



HEATHER BEERS-DIMITRIADIS
CHAIR

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



CHRISTINE NOLAN
DISTRICT MANAGER

DONOVAN RICHARDS
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

CB 6 MEETING MINUTES **SEPTEMBER 10, 2025**

PRESENT

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

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

K. IMAS
S. JAIN
N. JOHNSON
M. LASHLEY-KABORE
R. MEHRRA
P. MORGAN
S. MUNAWAR
N. PIENKOWSKA
J. PRATT
R. PUNJABI
D. RACHNAEV
G. RIVKIN

L. ROBINS
P. RODRIGUEZ
G. SANDOVAL
D. SCHANTZ
H. SCHONHAUT
A. PRATAP SHAH
E. SHVARTSMAN
D. SOLOW
L. TECPANECATL
M. TUCKER
D. WALCOTT
B. WINSTEAD

ABSENT

D. ARONOV*
J. AVILA
K. ENGEL*
J. POORAN

S. ROLNICK*
J. SILVA
E. ZAKRY*

*EXCUSED ABSENCES

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

JORDAN GOLDES
MERCEDES JENNINGS
AMPARITO ROSERO
KEVIN MCALEER
ANNA SARGEANT
JOSE VALERA
MEGAN YUAN
ELIANA SWELL
MARIA CONCOLINO
BARBARA VULICH
MICHELLE HETTICH

OFFICE OF CONGRESS MEMBER GRACE MENG
OFFICE OF SENATOR MICHAEL GIANARIS
OFFICE OF QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT DONOVAN RICHARDS
OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER LYNN SCHULMAN
OFFICE OF SENATOR JOSEPH P. ADDABBO
OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES GENNARO
MAYOR'S OFFICE COMMUNITY AFFAIRS UNIT
OFFICE OF ASSEMBLY MEMBER ANDREW HEVESI
COMMUNITY BOARD 6 STAFF
COMMUNITY BOARD 6 STAFF
COMMUNITY BOARD 6 STAFF

Chair Heather Beers-Dimitriadis opened the meeting with a moment of silence to remember one of our former community board members, Bob Silver, who passed away this week.

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: John Dereszewski, Gladys Sandoval, Diana Rachnaev, Karen Imas, L.T. Ciaccio and Dr. Renee Mehrra.

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis introduced our new staff person Michelle Hettich, who also serves as a volunteer to the Forest Hills Ambulance Corp. in her spare time.

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

GOOD AND WELFARE

CB 6 MEMBERS

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis announced the following on behalf of Jean Silva:

Flushing Meadows-Corona Park Conservancy - fitness and trail walk, Pat Dolan Trail on September 20th, 10-11:30am at Mauro Playground, Park Drive East and 73rd Terrace. To register email jeanfmcp@gmail.com.

Mark Laster

- Sunday, September 14th at 11am, the Queens Jewish Community Council will be distributing Rosh Hashanah packages to residents at Forest Hills Jewish Center. Volunteers are needed to assist with this distribution.
- Monday, September 15th at 6 PM, there will be a virtual meeting of the Forest Hills Green Team. We will be hearing about an update on the closing of Rikers Island. If you are interested in joining us, please email fhgtinc@gmail.com.
- Saturday, September 27th, 12 pm-3 pm, Metro Village – Fifth Annual Community Day, on Metropolitan Avenue between Selfridge and 74th Avenue.
- Saturday, October 4th, Freedom to Read, 1 pm-4 pm at First Presbyterian Church of Forest Hills. Third annual festival in Queens, NYC. The freedom to read is the freedom to think, learn, and belong. Join us for an afternoon of storytelling, workshops, art and conversation for all ages. A celebration of books and a stand against censorship. Together, we can protect stories, amplify voices, and ensure every reader sees themselves reflected in the pages they turn.
- The next Breaking Bread Building Bonds luncheon will be on Sunday, October 26th.

Andy Guo

I would like to promote Austin Day, this Sunday, September 14th. We are creating an open public space for the community. This is a space for gathering events and local activities in the heart of Forest Hills. I would like to highlight some attributes we have planned. There will be a craft table, a sneaker drive, (collecting sneakers and hauling them down to FedEx on Queens Boulevard on a cargo bike). My wife is doing a plant and seed swap for local gardeners in the community. Tacombi is offering seating for the public to sit and enjoy the space. This has been a long time in the making, and we had a lot of obstacles. I think we are going to get some complaints; I want the complaints to be consistent with the street fair at the end of the month with street closures. This is for the community, please use the space and enjoy. Bring your family and friends.

