



# Community Board 7

## Borough of Queens

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

133-32 41st ROAD · 3rd FLOOR · FLUSHING, NY 11355

(718) 359-2800

Fax: (718) 463-3891

email: [qn07@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:qn07@cb.nyc.gov)

Eugene T. Kelty Jr.

*Chairperson*

Marilyn McAndrews

*District Manager*

Sharon Lee  
*Acting Queens Borough President*

COMMUNITY BOARD #7 PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2020  
AUDIO AND VIDEO TELECONFERENCE

### 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  
Pablo Hernandez

Jeff Huang  
Lawrence Hughes  
Eugene Kelty  
Phil Konigsberg  
Frank Macchio  
Barbara McHugh  
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  
Joseph Sweeney  
John Tsavalos  
Peter Tu  
Clarissa Wong  
Maggie Wong  
Linna Yu  
Lei Zhao  
Jie Zhu

### ABSENT

\*Esther Lee  
\*Wensong Li  
\*Wendy Louie

\*Rev. McEachern  
\*Joshua Sussman  
\*Peter Sutich

\*Harpreet Singh Wahan  
\*Dian Yu

### 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  
Hye-Kyung Yang-Queens Department of City Planning  
Jessica Schabowski-Queens Borough Director of the  
Mayor's Community Affairs Unit  
Sandra Ung-Congresswoman Grace Meng's Office  
Mabel Tso-Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-  
Cortez's Office  
Ashley Lin-State Senator John Liu's Office

David Fischer-Assemblyman Edward Braunstein's  
Office  
Destany Batista-Assemblyman Daniel Rosenthal's  
Office  
Brian Lam-Assemblywoman Nily Rozic's Office  
Vito Tautonico-Councilman Paul Vallone's Office  
Joonyong Ahn-Councilman Peter Koo's Office

\*Excused-Absent

**Chairman Gene Kelty** opened the office's **Regular Monthly Meeting and Public Hearing at 4:00 P.M.** The meeting was conducted by audio and video teleconference. The Chairman thanked all Board Members for convening at an earlier time. He announced, anyone from **the public** can speak but is **limited to 3-minutes**. Over **Seventy participants** attended the board's first teleconference meeting including board members, elected officials, local NYC agency representatives and residents of the district.

**Roll Call Attendance was taken by the Chairman with (39) Present (8) \*Excused-Absent**

\*Esther Lee (work conflict), \*Wensong Li (work conflict), \*Wendy Louie (sick), \*Rev. McEachern (medical), \*Joshua Sussman (power outage in Fla.), \*Peter Sutich (medical), \*Harpreet Singh Wahan (M.S. degree course conflict), \*Dian Yu (emergency).

**The following announcements were read by Chairman Kelty:**

- Enroll in **New York City's official source** for information about emergency alerts and important city services at <http://www.NYC.gov/NotifyNYC>.
- Sign up for email updates from **the New York State** for critical information on the Coronavirus pandemic at <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov>.
- **We Speak NYC** features civic focused learning tools for English language learners and teachers, visit <https://wespeaknyc.cityofnewyork.us> for civic resources.
- **DOE** is lending internet-enabled iPads to support remote learning for students. A device can be requested at <https://coronavirus.schools.nyc/RemoteLearningDevices>. There is a limit of one device per student.

**Public Hearings**

No public hearings were scheduled.

**Chairman Kelty** added, because of COVID-19, the **Board of Standards and Appeals** is holding review sessions and public hearings **by teleconference**.

**Hye-Kyung Yang, Planner at Queens City Planning** commented, public hearings and votes required as part of land use review process (**ULURP**) are **suspended** due to COVID-19 via Executive Order by **Mayor Bill De Blasio**.

**Regular Meeting**

Since the pandemic, Queens Community Board No. 7's office has been open from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. The office received calls from residents of the district who were unable to file an unemployment insurance claim. In response to these complaints, **Chairman Gene Kelty** stated that the office has been forwarding complaints pertaining to unemployment filing to the district's liaison with the **U.S.**

**Department of Labor**. The board's main concern is the health of the residents of the district and to make certain everyone can get food, especially senior citizens. The Chairman addressed if anyone is having a problem getting food to please contact the office for assistance.

Visit <https://www.schools.Nyc.gov/school-life/food/free-meals> to pick up meals at a nearby meal hub.

**Chairman Kelty** provided some updates from the **District Service Cabinet meeting** held teleconference on **April 24, 2020 with local agency representatives from the district**. Each agency representative provided statistics on the number of employees that were out sick from the Coronavirus (COVID-19). However, there are positive results. Employees are coming back to work.

**109<sup>th</sup> Precinct**

4,693 Employees Tested Positive

2,890 Employees Returned to Work

**New York City Department of Sanitation**

569 Employees Tested Positive

184 Employees Returned to Work

**Fire Department of New York**

12.5% Employees were on Medical Leave

10.5% Employees Tested Positive

1,300 Employees Returned to Work

**Metropolitan Transportation Authority**

9,800 Employees Tested Positive

6,500 Employees Returned to Work

**Approval of February 10, 2020 Minutes**

**A motion was made** to approve the Public Hearing Minutes of February 10, 2020 by **Linna Yu**. The motion was **seconded** by **Jie Zhu** with **(6) abstentions from board members because of excused absence** on February 10, 2020. The motion carried.

\*James Cervino, \*Wendy Louie, \*Sergio Nicolich, \*Harpreet Singh Wahan, \*Peter Sutich and \*Jie Zhu  
\*(Excused-Absent)

**Approval of March 9, 2020 Minutes**

**A motion was made** to approve the Public Hearing Minutes of March 9, 2020 by **Selma Moses**. The motion was **seconded** by **Millicent O'Meally** with **(14) abstentions from board members because of absence** on March 9, 2020. The motion carried.

\*John Choe, \*Kim Cody, \*Vincent Gianelli, \*Jeff Huang, \*Phil Konigsberg, \*Frank Macchio,  
\*Sergio Nicolich, \*Belal Salim, \*Joshua Sussman, \*Peter Sutich, \*Clarissa Wong, \*Maggie Wong.

\*\*Terence Park and \*\*Peter Tu.

\*(Excused-Absent), \*\*(Absent-No Excuse)

**Note:** The cover letter of the Public Hearing Minutes of March 9, 2020 was corrected to remove the following board members under Present: **Belal Salim, Joshua Sussman, Clarissa Wong, and Maggie Wong** since these members were \*Excused-Absent.

### Updates from Board Members

**Chairman Gene Kelty** asked the Board Members if they had any problems or concerns that they would like to mention.

No comments were made from the Board Members.

**Chairman Kelty** announced that **Dr. James Cervino, Environmental Committee Chair**, will lead an upcoming committee meeting on **Tallman Island Wastewater Treatment Plant** in **College Point**.

### A Message from Our Elected Officials

**Mabel Tso, Case Worker & Field Representative from the Office of Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez** provided some updates. Office staff have been working remotely since the pandemic began; however, they are still available as a resource to everyone. **Staff can be reached** at (718) 662-5970 or through the **office website** <https://ocasio-cortez.house.gov>. The office website is posting information and resources regularly about COVID-19. Weekly newsletters in English and Spanish have been mailed to constituents. The office's **monthly town hall meeting** was hosted virtually on **April 16, 2020** with **Commissioner Bitta Mostofi** from the **Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs** and **Naveen Parmar, General Counsel and Policy Director at the United States House Committee on Small Business**. Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez discussed the stimulus bills to provide economic relief to small businesses. The video of the Town Hall is available on the **Congresswoman's facebook page**, <https://www.facebook.com/RepAOC>.

**The 2020 Census** is still underway despite being on pause. Complete a census at <https://my2020census.gov/>. **Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez** signed a joint letter with members of the **New York Congressional Delegation** to prioritize funding for nursing homes in upcoming stimulus packages. **A new online tool from the IRS is available** to check eligibility and payment status for federal relief at <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment>. The **CARES Act** expanded access to unemployment insurance to gig workers and independent contractors. Anyone unemployed can apply for assistance through the **New York State Department of Labor** at <https://dol.ny.gov/pandemic-unemployment-assistance>.

**On behalf of Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez**, Ms. Tso thanked the board for requesting the congresswoman to speak at the next public hearing.

**Jessica Schabowski, Queens Borough Director of the Mayor's Community Affairs Unit** provided some updates. **Mayor De Blasio** advocated for state officials to pass policies allowing tenants to use security

deposits to pay rent and to defer rent payments for tenants who cannot afford rent until the economy rebounds from the Coronavirus crisis. As the daily indicators of COVID-19 decline and continue to move in a good direction, all **public events** are cancelled until the end of **June**. **Alternate Side Parking Regulations** in the five boroughs will **remain suspended** through **May 12, 2020**. The Mayor announced an agreement to open 100 miles of City streets for outdoor activity by implementing street closures, widening sidewalks, and adding bike lanes for the summer in practice with social distancing. Twenty miles of this total will be completed in consultation with the Community Boards.

#### **Chairman Kelty Opened the Floor for Questions and Comments**

**Matthew Silverstein** addressed **Fort Totten Park** in Bayside and inquired on its reestablishment to the public.

**Jessica Schabowski** responded, "It is anticipated to be open by the summer."

#### **Attending**

**Lynda Spielman** – Former Chair of Queens Community Board No. 7

**Marilyn Bitterman** – Former District Manager of Queens Community Board No. 7

**Frances Scanlon** – Former Member of Queens Community Board No. 7

**Diane Cohen** – Former District Manager of Queens Community Board No. 8

**Eileen Miller** – Chair of Queens Community Board No. 11

#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**Diane Cohen**, Former District Manager of Queens Community Board No. 8, suggested to put a children's playground and restroom in **Little Bay Park** located in Whitestone.

**Frances Scanlon**, Former Member of Queens Community Board No. 7 suggested a landmark in Flushing.

**Chairman Gene Kelty** informed Ms. Scanlon to address a letter to the board office with the exact location and request.

A resident of the district named David (last name not provided) called in for the first time and thanked the board for the community updates.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 P.M.

Respectfully,

Danielle Pennise