



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, September 10, 2025, at the Hillcrest Jewish Center at 183-02 Union Turnpike, Queens, NY 11366.

Attendance:

Board Members Present:

Saaif Alam, D. Lavelda Davis, Maria DeInnocentiis, Marva Dudley, Armando Echeverry, Allen Eisenstein, Howard A. Fried, Bhitihara Martha-Fulton, James Gallagher Jr., Ahsan Habib, Mohammed “Delwar” Islam, Elke Maerz, Caitlin Marziliano, Nikolas Michael, David Mordukhaev, Dilip Nath, Alan Ong, Tammy Osherov, Hersh Parekh, Marisol Perez, Israel Peskowitz, Frances Peterson, Mohammad Rahman, Jesse Rosenbaum, Seymour Schwartz, Douglas Sherman, Harbachan Singh, Dr. Penny M. Stern, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin, Amy Tse, and Rabbi Mayer Waxman.

Board Members Absent:

Dilafroz Ahmed, Heather Bennett-Idels, Edward Chung, Kenneth Cohen II, Sheleeza Deen, John Gebhard, Wendy Gennaro, Joshua Glickman, Michael Hannibal, Neeta Jain, Roger Joyner, Jennifer Martin, Doretha Mcfadden, Aliyah Salim, Kelly Sexton, Steven Villaran, and Jacob Weinberg.

Others Present:

Shannar White representative of Congresswoman Grace Meng, James Mongeluzo representative of NYC Comptroller Brad Lander, Shubhra Datta representative of Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, Peter Paolo representative of Council Member James Gennaro, Rokeya Akher representative of District Attorney Melinda Katz, Scott Sieber representative of Senator John Liu, Wael, Abdallh representative of Senator Toby Stavisky, Ryan Alwi representative of Senator Comrie, Denis Downing representative if Queens Public Library, D.M. Marie Adam-Ovide, and CB8 Staffer and Nettie V. Norris.

Call to Order:

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

Public Participation:

Derrell George

Unique Resilience is a companionship company. The company provides community integration, daily living skills, and anything that is nonmedical for elderly and disabled people on an hourly basis.

Saaif Alam

Saaif Alam was recently elected as President of Jamaica Hill Community Association. The group was founded in 1973. Since then, the group advocated for public safety, zoning, parks renovation and more. Also, the new Vice President of the Association is Mohammad Delwar Islam and the advisor is Bhitihra Martha Fulton. They look

forward to continuing the great work from the previous administration to advocate for the interest of the residents in Jamaica Hill, Queens.

Chairperson Taylor called up our special guest Senator John Liu to speak.

Senator John Liu

Senator John Liu introduced legislation, S8495, to ensure New Yorkers can access lifesaving immunizations at their local pharmacies. The legislation empowers the New York State Commissioner of Health to authorize licensed pharmacists to administer FDA-approved vaccines recommended by the New York State Immunization Advisory Council (IAC) or the Department of Health. Senator Liu is continuing to meet with the Fresh Meadows Development developers and is listening to the concerns of the community.

The Senator passed legislation, S7121A, to authorize the City of New York to discontinue the use of certain designated parkland within Flushing Meadows Corona Park to facilitate the development of a gaming facility with affiliated commercial, retail, entertainment, recreational, hotel, convention, and community facility uses, while ensuring the dedication of equivalent parkland improvements. This would allow the Metropolitan Casino project to be considered by the New York State Gaming Commission.

Chairperson Taylor called up our special guest Assemblymember Samuel Berger to speak.

Assembly Member Samuel Berger

Assembly Member Sam Berger has received positive feedback on the new cell phone ban. The ban is intended to eliminate distractions in New York schools by restricting smartphones in K-12 schools. The Assembly Member is making efforts to crack down on the littering of e-scooters. He has been working with DOT to get the e-scooters out of the area. Assembly Member Berger is continuing to fight on behalf of the residents by introducing legislation that addresses the concerns of the community. He stressed the need to hear from community members so that he can continue to introduce impactful legislation. If anyone has any concerns, feel free to call their office at 718-969-1508.

Elected Officials' Announcements

Rokeya Akhter representing District Attorney Melinda Katz

District Attorney Melinda Katz has been hyper-focused on shuttering smoke shops illegally selling marijuana. Working with the NYPD and the NYC Sheriff Cannabis Task Force, their office recently padlocked six different businesses. For months, undercover investigators went into these shops and successfully purchased marijuana. None of the stores were licensed dispensaries.

In addition to locking the businesses' doors, the operation seized over 300 pounds of cannabis products and 170 pounds of illegal tobacco vapes. The marijuana sold in these unlicensed shops is unregulated. District Attorney Katz successfully prosecuted a 41-year-old man who faked a lease and claimed to be the rightful resident of a St. Albans house in the spring of 2024. The District Attorney is prioritizing removing squatters and prosecuting those who make illegal claims to a property.