Pedro Rodriguez

On Austin Day there is going to be public seating, and we are going to have a cargo bike to test drive, courtesy of Queens Bike Share. There will be a kids' corner and community events that will be free. During the last meeting there were some questions from the public about the point of having Austin Day. Neighbors for Safer Austin Street was founded in 2022, with the goal of making Austin Street safer and more pleasant. Our main goal is to show what Austin Street could look like. With the main goal for more people to walk through and shop. This is not a street fair; there are not going to be any vendors. This is similar to the Metro Village Community Day on September 27th.

Pat Morgan

I wanted to let people know that Access-a-Ride has become a horror again. If your vehicle is ½ hour late, you are given the option of a taxi authorization, or you can continue to wait for a vehicle. A taxi authorization means you can call a taxi or Access-a-Ride will call a taxi for you. The taxi authorizations take 90 days to reimburse you for a taxi. Right now they are working on May reimbursements. There are still a lot of problems with Access-a-Ride, and we need to have a meeting with them to help resolve some problems.

There was an incident on Queens Boulevard at Diner-Bar, where a woman slapped her mother and later slapped a police officer. The police were very professional. This is the reason I am bringing this up, is to let people 112 Precinct is the best.

PUBLIC FORUM

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis reported that we will not be reading written public comments and there were three written comments to report. Both comments will be written in the minutes; they were in support of Austin Day on September 14th. You can submit your written comment by Friday, September 12th.

Jonathan Rinaldi

I'm here tonight to speak on behalf of the residents about the Q23 bus stop located at Queens Boulevard and 108th Street. What we have right now is a design flaw. The redesign of the stop is not working. Let me give you one example. The porter who works in the building, who cleans up the block has a workload more than eight times without any extra pay. This is the reality of how this program is hitting the working class. You have the bus shelter, red lights, daylighting, speed cameras and no parking all in the same stretch. Instead of it being more efficient, it is more congested, not safe, dirtier and harder for people to do their job. It failed in practice; people can't cross the street safely. Omni has eliminated the limited option; riders are losing money. Just today I tapped my card, the gate didn't open and I lost my fair. Just like EZ Pass, the reader doesn't pick it up and you still get charged. Nothing we can do. The transit redesign was supposed to improve life; we are seeing the opposite. It is more of a burden on the working people, less savings. There is no accountability, we need this to be fixed. I would like to formally request extra garbage cans to be placed at this stop as soon as possible. It will help residents and the workers in the building right away. We need to rethink this stop that it isn't working, and the residents deserve better.

Carly Tribull

I am a homeowner in Forest Hills. I regularly walk on Austin Street to shop and commute and have found the conditions unsatisfactory for a long time. It is incredibly congested with traffic, the sidewalks are too narrow, and even as a very attentive walker I've nearly been struck by cars failing to yield or speed to make it past a red light. As a future parent, I am extremely disheartened by the state of Austin Street, which could be a vibrant focal point of our community. Instead, it is dirty, loud, dangerous, and chaotic. For these reasons, I support Austin Day and the broader work of the Neighbors for a Safer Austin Street group. Unlike the typical street fair, Austin Day will prioritize the community and local vendors through the creation of an outdoor plaza. I hope the event serves as a springboard for more frequent pedestrianization of Austin Street and leads to conversations about how local governance can convert Austin Street from its dangerously congested conditions to a focal point of the community that encourages local commerce and the fostering of desperately needed third spaces.

Howard Chung

I've been a resident of Rego Park and Forest Hills for 10 yrs. In that time, I've witnessed Forest Hills growing in visibility and becoming a highly desirable place to live. These newly constructed apartment buildings are evidence. This influx of residents is bringing more foot traffic and vehicle traffic all competing to use a fixed amount of sidewalks and roads. On the weekends, Austin Street is not an enjoyable experience. Pedestrians must crowd onto narrow sidewalks while dodging cars, and vehicles inch along and fight for parking. My household and my neighbors have often avoided going to Austin Street for these reasons; we simply take our dollars elsewhere. As the population of Forest Hills continues to increase, this crowding will worsen. Therefore, I strongly encourage the Board to use a data-driven approach to see how open streets might be implemented on Austin Street. We've heard business owners express concerns about revenue, and we've also heard residents question how this will impact their lives. Each of these concerns should be acknowledged, thoroughly researched, and included in the overall narrative. On the flip side, the successes of other open streets in NYC should also be thoroughly examined. Columbus Circle in Manhattan, Paseo Park in Jackson Heights, Vanderbilt Ave in Brooklyn are all examples of open streets format where both business owners and residents are benefiting. Studies have shown that walkable communities increase social connection, reduce isolation, and reduce chronic illnesses. These quality-of-life factors have the potential to benefit both residents and local businesses alike. Therefore, I strongly encourage the board to thoroughly explore how a version of open streets can be applied to Austin Street.

