



Chairperson, Martha Taylor

The City of New York
Borough of Queens

Community Board 8

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District Manager, Marie Adam-Ovide

Minutes of Community Board 8 Meeting held on Wednesday, December 10, 2025 at the Hillcrest Jewish Center at 183-02 Union Turnpike, Queens, NY 11366.

Attendance:

Board Members Present:

Saaif Alam, Edward Chung, Maria DeInnocentiis, Marva Dudley, Allen Eisenstein, Howard Fried, Bhitihara-Martha Fulton, James Gallagher Jr., John Gebhard, Wendy Gennaro, Ashan Habib, Michael Hannibal, Elke Maerz, Caitlin Marziliano, Nikolas Michael, Dilip Nath, Alan Ong, Tammy Osherov, Hersh Parekh, Marisol Perez, Israel Peskowitz, Mohammad Rahman, Jesse Rosenbaum, Seymour Schwartz, Kelly Sexton, Dr. Penny M. Stern, Martha Taylor and Amy Tse.

Board Members Absent:

Dilafroz Ahmed, Heather Bennett-Idels, Kenneth Cohen II, Lavelda D. Davis, Sheleeza Deen, Armando Echeverry, Joshua Glikman, Mohammed "Delwar" Islam, Neeta Jain, Roger Joyner, Jennifer Martin, Doretha McFadden, Davd Mordukhaev, Frances Peterson, Aliyah Salim, Douglas Sherman, Mohammed Tohin, Steven Villaran, Mayer Waxman and Jacob Weinberg.

Others Present:

Shannar White representative of Congress Member Grace Meng, Keith Felsenfeld representative of Council Member Linda Lee, Shubhra Datta representative of Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, Peter Paolo representative of Council Member James Gennaro, Council Member James Gennaro, Rokeya Akhter representative of District Attorney Melinda Katz, Josh Simanowitz representative of Assembly Member Sam Berger, Scott Sieber representative of Senator John Liu, Vanessa DiNardo representative of Assembly Member David Weprin, 107th Precinct Special Operations Officer Jaspreet Gill, Sergeant Oscar Li, Officer Sean Brewer, Officer Andre Brandon, D.M. Marie Adam-Ovide, and CB8 Staffer Nettie V. Norris.

Call to Order:

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

Public Participation

None

Chairperson Martha Taylor called on the Elected Officials/Representatives to speak.

Elected Officials' Announcements

Rokeya Akhter representing District Attorney Melinda Katz

DA Katz recently announced the largest single gang takedown in Queens' history with 32 defendants indicted. At a press conference tomorrow at 10:45 a.m., the DA along with Governor Kathy Hochul will announce the largest takedown of retail theft. For more information, please see the flyers on the table. Happy Holidays and Happy New Year.

Peter Paolo representing Council Member James Gennaro

Veteran Service Officers (VSO) are now available at your local New York City Council Office. VSA's are professionally trained advocates accredited by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to assist veterans and their families to obtain the benefits they have earned. They are in our office on the 3rd Tuesday of every month from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Please email or call to set up an appointment. For more information, please see the flyers on the table. Happy Holidays and Happy New Year.

Shannar White representing Congresswoman Grace Meng

The office will have weekend hours starting December 13th from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in the Forest Hills Office. For more information, please call the office at (718) 358-6364. Representative Meng and Moore introduced a bill to increase funding for the USDA's Hunger Clearing House hotline to improve access to food assistance, nutritional guidance and social services. The Quiet Communities Act of 2025 was also introduced. It will help to re-establish the office of noise abatement and control within the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The office also offers assistance with Passport renewals. Happy Holidays and Happy New Year.

Scott Sieber representing Senator Liu

The senator will be hosting a free mobile lung cancer health screening, CAT scan and public health screening event on December 19th from 11:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at Ebenezer Baptist Church Parking Lot – 36-12 Prince Street, Flushing, NY 11354. Prescreening and appointment required. Please call the office at (718) 765-6675 for more information. Composting Bins are available at the office free of charge. The office will partner with Community Board 8, Congresswoman Meng, Congress Member Gennaro and Assembly Member Berger on a FDNY Fire Safety Training at Pomonok on Saturday, December 13th. The senator had a bill signing with Assemblywoman Nily Rozic that requires hospitals to have language access in multiple languages. Happy Holidays and Happy New Year.

