



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, March 19, 2025 at the Hillcrest Jewish Center at 183-02 Union Turnpike, Queens, NY 11366.

**Attendance:**

**Board Members Present:**

Saaif Alam, Heather Bennett-Idels, Kenneth Cohen II, Howard A. Fried, Bhitihara Martha-Fulton, Marva Dudley, James Gallagher Jr., John Gebhard, Joshua Glickman, Michael Hannibal, Nikolas Michael, Dilip Nath, Hersh Parekh, Israel Peskowitz, Tammy Osherov, Simon Pelman, Frances Peterson, Jesse Rosenbaum, Harbachan Singh, Dr. Penny M. Stern, Douglas Sherman, Martha Taylor, Rabbi Mayer Waxman and Jacob Weinberg.

**Board Members Absent:**

Edward Chung, Tobias Paris, Maria DeInnocentiis, Allen Eisenstein, Wendy Gennaro, Mohammed "Delwar" Islam, Ashan Habib, Neeta Jain, Elke Maerz, Mary Maggio, Jennifer Martin, Caitlin Marziliano, David Mordukhaev, Mohammad Rahman, Aliyah Salim, Seymour Schwartz, Deepti Sharma, Jenna Citron Schwab, Mohammed Tohin, Amy Tse, Steven Villaran, Dilafroz Ahmed and Alan Ong.

**Others Present:**

Josh Simanowitz representing Assembly Member Sam Berger, Shubhra Datta representing Borough President Donovan Richards, Ruocheng Chen representing Council Member Linda Lee, Peter Paulo representing Councilman James F. Gennaro, Juan Palare representing Senator Toby Stavisky, P.O. Kevin McCarthy representing NYPD – 107th, 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.

*Chairperson Taylor requested a roll call*

*DM Adam-Ovide announced we have a quorum*

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**Public Participation:**

**Michael Sidell**

He spoke about the new bus routes in Queens and is very disappointed with many of the routes. In particular, the Q73 was taken away and replaced with the Q74. He mentioned that the elderly, those with limited walking abilities and the handicapped used the Q73 which took them to many of the areas they visited without having to take 2-3 buses. Whereas the Q74 bus doesn't make as many stops and you have to change buses. It is inconvenient and he wants to fight to have the Q73 back in route. He invited those who have the same concerns to go to CB6 on May 14<sup>th</sup> and take part in their public hearing.

**Lydia Rivera Velazquez**

She presented some concerns about safety in her neighborhood. She came with a petition that has 301 signatures that she previously submitted to CB8 with respect to traffic safety affecting Hyde Park Gardens Co-op with 746 apartments. The building is located in the boundaries surrounding 136<sup>th</sup> street, 138<sup>th</sup> street and Park Drive East. A high volume of vehicles speed through the neighborhood daily and is dangerous. She would like to see some enhanced infrastructure that would prevent speeding. She would like to see some speed bumps, better lighting and a sidewalk. This is a critical issue and she would like have a study done so some of the safety concerns will be addressed and acted upon.

**Shannar White representing Councilmember Grace Meng**

Representative Meng will be holding weekend office hours at her Northeast Queens office located at 40-13 159<sup>th</sup> Street. For more information or questions, please call the district office at (718) 358-6364.

7,500+ joined representative Meng on her recent telephone town hall. Constituents were able to get questions answered on issues that matter to them the most. She thanked everyone who attended.

She was instrumental in having the administration reverse their previous position on making funding and staff cuts to the World Trade Center Health program.

She helped pass legislation that allows eligible New Yorkers to file their taxes online for free with the IRS Direct File.

**Brooke Smith, Director of the Point Family Enrichment Center**

This is a new community center focused on servicing the entire community with no age requirement. We are a program under Common Wood. We service the Briarwood and Flushing South community. It is funded by the Administration for Children's Services. For more information, please call our office at (917) 548-0175.

**Peter Paulo representing Councilmember Jim Gennaro**

They moved to a new office- 83-15 Parsons Boulevard, Jamaica, NY 11432.

E-waste event co-hosted with Assembly Member Sam Berger – drop off location: Young Israel of Kew Gardens Hills at 70-11 150<sup>th</sup> Street, Kew Gardens Hills. We accept working and non-working computers, monitors, scanners, printers etc. For more information, please call our office at (718) 217-4969. You can find flyers on the table regarding our family fun days starting on May 17<sup>th</sup> to June 22, 2025.

**Captain Mo Tsang - 107<sup>th</sup> Precinct Commanding Officer**

- Crime is down by 12% in 2025. To date only 26 burglaries in the 107<sup>th</sup>.
- Grand Larceny Auto Theft (GLA) auto continues to be on the rise especially with Honda's.
- Air Tag Devices will be given out on 3/20/25 from 10am – 12pm in Cunningham Park. It is for Hondas only and will be free.