Andrew Frankel

I have been a resident of Forest Hills for five years, and a homeowner. I am in favor of this weekend open street on Austin Street. As a community we often hear debates about how to best use limited resources and our space. With that in mind I just want to encourage everyone to treat this weekend as a chance to try something out. To see what it would be like if Austin Street had a more pedestrianized section, pedestrianized plaza space with fewer cars. I think it would be a positive change and an improvement to the community. It will also be different of opinions. This weekend it would be a chance to try on more outdoor space and fewer cars.

Alexa Arecchi

I am representing Forest Hills Stadium and our community care program. We recently launch the Forest Hills Stadium Community Fund which will provide grants to nonprofits and schools. Grants will be available in three tiers, up to \$5,000, between \$5,000 and \$10,000 and between \$10,000 to \$15,000. Any 501 (c)(3) or school serving the Forest Hills or greater Queens area is encouraged to apply. Grantees will be selected on a rolling basis. Forest Hills Stadium is committed to allocating at least \$100,000 in the first year of the program. The website is foresthillstadium.com/community-fund. If you go to Forest Hills Stadium you will find the link to apply. We would like to formalize and expand it to other groups that you might know about, and to give money back to the community. The focus is Forest Hills and greater Queens area. In addition to being a nonprofit or a school you have to serve that population local to us here. Applications will be kept on file and considered as grants become available. Our first awardee is ACE which will be conducting additional cleaning on Sunday, in the neighborhood, particularly from Burns to Groton Streets between 69th Ave and Yellowstone Blvd, beginning later this month. If you have any questions, you can reach out to our liaison program 929-712-1045.

Kimberly Scelta

Some of my neighbors and I are going to take our dogs for a walk to Austin St, pick up some treats for the pups at Pet Club, order some food, sit down to enjoy the pedestrian plaza. Thanks to the open streets. Open streets gives us the opportunity to spend time with our neighbors, meet new ones, and strengthen our community while supporting local businesses. It gives us the ability to relax and truly take in the benefit Austin Street is for our community instead of having to rush to cross the street because of all the traffic and squeeze down narrow sidewalks. It brings similar economic benefits to the street fairs, which have been praised as successful at past meetings. Maybe even more so because we're able to experience businesses with permanent locations in Forest Hills. Not only am I excited about the event this weekend, I hope that our community comes together and gets the support needed from our government to make these events happen more frequently.

Edward Brennen

I am here to talk about the two licenses for the retail cannabis shops. We have one that is supposed to be on 69th Avenue, between Harrow and Groton Street, two blocks away is PS144 and a block from there is a church. There is also a catholic academy elementary school. There is a problem that you know about footage with the Office of

Cannabis Management, they made a big blunder, and everything is on hold. I think this shouldn't go through. The lawyer that was there for the 69th Avenue cannabis shop didn't have his facts together regarding their plan. I don't think it should be here. It puts children's life in jeopardy, it's not good for the children or anyone to see the cannabis shop. If the state needs money, they should look for other ways. I am dead set against marijuana; I lost people from that and drugs. To me it's no and would appreciate you voting no.

Keith Causin

I am a new homeowner at 66 Road as of this week. I actually come from Briarwood. I have long patronized businesses on Austin Street. Austin Street has been my primary place to hang out on weekends. I'm here to support the open street for this weekend. I have been hit nearly too many times by a car. The street and sidewalks are too narrow. People drive recklessly and I am open to having a chance to spend time on that street. Spending time in that street patronize businesses and enjoy restaurants and enjoy time outside without having to worry about cars. Compared to the street fairs which are great, they are full of outside vendors with outside folks coming in to sell. Being able to spend a day there outside, patronizing locals and local community, I am looking forward to it too. I hope to see many of you there.

The following comments were submitted in writing for minutes:

Ida Messana

Though I am unable to attend the meeting I wish to express my support for Austin Street open street We need to humanize Austin Street.

Juliet Hitchner-Kollegger

I am a constituent of Councilmember Schulman. I am writing today to voice my support for the upcoming Austin Day (Austin Street Open Street) on September 14th. As seen in Manhattan and Brooklyn, when we provide more spaces for pedestrians in commercial areas, businesses in those areas thrive. It's important that we have more central spaces in our community to gather beyond parks and libraries, where you are not obligated to spend money. At a time when we need community more than ever and many of our interactions have migrated onto the internet, fostering more 3rd space in Forest Hills is vital. I hope I can count on your support to ensure that Austin Day becomes a lasting tradition in Forest Hills for many months and years to come.

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

MINUTES

A motion to accept the minutes for June 11, 2025, was made by Howard Birnbaum and was seconded by Edgar Alfonseca. All were in favor.

