



COMMUNITY BOARD 6, QUEENS

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Whitepot Settled 1653

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1ST VICE-CHAIR

PETER BEADLE
2ND VICE-CHAIR

SOUMALY KING
VICE-CHAIR · SECRETARY

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VICE-CHAIR · LAND USE

DAVID SCHNEIER
VICE-CHAIR · SCOPING

CB 6 MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 14, 2020

SHARON LEE
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

PRESENT

A. WEITZMAN, CHAIR
P. BEADLE, 2ND VC
N. ALTMAN, VC FINANCE
D. SCHNEIER, VC SCOPING

G. GORDON, 1ST VC
S. KING, VC SECRETARY
P. KUMAR, VC LAND USE

A. AYON
M. BERFAS
H. CHAIN
S. CHU
A. COHEN
J. DERESZEWSKI
A. DIAZ-HOUSTON
H. DIMITRIADIS
G. FERRERAS
J. GOLANT
B. GRIFFITH
B. GROSSBERG
M. HECHT

O. HORODNICEANU
M. JACOBSON
E. KALENDAREV
J. KEVELSON
M. LASTER
N. LEIBOWITZ
R. LEONART
J. LI
K. LY
J. MAKIN
J. MEDINA
R. MEHARRA
S. METZ

P. MORGAN
E. MURRAY
K. NEUMANN
E. NEWTON
T. PADGETT
H. SCHONHAUT
J. SILVA
R. SILVER
M. SILVERSTEIN
S. WANDERMAN
J. WESTON

ABSENT

E. FELDER
R. NEKTALOV

S. ROLNICK
E. WONG

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

FRANK GULLUSCIO
KAREN KOSLOWITZ
J. GOLDES
A. ARECCHI
J. SCHABOWSKI
H. KHAN
R. MALONE
M. COHEN

CB 6 DISTRICT MANAGER
NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBER
OFFICE OF CONGRESS MEMBER MENG
OFFICE OF ASSEMBLY MEMBER HEVESI
MAYOR'S COMMUNITY AFFAIRS UNIT
OFFICE OF NYC COMPTROLLER STRINGER
OFFICE OF ASSEMBLY MEMBER ROSENTHAL
OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ

This meeting was held virtually via Zoom due to the COVID-19 Pandemic

PUBLIC FORUM

These comments were read out loud by Chair Alexa Weitzman

1) **Nuratu Otulana**

I am a parent of a high school student. I am a resident of Forest Hills. I am a life long New York City resident - I was born here, educated here, pay taxes here, and absolutely whole heartedly believe New York is the greatest city in the world.

I am also an African American woman whose son was followed by the police from the bus stop on Metropolitan Ave to his front door. I am grateful that he made it home safely. But I am absolutely incensed that he was stalked, without explanation by people that I pay the salaries for. I am not naive and I have had the "talk" with my son for the entirety of his life. We know how to engage with law enforcement. We are also human and can recognize when abuses and traumas happen. And while we, humans, value safety, my and my family' safety is just as important as anyone else's. And no one's safety should come at the expense of another person's well being. The police are not safe for Black people, and I would like the opportunity to express how and why this unfolds, in real time, in real people's lives and why, as a Forest Hills resident, I do not feel safe.

2) **Natalie Dauphin:**

I want to make a public comment regarding an incident my family experienced with the police late Sunday night. We are a Black family living in Forest Hills and have experienced racism from neighbors and police the whole 8+ years we have lived here. From a neighbor (who is now deceased) who called us niggers and dumped street trash on our front lawn to members of the police 112th precinct stopping my husband and asking for ID and now following my Godson home as he walks from Austin or Woodhaven when he comes home at night. He has been falsely accused and arrested at the 71st train station for "fitting a description", followed and when he was 15 an undercover police car stopped in front of my home to ask him what he was doing standing outside and to prove that he lives here. None of this is surprising and sadly this young man is used to this treatment. I'm here today to speak out loudly and publicly because after Sunday night we have had enough of the harassment. My Godson got off the bus at Woodhaven just after I am coming home from work. 3 marked police cars followed him as he walked down Metropolitan. When he made it home one car pulled up in front of the house and the officers confronted him. They wanted to know if that was his car, if he lived here, if he could just walk into the house. They were doing this so loud I heard them from inside the house and his mother and I came running outside. We all know how confrontations between the police and Black men end in this country. I screamed at the officers that he lived here and to get away from my house. Their response was what sounded like a snicker and a comment that sounded like laughter that this was my house. And then they left. Yes, this is MY house. Yes, we are Black. Yes, Black people live in Forest Hills. There is no reason to be followed home. There is no reason for the police to stop in front of my door to question why someone is walking and entering a home. They did this to him because he is Black. I feared for his life that night. I feared for mine. And we are not the only ones to experience this in Forest Hills. We are not going anywhere. This community needs to get that straight. Black people live here. What is this Board and the Police going to do about it?

