



Chairperson, Martha Taylor

The City of New York
Borough of Queens



District Manager, Marie Adam-Ovide

Minutes of Community Board 8 Meeting held on Wednesday, October 9, 2024, at the Hillcrest Jewish Center - 183-02 Union Turnpike.

Attendance

Board Members Present

Dilafroz Ahmed, Saaif Alam, Edward Chung, Maria DeInnocentiis, Marva Dudley, Allen Eisenstein, Bhitihara-Martha Fulton, James Gallagher, Jr., Joshua Glikman, Wendy Gennaro, Michael Hannibal, Neeta Jain, Mary Maggio, Elke Maerz, Jennifer Martin, Dilip Nath, Alan Ong, Tammy Osheroov, Hersh Parekh, Simon Pelman, Frances Peterson, Israel Peskowitz, Jesse Rosenbaum, Seymour Schwartz, Dr. Penny M. Stern, Martha Taylor, Amy Tse, and Jacob Weinberg.

Board Members Absent

Heather Bennett-Idels, Kenneth Cohen II, Howard A. Fried, Ashan Habib, John Gebhard, Mohammed "Delwar" Islam, Caitlin Marziliano, Nikolas Michael, David Mordukhaev, Tobias Paris, Mohammad Rahman, Aliyah Salim, Jenna Citron Schwab, Deepti Sharma, Douglas Sherman, Harbachan Singh, Mohammed Tohin, Steven Villaran and Mayer Waxman.

Others Present

Shubbhra Datta representing Borough President Donovan Richards, Jose Valera representing Council Member James Gennaro, Scott Sieber representing Senator John Liu, Lya Rothmann representing Senator Toby Stavisky, Rokeya Akhter representing District Attorney Melinda Katz, Ruocheng Chen representing Council Member Linda Lee, Antonio Whitaker, representing, NYDS, Hoshanhnia Kumaran representing Assemblymember Nily Rozic, NYC Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, Capt. Mo Tsang and P.O. Kevin McCarthy representing NYPD (107th), DM Marie Adam-Ovide, CB8 Staff Naima Hernandez and Nettie V. Norris.

Call to Order

Chairperson Martha Taylor called the Board Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

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Public Participation

Sherry Reisner

When the city started the recycling program, they gave out:

- 3 Blue Trash Cans for recycling bottles
- 3 Green Cans for recycling paper
- 3 Brown Cans for recycling organics
- Small cans for us to use in our homes

Now the city wants us to use new garbage cans which will cost us \$50.00. This is another tax on us. This is another deal the mayor has made and should be looked into by the Department of Investigations. Why should the homeowners have to pay for these new cans when the taxes we already pay should be enough to cover the cost?

I've been taking pictures of these e-scooters and have been sending them to the companies and copying the community board. I am tired and should not have to be doing their job.

Marva Dudley

I am the president of the Flushing Suburban Civic Association. I, along with the entire civic and community have concerns about the property at 71-12 Park Place. The owner wants to build a 50-story building with 850 units and an underground garage with 60 parking spaces. The size of this building in the neighborhood is unacceptable. The community is not happy with the process of which the owner is operating. I would like to thank Councilmember Gennaro for attending our last meeting and addressing this issue.

Israel Peskowitz

The Department of Transportation put up a loading zone sign in front of Wasserman's Supermarket on Main Street in Kew Gardens Hills. The community does not want it there. It is taking up parking spaces. It is one of the busiest areas on Main Street. What can Community Board 8 do about this. Any ideas?

Chairperson Martha Taylor suggested Izzy speak with Marie and Jesse Rosenbaum, Chair, Transportation Committee.

Hersh Parekh

Good news! The Mets are ahead as we speak. (laughter) I am the newly appointed Zoning Committee Chair, and I have Chairperson Martha Taylor to thank for that.