112TH PCT. COMMANDING OFFICER – CAPTAIN DANIEL FENNESSEY

Captain Fennessey gave the following updates:

- Crime has been decreasing.
- There have been residential burglaries of about 40-50 in Queens, with millions of dollars stolen that started in January and February. We have made an arrest, and the person is sitting on Rikers Island.
- Felony assaults for family disputes have increased, domestic violence, due to an increase in buildings and population.
- Stolen cars, things stolen out of cars like car parts, catalytic converters, air bags, especially with Honda CR-V, Honda Civic, and Toyota Rav 4. I suggest you get a club for your car. There is a defect in these cars which makes it easy to steal the parts.

Questions and comments were taken.

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis announced that next 112th Police Precinct Council meeting will be held on September 17th at 7:30 pm, at the American Legion Hall. The contact email address is council112@yahoo.com

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis announced our new committee chairs:

Aging/Health/Recovery Services, Co-Chair Mark Laster and Co-Chair Diana Rachnaev

Consumer Affairs/Cultural Affairs/Economic Development, Co-Chair Gladys Sandoval and Co-Chair Brently Winstead

Education/Youth, Co-Chair Karla Fuentes and Co-Chair Shari Rolnick

Environmental Protection/Sanitation, Co-Chair Natalie Pienkowska and Co-Chair Pedro Rodriguez

Finance/Personnel, Chair L.T. Ciaccio

Housing Stability/Social Services, Co-Chair Kandra Clark and Co-Chair Nile Johnson

Land Use/Housing/Landmark, Chair Keith Engel

Parks & Recreation/Libraries, Co-Chair Kavish Batra and Co-Chair Martha Tucker

Select Committee on the Rockaway Beach Branch Right of Way, Chair Keith Engel

Transportation/Public Transit/Street Safety, Co-Chair Edgar Alfonseca and Co-Chair Peter Beadle

Veterans Affairs/Public Safety, Chair Ephraim Zakry

There is a mandatory budget briefing meeting on Webex on September 16th at 7 pm. This meeting is being held to ensure that all board members are fully briefed on the budget priorities and the details before our standard general community board meeting on October 16th.

Committee chairs, please hold the date of October 9th; for committee chairs training, which will be remote. September is fully booked for committee meetings and October is starting to fill up. Please email the office if you are looking for an October date. Please do it quickly.

We had a presentation last June with the Transportation Committee regarding the swapping of the F and M trains that will happen later this year and/the early part of next year. We met with the MTA and had a lot of concerns about the swapping of these trains. We sent a letter stating some of these concerns. The F will run express in Queens and will swap with the M train right at or about the 36 Street station in Long Island City/Astoria. The F train will continue onto Queens Plaza, and the M train will continue to 21/Queens Bridge. We were disappointed with this decision because it will cause more challenges on the weekends. They sent us a letter back saying they are sticking with the plan with no changes. The F and the M will swap during the week and on the weekend they will swap back. We will be distributing the MTA response in this Friday's update.

It was brought up earlier tonight about the Q23 bus stop near the Forest Hills Library and the Ridgewood Savings Bank. All those emails were forwarded to the MTA. Just yesterday, we received an email that said they looked into two possibilities to help alleviate the issues regarding this location. We moved ahead with a plan to extend the bus stop so that it takes up the entire curb space between 71st Avenue, Queens Boulevard and 70th Road. This additional space will provide enough space for two buses to fit while allowing vehicles to pass by. The solution will result in losing parking spaces, but it is the best solution. Please let us know what is and isn't working. We are also seeing some problems with the August 31st implementation of the new bus routes.

Tonight, we were going to receive a presentation from DOT regarding Citi-bike, which is going to be rolled out in this community. DOT isn't ready for the presentation and has called to reschedule. We are working with them to see if they are going to present at a board meeting or a transportation meeting or both. Please be in attendance for that meeting, as this will affect a large part of our community.

Two schools in our district are utilizing School Streets during drop off and pick up, for safety reasons. The schools are P.S.174 and P.S.144. There have been reports that people are ignoring the cones and moving them out of the way. Children's safety is at risk when parents move the cones for their convenience. Please spread the word.

PRESENTATION FROM NYC EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ON FLOODING

Cindy Wang from Forest Hills/Rego Parks CERT Team reported on flood preparedness. I have been with the volunteer CERT Team which used to be called OEM. Now it is NYCEM. I started volunteering at Ground Zero from September 12-December 2001. This was the closest I have gotten to a war zone. I was motivated to continue to do my volunteer service. When CERT was formed in Tribeca, I decided to volunteer there and when CERT came to Queens, Forest Hills. I chose CERT in Queens in 2003. I have been with CERT for 23 years.