Vanessa Dinardo representing Assembly Member David Weprin

The office is having our annual Toy Drive from now until December 19th. We are accepting new, unwrapped toy donations. They can be dropped off at our office at 185-06 Union Turnpike. Our phone no. is (718) 454-3027.

Shubhra Datta representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards

The office is having a toy giveaway and tree lighting on December 15th at 6:00 p.m. and on December 17th the Menorah lighting at 4:30 p.m. The events will be held outside Borough Hall. Please see flyers for more information.

Josh Simanowitz representing Assembly Member Sam Berger

After numerous attempts to work collaboratively with both DOT and the rental companies to improve the current e-scooter pilot and make it workable for the district, it has become clear that community concerns are not being meaningfully addressed. As a result, the Assembly Member intends to introduce several pieces of legislation to ensure that the voices of his constituents are heard.

The proposed legislation would:

1. Require e-scooter companies to pay fees that would be dedicated to the maintenance of roads, sidewalks, and related infrastructure, similar to requirements imposed on other roadway users.
2. Mandate that companies carry liability insurance for the operation of their E-scooters.

3. Require all e-scooters to be parked exclusively within designated corrals and prohibit parking elsewhere.
4. Prohibit the operation or parking of e-scooters within 500 feet of sensitive locations, including schools, libraries, hospitals, houses of worship and nursing homes.

He plans to introduce these bills in the coming weeks and we could provide you with links so you could track their progress if you would like.

Keith Felsenfeld representing Council Member Linda Lee

The CUNY School of Law's City Counseling Program connects CUNY Law attorneys with residents to provide legal advice to New York City residents. The office will host attorneys in the office every First and Third Wednesday of the month. Our office is located at 73-03 Bell Boulevard. Please call to make an appointment (718)-468-0137. The council member, in cooperation with other elected officials, will host a free electronics and textile recycling collection event on Saturday, January 10, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Queens County Farm Museum located at 73-50 Little Neck Parkway in Glen Oaks. Veterans' assistance is available at the office. Please see flyers on the table.

Chairperson Martha Taylor called on a representative from the 107th Precinct.

Jaspreet Gill, Special Operations Officer - 107th Precinct

He introduced himself. He also mentioned that there is a new commanding officer, Captain Michael Blacklarkin. During the holiday season there tends to be a lot of home invasions. Lock your doors. If you have packages delivered to your home, retrieve them or have someone get them for you.

Chairperson Taylor requested for the roll call.

DM Adam-Ovide announced we have a quorum.

Salute to the flag – Chairperson Taylor led the salute to the flag.

Chairperson Martha Taylor requested a motion to approve the minutes.

Michael Hannibal made a motion to approve the minutes of Wednesday, November 22, 2025, seconded by Howard Fried.

Chairperson Martha Taylor requested that those in favor of approving the minutes say aye.

27 Yes

0 No

0 Abstentions

The motion passed unanimously.

Members for: Saaif Alam, Edward Chung, Maria DeInnocentiis, Marva Dudley, Allen Eisenstein, Bhitihara - Martha Fulton, Howard Fried, James Gallagher Jr., John Gebhard, Wendy Gennaro, Ashan Habib, Michael Hannibal, Elke Maerz, Nikolas Michael, Caitlin Marziliano, Dilip Nath, Alan Ong, Tammy Osheroov, Hersh Parekh, Marisol Perez, Mohammad Rahman, Jesse Rosenbaum, Seymour Schwartz, Kelly Sexton, Dr. Penny M. Stern, Martha Taylor and Amy Tse.

Chairperson's Report – Martha Taylor

We've reviewed the meeting dates for 2026, approved with no objections. If you need an excused absence, please call the Community Board office. I attended the Fresh Meadows Development's meeting last week. I listened to the revised proposal and to the residents. It came to my attention that they are not properly maintaining the

apartments. That is concerning. This must be addressed before they proceed with any plans for the future. Happy 100th Birthday to Sey Schwartz!

Health Minute with Dr. Penny Stern – Health Committee Chair

December is Safe Toys and Gifts Month as per the American Public Health Association and Prevent Blindness America. The purpose of this campaign is to make people aware of whether particular toys are appropriate for the children receiving them – with special consideration for children under the age of three. Below is a number of guidelines.

