 stops are going to be taken a closer look at by the DOT capital project. What's going to happen on Queens Boulevard? They will be doing outreach. Basically, the project would move the Q60 stops from the shoulders of the road to the main road of Queens Boulevard.

The most significant route change is Austin Street. I assume it will go through currently, but there is a DOT study that is being done regarding Austin Street that may change the configuration. One part that may actually go away regarding automobile traffic. I support Austin Street going one way. When this occurs, it is important that you have contact with the DOT as this goes forward. At least one of the stops close to the subway. I want to know whether you will be in contact regarding this study and whether the results will come in, so that you would be willing to make changes in the implementation accordingly.

**Response:** We are going to monitor for several months after the implementation is complete, and then we are going to release a post-implementation evaluation. We are aware of the DOT study. These guys won't be able to do this; they are redesign planners. We have another department that we work with, Lockstep, which is our regular bus service planning. We have a long-term partnership with the DOT dating back to 2006/2007 to work on those one-way conversions.



We are in constant contact with the DOT transit development Group. Which is always involved in any street-related project to any bus service, any transit service. We meet with them on a weekly basis or multiple times and our other colleagues in bus service planning on a regular basis.

Do you know what is going to happen to all of the bus stops that will be taken away in June and August to space itself? For example on Austin Street if they all become parking it is already congested, it's going to invite more cars into the street. Which is going to make the congestion even worse. Has DOT told you what will happen?

**Response:** We are in contact with the fold in transit development, they are taking a close look at every single stop that is being eliminated and finding alternative uses for those stops. They have hinted that those curb uses will align with the existing curb regulations and the adjoining pieces of land or pieces of the right of way. If you feel strongly about certain uses in certain locations, they're open it to community input, you can get in contact with them. We don't have the ability to influence that process. We are consultants on it; I can pass the message along. It's best for you to pass this message directly, because it is not a bus stop.

I take the bus into Manhattan every day for work. I noticed the QM15 into NYU Hospital. I noticed someone doing counts in the morning in terms of how many people were getting on. I notice in your plan it says that there is going to be more frequent stops. Are you calibrating the frequency of the bus based on ridership?

**Response:** Yes, absolutely, we work closely with the schedule team to make sure that the trip counts align with the ridership demand. We know that there have been a lot of changes to ridership. When we finalize the schedule, such as congestion pricing and any other things that have influenced people's trip decisions. We will be working with schedules to continue to adjust the service as needed.

Karla Fuentes: Will you continue to have your team out there doing counts to calibrate that?

**Response:** Yes, it's not just when you see people out there, we have on most of our bus fleet today, we have automated passenger counters which goes into a sophisticated computer. We can take a look at ridership at specific time periods throughout the day.

When Q23 comes on the Queens Boulevard northbound after the Trader Joe stop, can you tell us where the stop is because right now it's on 70<sup>th</sup> Road and 108 Street, which cannot accommodate all the people on 70<sup>th</sup> Road and 108<sup>th</sup> Street, plus all the people in front of Chase Bank. Is there going to be another stop right when it turns?

**Response:** The stop after the turn from Queens Boulevard will be one block prior to where the current stop is. Right above Queens Boulevard, there's a shelter that's at 70<sup>th</sup> Road that's going to be on the other side closer to Queens Boulevard.

Will the stop at 70<sup>th</sup> Road still exist?

**Response:** It will not, it will be combined with the new stop which is closer to the subway station. It will be on the nearest side of 70<sup>th</sup> Road. I will mention two major choke points for the current Q23, one is on Austin Street and the other is a more residential street near Corona Plaza. We are trying to avoid some of the congestion that we have near Corona Plaza. We have a different route that we are implementing called Q14. This will serve Corona Plaza, which will follow the same trajectory that Q23 does on those residential streets. The Q23 on Austin Street since it is a narrow street to do two-way traffic on that street. We had to reroute the bus to Yellowstone Boulevard and Queens Boulevard. Two weeks before and after

implementation, we will have customer ambassadors out in the field to educate people about the changes. At Corona Plaza at 103<sup>rd</sup> Street on the 7 train we will be working with the station signage team to change the signage to make sure people know where to go. Also where the connection to Q23 will be along with the connection to Q14.