NYC Emergency Management's Mission

NYC Emergency Management helps New Yorkers before, during and after emergencies through preparedness, education, and response.

Hurricane Season:

June 1-November 30

- June-July – season begins, prepare your emergency plan
- August-October – greatest potential for NYC hurricanes
- November – season ends, review and update your plan

Storm surge is an abnormal rise of seawater affecting coastal areas, but it can also spread inland.

Stay Informed

Move Vehicles – relocate motor vehicles to higher ground before flooding occurs. Have a few buckets filled with water before a storm so you can wash your hands or flush the toilet etc.

Online Resources

Visit NYC.gov/EM for flood maps, tips and updates

Get Alerts

Sign up for Notify NYC alerts by texting NOTIFYNYC to 692-692. (Note: the live presentation included incorrect notification signup information.)

NYC is made of six zones, know where your zone is. You can call 311 to find your zone or look it up via Hurricane Evacuation Zone Finder at www.NYC.gov/hurricane zones. They will tell you where your evacuation is. For Forest Hills, the evacuation zone is Forest Hills High School. Another zone is across from 112 Precinct where P.S.190 School is.

Go Bag Essentials

Everyone should have a sturdy, easy-to-carry go bag for each family member. Enough water for three days, have a first aid kit ready, have an extra pair of hearing aids, extra pair of glasses, flashlight with extra batteries, battery operated radio with AM/FM, waterproof bag for important ID, extra copies or on a flash drive, photo ID, a list of medications, personal hygiene, phone chargers, cash in small bills and credit cards, clothing for three days, if long term evacuation bring laundry soap, charger for your phone, list of contacts who are out of state, toys for kids something small, make a plan with your family, Swiss Army knife, manual can opener for snacks that don't have a pop off lid, whistle so you can be located, bring a map, use a bag with wheels to carry everything in your go bag, put all your snacks in a zip lock bag, rotate all your snacks every summer and winter so they don't expire, put your name on the inside and outside of your bag.

CERT attends many street fairs where you can pick up a pamphlet. They will be at the 63rd Drive Street Fair, September 13th and the September 28th Forest Hills Street Fair.

Emergency Stay-At-Home Kit

Keep supplies for 7 days for sheltering in place in an accessible container. Including food for three days, don't wear rubber boots; instead wear sneakers with laces, rubber boots will fill up with water, and you won't be able to move your feet.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS, CULTURAL AFFAIRS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

The Consumer Affairs/Cultural Affairs/Economic Development committee met last Thursday, September 4th, and their vote wasn't unanimous for either application.

Brently Winstead gave the following report:

ADULT USE RETAIL CANNABIS DISPENSARY APPLICATIONS

THE GREENHOUSE 96-03 69th AVENUE, FH

Benjamin Alpert gave a brief introduction about himself and spoke about The Greenhouse.

Questions and comments were taken.

There have been some miscalculations regarding distances to schools and houses of worship under State law. How does it relate to your operation and what is your response to the concerns that it is too close to those schools and other educational facilities?

Response: The state had originally provided 500 linear feet for schools, but they have provisions that if the school is not an exclusive occupancy, if the school is on a different road, you can operate a legal cannabis dispensary. However, they recently revised their position, which is measured from property line to property line as the rule applies. In this location we are over 500 feet. We measured from the edge of the sidewalk beyond the property line on both properties and we are not even on the corner of the second store of our corner. We are above that distance. My response to the community is that legal cannabis dispensaries are not the problem, they are the solution. Queens has been identified that hundreds of illicit smoke shops, over 272 have been shut down in the last three years by OCM and more are continually shut down. Most notably in January smoke shop that was just off of Austin Street, near Russell Sage High School. In this particular case Austin Street is going to have a lot more exposure to the youth when they pass by there, then they will with us. We are trying to break the stigma of cannabis associated with plants.

The other thing is it is dangerous to purchase from smoke shops that have no regulations on control and no lab test on their products. We believe that by providing education, literature, and strong community outreach, we can start to bridge a gap to why we are the solution.

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis clarified that part of the problem OCM is having is that they didn't realize there is an educational law. OCM was measuring property lines and not just to the door. There have been over a hundred licenses that have been in violation of that law. OCM is working on a solution for that. This board hasn't said yes to any applicant who was not legally 500ft away from schools. Our District Manager checked to make sure that the shop is over 500 linear feet.

What type of products will you be selling?

Response: it will be an adult recreational dispensary that will be focused on smokables, edibles, and high-quality to the market. There is a drug problem all around with fentanyl. This is why it is important to have your product tested at two levels. For us, we have to source all of our products from licensed individuals at a cultivation level, tested, and then again at the processing and manufacturing that is tested. As far as the types of products that we will be putting out there. We have placed an emphasis on sourcing from small businesses out in Long Island, micro licenses that are starting to come online, that are closer, and some larger producers on the market.