We have a supporting application coming before our committee and our board. We are having a committee meeting about the application on October 28th, at 7:30 pm. This is the application put forward by the Mets in support of their project Metropolitan Art which is an entertainment gaming and overall complex at City Fields. They are looking to acquire or be selected for one of the casino licenses that the state will be issuing in the next 12 or so months. They have an entire plan for what that would involve receiving the casino license. It will come before our board because our role will be impacting Flushing Meadows Corona Park. They have invited members of our board to go and see what their vision is, get informed about their proposal, learn about their project and ask lots of questions. Members of the Zoning Committee and Executive Committee have already seen the vision. I encourage anyone who has an interest in this to go and see it. Marie sent out an email to the entire board with details on how you can make an appointment. It will take about 60-90 minutes of your time to see it.

Bhithara Fulton

I highly recommend that you go. The presentation is remarkable but also the scale mockup of the whole area where you can see an airline view of what it looks like.

Chairperson Martha Taylor suggested everyone go out to Citi Field and see the vision for themselves.

Amy Tse

Why can't they just email us the plan?

Hersh Parekh

Some of the visuals in the plan are not public yet. They are not on the public domain. They will become public as their application moves forward. They are trying to preserve some of the sensitivity around some of the visuals.

Captain Mo Tsang- 107th Police Precinct Commander

Last Friday, there was a shooting on Parsons Blvd. in Flushing. We have identified the suspect, and a warrant has been issued. There is an uptick in car thefts. For the most part, thieves are coming from the Bronx, Nassau, Manhattan and Brooklyn into our command and stealing cars.

On November 7th, the crime prevention unit will be giving out Air Tags in Cunningham Park, Upper Lot. So if you are interested, come out and pick up a free Air Tag. For more information, contact precinct at (718) 969-5998.

Community Affairs Section & the 107th Community Council will host our annual Trunk or Treat in Cunningham Park on Thursday, October 26th from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Upper Lot. Come join us for free food, games & activities. For more information, please contact: PO McCarthy at (917) 704-6897 or PO Gorman at (929)-270-6439.

Elected Officials' Announcements

Rokeya Akhtar – representing District Attorney Melinda Katz

The DA and her law enforcement partners seized \$10 Million in a Cannabis bust at a warehouse in Floral Park, Queens. Two people who were near the warehouse at the time of the raid and are believed to have been storing the illegal drugs, are under arrest and charged with criminal possession of a controlled substance. If convicted, they could face up to 10 years in prison.

To date:

- A total of 206 illegal shops have been padlocked
- A total of 383 Scooters taken off the street
- 10th Gun buy back – 76 guns were removed at a buy back event held at the First Presbyterian Church in Jamaica. The event was co-sponsored by the NYPD, New York City Police Foundation, Office of New York State Attorney General Letitia James and Food Bazaar Supermarket.
- A total of 543 firearms have been recovered.

Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz announced today that Kimi, a 2-year-old golden retriever/Labrador retriever mix, has been appointed to the District Attorney's Office as a facility dog to provide comfort and companionship to crime victims and witnesses. The animal service was provided free of charge by Canine Companions and is the only facility dog working in a New York City district attorney's office. District Attorney Katz introduced Kimi as part of the office's public information campaign during Domestic Violence Awareness Month. For more information on "Kimi", please contact our office at (718) 286-6000 or visit our website @Queensda.org.

Scott Sieber – representing Senator John Liu

Our office, in collaboration with Congress Member Grace Meng, will be hosting a couple of events:

A free paper shredding event on Thursday, October 24, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. in Kissena Park at the Velodrome Parking Lot at Parsons Blvd & Booth Memorial Ave., Flushing, NY 11355.

We will also be giving out free Leaf Bags. Limited quantity – while supplies last from Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at 38-50 Bell Blvd., Suite C. - Bayside, NY 11361. Contact us to schedule an appointment: (718) 765-6675 or email events@johnliusenate.com

Hoshahnia Kumaran – representing Assemblywoman Nily Rozic

Our office, in collaboration with Senator John Liu and Councilman James F. Gennaro will be hosting a couple of events such as:

Daffodil Bulbs Distribution & E-Waste (recycle)

Location: Israel Center of Conservative Judaism – 167-11 73rd Ave. Entrance on 167th Street

Sunday, October 27th from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

One bag of 6 bulbs per family. Limited Quantity - while supplies last. First come first served. Any questions, please call (718) 820-0241.