Will the shelters be moved?

**Response:** Yes, we are working with DOT, who manages the shelter contract, with an advertising partner. We are working with them to determine which shelters are moved, what priorities are for removal and moving, and what is the best decisions.

I saw that there is a data visualization tool to see your route. After August, the second phase. The data that you are going to start in June, is it going to be available for all different vendors, i.e. google? How open is that data going to be? Will it be on commercial map, app. applications like open street map?

**Response:** there are different threads, our trip planning tool, our future trip planner is populated by a static GTFS that's generated by our schedules team. GTFS is available for download on our project website. You aren't going to the MTA website to browse. For third-party resources, our GTFS, our real time GTFS, will be updated accordingly on June 29<sup>th</sup>. It might be populated a few days ahead that some tools allow you to do. This will be the standard process as to any service change that was happening to bus service that needed to be reflected.

I keep seeing 20 to 30% of the buses that are out of service. Why is so many buses out of service? Even when the bus is out of service, it will say a bus is coming.

**Response:** Q74 links Forest Hills right by 71<sup>st</sup> Continental to Queens College, Queensboro Community College via Jewel Avenue and Horace Harding Expressway the LIE. Please spread the word. As for out of service buses, I don't have a specific answer, following peak periods a lot of buses deadhead back to the depots and they take similar routes to get back there. That is why you are seeing those volumes. As for why they show up in our trip planning tools, I'm not sure. Our bus technology is looking for ways to refine that data to make it more accurate. There are limitations to technology.

Regarding the spacing of the buses I can wait for a bus 20 minutes, three buses show up one behind the other. I took the Q64 from 108<sup>th</sup> Street going towards Flushing, which is the second or third station of Q64. Three buses came at once. Are the buses scheduled by time or people? The bus will be full, and you see the bus driver sitting there for five minutes, is it irrelevant to how many people are on the bus, or do they stick to a schedule?

**Response:** Currently our buses do run at a fixed time schedule. We don't run on a headway management system where buses are spaced evenly, they do more active line management. This is something that bus planning is interested in. We hope that the department of buses who deliver the service are looking into this as well. The bunching that you are experiencing is a reliability aspect to that. The congestion that you see on Austin Street affects that kind of reliability and affects bus bunching, also dispatching is another big issue we are working on, we don't have enough dispatchers, and dispatching isn't up to the standard that it should be.

Where can people raise concerns? I see on the website that you still have get more details, future trip planner, and review changes by route do we use the old contact form? There is no specific to Queens route redesign page feedback area.

**Response:** We do have a contact form that's specific to the redesign; since we are not actively taking feedback because the service changes haven't been implemented yet. It is still available and will be posted prominently on our website when implementation happens. We know how important feedback is in order to make future changes.

Most customers are used to talking to us through our app, 511, X, and other chat apps. We promote those channels as the obvious way to reach us. It also reaches 160 languages through the MTA app. This is a great resource for LEAP neighbors. You can tell your board, and they will communicate with us.

Are there going to be physical people out there talking to our neighbors who don't speak English to help navigate these changes? If so, where are they going to be? Will there be advertising to let our neighbors know?

**Response:** We have a genetic brochure at popup locations, which are on our website. Traffic checkers will tell us where there is a high traffic location, there is going to be a customer ambassador who will be out in the Fall.

The express bus changes to Manhattan; will it be faster, and if you can confirm, and if there is an estimated time saving.