3) **Elizabeth Polkovitz:**

Thank you, CB 6 for all that you do. I've lived in Forest Hills and Rego Park for 20 years. I'm speaking today about an incident that took place early Sunday morning, when my friend Natalie Dauphin's godson Elijah was followed home by police from the 112 after getting off the bus near Woodhaven and Metropolitan late at night after work. Natalie and Elijah are black. When Natalie told me what had happened, I called the precinct to express my concern that this community minded, active, involved Black family is being harassed late at night by officers from the 112. I was told that policing

has been increased on Metropolitan following some burglary incidents there. While I appreciate the work the 112 is doing to keep our businesses safe, racial profiling and following local residents to their homes does not accomplish this. Instead, it's threatening and deeply uncomfortable. When I asked, as a point of clarification, whether I as a White woman in my 40s could expect to be followed home in the same manner at 1 AM, the representatives I spoke to said that anyone in the commercial area would be under scrutiny, but that it was unlikely I would be followed by officers in cars to my home. It's not acceptable to profile and follow someone in the manner that Elijah has been followed on more than one occasion.

I rely on the 112. I've called them in the middle of the night when someone was trying to break into my home. But I do not feel safe when they follow my friends' family home and make them feel unsafe. Natalie and Elijah are valued members of this community, and I insist that they be treated as such. Thank you for your time and attention.

4) Samantha Jacobs:

I hope you heard my friends Nuratu and Natalie speak about their son and Godson respectively. I've been lucky enough to be friends with them since 2002 - 18 years - lucky number 18 in Judaism for those familiar with Chai. And for those unfamiliar, the number 18 stands for "life". Theirs are lives that have enriched mine over the years and I've watched Elijah grow up into an incredibly nice, heartfelt guy with a great sense of humor. When Natalie told me what happened, I felt awful for them, but also disgusted at the situation.

I actually saw something similar in effect when she and a friend dropped me off. They were stopped outside my building, waiting to make sure I got in the door, and a police car did a very slow drive by and then inched up to see who they were and why they were waiting there. When I turned around to wave to show that I was in the building, I noticed the cop stopped next to their car.

As white people in this neighborhood, these are not things we ever have to think about, and we are incredibly lucky, which allows us to miss the things actually going on.

Aside from the obvious necessities of teaching our kids to treat everyone as they would want to be treated, here are just a couple of basics that we can do as white people to stop the normalization of racism:

We need to step up and call stuff out — the jokes, the misinformed opinions, and of course, the outright racism. But definitely the first two as well, because once people joke around about things and find nobody says anything, they become more bold and it continues.

It's important for non-Black peers to speak up because when Black people do it, they're often looked at as the "loud, angry Black person", vs. the person who just wants to and DESERVES to be treated as everyone else. We can do more.

5) Titilayo Yasukawa:

The Black godson of my friend has been racially profiled and harassed a number of times over the past few years by officers of the 112th precinct.

Even with the racial climate that has been brought to the forefront of the American psyche this year, this has happened as recently as this past weekend.

My friend, a Black woman, is a homeowner and an active leader in educational and political circles here in Forest Hills.

I am a Black woman with children living here in Forest Hills.

What assurances do you have that Forest Hills is a place that Black families can live safely, without fear of and harassment by those who are assigned to protect us in our own community?

What concrete actions are you currently taking and plan to take to ensure that this is community open to everyone?

6) Aleda Gagarin:

Good evening. I'm here today as a concerned community member, parent, and friend to talk about what's been happening to my friend's son, Elijah, and to our Black and Brown neighbors more broadly in our community. The other night, Elijah got off of the bus near the Wendy's on Woodhaven at around 1 am, and was followed to his home in Forest Hills on Nansen Street by 3 NYPD cars from the 112th precinct. One car stopped in front of his home to ask him what he was doing there and to harass him. Luckily his godmother was up, and able to intervene and protect him. This isn't the first time, or the

second that this has happened to him. He is being terrorized for being Black. There is no other way to put it. The saddest part is that this young man didn't want to go to the precinct to file a complaint, because he feels that no one will do anything. This is all he's ever known. And if this is happening to him, it's happening to our other young Black neighbors, and all failing them. Elijah does not feel safe because he is not safe. Many of our Black and Brown neighbors do not feel safe because they are not safe. And those of us that don't have to live life this way need to do more. We need to step up and intervene, we need to call the precinct to demand better, we need to fight for accountability, we need to fight to shift resources away from policing and into making sure our neighbors thrive. I'm not going to qualify what kind of kid Elijah is because it's irrelevant. It won't matter that he's kind and generous and loving when a stop goes too far, and he has the right to exist in peace regardless. We are failing him and kids like him.