Jose Valera – representing Councilmember James Gennaro

Our office is hosting a couple of events:

An E-Waste (recycle) event on Sunday, October 27th from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., rain or shine. Location - Israel Center of Conservative Judaism – 167-11 73rd Ave., entrance on 167th Street.

Also, a no-cost mammogram screening on Wednesday, October 30th from 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

At 180-32 Union Turnpike, Fresh Meadows, NY 11366. Call our office to schedule an appointment at (718) 217-4969 or 1-877-628-9090. Eligibility requirements:

Ruocheng Chen – representing Linda Lee

Our office will be hosting the “Senior Appreciation Month Performance”

October 28th from 10:00 a.m. at the SNAP Center located at 80-45 Winchester Boulevard, Building 4, Queens Village, NY 11427. Please call their office at (718) 454-2100 RSVP.

The City Council will hold a public hearing for the “City of Yes” on October 22nd. If anyone would like to speak, please go to council.nyc.gov for more information.

Shubbhra Datta – representing Queens Borough President

First, as we are in the final quarter of 2024 and approaching the new community board appointment cycle for 2025, our office wants to remind the board to be diligent on attendance and applying for re-appointment. As we get closer to 2025, we will provide more information to the board, general public and all those interested in the application process.

Second, we want to acknowledge the Community Boards and our local Civic organizations for their assistance and support in helping us ID overgrown medians in need of maintenance and sanitation services. The Borough President held a press conference in August, urging Parks, Transportation, and Sanitation to get together and address these overgrown and trash-strewn medians across Queens. Our office submitted over 205 locations to the city agencies to address the neglected medians throughout the borough. Since then, the city has stepped up efforts by addressing several sites but there is plenty of work to be done.

October is a busy month so we have a bunch of events coming up, so I will just read through them quickly.

- On October 10th, we will be hosting a Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration at 6:00 p.m. at the New York Hall of Science at 47-01 111th Street in Corona.
- On October 13th, we will be hosting a Women’s Health Fair from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at The Edward Davis Center, located at 118-35 Farmers Boulevard in St. Albans.
- On October 15th, we are hosting a VIRTUAL parent advisory board meeting at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom.
- On October 19th, we are hosting a LGBTQIA+ Resource Expo at 10:00 a.m. at Queens Borough Hall, located at 120-55 Queens Boulevard in Kew Gardens.
- On October 21st, we are hosting a College and Opportunity Fair from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Queens Borough Hall, located at 120-55 Queens Boulevard in Kew Gardens.
- On October 23rd, we are hosting our Halloween Family Film Night at 6:00 p.m. at Queens Borough Hall, located at 120-55 Queens Boulevard in Kew Gardens. We’ll be presenting a screening of Beetlejuice.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact our office. Queens Borough Hall – (718) 286-3000.

Chairperson Martha Taylor led the salute to the flag.

Chairperson Martha Taylor asked for Roll Call.

We have a quorum.

Chairperson Taylor called for a motion to approve the minutes.

Approval of Minutes: Jesse Rosenbaum made a motion to approve the minutes of September 11, 2024 seconded by Michael Hannibal.

Chairperson Martha Taylor asked if anyone has anything to say about the minutes – any corrections, amendments?

Chairperson Taylor requested a roll call of those in favor of approving the minutes.

28 Yes

0 No

0 Abstentions

Members for: Dilafroz Ahmed, Saaif Alam, Edward Chung, Maria DeInnocentiis, Marva Dudley, Allen Eisenstein, Bhitihara-Martha Fulton, James Gallagher, Jr., Joshua Glikman, Wendy Gennaro, Michael Hannibal, Neeta Jain, Elke Maerz, Mary Maggio, Jennifer Martin, Dilip Nath, Alan Ong, Tammy Osherov, Hersh Parekh, Simon Pelman, Frances Peterson, Israel Peskowitz, Jesse Rosenbaum, Seymour Schwartz, Dr. Penny M. Stern, Martha Taylor, Amy Tse, and Jacob Weinberg.