Ryan Alwi representing Senator Leroy Comrie

Senator Leroy Comrie has some bills that he is working on to address issues in Community Board 8. They have been hearing many reports about high utility bill increases. More rate hikes are being considered. They introduced Senate bill S1847, which would require the public service commission to consider the economic impact of utility rates and charges. The bill passed the Senate last year but failed to pass the assembly.

The Senator also introduced Senate bill S106, which would establish safety requirements for commercial bicycle operators and businesses. This passed the Senate but not the Assembly. Senator Comrie is hosting several events

between September and October. Please feel free to call their office at 718-765-6359 for any questions about these events or if you need help with any governmental issues.

Keith Felsenfeld representing Council Member Linda Lee

Council Member Linda Lee is hosting two events. The first event is their Fall 2025 Health Fair on September 28th in Cunningham Park 196-00 Union Turnpike. Activities including blood pressure screening, diabetes screening, eye exams and much more. The office is partnering with several elected officials and organizations including NYPD who will have their game truck. Mammogram Bus Program in front of the Glen Oaks Library will be on October 8th. More information will be sent out. If anyone has any concerns, feel free to call their office at 718-468-0137.

Vanessa Dinardo representing Assembly Member David Weprin

Assemblymember David Weprin has a new staffer on his team, Vanessa Dinardo, who introduced herself. The Assembly Member is monitoring the MTA Bus Redesign and the DOT Hillside Bus Priority. Assembly Member Weprin completed two successful backpack giveaways. He attended the Q-Team meet and greet and are aware of the quality-of-life concerns residents have. The Assembly Member plans to coordinate with the Q-Team to address any issues residents have. This month is Senior Appreciation Month. The office will be hosting several events in October. If anyone has any concerns, feel free to call their office at 718-454-3027.

James Mongeluzo representing Comptroller Brad Lander

Comptroller Brad Lander reveals system-wide non-compliance and profound failures in the Department of Education's (DOE) English Language Learners (ELLs) services, which denied legally mandated services to thousands of students. The Comptroller unveiled a report card that evaluated every city bus line's on-time performance, speed, and the frequency of service delays. New York City's 332 bus lines operating across the five boroughs received a D or F grade for 186 of the 332 bus lines. Putting each bus line on an A-F grading report card can assist the City and State in targeting interventions to improve bus performance. Comptroller Lander also reached a \$3 million settlement with LN Pro Services, LLC and Fleetwash, Inc. to pay back wages for subway cleaners hired to clean and disinfect subways during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Peter Paolo representing Council Member James Gennaro

Council Member James Gennaro welcomes everyone back from the summer break. The Council Member is hosting a street co-naming on Sunday, September 21 at the intersection of 75th Avenue and 147th Street in honor of former Council Member Morton Povman. If anyone has any concerns, feel free to call their office at 718-217-4969.

Chairperson Taylor requested for the roll call.

DM Adam-Ovide announced we have a quorum.

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

Chairperson Taylor called on Shubhra Datta to speak.

Shubhra Datta – representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards

Queens Borough President Donovan Richards is hosting several events in September. To learn more about the events and register, you can visit their website at queensbp.nyc.gov. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to their office by calling 718-286-3000.

Chairperson called on Captain Tsang to speak.

Captain Mo Tsang, 107th Precinct Commanding Officer

During the 28-day period, crime is down in almost all categories except for grand larceny. When we compare the Grand Larceny during the 28-day period from last year, we had 55% verses 37%, which is a 48.6% increase. Grand Larceny Auto is down 57.1% during the 28-day period.

Chairperson Taylor requested a motion to approve the minutes.

Approval of Minutes: Hersh Parekh made a motion to approve the minutes of Wednesday, June 11, 2025, seconded by Harbachan Singh.

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

32 Yes

0 No

0 Abstentions

The motion passed unanimously with corrections.

Members for: Saaif Alam, D. Lavelda Davis, Maria DeInnocentiis, Marva Dudley, Armando Echeverry, Allen Eisenstein, Howard A. Fried, Bhitihara Martha-Fulton, James Gallagher Jr., Ahsan Habib, Mohammed “Delwar” Islam, Elke Maerz, Caitlin Marziliano, Nikolas Michael, David Mordukhaev, Dilip Nath, Alan Ong, Tammy Osherov, Hersh Parekh, Marisol Perez, Israel Peskowitz, Frances Peterson, Mohammad Rahman, Jesse Rosenbaum, Seymour Schwartz, Douglas Sherman, Harbachan Singh, Dr. Penny M. Stern, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin, Amy Tse, and Rabbi Mayer Waxman.