*Chairperson, Martha Taylor asked Captain Tsang to explain what the Air Tag device is.*

*Captain Tsang – The ATD is a small tracking device. You put it in your car, under the seat and if your car is stolen, it can be found.*

**Upcoming events: – Borough Hall, 120-55 Queens Boulevard, Kew Gardens.**

- You can RSVP to any of these events on our website at [queensbp.nyc.gov](https://queensbp.nyc.gov) or if you have questions or concerns, you can contact me at (718) 286-3000.

## **Health Minute with Dr. Penny Stern – Health Committee Chair**

In general, the risk for colorectal cancer increases with age and there are also contributing factors that elevate risk including leading a sedentary lifestyle, consuming a diet that is low in fruits and vegetables and so is low in fiber as well as eating a high-fat diet with a lot of processed foods. Excess weight and alcohol consumption are also factors to consider as is being a smoker. Colorectal cancer is treatable especially when identified at an early stage.

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*Chairperson Taylor requested a motion to approve the minutes.*

***Approval of Minutes:*** Michael Hannibal made a motion to approve the minutes of Wednesday, March 12, 2025 seconded by Howard Fried.

*Chairperson Taylor asked if anyone had any corrections or concerns about the minutes – answer was no. Chairperson Taylor requested that those in favor of approving the minutes raise your hand.*

**24 Yes**

0 No

### 0 Abstention

*The motion passed unanimously.*

**Members for:** Saaif Alam, Heather Bennett-Idels, Kenneth Cohen II, Howard A. Fried, Bhitihara Martha-Fulton, Marva Dudley, James Gallagher Jr., John Gebhard, Joshua Glickman, Michael Hannibal, Nikolas Michael, Dilip Nath, Hersh Parekh, Israel Peskowitz, Tammy Osheroov, Simon Pelman, Frances Peterson, Jesse Rosenbaum, Harbachan Singh, Dr. Penny M. Stern, Douglas Sherman, Martha Taylor, Rabbi Mayer Waxman and Jacob Weinberg.

Community Board 8 recently received Comptroller Brad Lander's Audit Report on Controls over Payroll, Personnel and Purchasing at the Queens Community Boards. I am pleased to announce that out of 14 boards, Community Board 8 was found to follow all the directives without any issues (CB5 and CB9) was found to follow all the directives without any issues. The report will be mailed to the members tomorrow. I have a hard copy, if you wish to look at it. Next month, we will have Queens DEP Commissioner Alfonso Lopez as our guest speaker. He will present Flooding 101. This is right when the rainy season starts.

**Public Hearing:**

24 Yes      0 No      0 Abstention (roll call vote)

**24 Yes**                      **0 No**                      **0 Abstentions**

## Department of Design and Construction

- Queens Public Library**

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**Department of Buildings**

The agency is offering to come back to our office for “DOB in Your Community District” this year. We are planning to have the Department of Buildings’ representative in our office on **Friday, May 9, 2025**, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please save the date and/or contact us to reserve your spot.

For the previous month, the Department of Buildings received these five (5) top complaints for our area: 56 complaints for work without permits, 46 illegal conversion complaints, 23 complaints for electrical wiring defects, 20 elevator complaints and 16 boiler complaints.

**Mayor’s Community Affairs Unit**

Through the Fair Fare System, New York City residents who qualify will pay a maximum of \$17 a week to use MTA buses and subways. To qualify one must be between the ages of 18 to 64 years old and meet 145% of the Federal Poverty guidelines. Please go to [nyc.gov/fairfares](https://nyc.gov/fairfares) for more information.

**Department of Social Services/HRA**

If you are facing financial difficulties, residents can apply for one shot deals through [nyc.gov/access](https://nyc.gov/access). The agency wanted to remind Medicaid recipients that they must recertify. If not, they will lose their coverage. DSS/HRA sends a notice two months prior to the deadline to recertify. If the funds from your EBT card were stolen last year up until December 20, 2024, you can still apply to get the funds replaced.

Senator John Liu is looking to change the EBT cards to include chips to prevent theft. For now, it appears to be cost prohibitive. Assembly Member Sam Berger introduced legislation to address the theft issue as well. Those who are tech savvy can download an App to freeze the card to prevent theft. There is also a number one can call to do the same thing if they are not tech savvy.

**NYC Commission on Human Rights**

The agency encourages residents and property owners to reach out to the NYC Commission on Human Rights if background checks are done to ensure compliance with the new guidelines.

**Department of Environmental Protection**

In February there were 635 complaints for the CB8 area through 311. This included 222 noise complaints, 114 for air/smoke complaints and 56 leaks reported.

**Aging NYC**

The agency has Medicare orientations available. If anyone is interested, please contact: (212) AGING-NYC.

**Department of Transportation**

The agency will be looking for recommendations for new locations for scooter corrals. They are looking to place them on large sidewalks at the corners where there is already “daylighting” as not to take away parking spaces



*Happy Birthday to Harbachan Singh, Michael Hannibal, Israel Peskowitz and Dilip Nath!*

*Marie Adam-Ovide*

Jacob Weinberg made a motion to adjourn and John Gebhard seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
*Nettie V. Norris, CB8 Staff*  
March 26, 2025