**Response:** Most of these changes in this area, with the spacing of the buses, will have a modest effect on the travel times. The biggest changes to routing are on the Queens-bound routing of the QM11, which has a crazy loop going on Queens Boulevard, gets off the expressway, to LeFrak City, and goes down Yellowstone Boulevard to service Forest Hills and Rego Park.

## **LAW/BY-LAW COMMITTEE REPORT**

### **PROPOSED BY-LAW AMENDMENT REGARDING PUBLIC COMMENT**

The Law and Bylaws Committee met online on Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. The draft discussed incorporated suggestions offered during the Board's previous discussion at its March 2025 meeting. After a discussion, the Committee members held a straw poll and unanimously agreed to recommend approval of the following amendment to the full Board:

This will add an additional Section 6 to ARTICLE XX. It concerns the proper and improper submission of testimony during the Board's Public Session.

Section 6. Testimony submitted at the Public Session can address the broad range of issues and concerns involving the community and the city. However, no such testimony that speaks in support of or opposition to a particular candidate or a political party, or that engages in hate, or similarly offensive, inflammatory, or accusatory speech shall be permitted. This includes the distribution of literature or other visual depictions that express support of or in opposition to a particular candidate or political party. The Chair shall be authorized to ban the distribution of such literature, the display of such visual depictions, or cut off any such testimony as soon as any such distribution, depiction, or testimony begins. Nothing in this provision shall, in any way, restrict the freest possible expression of opinions regarding policies or issues, as these do not fall within the specific constraints enumerated in this section.

John Dereszewski made a motion that this amendment be approved, and it was seconded by Peter Beadle. A roll call vote was taken: 39 Yes, 1 No. Motion passed.

## **CONSUMER AFFAIRS, CULTURAL AFFAIRS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**

Brently Winstead, Co-Chair, gave the following report:

### **NEW LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS**

1. **IL POETA, 98-04 METROPOLITAN AVENUE, FH\* (corporate change)**  
*Current corporate principal listed on the license: Luca Puracchio (former president, now resigned). Proposed corporate principal to be listed on the license: Mario DiChiara (current president). Luca Puracchio sold his 50% interest in Malu 2008 Corp to his former brother-in-law, Maria DiChiara. Upon the sale to Mario, Luca resigned his position with Malu 2008 Corp.*
2. **ZARA LOUNGE, 70-00 AUSTIN STREET, SUITE 110, FH**  
*This will be a Turkish restaurant. The applicant has multiple restaurants licensed by the State Liquor Authority. He has been in business for many years. Additionally, he has a very clean record with the New York State Liquor Authority.*
3. **BCL HOSPITALITY GROUP (KLIO RESTAURANT & BAR) 107-10 QUEENS BLVD., FH**  
*This is a Full-service restaurant and bar serving Mediterranean inspired food in an upscale setting. Operating hours of 11:00 AM to 12:00 AM Mon - Thu, Sunday 11:00 AM to 3pm Friday 10PM - 12AM Saturday. BCL Hospitality Group is led by a team with significant expertise in the industry, spearheaded by myself, Yan Khazanovskiy. With over 15 years of experience in high-end restaurant operations. I have successfully opened and managed acclaimed establishments in major cities, including Koi Restaurants, Serafina in NY and LA, and Estiatorio Milos at Hudson Yards. It was a special time in my life to reopen The Grand Tier restaurant at Met Opera, after COVID. My expertise spans concept development, operational management, hospitality teams building and mentoring, and compliance with local regulations, ensuring that BCL Hospitality Group's new venture—Klio, Kosher Mediterranean restaurant at 107-10, Queens, NY - will uphold the high standards of quality in food and service, and community engagement. While the ownership group brings strong business acumen, my role as the lead professional ensures that the restaurant's operations are guided by proven industry experience.*

### **RENEWAL LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS**

1. **R&S HOSPITALITY (QUEENS BULLY), 113-30 QUEENS BLVD., FH**
2. **THE TAP HOUSE, 72-07 AUSTIN STREET, FH**

The 112<sup>th</sup> Precinct didn't have any issues to report.