Is there a dual security door?

Response: The shop will put in a small reception area where a security guard will be stationed. There will be a secondary door for people to enter the store, no one will enter the store without passing through a scanning of their ID, and then scanning their ID when purchasing.

Regarding community outreach you have pamphlets in the store educating consumers about cannabis. Are you doing any other community educational outreach as to what kinds of products you will be selling?

Response: We are very connected with the supply chain; we speak with a lot of cultivators all the time, and product sourcing is important. We can attend cannabis events and provide joint seminars with these people to educate the consumer about high-quality products. Today, we were communicating with the Queens Community House, Zanie Simmons who said she might be able to help us with onboarding local people and participating in things that we care about like homelessness and food access. Potentially, some career initiatives; are trickier when you get to the young adult portion. We will stick with whatever they tell us is acceptable for us to support in any events that we can sponsor, we will.

A representative for The Greenhouse clarified where the location of the cannabis dispensary will be. The location will be 96-03 69th Avenue not 96-01 69th Avenue.

Are you planning to introduce yourself to the other businesses in the area?

Response: Yes, it is on the agenda to introduce ourselves to the community. We found this spot 2 ½ weeks ago.

Will you hire locally? Will there be more than one manager throughout the week?

Response: Absolutely, we will hire locally. We are speaking with the Queens Community House. There will be at least two employees in charge, two people who are trained to cover the manager position.

The committee's motion was to approve this application. A roll call vote was taken, 27 yes and 15 no. The motion passes.

VARISCITE NY ONE, INC. 104-39 QUEENS BLVD., FH

Bradley Phillips introduced himself and spoke about why he wanted to open a cannabis dispensary in Forest Hills.

Questions and comments were taken.

What will be the aesthetic of your store to not attract the younger population?

Response: We are working with a designer for outside aesthetics. As far as the window display goes, we won't be displaying anything in the window. They will be frosted or opaque, not to entice the younger population. We will follow the guidelines by OCM. We are limited in our marketing and advertising.

What is the security if someone shady comes into the store to buy cannabis and sells it to someone younger outside the store?

Response: We look out the window to see who is coming in, I will see someone speaking with under aged underage kids, and then come into the store to purchase. We have a parking lot, security, and security cameras, so we will be able to monitor the parking lot at all times. We won't allow anyone to smoke in the parking lot, and no handing off in the parking lot.

If a situation arises where you need security, will the security guards have guns?

Response: OCM has a course that all security guards have to take on de-escalation. I don't see armed guards as necessary.

The committee's motion was approved of this application. A roll call vote was taken 34 yes and 8 no, the motion passes.

NEW LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS

1. YAFA, 63-32 108TH STREET, FH

This will be a Middle Eastern restaurant. The principal has never been involved in the restaurant business before, but he holds a Grocery store business with a beer and wine license which is located across the street from where the restaurant business will be. This will be a restaurant, and its menu will serve Middle Eastern dishes.

2. KLIO, 107-04 QUEENS BOULEVARD, FH

This application was approved by the community board on May 14, 2025, with the incorrect address of 107-10 QB. 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 107-04, Queens Blvd - 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.

3. WAFUU KITCHEN, 107-09 70TH ROAD, FH

This applicant is taking ownership of the restaurant that currently operates in this space and will be keeping the same business and operation.

4. BBY BRIGHT FUTURE, 69-12 Austin Street, FH

This will be a Japanese restaurant, maintaining the same Method of Operation (MOO) and menu as the previous business. Yes, both the principal and the manager have extensive experience. They both worked at Sushi Ya on Queens Blvd for over five years, where the principal served as a supervisor and the manager as a bartender. The applicant is highly experienced in running this type of business. The previous restaurant he managed had no incidents, and they do not anticipate any changes that would negatively impact the quality of life in the area. This will be a sit-down restaurant, primarily featuring recorded music and operating with early closing hours.

The committee's motion was to accept new applications. A voice vote was taken. All were in favor.

RENEWAL LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS

1. FOREST HILLS STATION HOUSE, 106-11 71ST AVENUE, FH

2. ROVE, 72-25/27 AUSTIN STREET, FH

3. DEE'S, 107-23 METROPOLITAN AVENUE, FH
4. EL POLLO INKA PERU, 112-20 QUEENS BLVD, FH
5. BAREBURGER, 71-49/51 AUSTIN STREET, FH
6. EL COYOTE, 70-09 AUSTIN STREET, FH
7. PELICANA CHICKEN, 102-07 METROPOLITAN AVENUE, FH
8. PRINCE TEA HOUSE, 15-17 STATION SQUARE, FH
9. MATIZ LATIN CUISINE, 110-72 QUEENS BLVD., FH
10. WHITE RADISH, 108-25 ASCAN AVENUE, FH

The committee's motion was to approve the renewal of applications. A voice vote was taken. All were in favor.