Finally, to my neighbors, if you see a Black man minding his business walking down your street, please do not call the cops. Being Black is not a crime nor a danger to us, but it certainly gets treated as such, and unnecessary 911 calls put Black lives at risk. We keep us safe, and we can never lose sight of that.

7) Mel Gagarin:

I am writing as a concerned community member regarding the treatment of our black and brown neighbors by officers of the 112th precinct.

Recently my friend, neighbor, and Forest Hills resident recounted the times her godson has been followed home and/or harassed by officers of the 112th simply for walking in the neighborhood. Such an incident occurred again this week in front of his home, which is owned by his godmother who was met with ridicule for stating such to the officers.

I and others are bringing this to the attention to the board asking that the 112th publicly and formally address this repeated pattern of harassment, issue a formal apology, and address what actions the precinct is planning to take in order to ensure such actions do not occur again.

It is imperative that all members of our community are treated with dignity and respect and that no one be singled out simply for walking while Black.

8) Stella Xu:

I would like to first start off by saying that, in the last several months, I've truly appreciated CB6's advocacy on the part of all the parents in our district. Your efforts are seen by us and we are grateful. The last few months have wreaked havoc with the residents of Forest Hills, but some more than others. On October 1, the meeting for Community Education Council 28 was "Zoom bombed." Offensive images were shown and offensive language was used, including comments against the Black Lives Matter movement as well as the use of the N-word. The incident was very upsetting to those in attendance. Our CEC President, Vijah Ramjattan, attempted to file a police report, only to be told that he is not a Person of Color and therefore cannot file such a report. I am not sure why the PD would insist that you need to be Black to have been affected in the first place, but in the second place Mr. Ramjattan IS a Person of Color. Mr. Ramjattan not only demonstrated great leadership in tempering everyone's response to the violation in the immediate aftermath, but he continued to show his commitment by attempting to have this incident documented. This incident remains under CEC28's continued investigation by Howard Pollack, but I am here to express my disappointment that Mr. Ramjattan was turned away and not recognized as a Person of Color. I would like to ask CB6 to work with the NYPD to clarify the policy for reporting such incidents.

The second incident is of a more personal nature. While I applaud the 112th Precinct's commitment to the safety of our neighborhood and increased vigilance in response to recent incidents on Metropolitan Avenue, I am greatly disturbed to see that they followed a local resident home and engaged in an altercation with the homeowner, who is not only a long term resident of Forest Hills, but a dedicated community member, well known and well recognized by the parent body. Even if she wasn't, this still shouldn't have happened. Before this most recent incident, she and I have had numerous discussions about being Black in Forest Hills, about her and members of her family being followed and subjected to extra scrutiny. In the middle of nationwide discussions around race and the police, I hope that we, the community, can come together and work on these issues immediately impacting our neighbors. I would like to ask CB6 to work with the 112th Precinct to clarify their policy on racial profiling.

9) Russel Sage School Leadership Team:

I am making this statement on behalf of the parent members of the School Leadership Team at Russell Sage.

As many of you undoubtedly know, the parents of Forest Hills have experienced great upheaval at the hands of the DOE since the summer. The school opening was delayed twice, and in response, Mayor DeBlasio commented many "outer borough" families are "pragmatic" and "understand the realities of life." I'm not sure about what living in an outer borough makes parents so special that they can forgive two postponements of the school opening. Surely, had the DOE said from the beginning to expect a delay to school openings, this would have allowed us "outer borough" parents time to make appropriate plans. Delaying the school opening twice and at the last minute isn't asking parents to be pragmatic, but showing them that their children are not on the DOE's priority list.

Secondly, there are other decisions being made at the last minute, including: the constant changes in guidelines about how remote instruction will be handled, which teachers can work from home, and whether the students can receive live instruction -- the last of which reverses a summer-long open commitment the DOE has made to the parents that their children will receive live instruction remotely. At the same time, DOE cut off the opportunity to choose blended learning in early August. This timeline is incongruent with DOE's constantly changing guidelines and shows no strategic approach to reopening schools. To date, guidelines and constant changes have been tactical and with little regard to the trickle impact to families and all the children.

Third, access to technology continues to be an issue. Parents who requested devices over the summer were told that DOE is no longer handing them out and that they should work with their schools. At the same time, schools were not informed of this shift in policy and were provided with no resources on procuring such devices. DOE needs to support schools, not throwing more issues at our already burdened administration staff who are being stretched to the limit.

Fourth, the DOE needs to prioritize its most vulnerable populations: the socioeconomically disadvantaged, families for whom English is not their first language, and families of children with disabilities and IEP's, students struggling academically, and so on. The DOE must prioritize its vulnerable populations to ensure that they receive in-person services. It is clear that the remote model does not work for all children.