- Look carefully at toys with sharp edges, small parts, that shoot, that have batteries and buttons.
- Look at interactive toys that can be played with other children and consider the size of the toy for the age group.
- Read labels and make sure the toy has passed a safety inspection and meets the standards established by the American Society for Testing and Materials.
- If you are giving sports-related gifts, make sure that protective equipment is included – like giving a helmet with a scooter.
- Avoid toys with cords or heating elements.
- Check if there is a possibility of lead exposure. Most older toys that may have been passed down to you often have lead paint on them.
- Avoid giving crayons or markers unless you make sure the ink and dyes are non-toxic.

Wishing everyone, your children, grandchildren and all family members a safe and happy holiday season.

Chairperson Martha Taylor called on DM Marie Adam-Ovide to share her November Report. DM Adam-Ovide invited everyone to read her report as it was in everyone's packet.

District Manager's Report, December 2025

Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

The HIV Program has been stalled since the Federal Government cut funding; however, they are still providing HIV services to patients regardless of legal status or ability to pay.

Department of Parks and Recreation

There will be a Menorah lighting followed by fireworks at Cunningham Park on December 14th from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

NYPD

Deputy Inspector Mo Tsang is no longer our commanding officer. He has taken a new position with the agency. Captain Michael Blacklarkin is the interim commanding officer. There will be interviews and a new C.O. will be chosen to replace D.I. Tsang.

The PBA signed a contract with the administration. There is an ongoing hiring campaign for police officers that will conclude on December 15th. The Youth Coordinating Officers are now called Youth Officers. They are a smaller group; however, they will emphasize school safety and address youth issues only.

There will be a tree lighting ceremony at Electchester on December 15th at 6 p.m.

Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCPW)

The City won a total of \$39M settlement against Starbucks for violating the labor laws as it relates to stable schedules: about \$35M for workers' payout and \$4M penalty to the City of New York.

Department of Environmental Protection

Commissioner Alfonso Lopez gave a DEP's Winter 101 presentation at the Borough Cabinet this week and will email it to us to share with our residents. DEP is promoting their new campaign "Toss it. Don't flush it!" There are certain things that should not be *flushed* (i.e. "flushable wipes", feminine hygiene products, Q-tips, etc.). The agency spends millions of dollars to unclog sewers as a result. These are funds that could be used for other needed projects.

Department of Design and Construction

We have several DDC Projects within our district. DDC completed 470 pedestrian ramps under Project HPWPR321. There will be a work slowdown until late February, as some work cannot be done due to the low temperature. The project is due to be completed at the end of September 2026.

Under Project HWPR20QC, DDC worked at the Grand Central Parkway service road and Wicklow Street, Horace Harding Expressway and 164th Street. Some of the work include complex pedestrian ramps, new sewer installations and catch basins. Beginning Monday, December 8th, there will be a temporary lane closure from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on the Gand Central Parkway's eastbound service road and Parsons Blvd.

Under Project HWPR24Q1, the contractor is working in several different locations throughout Queens. The locations are listed in my weekly Community Advisories sent to you. This project has completed 61 sidewalks and corners in Community Board #8 to date. The contractor will soon go on winter break and will commence in the spring.

Project ID #HBPED800Q - Reconstruction of Tide Gate Bridge over Flushing Creek in Flushing Meadows Corona Park. Current/Upcoming Construction Activities are as follows:

The city contractor continues with sealing and dewatering the cofferdam (weather permitting) and doing debris removal. They are relocating aquatic wildlife relocation (weather permitting).

Demolition consisting of asphalt removal started on the bridge deck, saw cutting on the north and south parapet walls on the bridge, and breaking sidewalk concrete on the south side of the bridge.

Lastly, saw cutting for the watermain work.

Did you know that Queens is the borough with the most veterans in New York City?

The following assistance for veterans is being provided by our City Council Members. Council Member Jim Gennaro's office has Veteran Service Officers now available on the 3rd Tuesday of every month from 10 a.m. to noon at their office located at 83-15 Parsons Blvd. Council Member Linda Lee also offers assistance to veterans on the 4th Monday of every month at John F. Prince VFW Post located at 242-37 Braddock Avenue in Bellerose. Please call them for an appointment.



*Wishing a very Happy Birthday to:
Allen Eisenstein, Bhitihara-Martha Fulton, Mohammed "Delwar" Islam,
Jesse Rosenbaum, Marisol Perez, Steven Villaran, and Seymour Schwartz!*

Marie Adam-Ovide

Chairperson Martha Taylor requested a motion to adjourn.

Hersh Parekh made the motion to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Nettie V. Norris, CB8 Staff
December 17, 2025*