The 112th Precinct did not have any issues to report.

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis reminded board members that they are supplied materials in advance of this meeting with the questionnaires for the cannabis applicants along with the video for that meeting. Read before the meeting, some of the questions were answered on the application. Be prepared.

REPORTS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPRESENTATIVES

SENATOR MICHAEL GIANARIS

Mercedes Jennings reported the following:

- Real ID DMV Event is still in the works
- School is back in session, and the Senator has done 6 Back to School Events in the district, handing out approximately 150 backpacks and 100 lunch bags to students
- Funding has been secured for at least 15 schools in our district to provide more academic support and extracurricular activities \$200k
- Our office has received an influx of calls from constituents in the district asking about school busing implementation for their children. We are working hard with the office for pupil transportation (OPT) to help with establishing new stops and/or ensuring buses arrive on time and have consistent schedules in place for consistent pick-up times for kids.
- Our office has helped with tracking the implementation of the Queens Bus Redesign. The Senator has also been successful in ensuring that stops that were supposed to be removed from several bus routes in the district remain due to constituents with disabilities or children who attend schools near stops that have shown hardship if the stop is removed. We are continuing to do this so please reach out office, which is your bus stop that has been removed and is causing significant hardship for your commute.
- New Office location 37-18 Northern Blvd, LIC, NY 11101 beginning Monday, September 15th

QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT DONOVAN RICHARDS

Amparito Rosero reported the following:

- Tuesday, September 23rd, at 6 pm we're hosting our Caribbean Heritage Celebration at Queens Museum, Flushing Meadows Corona Park
- Thursday, September 25th at 6 pm, we'll be hosting our Mexican Independence Day Celebration at Queens Borough Hall in Kew Gardens.
- Saturday, September 27th, from 4-7 pm, we're hosting our annual Queens Climate Expo. This will be at the New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th Street in Corona

- Tuesday, September 30th at 5 pm, we'll be hosting the Queens High School Fair 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 email me directly at aroseiro@queensbp.nyc.gov.

COUNCIL MEMBER LYNN SCHULMAN

Kevin McAleer reported the following:

- The backpack give-away, was held on August 18th from 11 am-1 pm.
- Councilwoman introduced some legislation: Intro 1369, which would grant employees in NYC, paid time to go for medical screenings like chronic disease for cancer. Intro 1390 regarding legionnaire's disease it would improve and increase water and cooling towers inspections which is where the outbreak originates from. This is caused by increased heat.

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis asked Kevin if the councilwoman could sign on or consider Intro 1138 daylighting. We passed a resolution unanimously to keep our children safe with this bill.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER ANDREW HEVESI

Eliana Swell introduced herself, who started in the summer with the Assembly Member. She reported the following:

- We did a backpack giveaway.
- We reached out to all schools' principals and PTAs to let them know we are a resource for them.
- As we approach the 24th anniversary of 9/11, we want to extend sympathy to all who lost loved ones, remember those we lost and those still impacted, and extend gratitude to our veterans and first responders for everything they did that day and continue to do.
- We did community cleanups. The last one we had about 50 students and more than 100 volunteers in total. The next cleanups is September 20th in Glendale, and our next two will be in Kew Gardens and Forest Hills going into October. If anyone has specific locations; they'd like us to cleanup let us know. We don't have specific locations for October.
- We have been in touch with the MTA regarding concerns with the new bus routes. These conversations are still ongoing but just know we are advocating on your behalf to ensure your safety and accessibility.
- Legislatively: Assemblyman Hevesi is currently getting his legislative priorities ready for the 2025/2026 legislative session. He chairs the children and families.
- If there are bills or budget items, you'd like him to support, we just ask that you let us know over email or by calling our office. If anyone does have questions or specific issues they want to raise, you can call us at (718) 263-5595.

CONGRESS MEMBER GRACE MENG

Jordan Goldes reported the following:

- The congresswoman will be standing up to the Republican funding cuts that will make life more expensive for families.
- Forcing to release the Epstein files.
- Addressing a potential government shutdown.
- In 2022, the congresswoman joined by transit riders, advocates and several CB6 board members gathered at the 63rd Drive Rego Park subway station to call for more accessibility to more subway stations. The MTA announced that an elevator will be installed at that subway station.