Finally, Russell Sage is one of the schools that was closed last Thursday on less than 12 hours of notice. Despite our Administration's best efforts to remain communicative and transparent, the DOE issued orders for no communications to be sent for families. Past 8pm on Wednesday evening, we were finally informed that Russell Sage would be closed beginning the next day. This is appalling. Parents have jobs. Children are looking forward to school. A gag order on principals on top of a 12 hour notice to close schools is nothing short of a slap in the face to the parents of public school students.

Furthermore, Russell Sage is in the orange zone by a mere block. A twist of geography landed our school in a zone despite the fact that the majority of its students reside in the yellow zones. Did anyone at the DOE fight for us? Did anyone at the DOE look at issues like school location, proximity to yellow zones, zoning areas, school positivity rate, schoolwide safety measure compliance? If the DOE won't fight for the children, who should?

We would like to ask CB6 to demand that Governor Cuomo release the testing numbers in the red zones to foster greater transparency on the severity of the problem. In addition, the DOE should release attendance numbers for its schools, broken down by key metrics such as kids with IEPs, kids who are ENLs, and socioeconomic indicators. Remote learning cannot be relied upon as the sole means of educating our children without understanding how many people it is actually reaching.

10) Laurie Hanin and Jennifer Johnson

We are writing to express our anger at the closure of our children's schools due to a reported increase in positivity rates in neighboring communities (not in ours). We live in Forest Hills and have 8-year-old third grade twins who just started 3rd grade. Gabe goes to our zoned school, PS 196, and Adam, who has autism, goes to PS/MS 219 in Kew Garden Hills, one of the communities reported as having an increase in cases.

Our sons' schools were closed with minimal explanation beyond stating that certain communities had an increased positivity rate. We were not given any information on how the data were being collected and interpreted; just told, "effective tomorrow your schools are closed so that the virus doesn't

spread.” Officials have repeatedly stated that schools can cause viral spread; however, the city’s own data does not support this. Schools in “hot zones”, upon preliminary testing of 1351 students discovered only 2 positive cases: a .14% infection rate that is well below the 3% threshold for the city. Additionally, it is expected that there will be some positive test results in schools and this is the reason for having social distancing, masking, and other health and safety guidelines in place in schools. If we expect a 0% infection rate, students will never return to school, and this is cruel and unsustainable. In addition to the cruelty of these closures, they are ineffective and not grounded in a true analysis of the data. One of the primary reasons for the increase in positive cases appears to be members of the Ultra-Orthodox Jewish community who have continued to hold religious services and life events throughout the High Holidays, with large numbers of people in attendance, unmasked. Rather than fine and enforce public health measures in these communities, actions that stand to be effective in actually lowering the positive rates, our elected officials have chosen to simply close schools, not only in Orthodox neighborhoods, but in neighborhoods like Forest Hills, that are adjacent to them. Because of the self actions of one community and the city’s unwillingness to enforce its laws and policies, my autistic son cannot learn and is regressing in his academic skills daily and my son who attends PS 196 was able to attend school for two days prior to being ordered to remain at home. Of note, my autistic son’s school has not one reported case of COVID and the members of the neighborhood Orthodox Jewish community do not attend his public school. The public was told that groups that defy the new order of no more than 10 individuals in a religious service indoors and 25 outdoors would be fined \$15,000 per day – I suppose that’s the value put on my son’s increasing disability, or it would be if the city ever chose to enforce its policies. I am sure you are aware of this situation (<https://gothamist.com/news/covid-positive-rabbi-held-large-indoor-service-borough-park-congregants-say>) in which a rabbi who had just tested positive for COVID held this gathering, indoors, with 500 people in attendance. I have to believe they were not fined as I’m sure the press would have been aware of this. If they weren’t fined, then clearly the city of NY cares more for this population than for my disabled son, his classmates, and for that matter, all the children in our community. Our schools developed the safety protocols we were told to, honored them, and we have been safe. If my autistic 8-year-old can wear his mask, so can members of the Ultra-Orthodox community. I am truly disgraced at how the city is handling this current situation.

I am a lifelong NYer – a three generation NY family – and I am truly disappointed in the city. If I had the ability to leave I would, as so many others are bound to do. There are other areas near NYC who clearly value the education of children, particularly students with disabilities, far more than we do, and put that at the highest priority for opening areas and staying open. They put them before businesses, before indoor dining, before going to the gym.

Research is currently indicating that children (especially elementary age children) are less susceptible to becoming infected with COVID when exposed, therefore would spread it less. We are told schools are closed to stop them from being super-spreader events. Show me one piece of evidence that elementary schools in NYC are now spreading the virus. Show me evidence that anywhere around the country elementary school children are spreading the virus.

