



Community Board 7

Borough of Queens

Auburndale, Bay Terrace, Beechhurst, Clearview, College Point, Downtown Flushing, East Flushing, Flushing, Malba, Murray Hill, Queensborough Hill, Whitestone, Linden Hill, and Willets Point

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Donovan Richards, Jr.
Queens Borough President

Chuck Apelian

Chairperson

Marilyn McAndrews

District Manager

Community Board #7 Queens

PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING

Minutes

Monday, November 10, 2025

Meeting was held in the basement of St Luke Church, 16-34 Clintonville Street, Whitestone NY

Board Members Present:

Chuck Apelian
Blyss Buitrago
James Cervino
Kaily Cheng
Kim Cody
Nicholas Corrado
Arlene Fleishman
Richard Forman
Doreen Gatanas
Zhi Keng He
Cody Herrmann
Jeff Huang
Kathy Huang
Lawrence Hughes

David Kwang
Esther Lee
Li Mei Li
Betsy Mak
Barbara McHugh
Selma Moses
Sergio Nicolich
John Park
Terence Park
Dr. Vipul Patel
Yacov Pshtissky
Frank Quatela
Kris Ram
Maureen Regan

Warren Schreiber
Kevin Shields
Matthew Silverstein
Joseph Sweeney
John Tsavalos
Peter Tu
Harpreet Wahan
Clarissa Wong
Maggie Wong
Lulu Yang
Dian Yu
Linna Yu
Lei Zhao

Excused: Fred Fu, Phil Konigsberg, Frank Macchio, Rev. Richard McEachern, Paul Rifino, Rachel Zhang

Absent: Saleem Syed, Patricia Toro

Community Board #7 Staff

Marilyn McAndrews, District Manager

Mary O'Neill, Community Coordinator

Anne Krzyzanowski, Community Assistant

Chairman Chuck Apelian opened the meeting at 7 pm. Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag and a moment of silence in honor of all who fought for our freedom and to never forget those who gave their lives.

Announcements from Chairman, **Chuck Apelian**.

Announcements from Elected Officials' representatives.

October 2025 CB 7 Minutes approved.

Suzanne Windland, Director of Friendly Visiting of S.N.A.P. (Services Now for Adult Persons) spoke about services provided by Senior Centers run by SNAP. They are looking for volunteers who can visit older adults who are home-bound. There are not enough volunteers to spend time with the many people who live in Flushing, College Point and Whitestone who would like someone call or visit them at least once a week.

Public Hearing

ULURP Projects Certified by the Department of City Planning:

Flushing Creek CSO Disinfection Facilities - C250324 PCQ – Site selection and acquisition by DEP and DCAS to construct chlorination and dichlorination facilities on three project sites to improve water quality within Flushing Creek.

Flushing Creek De-Mapping - C250323 MMQ – A change to the City Map to de-map a pedestrian island between College Point Blvd, 32nd Avenue, and the Whitestone Expressway is being sought by the Department of Environmental Protection to construct chlorination and dichlorination facilities to improve water quality in Flushing Creek

Chuck Apelian - Land Use Chair

NYC DEP representative **Mitchel Wimbish** spoke about Flushing Creek CSO Disinfection Facilities. Whenever there is a major rainstorm, the water does not go into the treatment plant, but it goes into CSO which then connects to a waterbody, which is Flushing Creek.

NYC DEP representative **Keith Mahoney** explained this \$15 billion project is being done in collaboration with NYS DEP to address water quality impairment because of sewerage overflow. DEP submitted 11 long-term control plans which identify alternatives to mitigate impact to water quality. Disinfection involves chlorinating the water up-stream and then de-chlorinating it before outfall.

Mitchel Wimbish talked about de-mapping the pedestrian island owned by NYS DOT located between College Point Boulevard, 32nd Avenue and the Whitestone Expressway, and acquiring property owned by Home Depot on Avery Avenue for the construction of chlorination and dichlorination facilities which will improve water quality in Flushing Creek.

Lei Zhao: There will be more rain due to climate change, is there a chance that more chlorinated water will get dumped into Flushing Creek? Will the increased rain flow be monitored so that there will be the right amount of chemicals used?