The motion passed unanimously with no abstention.

Guest Speakers

NYC Public Advocate Jumaane Williams

He introduced himself and stated he was happy to be able to attend our meeting for the first time. He touched a little on how crime is going down. He also mentioned that he will be walking in the Halloween Parade on October 31, 2024. If you have questions or concerns, please contact his office at: (212) 669-7250 or Gethelpatadvocate.gov.

He went on to briefly talk about the City of Yes. This is a very complex problem. He will attend one of the hearings to give his input. The City of Yes that was presented by the mayor, will not be the final, there will be changes made.

Question: Maria DeInnocentiis

Once the City Council starts negotiating, what kind of input do we have into what you're doing other than being told this is what we decided to do?

Answer: Jumaane Williams

Our part of the process is to attend a hearing, get input and give advice on ways we can make it better.

Question: Jesse Rosenbaum

Would limiting the number of illegal immigrants coming into our city help, not only the future issue but the current issue? Is there some way we can cap the number of illegal immigrants coming in?

Answer: Jumaane Williams

I assume you mean a lot of migrants coming into our city. I want to be clear on what you mean when you say illegal immigrants.

Question: Jesse Rosenbaum

How clear do you want me to be? People coming up from Mexico- 4.5 million at the moment.

Answer: Jumaane Williams

The reason I ask is because seeking asylum is a legal process. I just wanted to be clear on that. Bringing so many folks in can exasperate the problem as it exists. I want to make it clear that the day before the first migrant bus arrived in New York, there were sixty-five thousand homeless people in our shelters. The homeless population for long-term New Yorkers has increased and has nothing to do with the migrants that are coming. The question is, does it exasperate the problem? Yes it does. If we had addressed the problem before, it would have been better.

Question: Jesse Rosenbaum

I don't disagree with you that we have an issue. We are certainly putting up and paying for these illegal immigrants, I don't know exactly what term you want to call them, to stay in local hotels that have been converted to shelters. We are paying top dollar that is coming out of our pockets. I don't know how we can address that to make it easier on the citizens.

Answer: Jumanne Williams

The assumption is that money is being spent on the migrant population and not on the homeless. Is that correct?

Question: Jesse Rosenbaum

The homeless issue exists and needs to be addressed. The influx of people from down south, being bused in from Texas is exasperating the problem. How do you limit the number coming in and how do you deal with it long term?

Answer: Jumaane Williams

The Migrant Crisis - New York has been put in a very bad way. I do blame some things that have happened in Washington and New York State. That's an excellent question. I want to be clear on this. If the migrant population was not here, that money would not be spent on the homeless. The reason I know that is because it wasn't. I was one of the ones fighting for that money to address the concerns of long-term New Yorkers. We were always told we just don't have the money. I want to make sure we are not scapegoating anyone, even though it's making it harder. I know for a fact we wouldn't just be taking that money and spending it on the homeless, because we never did that. My proposal is that we adopt policies and budgets to do that, and we still can. We are actually going to surplus even more than we thought. We have the ability to do it. We need the elected officials to have the courage to do it. It has nothing to do with the migrant population, even as that population does exasperate the problems that we have. They did not create it, as they were not here. We will continue to have this conversation.

Chairperson Martha Taylor stated this community board is very diverse, and we don't discriminate. However, there are people here who do want to let you know how they feel. Unfortunately, we don't have the time tonight, otherwise I'll lose all my members. She did suggest to Jumaane Williams that he appoint one his staff members, Morris Johns, to collect all the information and put it together. You can then come back another time to discuss those concerns.

The Honorable James F. Gennaro

He spoke about a 50 story building going up at 71-12 Park Place. He is in contact with the Department of Buildings as this is unacceptable. Yet, work is being done. Although, nothing has been approved at this site. He is also in contact with Jimmy Oddo, Buildings Commissioner. Mr. Oddo will get all the information and get back to him.

Maria DeInnocentiis

They are doing work on the property.