Without an immediate vaccine or full cure available, decisions need to be made on how to keep schools open and limit the detriment to the long-term education and mental health of an entire generation. Our children are being used as political pawns and decisions are not being made on the basis of science and fact. This is not March 2020 in terms of treatment of this virus and how to keep it at bay. Wear a mask and wash your hands. We are tired of excuses, we are tired of our children not being valued, their education treated as not “essential”, especially those in special education. The education and well-being of our children should be the highest priority and clearly, they are not.

NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT – 112TH PRECINCT

Captain Joseph Cappelmann spoke briefly about the incident that many of these public comments are referring to. He stated that racial profiling is against NYPD policy and against the law. All reports of racial profiling by NYPD Officers is investigated by the Civilian

Complaint Review Board (CCRB). Captain Cappelmann reported that since this incident is under investigation, he couldn't go into detail. He informed the board that he did reach out to the individual to assist in reporting this incident and discussing it further. He did say that there has been increased patrols in the area near Metropolitan Avenue due to an increase in burglaries and reports of drag racing. He also added that there was an interaction between the police and this young male but couldn't go into further detail. Captain Cappelmann stated that a public forum wasn't the place to have this conversation. There was much discussion between CB Members and Captain Cappelmann. CB Chair Alexa Weitzman said the CB will continue this discussion with the police and the individuals involved to help facilitate a conversation.

COUNCIL MEMBER KAREN KOSLOWITZ

Council Member Koslowitz announced that she will not be doing Participatory Budgeting this year. Due to NYC's financial situation, she doesn't know how much money she will be receiving. In addition, since this is her last budget, she has projects that she would like to see completed that are already in the pipeline.

There is a big issue with the Umbrella Hotel in Kew Gardens. There has been a lot of crime there and she feels it should be shut down.

Council Member Koslowitz emphasized the importance of masks. They are mandatory. There are large fines if people don't wear them. Stores that allow their customers to enter without masks can also be fined. Her office has masks and hand sanitizer for distribution. Please call her office if you are in need, 718-544-8800.

Last, Council Member Koslowitz said that she will be voting against Outdoor Dining year-round. It is not because she isn't in favor of this, but she thinks it should be on a trial basis to see how it works out with snowplows, etc. before it is made permanent.

MINUTES

The minutes of September 9, 2020 were accepted.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Alexa Weitzman reported that there has been lot of concern about the zoned roll backs within our Community Board. We have all three zones (Red, Orange and Yellow) within our Board. There was a lot of confusion and mixed information coming from the Mayor and the Governor and the community was left in the dark about what information to follow. As a result, the Executive Committee wrote a statement that was forwarded to the elected officials and shared on social media. We should be able to see the numbers for our community. However, since there is an increase in parts of our community, we should remember to wear a mask, social distance, wash hands and get tested. There has been an increase in testing in our community. NYC Test and Trace has set up a self-swab site at the

CB 6 Office and Commonpoint Y. The results are fast, and you don't need insurance or an appointment.

Chair Weitzman announced that the Census site is closing at 2am on 10/16/20. If you haven't already filled it out, do it now. Also, Early Voting will start 10/24/20 and run through 11/1/20. You can look online for locations and hours. She announced that the Aging / Social Services / Disabilities Committee held a forum on voting safely. It can be found on the CB 6 Facebook page.

Chair Weitzman thanked the CB Staff for their hard work as well as the Executive Board, Committee Chairs and Board Members.

Last, Chair Weitzman announced that the next CB 6 meeting will be on THURSDAY November 12, 2020 (instead of Wednesday November 11 – which is Veterans Day).

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

District Manager Frank Gulluscio announced that residents can check the government sites to see where testing will be taking place.

Mr. Gulluscio announced that he has been involved in Budget Consultations over the past month. The only agency that cancelled their consultations is the Department of Education. He summarized his consultations with the following quotes from city agencies: "We are in a time of unknowns", "Times are changing", "We're suffocating", "Watch out for your core services", "This is not a normal year", "Cuts are gargantuan". He explained that due to the budget cuts, things are not going to move on our priorities list. However, Rego Park Library is still in design and will be moving forward. There are concerns about Sanitation and Litter Collection, which can be discussed by our committees.

Mr. Gulluscio followed up on the Umbrella Hotel issues. He said that since it is right outside our Community Board, we have been involved in the conversations.