Chairperson’s Report – Martha Taylor

Welcome back! Community Board 8 will be preparing to submit our district’s budget priorities in October. Today was the deadline to submit new items to us for Fiscal Year 2027. The deadline has been extended to this Friday. If you have any capital or expense budget request, please submit them in writing to the office by end of business day, Friday, September 12th.

Last Tuesday, I attended a meeting at the 107th Police Precinct about the new Quality of Life Tea, (Q-Team) along with some CB8 Members, Civic Leaders and elected representatives. The officers encouraged residents to continue filling 311 complaints and to leave their contact information. They may need to contact you for additional information, or they may need to contact you for additional information, or they may have updates to share with your concerns. We have representatives of the 107th Precinct here this evening and I invite them to speak about the Q-Team.

Health Minute with Dr. Penny Stern – Health Committee Chair

I recently learned that September, the month almost all of us associate with events like Labor Day, the end of summer, and the start of a new school year, is also designated as Healthy Aging Month – and has been for over 30 years. In general, the purpose of the month is to remind us that there can be positive physical, social and mental aspects at any age. And while nearly everyone faces some challenges as our lives progress, there are also immense rewards to be had.

Thus year, the theme of Healthy Aging Month is “It’s never too late to reinvent yourself.” Meaning that you can always make changes that can bring excitement and purpose into your life. This applies to everyone, regardless of age. Whether you choose to engage in more physical activity or rediscover our community and surrounding areas by visiting the sites that make it special, you can choose to be involved in activities that can help promote better health. Encourage your family and friends to also participate with you.

You may have read recently about the study that found engaging in tai chi, the ancient Chinese practice of slow movements and controlled breathing, reduces the risk of dementia. That was a fascinating finding but having traveled to China and seen older folks in parks doing tai chi, I am not surprised at all that this meditative activity is so beneficial. How about taking courses either in person or online? These can expand your knowledge and make you a true life-long learner. Take the opportunity to talk to the people you may meet casually while engaging in these activities. This keeps social isolation at bay, and we know that being socially isolated is strongly associated with poorer health outcomes.

One of the best health-promoting activities you can engage in is cooking, since most of us routinely eat way too much processed food. When you prepare food from scratch, you can control all the ingredients, including salt and sugar content, making for a way better source of nutrition. Wherever your interests lie, you can find a volunteering effort that will meet them. There is almost an unlimited choice of ways to enhance your life, regardless of age. Remember, it's never too late to reinvent yourself.

District Manager's Report, September 2025

Department of Parks and Recreation

Parks Manager Nelson Fung stated that work is ongoing at Cunningham Park and Parking Lot #2 is still closed. We raised the issue of lack of Park Enforcement for noise, parking on the grass, etc. We were informed that Park Enforcement was there for the last two weekends and issued violations to park goers who were not following the rules. While they cannot remain at the park constantly, they have been coming to do enforcement. Mr. Fung also explained that permits are required for groups of 20 or more. Smaller groups are not required to have permits; although, he recommends taking out a permit for the picnic areas to avoid conflicts.

Police Department

Crime has been down for the last 28 days. The Q-teams started. The 107th Community Car Wash will be held on September 20th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The yearly Halloween event, Trunk or Treat, will be held at the end of October - more information to follow.

Department of Design and Construction

- **Tide Gate Project – Community Construction Liaison Karen Flores** informed us that due to the U.S. Open, the project will pause. Construction will resume on September 15, 2025. The Tide Gate Bridge remains closed to vehicular traffic 24/7. A week Look Ahead Schedule will be distributed on September 12, 2025.
- **HWPR24Q1 - Community Construction Liaison Iva Christie** is back! This time she informed us of a new project for pedestrian ramp installation for Queens that includes sections of Community Board 8. We should receive notices with locations stating where the work is to be performed this week for next week.

Department of Sanitation

The agency stated that they did address the areas near St John's University – Goethals Avenue was cleaned.

The agency cleaned 11 miles of center medians so far this year. Two segments remain: the Queens Boulevard medians and the Main Street medians. Due to City legislation that passed a few years ago, spraying the weeds on the center medians was suspended due to toxicity. Community Board 8 has asked as part of our budget requests for this fiscal year that the agency find and use non-toxic herbicides to resume spraying the weeds on

the center medians. We learned that the agency has resumed spraying the center medians this week. They stated that it is 80% effective. If needed, they will go back and spray them again. We also asked that they spray them earlier next year.



Happy Birthday to: Wendy P. Gennaro and Dr. Penny Stern!

Marie Adam-Ovide

Chairperson Taylor requested a motion to adjourn.

Hersh Parekh made the motion. Adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Soleil Griffin, CB8 Staff
September 23, 2025*