The committee took a straw poll for the new and renewal liquor license applications. All were in favor of the new applications. All were in favor of the renewals, 1 member was not in favor of a renewal for Queens Bully.

A voice vote was taken for the new liquor license applications; all were in favor of approval. A roll call was taken for renewal liquor license applications. For The Tap House, All were in Favor. For Queens Bully, 32 Yes and 8 No. Both were approved.

### **REPORTS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPRESENTATIVES**

#### **ASSEMBLY MEMBER CATALINA CRUZ**

Jessica Cortes reported the following:

- Events that the assembly member held were an Easter egg hunt, mobile office hours, two Mother's Day celebrations, and a culture fest with QEDC.
- Upcoming events:  
May 16<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 11am at Elmhurst Hospital reduce fare fair.

May 17<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 1 pm, paper shredding at Elmhurst Hospital.  
June 4<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 3 pm, NYLAC mobile van clinic.

#### SENATOR MICHAEL GIANARIS

Mercedes Jennings reported the following:

- State Budget Finally Passed. The Senator was in Albany until last Friday, May 9th working out all the official budget details.
- Major wins for the state budget:
  - More Funding for Foundation Aid becomes fair funding in NYC because those funds all our public schools.
  - Funding for MTA capital plan through payroll mobility tax, which means funds will come only from the 5,000 major corporations that make \$10,000,000 or more a year to flip the bill for this.
  - Funding for cell phone band in school; more specifically to have yonder pouches funded for all NYC schools so students remain focused on their classwork and their cell phones stays safe until the end of the school day.
  - Discovery Law Reform
  - Strengthening Involuntary Commitment Laws
  - 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. These payments should be received later on in the year.
- The state housing voucher program was passed as well, and the legislators are currently ironing out all the details. I will keep the community board posted as the specific guidelines and qualifications are detailed during the current senate session.
- Senator Gianaris hosted in collaboration with the DMV a REAL ID DMV event at the Steinway Library located at Ditmars Blvd and 31st Street in Astoria, Queens. 85 people signed up and 82 left successfully with their REAL ID's. The Senator is committed to doing more REAL ID events, so I'll make sure to update CB6 when we are doing one in your area.

#### ASSEMBLY MEMBER ANDREW HEVESI

Gianna Valente reported the following:

- This is Gianna's last meeting representing Assembly Member Hevesi.
- The state budget passed April 29<sup>th</sup>.
- The child tax credit, giving eligible families \$1,000 credit for children under four years old and \$500 credit for children four to sixteen. Childcare accesses \$2.2 billion statewide this year. \$350 million to stay safe childcare subsidies to protect thousands of New York City families.

#### CONGRESS MEMBER GRACE MENG

Jordan Goldes reported the following:

- Thanked all the veterans that came out two weeks ago at the VFW in Corona. Every couple of weeks we bring the Department of Veterans Affairs to the district at different American Legions, and VFWs to talk with the veterans.
- Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> from 9 am – 2 pm, passport event at the Forest Hills Post Office.
- Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup> 10 am – 1 pm, weekend office hours at the Forest Hills office.



- The congresswoman introduced new legislation for SNAP recipients to get reimbursements for stolen benefits.
- We are continuing our fight against the Federal budget cuts i.e. Medicaid, SNAP, Social Security, World Trade Center health program, local pantries and more.
- The congresswoman attended a street renaming for Daniel Malakov in Forest Hills.
- No update on the Social Security office in Rego Park. The congresswoman did a video at the office along with senior citizens stating that the office should not be closed.
- The Save Act didn't pass.

#### QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT DONOVAN RICHARDS

Amparito Rosero reported the following:

- Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 5 pm, we'll be hosting our Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month celebration at Borough Hall.
- Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 6 pm, we're hosting our Jewish Heritage Celebration at Queens Borough Hall.
- Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6 pm, we're hosting our Guyanese Independence Day Celebration at Queens Borough Hall.
- Tuesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at noon, we're hosting our Pride Month Kickoff and Flag Raising Ceremony at Queens Borough Hall.
- Wednesday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm we're hosting our Annual Pride Month Celebration at Queens Borough Hall.
- You may RSVP to any of these events on our website at [queensbp.nyc.gov](http://queensbp.nyc.gov)
- If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to our office. You may call us, 718-286-3000.
- Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:30 am, Memorial Day Observance Ceremony, located in the Veterans Memorial Garden, in front of Borough Hall.

Mr. Bhupal Pokhrel, mayor of Dhurkot Rural Municipality, a visitor from Gulmi, Lumbini Province, Nepal gave a blessing.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm.

<b>CB 6 VOTING SHEET 5-14-25</b>	<b>BY-LAW AMENDMENT PUBLIC COMMENT</b>	<b>NEW LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS</b>		<b>RENEWAL LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS</b>
EDGAR ALFONSECA	YES			YES
DAVID ARONOV	YES			YES
ROBERT ASHE	ABSENT		ABSENT	ABSENT
JULIETH AVILA	ABSENT		ABSENT	ABSENT
ANISIA AYON	YES			YES
SALUA BAIDA	YES	A		YES
KAVISH BATRA	YES	L		YES
PETER BEADLE	YES	L		YES
HOWARD BIRNBAUM	YES			YES
L.T. CIACCIO	ABSENT	I	ABSENT	ABSENT
KANDRA CLARK	YES	N		YES
LATRICE DAVIS	YES			YES
JOHN DERESZEWSKI	YES	F		YES
HEATHER DIMITRIADIS	YES	A		YES
KEITH ENGEL	ABSENT	V	ABSENT	ABSENT
ALEM FERATOVIC	YES	O		YES
KARLA FUENTES	YES	R		YES
NICHOLAS GALIPEAU	YES			YES
TAMARA GAVRIELOF	YES			YES
ANDY GUO	YES			YES
KAREN IMAS	ABSENT		ABSENT	ABSENT
SARINA JAIN	ABSENT		ABSENT	ABSENT
NILE JOHNSON	YES			YES
MARCELLE LASHLEY-KABORE	ABSENT		ABSENT	ABSENT
MARK LASTER	YES			YES
KEVIN LY	YES			NO QUEENS BULLY/YES TAP HOUSE
DR. RENEE MEHRRA	NOT PRESENT FOR VOTE			YES
PAT MORGAN	YES			NO QUEENS BULLY/YES TAP HOUSE
SABAH MUNAWAR	YES			NOT PRESENT FOR VOTE
NATALIE PIENKOWSKA	YES			NO QUEENS BULLY/YES TAP HOUSE
JESSICA POORAN	ABSENT		ABSENT	ABSENT
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			NO QUEENS BULLY/YES TAP HOUSE
GLADYS SANDOVAL	ABSENT		ABSENT	ABSENT
DAVID SCHANTZ	YES			NO QUEENS BULLY/YES TAP HOUSE
HERBERT SCHONHAUT	YES			YES
AMIT PRATAP SHAH	YES			YES
EUGENE SHVARTSMAN	YES			YES
JEAN C. SILVA	NO			NO QUEENS BULLY/YES TAP HOUSE
DANIEL SOLOW	YES			YES
LOU TECPANECATL	YES			YES
MARTHA TUCKER	YES			YES
DIANA WALCOTT	YES			NO QUEENS BULLY/YES TAP HOUSE
BRENTLY WINSTEAD	YES			NO QUEENS BULLY/YES TAP HOUSE
EPHRAIM ZAKRY	YES			YES
<b>TOTALS:</b>	39 YES, 1 NO			TAP HOUSE: ALL IN FAVOR / QUEENS BULLY: 32 YES, 8 NO