FY22 CAPITAL AND EXPENSE BUDGET PRIORITIES

Capital Priorities

After much discussion, the following changes were made:

- Fund Curb Repair throughout CB 6 and Fund Street Repair throughout CB 6 were combined into one priority and moved down on the list from # 3 / 4 to # 5
- At the request of the Parks Department, Fund Purchase of Mini Compactor Vehicle was added
- At the request of the FDNY, "Upgrade all firehouse communications and place generators in each firehouse" was moved up on the list from # 9 to # 4

- “Fund the purchase of large boots in an effort to stop illegally parked trucks in CB 6 District” was removed since these boots were already purchased.
- “Fund supportive housing for homeless individuals in CB 6” was added as # 17

Expense Priorities

After much discussion, the following changes were made:

- “Increase and maintain funding for existing senior centers in CB 6 as well as the expanded in-home services for the elderly” was moved up from # 3 to # 2.
- “Fund health department programs in CB 6” was moved up from # 13 to # 3
- “Increase noise abatement equipment and personnel” was moved down from # 9 to # 12
- “Increase funding for security cameras at schools” was moved down from # 2 to # 13

The board voted unanimously to approve these changes on a voice vote.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION / TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Peter Beadle, Chair, reported that the Community Board received a request from Council Member Koslowitz’ Office for a Street Co-Naming in honor of Rabbi M. Asher Murciano. This street co-naming would be located at the corner of 68th Avenue and 108th Street, which is the location of the Sephardic Jewish Center. Rabbi Murciano served as the Rabbi of this congregation (in the Bronx and in Forest Hills) for sixty-seven years, making him the longest-tenured Sephardic Rabbi of the same congregation in the US.

The committee recommendation was to approve this street co-naming. The Board voted unanimously to approve this recommendation on a voice vote.

LAND USE AND HOUSING COMMITTEE REPORT

Prameet Kumar, Chair, reported that the Community Board received 2 applications that will be before the Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA).

1) 107-02 / 107-16 Queens Boulevard – Planet Fitness

Special permit pursuant to ZR 73-36 to allow the operation of a physical culture establishment (fitness center) on portions of the first floor and cellar level

The applicant attended a Land Use Committee Meeting on 10/5/20 and the committee had no objections to the application. This is a new building and this permit is to allow a gym to operate in the building. The committee recommendation was to approve this application. The Board voted unanimously to approve this application on a roll call vote (38 Yes, 0 No).

2) 61-01 Alderton Street

Extension of term of variance. Term expired on March 18, 2018. Waiver of the Rules of Practice and Procedure. Amendment to previous Board approval for the proposed minor changes to interior partitions and interior doors, new exterior finishes, updated storefront, addition of 19.98 sf of signage and a proposed increase in the height of the parapet wall.

The applicant attended a Land Use Committee Meeting on 10/5/20 and the committee had no objections to the application. This is a variance extension. There are some minor changes to the building to accommodate the “Blinds to Go” Brand and the term was changed from 20 years to 27 years because the owner has a 27-year land lease on the property. The committee recommendation was to approve this application. The Board voted unanimously to approve this application on a roll call vote (38 Yes, 0 No).

CONSUMER AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT

Elizabeth Newton, Chair of Consumer Affairs Committee reported that the Board received 1 new liquor license application.

Prince Tea House, 15 Station Square, FH

The Committee had no objections to this application, and a motion to approve the new application passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

CB 6 received the following liquor license renewals:

1. Desert Rain Lounge, 107-29 Metropolitan Avenue, FH
2. Dallas BBQ, 61-35 Junction Boulevard - #D107, RP

The 112th Precinct reported no issues with Dallas BBQ. They did inform us that there were some issues with Desert Rain during the pandemic. There were complaints from neighbors that there were large crowds, not wearing masks and not social distancing. The Committee made a motion to approve these applications. There was a stipulation that if there were continued complaints about Desert Rain that we would notify the SLA that we no longer support this application. The community board voted in support of the committee motion via roll call vote except for 1 member that voted to approve Dallas BBQ but not Dessert Rain.

BY-LAW COMMITTEE REPORT

John Dereszewski, Chair of the By-Law Committee, reported that the committee held its 5th meeting on October 6, 2020. Mr. Dereszewski said that the committee spent a lot of time continuing to go through the changes that are being suggested. He is hopeful that these suggestions can be presented to the full board soon. He thanked all the members that have been part of this process.

EDUCATION, LIBRARY AND YOUTH REPORT

Heather Dimitriadis, Chair, reported that the committee met on October 13, 2020. The committee spoke about the following:

- *Libraries:* All libraries in CB 6 are currently closed due to COVID-19. We will be requesting updates from the Queens Library regarding programs that are being offered even though they are closed.
- *Education:* Ongoing challenge with communication between administrators, parents, educators, etc. as well as issues with remote learning vs in person learning. The committee will continue to work with the DOE regarding these challenges. A letter was sent to the DOE in the summer and we didn't receive a response. The committee would like to send a follow up letter regarding education concerns.
- *Youth:* There are a lot of programs that the Queens Community House is doing virtually for all ages. All programs are free. Flyers for these programs will be sent out to the CB Members.

