



Community Board 7

Borough of Queens

Bay Terrace, College Point, Beechhurst, Flushing
Malba, Queensborough Hill, Whitestone and Willets Point

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Eugene T. Kelty Jr.

Chairperson

Marilyn McAndrews

District Manager

Melinda Katz

Queens Borough President

COMMUNITY BOARD #7 PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2019

UNION PLAZA CARE CENTER

33-23 UNION STREET, FLUSHING, NEW YORK

PRESENT

Charles Apelian

James Cervino

Kaily Cheng

Michael Cheng

Chin-Hsiang Chiang

John Choe

Kim Cody

Nicholas Corrado

Arlene Fleishman

Richard Forman

Fred Fu

Vincent Gianelli

Jeff Huang

Lawrence Hughes

Eugene Kelty

Phil Konigsberg

Wensong Li

Wendy Louie

Selma Moses

Sergio Nicolich

Kim Ohanian

Millicent O'Meally

John Park

Terence Park

Kris Ram

Paul Rifino

Belal Salim

Warren Schreiber

Kevin Shields

Matthew Silverstein

Joshua Sussman

Joseph Sweeney

John Tsavalos

Peter Tu

Dian Yu

Lei Zhao

ABSENT

*Pablo Hernandez

*Esther Lee

*Rev. McEachern

*Harpreet Singh Wahan

*Maggie Wong

*Marc Schiffman

*Peter Sutich

*Linna Yu

Frank Macchio

Barbara McHugh

Clarissa Wong

Jie Zhu

COMMUNITY BOARD #7 STAFF

Marilyn McAndrews, District Manager

Mary O'Neill, Community Associate

Mary Zuliani, Community Assistant

Danielle Pennise, Community Associate

GUESTS

Elizabeth Bian-Queens Borough President's Office

Susan Liu-Congresswoman Grace Meng's Office

Mabel Tso-Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez's Office

Barbara Baruch-State Senator Liu's Office

Kleanthis Plakas-Assemblyman Braunstein's Office

Brian Lam-Assemblywoman Rozic's Office

Jiyeon Lim-Assemblyman Ron Kim's Office

David Lee- Assemblyman Ron Kim's Office

Destany Batista-Assemblyman Rosenthal's Office

Vito Tautonico-Councilman Vallone's Office

Joonyong Ahn-Councilman Koo's Office

* Excused

Chairman Eugene Kelty opened the public hearing at 7:09 p.m. with the **Pledge of Allegiance**, followed by a moment of silence to honor our armed forces. He also asked that we keep our military in our prayers for Thanksgiving.

Roll Call Attendance was taken with (36) Present (8) *Excused (4) **Absent

The following announcements were read:

- Our next **Public Hearing** will be held at 6:00 p.m. **Tuesday, Dec. 3rd** at Verdi's of Whitestone located at 149-58 Cross Island Pkwy., Whitestone. The Community Board's **Annual Holiday dinner** will commence at 7:00 p.m.
- **Holiday Tree lighting** with Magic, Singing and Music at Flushing Library -Tuesday, November 26th at 7:00 p.m. The event was sponsored by our Board member and President of the Flushing Development Center, Fred Fu and his sponsors.
- **Annual Tree Lighting at The Poppenhusen Monument, College Point** (11th Ave. and College Point Blvd.)- Sunday, December 1st at 5:00 p.m. and sing along with Frank Pedulla and the Brass Band.
- **Grant Information Session**-Tuesday, December 3rd at 7:00 p.m. Meet at KCS, 203-05 32nd Ave. Bayside. Join NY State Senator John Liu and Citizens Committee for New York City and learn how to receive a grant of up to \$3,000 for community and school improvement projects. RSVP at akshar@johnliusenate.com
- **Home Utility Assistance Session**-Thursday, December 5th from 10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. at assemblywoman Nily Rozic's office located at 159-16 Union Tpke, Flushing. Learn about ways to save and settle billing disputes. Call (718) 765-6359 and schedule an appointment.
- **Fund-raiser for the Poppenhusen Institute**-Sunday, December 14th at 5:00 p.m. Join us and experience food dishes from a variety of College Point restaurants, wine, dessert and entertainment from the Tarumi violinists and local choir. Tickets-\$25 pre-event/\$30 day of. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Contact the Institute at (718) 358-0067 or email poppenhusen@juno.com
- **Holiday Toy Drive** presented by NYS Senator John Liu. Donate and drop off an unwrapped toy at 38-50 Bell Blvd. Suite C, Bayside. Donations will be accepted from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. until Dec. 20th. Email akshar@johnliusenate.com or call (718) 765-6675.

Approval of October 28, 2019 Public Hearing Minutes

A motion to approve the Public Hearing minutes of October 28, 2019 was seconded by Selma Moses. Millicent O'Meally abstained from voting; since she was absent on October 28th.