- The congresswoman has introduced a number of new bills to pay the veterans who were unjustly fired from the Department of Veterans Affairs and to ban harmful dyes and additives from food.
- Yesterday, she reintroduced a bill to combat airplane noise over Queens.
- Weekend office hours at the Forest Hills office Saturday, September 13th from 10 am to 1 pm.
- Congressional app challenge, where local schools and high school students from the district compete by submitting apps that they created. The winner will have their app displayed on Capitol Hill.
- Another letter was sent to the New York State Public Service Commission urging it to reject the proposed rate hikes proposed by Con Edison.

SENATOR JOSEPH P. ADDABBO

Anna Sergeant introduced herself and reported the following:

- I've left a flyer on the table with upcoming events.
- September 28, paper shredding event and E-Waste event on October 5.
- We are calling all artists for a possible Artist Showcase. You must live in the district. Please call 718-738-1111 or email AnnMarie Costella at costella@nysenate.gov for more information.
- Senator Addabbo recently met with OCM regarding issues that our office has been receiving as it concerns the process for notification to community boards with cannabis licenses. We are currently working on some possible legislative measures that could be taken to address this.
- The Senator hosted his annual Veterans BBQ on September 06. As a member of the Senate Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security, and Military Affairs, he has hosted this event since joining the Senate in 2008. Attendees enjoyed food, music, and drinks donated by several local businesses and organizations.

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis reported to board members that there might be a strike with LIRR next week. There will be certain times at Station Square when the train will not run. Look for updates.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm.

Minutes are submitted by Maria Concolino

The meeting recording will be posted on YouTube (www.tinyurl.com/cb6youtube).

The meeting minutes will be posted on the CB6 website (<https://www.nyc.gov/site/queenscb6/indexpage>).

CB 6 VOTING SHEET 9-10-25	CANNABIS DISPENSARY 104-39 QUEENS BLVD.	CANNABIS DISPENSARY 96-03 69 AVENUE	NEW LIQUOR LICENSE APPS		RENEWAL LIQUOR LICENSE APPS	
EDGAR ALFONSECA	Yes	Yes				
DAVID ARONOV	Absent	Absent	Absent		Absent	
ROBERT ASHE	Yes	Yes				
JULIETH AVILA	Absent	Absent	Absent		Absent	
ANISIA AYON	Yes	Yes		A		A
SALUA BAIDA	Yes	No		L		L
KAVISH BATRA	Yes	Yes		L		L
PETER BEADLE	Yes	Yes				
HOWARD BIRNBAUM	Yes	Yes		I		I
L.T. CIACCIO	Yes	Yes		N		N
KANDRA CLARK	Yes	Yes				
LATRICE DAVIS	Yes	Yes		F		F
JOHN DERESZEWSKI	Yes	Yes		A		A
HEATHER DIMITRIADIS	Yes	No		V		V
KEITH ENGEL	Absent	Absent	Absent	O	Absent	O
ALEM FERATOVIC	No	No		R		R
KARLA FUENTES	Yes	Yes				
NICHOLAS GALIPEAU	Yes	No				
TAMARA GAVRIELOF	No	No				
ANDY GUO	Yes	Yes				
KAREN IMAS	Yes	No				
SARINA JAIN	No	No				
NILE JOHNSON	Yes	Yes				
MARCELLE LASHLEY-KABORE	No	Yes				
MARK LASTER	Yes	Yes				
DR. RENEE MEHRRA	Yes	Yes				
PAT MORGAN	Yes	Yes				
SABAH MUNAWAR	Yes	Yes				
NATALIE PIENKOWSKA	Yes	No				
JESSICA POORAN	Absent	Absent	Absent		Absent	
JOI PRATT	No	No				
RAJ PUNJABI	No	No				
DIANA RACHNAEV	Yes	No				
GARRI RIVKIN	Yes	No				
LIZ ROBINS	Yes	Yes				
PEDRO RODRIGUEZ	Yes	Yes				
SHARI ROLNICK	Absent	Absent	Absent		Absent	
GLADYS SANDOVAL	Yes	Yes				
DAVID SCHANTZ	Yes	Yes				
HERBERT SCHONHAUT	Yes	Yes				
AMIT PRATAP SHAH	Yes	Yes				
EUGENE SHVARTSMAN	Yes	No				
JEAN C. SILVA	Absent	Absent	Absent		Absent	
DANIEL SOLOW	Yes	Yes				
LOU TECPANECATL	No	No				
MARTHA TUCKER	No	No				
DIANA WALCOTT	Yes	Yes		▼		▼
BRENTLY WINSTEAD	Yes	Yes				
EPHRAIM ZAKRY	Absent	Absent	Absent		Absent	
TOTALS:	34 YES 8 NO	27 YES 15 NO	All in favor		All in favor	