GOOD & WELFARE

MAYOR'S COMMUNITY AFFAIRS UNIT

Jessica Schabowski announced the following:

- Urging all New Yorkers to get tested for COVID and get a flu shot. For a list of testing sites, you can go to nyc.gov/covidtest and for a list of flu shot locations visit nyc.gov/flu
- NYPD is undertaking a Department-wide Initiative aimed at Transforming Policing in NYC. There will be a listening session on Friday October 16th and it will be broadcast on facebook live. There is also an NYPD feedback survey at surveymonkey.com/r/reformcollaborative
- Indoor Dining started in NYC on September 30 and the Mayor announced that outdoor dining would continue year-round.
- Deadline to apply for an absentee ballot is October 27
- Early voting will be from October 24 – November 1. The city has partnered with Curb to offer \$5 off to the first 5,000 people that are going out for early voting. Download the curb app and use the code [votearly](#).
- With respect to the Red, Orange and Yellow Zones in our area, the city has sent out canvassers, and inspectors, has set up testing sites and has been out in the community distributing masks and speaking to houses of worship, etc. The Mayor announced that the numbers are leveling off and are moving in a good direction. The feeling is that if things continue this way, this should be resolved within the 2 week period.

NYC COMPTROLLER SCOTT STRINGER

Haris Khan announced the following:

- On October 14, 2020, the Comptroller released a 21st Century Workforce Development Strategy, "Lifting up NYers". This includes free tuition at CUNY community colleges and an overhaul of NYC workforce development systems. It calls for a universal paid internship program for CUNY students, expansion of career and technical education and early college schools, expansion of Certified apprenticeship, subsidized wage and bridge programs.
- Town Hall Meeting to hear about how COVID has affected the communities of Forest Hills and Rego Park on November 9, 2020 at 6:00pm.

NYS ASSEMBLY MEMBER DANIEL ROSENTHAL

Rick Malone, announced that the Assemblyman has been working on the Umbrella Hotel in Kew Gardens. There has been a lot of crime there and they are calling on the Mayor to close it down. There have been reports of shootings, child trafficking, etc.

He also announced that as per the Governors website, the most recent positivity rate for our area was 3.36 %. Also, if you visit nyc.gov/maps, you can put in an address to find out what zone it is in. Assemblyman Rosenthal has been distributing PPE and pushing for more rapid testing.

If anyone needs assistance with filling out absentee ballot application, call the office and someone can assist you.

Please take a moment to thank a veteran with Veterans Day approaching.

CONGRESS MEMBER GRACE MENG

Jordan Goldes announced the following:

- Resolution that the Congress Member introduced condemning Anti-Asian sentiment in NY and across the country was passed by the House.
- Congress Member Meng has spoken out about the Census and the administrations efforts to derail the count and urges everyone to fill out the census.
- Congress Member Meng has voted to approve the last 2 COVID relief packages and is co-sponsoring several other COVID-19 related bills.
- Working with the USDA regarding some changes that were made in protocols that meant local food pantries were without food vendors including those that serve kosher and halal items.

NYS ASSEMBLY MEMBER ANDREW HEVESI

Alexa Arcchi announced the following:

- Assemblyman Hevesi's Office received a shipment of masks and sanitizer. If anyone needs any, please contact the office.
- They will be at the FH Greenmarket on Sunday October 18th distributing masks / sanitizer from 10:00 A.M – 12:00 Noon
- The office is open on a limited basis and by appointment only. If you need in person service, please contact the office.

Mark Laster announced that the Aging, Social Services, Disabilities Committee will be meeting on Monday October 19, 2020 at 6:00pm. One of the things they will be discussing is ways to encourage mask use in our community.

Heidi Chain reported that the 112th Precinct Community Council Meeting will be held via Zoom on Wednesday October 21, 2020. If you would like to attend or if you have any questions for the Captain, please email council112@yahoo.com.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Nolan
Community Coordinator