A Message from Our Elected Officials

Mabel Tso from the Office of Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez provided some updates. This month, a Town Hall meeting was held in Pelham Bay and Congresswoman Ocasio Cortez shared some information on the new legislation package of bills entitled, “A Just Society”. Two weeks ago, the office introduced the first piece of Green New Deal legislation, The Green New Deal for Public Housing Act. The legislation includes:

- Improving the quality of life for public housing residents by upgrading and modernizing the housing stock.
- Combatting climate change by reducing carbon emissions from all public housing to zero.
- Improving the economic stability of low-income, public housing residents, by ensuring up to 90% of the high-quality jobs created by the modernization project are going to public housing residents.
- Training in long-term job skills.

In addition, the congresswoman’s office recently joined the Quiet Skies Caucus to address noise pollution, environmental and health concerns as it relates to air traffic. The town hall meeting was streamed and can be viewed on [Facebook.com/repAOC](https://www.facebook.com/repAOC).

ITEM #4a: 141-54 Northern Blvd. – BSA Application No. 72-04-BZ. Pursuant to Sec. (11-411) of NYC Zoning Resolution, the applicant seeks to extend the term of a previously granted variance to authorize the existing use of the premise as an automotive service station (UG 16B) with accessory uses to expire on June 3, 2020. The premise is located within a R6 and R6/C1-2 zoning district. **John Choe, Committee Chair** introduced Elyse Foladare from the office of Eric Palatnik P.C., representative for the applicant, to present the application for board approval.

The premises has been under the Board’s jurisdiction since February 9, 1960 and the term was last extended on September 25, 2012. The application does not seek any physical changes at the premises from the previous approval. The application seeks an extension of term of a special permit for a term of 10 years.

QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Q. **Lei Zhao** asked, “Has there been any complaints from the Community?”

A. **Elyse Foladare** responded, None.

John Choe, Committee Chair reported on his committee meeting held November 19, 2019 **with the vote of (9) In Favor (1) Abstention with No Conflict**

Members of the committee meeting expressed the following concerns: (1) Will the owner allow usage of the air machines free of charge. (2) Does the owner charge different prices for customers who use debit cards? (3) Whether the owner will install charges for electric vehicles.

The motion on the floor this evening is to approve the extension of term of a special permit for a term of 10 years, seconded by Chuck Apelian.

WITH NO FURTHER DISCUSSION

The vote taken was (35) Approval (1) *Abstention with No Conflict (8) **Excused (4) *Absent**

*John Choe, **Pablo Hernandez (vacation), **Esther Lee (work emergency), **Rev. McEachern (appointment), **Marc Schiffman (medical), **Peter Sutich (medical), **Harpreet Wahan (emergency matter, left 7:20 p.m.), **Maggie Wong (work event), **Linna Yu (vacation), ***Frank Macchio, ***Barbara McHugh, ***Clarissa Wong, ***Jie Zhu.

Guest Presentation

ITEM #5: New York Presbyterian Queens Hospital: Baby-Friendly-Representative Sandra Asanjarani, Perinatal Safety Officer/Baby-Friendly Chair.

Sandra Asanjarani discussed the importance and benefits of breastfeeding. She also updated the community on NY Presbyterian Queens Hospital Baby-Friendly designation. NYP Queens Hospital embarked in the prestigious designation Baby-Friendly USA, two years ago. Baby-Friendly is a global program launched in the 1990's due to a lack of safe practices in breastfeeding and formula feeding. NYP Queens Hospital is the second Baby-Friendly hospital in Queens. The goal is to provide mothers with information to safely breastfeed infants until six months of age, formula feed safely, and to promote mother and baby bonding. Benefits include: sensory and cognitive development, a decrease in SIDS-Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, obesity, diarrhea, ear and stomach infections and a quicker recovery in illness. Some benefits to the mother include: a decrease in the rate of breast cancer, ovarian cancer, type II diabetes and cardiovascular disease and a decrease in the rate of postpartum hemorrhage. Most recent, NYPQ hospital offers a free prenatal breastfeeding class which was piloted with **board member Michael Cheng**. Breastfeeding classes are offered in English, Spanish and Chinese. English classes are offered every second and fourth Saturday of the month. Sandra Asanjarani is asking the attendees of tonight's Public Hearing to help spread the importance of proper infant feeding practices. She requested the board to disseminate a Continuity of Care Survey on Breastfeeding to organizations that educate pregnant and postpartum women.

QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Q. **Phil Konigsberg** asked, "Is the information discussed on NYPQ Hospital's website?"

A. **Sandra Asanjarani** responded, Some information including class offerings are available.

Q. **Chairman Gene Kelty** asked, "Is there a deadline for the survey?"

A. **Sandra Asanjarani** responded, End of the Year.

Q. **A Board Member** asked, "How do you bring awareness to pediatricians and obstetricians?"

A. **Sandra Asanjarani** responded, 3 hour courses are mandatory.

Gene Kelty added, the Continuity of Care Survey on Breastfeeding will be included in the Board's mailings in December and will be sent to civic organizations, schools and churches in the Board's district.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Millicent O'Meally announced the Advent Concert at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament located at 34-24 203rd St. Bayside. The choral concert is Sunday, December 8th at 4:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10 per person.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Danielle Pennise