DEP: We test a situation such as a Cloudburst where there is a lot of rain in a short amount of time and the tidal situation of the creek. When the sewer starts to fill up, we need to overcome the height of the water. At high tide we have a longer time for treatment.

Joseph Sweeney: Has DEP done research on the increase in cloudbursts and taken this into consideration?

DEP: We looked at rainwater amounts that come in annually when we planned this project.

Warren Schreiber: Are there other options for besides disinfecting via chlorinating and de-chlorinating?

DEP: We looked at our storage tanks and tunnel capacity. We studied other chemical treatments such as high rate settling or increasing the capacity of the pumping stations and other options. For other options we would need about a 280-million-gallon storage tank, which is too big for the treatment plant.

Blyss Buitrago: There was mention about all other categories that will be affected by this. One of the categories was about public health. You concluded that no further environmental assessment is needed. Did you do any research about the toxic impacts of the chlorine gas?

DEP: We used the Ziegert-Simon guidance for safe drinking water and other safety measurements in place. Trucks carrying the chlorinate will arrive at the facilities the hose from the truck will connect to the DEP facility pipe. The chlorine will not leak out into the air. There are vents in the chlorination facilities but these are very high and only a very small amount will get out.

Cody Herrmann: What is the comparison of this compared to a wastewater treatment plant?

DEP: By chlorinating it on site it bypasses the secondary treatment. Wastewater treatment plants use a secondary procedure to process the water.

James Cervino: Good bacteria keeps Flushing Creek clean. When that bacteria dies, decomposition, and anaerobic bacteria will take over which causes a rotten egg smell. The chlorine introduced into the water will wipe out the fish and other organisms.

DEP: I haven't heard of that happening anywhere. Once chlorine gets in the water it dilutes. NYSC DEC hydrogeologists reviewed this.

Chuck Apelian: Our Land Use Committee held a meeting and most of the discussion was about the chlorination & de-chlorination of water and if it will be harmful to the environment. A motion was made by **Cody Herrmann** to deny these applications, seconded by **James Cervino**. The committee voted 12-3 to deny these applications. There is a motion to deny these applications. Seconded by **Blyss Buitrago**.

Discussion on the motion:

Cody Herrmann: There is so much bacteria in Flushing Creek. Flushing Creek & Bay get 10% of the CSO. Of all the CSO's in the City, we have less than 2% of the shore lines but we have so much of the overflow. This project will not make it clean enough. We should push for something better.

Matthew Silverstein: There has been a push to restore the shellfish in Flushing Creek, this chlorination will wipe out all that work and eliminate any of the vegetation that is growing there.

Joseph Sweeney: If we don't go ahead with this project, the sewer overflow and the cloudbursts will seriously harm our economy. Many people will have sewer waste backed up into their homes.

Chuck Apelian: I support these applications. The concept has been approved by State and Federal agencies. No one is providing a viable alternative. The CSO capacity under the Avery Ballfields was reduced because of funding. We need a solution now for sewerage overflow into Flushing Creek. It will take 20-years to build a new CSO. I am that upset Board Members have not called Agencies or Elected Officials about other solutions.

Chuck Apelian: Our Committee made a motion to deny the applications, seconded by **Warren Schreiber**.

Vote:

20 – In favor

0 – Abstention

8 – Absent

21 – Against

0– No vote

The motion passed to approve these projects.

Vote on Capital & Expense Budget and Continued Support Items for – FY 2027, follow-up from the October 2025 meeting. Chuck Apelian

Matt Silverstein: Suggested we add “Additional CSO capacity required throughout CB7” which was accepted.

Chairman Chuck Apelian: There is a motion to approve, seconded by **Arlene Fleishman**.

Vote:

41 – In favor

0 – Abstention

8 – Absent

0 – Against

0– No vote

The motion carries.

Public Participation

William Hutson, student at Flushing Tech at Queens College, talked about their Technology Club. They are looking for new members and support from local businesses.

Meeting ended: 9:47 pm

Respectfully Submitted

Anne Krzyzanowski,

Community Assistant