Council Member Gennaro

I will work to get a stop work order.

Simon Pelman

Can the owner get a FAA variance to build near an airport?

Council Member Gennaro

He cannot use a variance to get around me. A variance is used for a necessity, which this is not.

Antonio Whitaker, Assistant Director, Community Affairs at Sanitation

New Mandate:

- The fines for Businesses (bad actors) in CB8 putting garbage out early, not using containers is \$50 for the first offense, \$300 for the second and \$500.00 for the third. If you see this violation happening, file a 311 complaint and/or reach out to the community board. Enforcement will go out.
- Starting November 12th, 2024, all residents of single-family homes and two-family homes and buildings with up to 9 families will be required to containerize their trash. I am assuming most of you do anyway. You can still put black bags on the curb, currently.
- Residential Containerization - Starting November 12, 2024, the department will only move your garbage from the curb only if it's in a bin with a secured lid. Whatever trash bin you are currently using is fine as long as it's no bigger than 55 gallons and has a lid that fits securely on top.
- The new NYC Trash Cans:
You do not need to have them now. If you do great, but you won't have to start using them until June 2026. From November 12 - January 1st of 2025, that will be a warning period. If a sanitation enforcement officer happens to drive by your house and see black trash bags on your curb, you will get a warning. You won't have to do anything at that point. This is just sanitation letting you know we saw this in real time and we're giving you time to rectify the issue. January 2nd, of next year that is when summonses will begin if you are not containerizing your trash.

Chairperson Martha Taylor

Those bins/containers that Sherry Reisner is talking about, I never got any of them. Between now and the time I'm supposed to buy the new ones, I want those bins.

Antonio Whitaker

Are you talking about the new ones you ordered and didn't get yet?

Chairperson Martha Taylor

I'm talking about the brown, blue, green, all of the ones Sherry mentioned prior.

Antonio Whitaker

The vendor that the city chose through a public procurement process, the name is Otto. You can purchase your bins online at www.bins.nyc. They not only sell the black trash bins, the ones the residents are required to have but they also sell blue, green and brown bins. Two years ago the department and the city purchased and provided, for free, to members of the public. However, moving forward, the city is requiring the residents to purchase them on their own.

Chairperson Martha Taylor

I did not get the original ones that were given to us for free. I don't want to pay for these new ones. On this requirement of the bins, for the next year, that we must have required from the city I believe is unconstitutional and against the by-laws – it's a monopoly and you can't do it. We are not going to let it go.

Michael Hannibal

This sounds like another thing the city is doing without thinking it through. You're telling us that we're going to get a fine if the department sees a black bag on the curb starting January 2nd. I have landscapers tending to my lawn and they use black bags. They've never put the garbage in bins, they only use black bags. So you're telling me I will get a fine if they use black bags. If I have 5 black bags of garbage and only one 55-gallon bin, they won't all fit in it.

Antonio Whitaker

Landscapers should use clear plastic bags for lawn garbage. The Department of Sanitation does not want black bags on the curb. You'll have to purchase additional bins.

Wendy Gennaro

Further to Michael's comments, it's not just landscaping, I clean out my garage on the weekends. I have to buy 5 more bins? How do we clean our houses out if we can't use the black bags. I will say, I was in the market for a new garbage can and I paid \$78.00 for the recycle bins. I bought them from the city, which I got last week. How do I get rid of the old ones? When I leave a note on it saying "This is garbage, I just bought new ones from the city" will you take it? And they don't take it. When you get new garbage bins, forget about the old ones because sanitation won't take them.

Antonio Whitaker

If you have large items you want to dispose of, tie them up and put them out on your heavy garbage days. Moving forward, if you continue to have a lot of garbage that won't fit in one bin, you will have to purchase additional ones.

Bhithara-Fulton

I ordered my bins at the very beginning and just want to know when I will get them?

Antonio Whitaker

See me at the end of the meeting, take my information and I'll follow-up on it.

Dr. Penny Stern

I've purchased my bins and they've been stolen over and over. Or is sanitation just not putting them back. I look over at my neighbor and they have three bins. How is it? They have three and I only have two. I am now down to one. Am I supposed to continue replacing my bins?

Alan Ong

Composting: We have a lot of seniors in our neighborhood. They don't generate a lot of garbage. When you compost, you actually have very little garbage. To force them to buy a 35- or 45-gallon bin makes things even worse. They are not very happy with this. Any compromise to make the bins smaller like the brown ones?

Antonio Whitaker

I will take back your suggestion and see what we can do. I've actually gone to some other boards, and they suggested that idea as well. Making a black bin smaller like a 13- or 21-gallon size so it will be more manageable for people.

Marie DeInnocentiis

Will the trucks be able to lift the smaller bins?

Antonio Whitaker

Anything smaller than a 35-gallon bin, the mechanical arm is a little too big to lift. In that case, the bins are still small enough for the sanitation worker can just pick it up and tilt it into the truck.

Marie DeInnocentiis

In our neighborhood, a lot of people have lost the lids to their garbage pail. It could either be that they have blown away or that sanitation had a problem with them. What they do now is put their trash in the garbage pail and put in at the curb. Are they going to be allowed to do that?

Antonio Whitaker

Starting November 12th, 2024, you will have to have a lid on your pail. You can buy a new lid for the pail or buy a new one.

Marie DeInnocentiis

On 188th Street, there is construction work going on. I have neighbors telling me that they have driven by, at night, and have seen the construction workers stealing our bins. It's ridiculous. How many bins do you expect us to pay for

before we stop? And then you're going to fine us hundreds of dollars. There's no enforcement of the people stealing and there's no replacement to the homeowners for their stolen bin.

Antonio Whitaker

No one is going to want to hear this. This is what I do at my house. I have a backyard, and I put my bins in the yard when I am not using them or when I'm not at home. If your bin is stolen, file a 311 report with the NYPD. This is a problem that we are facing citywide. We are trying to figure it out.

Chairperson Martha Taylor – I'd rather not belabor this. We must move on.

Jesse Rosenbaum

Is there a proposition on the November 5th ballot that limits the Department of Sanitation to impose this on us. I saw one of the propositions where it limits the sanitation department. Is this true?

Antonio Whitaker

I think it's the second or third ballot measure where it says a couple of things. It actually expands the department's ability in regard to cleaning all city properties. There are certain properties that are city owned that the department doesn't clean, like the park lands so that would actually expand the ability of the Department of Sanitation to be able to clean.

Jesse Rosenbaum

If we vote no on the proposition, does that limit your ability to enforce it?

Antonio Whitaker

I'm not going to tell anyone how to vote. I suggest you read the proposition.

Chairperson Martha Taylor respectfully told Antonio that her members will leave the meeting. They don't stay until 10-12 p.m. at night. She asked if he finished his report. It's not that I don't love you, but we have votes to take and I'm losing my quorum.

Chairperson Martha Taylor asked if anyone wanting to speak with Antonio Whitaker, please go to the back of the auditorium. We are going on with this meeting right now.

Chairperson's Report

Due to Local Law 12, all agencies have been asked to submit a 5-year Accessible Plan. This plan will include steps that will be taken to ensure that agencies' workplace, services, programs and activities are accessible to, and accommodating and inclusive for persons with disabilities. Once our CB8 plan is done, it will be posted on our website. Members of the public will be able to contact us with comments.

Reminder – We all belong to committees. Please go to the meetings that are called for those committees. We need to have attendance at those meetings.

Update on the Sunshine Fund. We had \$42 in the Sunshine Fund. Elke Maerz who manages the fund reported that we collected \$395 last month. We now have a total of \$437. Thank you for your generosity. If you have not donated and wish to do so, please see Elke Maerz after the meeting.

Chairperson Martha Taylor asked Elke Maerz to please stand up and raise her hand. That is the end of my report. Marie, can you please go briefly with your District Manager's Report.

DM Adam-Ovide – I'm only going to mention one point. Please read full report below.

- Last spring we had the Department of Buildings come to our office to assist residents with correcting buildings' violations. It was such a success that we invited them back on Friday, November 15th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. We will host DOB and your community district again. We need at least five people to sign

up as soon as possible so we can guarantee that we have this service. This means you won't have to go all the way to Manhattan to take your violations. I encourage you to sign up and if you know of anyone who needs assistance, have them call us and sign up for November 15th.

DM Adam-Ovide – Due to time constraints, Dr. Penny Stern has submitted her report in writing. It will be in the November Newsletter.

District Manager's Report

Department of Design and Construction

The DDC Project SEQ2002558 has been completed in Jamaica Estates. The project included:

- Installation of 3,420 linear feet of watermain pipes
- Installation of 20 manholes
- Installation of 13 hydrants
- Installation of 20 catch basins
- Installation of 577 linear feet of sanitary sewers
- Installation of 1,524 feet of storm sewers
- Installation of 240 linear feet of porous pavement
- Installation of 18 pedestrian ramps.

They are planning to plant 26 trees. This will probably be done in the spring. As a reminder, whenever there is any DDC work that involves water shut-off, you will first have a 72-hour notice on your door. You will also receive a 24-hour reminder or 24-hour cancellation. Each project is usually assigned a Community Construction Liaison. If you have not done so, please get on the Community Board 8 Email List to receive our Newsletter or so we can share other important notices with you.

Department of Environmental Protection

DEP has a new position – Queens Borough Commissioner. His name is Alfonso Lopez. He came to our District Service Cabinet and the Borough Cabinet this month to introduce himself. He is a Community Board 8 resident and is very familiar with our district. We look forward to working with him in solving our community issues.

Department of Buildings

Last spring, we had staffers from The Department of Buildings (DOB) come to our office to assist our residents with correcting buildings' violations. It was such a success; they are coming back. On Friday, November 15, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Community Board 8 will host another **DOB in Your Community District**. We need at least five people to sign up for this event. There are sign-in sheets at the table if you want to sign up tonight or you can call the office. Please let your friends and neighbors know about this event. It will be advertised in our November Newsletter.



Happy Birthday to: Howard Fried and Ahsan Habib

Marie Adam-Ovide

Jesse Rosenbaum

In regard to 72nd Avenue and Main Street. The Department of Transportation presented a very detailed report. This is the area that has the most pedestrian injuries than any other location in Queens. More people are hurt or killed there as they are crossing with the light. Don't take the truck and delivery site out of context. This was a

very well thought out plan. I will be happy to give you the details next time or have DOT present it. Don't take one item out of a very, very detailed and a really thought-out plan.

In regard to the e-scooter update: I made a presentation as part of the public participation meeting last month. I wanted to tell you that, at short notice, after that meeting, DOT did come to our meeting represented by Cristy Germain-Vanderbilt, DOT borough planner, as well as representatives from each of the three e-scooter companies.

Here is an update on some of the responses from that meeting and the meeting we had here.