CB 6 VOTING SHEET 10/14/2020	107-02 Queens Blvd	61-01 Alderton St	New Liquor	Renewal Liquor
	2020-41- BZ	125-97-BZ	Licenses	Licenses
NAOMI ALTMAN	Y	Y	Y	Y
ANISIA AYON	Y	Y	Y	Y
PETER BEADLE	Y	Y	Y	Y
MIRIAM BERFAS	Y	Y	Y	Y
HEIDI CHAIN	Y	Y	Y	Y
SHERIDAN CHU	Y	Y	Y	Y
ALEXANDER COHEN	Y	Y	Y	Y
JOHN DERESZEWSKI	Y	Y	Y	Y
ALEJANDRA DIAZ-HOUSTON	Y	Y	Y	Y
HEATHER DIMITRIADIS	Y	Y	Y	Y- Dallas BBQ N-Desert Rain
ETHAN FELDER	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT
GLORIA FERRERAS	Y	Y	Y	Y
JEREMY GOLANT	Y	Y	Y	Y
GAIL GORDON	Y	Y	Y	Y
BRENDAN GRIFFITH	Y	Y	Y	Y
BRUCE GROSSBERG	Y	Y	Y	Y
RABBI MORDECHAI HECHT	Y	Y	Y	Y
ODED HORODNICEANU	Y	Y	Y	Y
MYRNA JACOBSON	Y	Y	Y	Y
EMANUIL KALENDAREV	NOT PRESENT FOR VOTE	NOT PRESENT FOR VOTE	NOT PRESENT FOR VOTE	NOT PRESENT FOR VOTE
JOYCE KEVELSON	Y	Y	Y	Y
SOUMALY KING	Y	Y	Y	Y
PRAMEET KUMAR	Y	Y	Y	Y
MARK LASTER	Y	Y	Y	Y
NORMAN LEIBOWITZ	Y	Y	Y	Y
RALPH LEONART	NOT PRESENT FOR VOTE	NOT PRESENT FOR VOTE	NOT PRESENT FOR VOTE	NOT PRESENT FOR VOTE
JONATHAN LI	Y	Y	Y	Y
KEVIN LY	Y	Y	Y	Y
JAMES MAKIN	Y	Y	Y	Y
JACK MEDINA	Y	Y	Y	Y
RENEE MEHRRA	NOT PRESENT FOR VOTE	NOT PRESENT FOR VOTE	Y	Y
STEVEN METZ	Y	Y	Y	Y
PAT MORGAN	Y	Y	Y	Y
EDWARD MURRAY	NOT PRESENT FOR VOTE	NOT PRESENT FOR VOTE	NOT PRESENT FOR VOTE	NOT PRESENT FOR VOTE
RAFAEL NEKTALOV	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT
KARL NEUMANN	Y	Y	Y	Y
ELIZABETH NEWTON	Y	Y	Y	Y
TANIA PADGETT	Y	Y	Y	Y
SHARI ROLNICK	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT
DAVID SCHNEIER	Y	Y	Y	Y
HERBERT SCHONHAUT	NOT PRESENT FOR VOTE	NOT PRESENT FOR VOTE	NOT PRESENT FOR VOTE	NOT PRESENT FOR VOTE
JEAN SILVA	Y	Y	Y	Y
ROBERT SILVER	Y	Y	Y	Y
MARSHA SILVERSTEIN	NOT PRESENT FOR VOTE	NOT PRESENT FOR VOTE	NOT PRESENT FOR VOTE	NOT PRESENT FOR VOTE
SUSAN WANDERMAN	Y	Y	Y	Y
ALEXA WEITZMAN	Y	Y	Y	Y
JOAN WESTON	Y	Y	Y	Y
EDWIN WONG	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT
TOTALS:	38 Yes, 0 No	38 Yes, 0 No	38 Yes, 0 No	38 Yes, 0 No - Dallas BBQ 37 Yes, 1 No - Desert Rain

10/14/20 - Cont.	FY22 Capital	FY22 Expense	Street Co-Naming
	Budget Priorities	Budget Priorities	Rabbi Murciano
NAOMI ALTMAN			
ANISIA AYON			
PETER BEADLE			
MIRIAM BERFAS			
HEIDI CHAIN			
SHERIDAN CHU			
ALEXANDER COHEN			
JOHN DERESZEWSKI			
ALEJANDRA DIAZ-HOUSTON			
HEATHER DIMITRIADIS			
ETHAN FELDER	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT
GLORIA FERRERAS	ALL IN FAVOR	ALL IN FAVOR	ALL IN FAVOR
JEREMY GOLANT			
GAIL GORDON			
BRENDAN GRIFFITH			
BRUCE GROSSBERG			
RABBI MORDECHAI HECHT			
ODED HORODNICEANU			
MYRNA JACOBSON			
EMANUIL KALENDAREV			
JOYCE KEVELSON			
SOUMALY KING			
PRAMEET KUMAR			
MARK LASTER			
NORMAN LEIBOWITZ			
RALPH LEONART			
JONATHAN LI			
KEVIN LY			
JAMES MAKIN			
JACK MEDINA			
RENEE MEHRRRA			
STEVEN METZ			
PAT MORGAN			
EDWARD MURRAY			
RAFAEL NEKTALOV	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT
KARL NEUMANN			
ELIZABETH NEWTON			
TANIA PADGETT			
SHARI ROLNICK	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT
DAVID SCHNEIER			
HERBERT SCHONHAUT			
JEAN SILVA			
ROBERT SILVER			
MARSHA SILVERSTEIN			
SUSAN WANDERMAN			
ALEXA WEITZMAN			
JOAN WESTON			
EDWIN WONG	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT