



Chairperson, Martha Taylor

*The City of New York*  
*Borough of Queens*

**Community Board 8**

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District Manager, Marie Adam-Ovide

## Area 3 & Area 7 Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, April 30, 2025  
Time: 7:30 p.m.  
Re: BHALO  
Place: Community Board 8 Office  
197-15 Hillside Avenue  
Hollis, NY 11423

**Area 3 Committee Members Present:** Saaif Alam, Bhitihara-Martha  
Fulton, Ahsan Habib, Mohammed “Delwar” Islam and Hersh Parekh  
**Absent:** *Wendy Gennaro – Chair*, Dilafroze Ahmed and Frances Peterson.

**Area 7 Committee Members Present:** Mohammed Tohin  
**Absent:** *Howard Fried – Chair*, Edward Chung, Roger Joyner, Michael  
Hannibal, Doretha McFadden, Nikolas Michael, David Mordukhaev,  
Jesse Rosenbaum, Harbachan Singh, Aliyah Salim, Martha Taylor, and  
Mayer Waxman.

**Other CB8 Members:** Marie Adam-Ovide, District Manager and Nettie V. Norris, CB8  
Community Associate

**Also in attendance:** Matthew O’Malley, SBS, Salma Haque and Asm Goni, BHALO

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NYC Small Business Services (SBS) – Presentation of planned work for Hillside Avenue from 169<sup>th</sup>  
Street through a Commercial Revitalization Grant given to a local not-for-profit (BHALO).

Hersh Parekh chaired the meeting in the absence of Mrs. Wendy Gennaro and Mr. Howard Fried.

He introduced himself and asked everyone else to introduce themselves.

Mr. Asm Goni, BHALO shared what their mission is and went through the presentation showing  
slides of what the revitalization would look like. The slides focused on the following:

- Neighborhood Context
- Business Inventory
- Vacancy Rate
- Conditions: Storefront, Streetscape
- Surveys: Merchants, Consumers
- Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities

After the presentation, Hersh Parekh opened up the floor for Q & A.

***Question:*** Hersh Parekh – When was the information on these slides last updated?

***Answer:*** Asm Goni – The update was last done in November 2024.

***Question:*** DM Adam-Ovide – Have you identified the businesses that are losing sales?

***Answer:*** Asm Goni – It is mostly the restaurants. The immigrants are not going out due to the results of the elections.

***Question:*** DM Adam-Ovide – Can you explain what outreach (marketing) you are doing to help those businesses?

***Answer:*** Asm Doni - We have a merchant organization where we can send information that is accessible.

***Asm Goni:*** – Restaurants come and go. Some of the concerns are:

- Parking
- Safety
- Stores getting security
- Marketing
- Awnings
- Food and clothing containers (these would be used to keep the businesses from having the clothes and food out on the open sidewalks).

***Question:*** Hersh Parekh – You’ve been in existence for how long? Can you elaborate on your merchant association?

***Answer:*** Salma Haque (BHALO) – Yes. We’ve been in business for 1 year. The merchant association where we will do future outreach with is called BABSHA.

***Hersh Parekh*** – I suggest you reach out to the Chamber of Commerce. They conduct a lot of door-to-door outreach on major corridors. You should reach out to Councilman Jim Gennaro’s office for the Northside of Hillside Ave. How many members do you have?

***Salma Haque*** – We have about 30 members.

***Question:*** Ahsan Habib – When you had your fair last year, did you reach out to the businesses on Hillside. I have a business in the area and did not receive anything (flyer) from BHALO?

***Answer:*** Salma Haque – Not sure if we reached all of them.

***Mohammed Islam “Delwar”*** – I have a business (grocery store) as well on Hillside Ave. and I did not get a flyer regarding your fair. Vendors are a very big concern. There are no commercial sanitation stickers on the doors of the stores.

***Mohammed Tohin*** – Between 168<sup>th</sup> and 169<sup>th</sup> Street, they have taken over Hillside Ave. and they leave trash/garbage behind and the streets are filthy

***Bhitiara Martha-Fulton*** – Garbage is a major concern in this area.

***Mohammed Tohin*** – The company ACE goes around to help clean up the garbage/trash.

***DM Adam-Ovide*** spoke about the issues in Major Mark Park which is on the Southside of Hillside but affects us here on the Northside. She spoke about how CB8 worked to help get the issues

addressed such as: homeless encampments, safety, lighting, selling of drugs and the park needing more lighting.

**Nettie V. Norris**, CB8 Staffer, who lives across from the park, chimed in as well with her concerns.

**Saaif Alam** – He would like to see more trees planted in our area.

**Mohammed Tohin** – It would be nice if we could have a plaza on 168<sup>th</sup> Street off Hillside Avenue. There is a little square already there. Residents could sit outside.

**Hersh Parekh** – There is a diversity plaza in Jackson Heights and it's very nice.

**DM Adam-Ovide** – We must all have a proud attitude about where we live.

**Hersh Parekh** – Merchants Association/BHALO should reach out to QEDC and the local City Council representatives about the graffiti issue.

**Hersh Parekh** – I ask and encourage BHALO to explore hosting a training seminar for local restaurants about the City's restaurant grading system, since many in this catchment area are graded B or even C.

**Matthew O'Malley**, Small Business Services (SBS) – I work with restaurants and their grading system. SBS can facilitate that training. He will be in touch with CB8.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
*Nettie V. Norris, CB8 Community Associate*  
*May 12, 2025*