- The rental age I reported last month was 16, that was incorrect. It is 18.
- The first three rides are 10 miles an hour, not the first two.
- The initial training session is under 30 minutes.
- Payments are accepted are: Credit Card, Debit Card as well as Apple and Google Pay.
- The information they get is kept on file. They have your information in case there is damage and they need to contact you.
- There are now over 5,000 scooters in Queens among the three separate vendors. Enforcement is done by the NYPD whether it's done or not done, it's not one of their priorities.
- This month, each of the vendors is going to hire 15 clean sweep personnel who's responsible to pick up and remove tipped or incorrectly parked scooters.
- Vendors are suggesting you call 911 if you see these scooters tipped over or mis parked for enforcement. This option is very, very questionable. I don't think it's going to happen.
- The vendors say they will respond to the community complaints when they call in with the scooter id number and location.
- We have not heard back on our suggestion to require license plates to identify the scooters. I think it would be a good remedy for the city and much easier for individuals to report issues with the e-scooters. I strongly suggest they move forward with this.
- Here is the infraction structure:
 - \$5 fine for 1st three violations
 - The fourth violation = suspension
 - The fifth violation = termination of your rights with that company
- Currently, there is no cross communication between vendors. If you get a suspension or termination from one, you can go to another vendor.
- As of yesterday, the vendors have not promised to be in touch with one another to eliminate and terminate riders from switching from one carrier to another. It will also minimize the rental of scooters by a parent and giving it to an underaged child to use.
- We did not consider a parent renting a scooter and giving it to an underaged child to use.
- These are items that are still open that have not been addressed by the companies.
- Helmets: We suggest they be attached to the scooters.
- Scooters should be programmed to stop automatically from riding or parked on sidewalks and in no go zones. That is not being done right now. They have the ability to do this from the office. They have to find a way to take care of that.
- E-scooters should be programmed to stop automatically in an emergency weather situation. They should get a notice on your phone ,same app that you rent from, letting go of a siren – a half hour emergency signal and then the renter should get a notice in 5 minutes and then the scooter should be stopped dead.
- As of now, the riders are responsible for their own insurance, depending on certain circumstances or incidence.
- Each company has liability insurance to cover them and the city of New York.
- There is no coverage right now to cover riders, motorists or pedestrians that get hurt.

- It is recommended that vendors add a fee either when the registration takes place or add a minimal charge to cover the liability.
- Rental and return corrals are being considered based on the trip start, complaints received and recorded parking violations.
- The hot rental spots in CB8 are:
 - 188th Street bet. 64th Ave. and 73rd Ave.
 - 69th Ave. and 195th Street
 - 73rd Ave. and 199th Street
 - Around Queens College and St. John University

DOT is asking for community input regarding the corral locations. We still have serious concerns about the bulk transportation of scooters with the lithium batteries that they carry around. These batteries cause serious fires.

These are all pending issues and hopefully I should have an update for you at our next meeting in December.

Chairperson Martha Taylor suggests if you have any questions for Jesse, see him after the meeting. We have a vote to take on the budget. Please proceed Michael.

Michael Hannibal

In your packet, you have a light blue and green sheet for the Capital Budget and Community Board Expense Budget priorities. Has everyone had a chance to review it? Yes. I'm going to make this very quick. First, I want to thank everyone that helped us put this year's budget and capital expense together. So, hats off to all of you who made this happen. Sey, as well as Maria, thank you for your help last night in getting that done. And Marie, sorry about that. If you look, the only real change is on the capital budget. We had some last-minute entries and there in the red font on the capital budget requests. What we did was look at putting a few in and all regarding our capital projects that would align with sanitary sewers as well as updating and repairing sidewalks and curbs on the median. The expense budget pretty much follows what we did last year but we re-ranked some things because there was some redundancy. What we did. in reviewing it, realized we had to mesh some things together so we wouldn't have to have two lines of I need trucks and lights. What we did was merge them together, so it is a little shorter than last year. If no one has any complaints, I'd like to get a motion to accept this year's community board expense budget and this year's capital budget expense.

Saaif Alam made the motion, seconded by Mary Maggio.

All those in favor – Aye

Any opposition - No

This year's Community Board Expense Budget and Capital Budget request are approved.

28 Yes

0 No

0 Abstentions

Members for: Dilafras Ahmed, Saaif Alam, Edward Chung, Maria DeInnocentiis, Marva Dudley, Allen Eisenstein, Bhitihara-Martha Fulton, James Gallagher, Jr., Joshua Glikman, Wendy Gennaro, Michael Hannibal, Neeta Jain, Elke Maerz, Mary Maggio, Jennifer Martin, Dilip Nath, Alan Ong, Tammy Osherov, Hersch Parekh, Simon Pelman, Frances Peterson, Israel Peskowitz, Jesse Rosenbaum, Seymour Schwartz, Dr. Penny M. Stern, Martha Taylor, Amy Tse, and Jacob Weinberg.

Chairperson Martha Taylor thanked Michael Hannibal.

Saaif Alam made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mary Maggio and Wendy Gennaro.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by,
Nettie V. Norris, CB8 Staff
October 16, 2024*