



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, April 15, 2026 at the Hillcrest Jewish Center at 183-02 Union Turnpike, Queens, NY 11366.

Attendance:

Board Members Present:

Sara Abiboutros, Dilaafroz Ahmed, Saaif Alam, Heather Bennett-Idels, Damian Corbett, D. Lavelda Davis, Sheleeza Deen, Maria Deinnocentiis, Marva Dudley, Allen Eisenstein, Sultana Fatema, Sharlene Forbes, Bhitihara-Martha Fulton, James Gallagher Jr., Wendy Gennaro, Ashan Habib, Michael Hannibal, Mohammed “Delwar” Islam, Neeta Jain, Elke Maerz, Jennifer Martin, Caitlin Marziliano, Doretha McFadden, Nikolas Michael, Rebecca Montalbano, Marisol Morales, David Mordukhaev, Dilip Nath, Alan Ong, Tammy Osheroov, Hersh Parekh, Israel Peskowitz, Frances Peterson, Jesse Rosenbaum, Araliya Senerat, Kelly Sexton, Douglas Sherman, Dr. Penny M. Stern, Martha Taylor, Amy Tse and Mayer Waxman.

Board Members Absent:

Edward Chung, Armando Echeverry, Howard A. Fried, John Gebhard, Kiiru Gichuru, Marisol Perez, Mohammad Rahman, Seymour Schwartz and Jacob Weinberg.

Others Present:

Keith Felsenfeld representative of Council Member Linda Lee, Georgia Katsalis representative of Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, Shannar White representing Congresswoman Grace Meng, James Mongeluzo representing Comptroller Mark Levine, Peter Paolo representative of Council Member James Gennaro, Rokeya Akhter representative of District Attorney Melinda Katz, Scott Sieber representative of Senator John Liu, Ryan Alwi representative of Senator Leroy Comrie, Jennifer Martin, Schwartz Brothers-Jeffer Memorial Chapels, Deirdre Poulos – Mount Hebron & Cedar Grove Cemeteries, Daisy Wang, Housing Works, Yvonne Oliver, NAACP, P.O. Kevin McCarthy & P.O. Timothy Gorman, 107th Precinct, D.M. Marie Adam-Ovide and CB8 Staffer Nettie V. Norris.

Call to Order:

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

Chairperson Taylor welcomed and introduced the new board members. They each stood up and introduced themselves to the board and public.

Public Participation

Wendy Phaff-Gennaro

Welcome and congratulations to the new board members.

I am a Community Board 8 Member representing QCP. I am the Director of Development for the Queens Centers for Progress (QCP). Queens' Centers for Progress is committed to providing person-centered services and support to children and adults who have developmental disabilities. The goal of these services and support is to promote independence, community involvement, and quality of life. We have an event coming up on April 26th in Flushing Meadow Park. It is called the "5K QCP Color Bash" it will be recognizing people who have developmental disabilities. Please call the office for more information on 718-380-3000.

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

Elected Officials' Announcements

Rokeya Akhter representing District Attorney Melinda Katz

NYPD Detective Diller – The defendant who shot and killed Detective Jonathan Diller was convicted of aggravated manslaughter in the first degree, the attempted murder of an NYPD Sergeant and related charges.

On March 25, 2024, Guy Rivera possessed two loaded handguns on a busy street in Far Rockaway. After shooting Detective Diller, the defendant pointed a firearm at the chest of NYPD Sergeant Sasha Rosen and pulled the trigger. Miraculously, the gun jammed and a mortally wounded Detective Diller wrestled the firearm away from the defendant. The defendant is facing 90 years to life in prison when he is sentenced on April 27th.

Subway Shove Case – Justice was achieved for an 82-year-old woman who was shoved from the Flushing-Main Street subway platform and onto the tracks in October 2024. It's a miracle she survived. The man who senselessly and without provocation pushed the elderly victim has now been sentenced to 15 years in prison. The defendant pleaded guilty to attempted murder in the second degree.

Flyers are on the table regarding our upcoming event where we will be honoring our veterans, one being our very own Sey Schwartz.

Ryan Alwi representing Senator Leroy Comrie

He announced the upcoming Events: If you need additional information, please call the office on 718-765-6359. Flyers are on the table.

Peter Paolo representing Councilmember James Gennaro

He announced the upcoming Events: If you need additional information, please call the office on 718-217-4969. Flyers are on the table.

Shannar White representing Congresswoman Grace Meng

Congresswoman Meng helped to pass a bi-partisan bill which will protect public safety programs, jobs and investments in science while maintaining gun safety protections. As for immigration, she continues to advocate for immigrant communities and continues to advocate for stronger oversight with ICE. Congresswoman Meng will continue to advocate for our veterans and to vote for extending the Affordable Care Act. For additional information, please call our office at 718-358-6364.

He announced the upcoming Events: If you need additional information, please call the office on 718-765-6675. Flyers are on the table.

Georgia Katsalis - representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards

On behalf of the Borough President, congratulations to all the new applicants that were appointed. We had a total of 962 applicants this year. It's very important to be a part of this community in supporting and stepping up to this new role and having a prosperous future. We look forward to working with each and every one of you. We encourage each new applicant to connect with the board and the chairperson. The borough president has a swearing in on April 20th at Queens Borough Hall at 6:00 pm. The doors open at 5:30 p.m. The new members are invited to attend and the existing members are invited as well. What will be included in the swearing in will be the URLUP and Land Use process, conflict of interest and the New York City budget training. We have a few events coming up. If you have any questions, please call our office (718) 286-3000.

Keith Felsenfeld - representing Council Member Linda Lee

He announced the upcoming Events: If you need additional information, please call the office on (718) 468-0137. Flyers are on the table.

James Mongeluzo representing Comptroller Mark Levine

Our office recently put out a policy report about how to strengthen the city's rainy-day fund so we can have more money on hand in case of a bad fiscal downturn. The economy, in general, is doing well despite some of the budget gaps. We also put out a report on helping small businesses cut through the red tape by reducing fines and helping things move along faster. We did a few more reports that we will be able to elaborate on in the future. If you would like more information, please call our office on (646) 689-6509.

P.O. Timothy Gorman – representing the 107th Precinct

The precinct has seen a lot of jewelry scams. This is how it works: If you are wearing a necklace and/or a bracelet and a car comes up and stops you, they will ask if they can put some special beads on you and pray for you and in the interim, steal your jewelry. If you wear jewelry, please put it under a blouse or scarf so it can't be seen. We ask that you be aware of your surroundings and if someone approaches you about the beads and prayers, walk away. Also, place a call to 911 even if nothing happens. If you see something suspicious, call and give them the description of the individual (s). A lot of times, these cases are broken just by us going back to the 911 calls.

Upcoming Event: May 31st. from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at Queens College Lot 6 – “Touch A Truck” – enter at 150th Street and Melbourne Avenue. For more information, please contact Community Affairs at 929-270-6439.

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, March 11, 2026 seconded by Amy Tse.

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

42 Yes

0 No

0 Abstentions

The motion passed unanimously.

Members for: Sara Abiboutros, Dilafroz Ahmed, Saaif Alam, Heather Bennett-Idels, Damian Corbett, Lavela Davis, Sheleeza Deen, Maria Deinnocentiis, Marva Dudley, Allen, Eisenstein, Sultana Fatema, Sharlene Forbes, Bhitihara-Martha Fulton, James Gallagher Jr., Wendy Gennaro, Ashan Habib, Michael Hannibal, Mohammed “Delwar” Islam, Neeta Jain, Elke Maerz, Jennifer Martin, Caitlin Marziliano, Doretha McFadden, Nikolas Michael, Rebecca Montalbano, Marisol Morales, David Mordukhaev, Dilip Nath, Alan Ong, Tammy Osheroov, Hersh Parekh, Israel Peskowitz, Frances Peterson, Jesse Rosenbaum, Araliya Senerat, Kelly Sexton, Douglas Sherman, Dr. Penny M. Stern, Martha Taylor, Amy Tse and Mayer Waxman.

Chairperson’s Report – Martha Taylor

Chairperson Taylor welcomed and introduced the new board members by name. District Attorney Melinda Katz is hosting a Memorial Day Observance Ceremony on Thursday, May 21, 2026 at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Elmhurst Park located at 79th Street at Grand Avenue, Elmhurst, NY 11373. The event begins at 11:00 a.m. One of the honorees is our very own Sey Schwartz. If you can make the time, please go out and support him. I know Sey would appreciate that.

Our Sunshine Fund needs to be replenished. I want to ask everyone to please give a donation. Elke Maerz has the envelope and will be collecting the donations. For those of you who don’t know what the Sunshine Fund is, it is monies that we use for celebrations, congratulations, bereavement after a death or during convalescent for any of our members so we collect funds from our members for this purpose. We send out a nice fruit basket. We cannot use any city funds. If you cannot make your donation tonight, please do so next month. Thank you.

There is a list in your packets of the functional committees. For the members who are not new, if you haven’t filled it out yet, please do so. For the new members, please fill it out and give it to Marie at the end of the meeting.

Chairperson Taylor called on Jennifer Martin to introduce our guest speaker.

Jennifer Martin, Funeral Director, Schwartz Brothers-Jeffer Memorial Chapels

She introduced herself and shared that she is on Community Board 8. She introduced Deirde Poulos.

Guest Speaker – Deirde Poulos, Mount Hebron & Cedar Grove Cemeteries

Legacy Foundation Presentation:

- We were looking for ways where we could honor our veterans after their transition.
- We connected with Queens College and hired interns to do research about deceased veterans.
- We have names of numerous war veterans that we have honored for the past 5 years.
- We offer in-house audio tours.
- We had the interns reach out to the community to ask them to share stories about their parents, grandparents and share their journey. They gathered very useful information.
- We aim to preserve legacy for years to come, generation to generation.
- We had prominent leaders that had worked in the community who are now resting at the cemetery.
- If you have someone or know of someone that you would like share their story, please see the flyer on the table for more information on how that works.

Chairperson Taylor reminded the board that we will have our annual CB8 picture taken at our May 15th, meeting. She asked them to fill out the form in their packet with their shirt size.

Chairperson Taylor advised the board that Sheldon Lobel, P.C. filed an application on behalf of Fresh Meadows Bukharian Synagogue, Inc. on April 17, 2025 with respect to Board of Standards Appeals Calendar No. 135-08-BZ. The current application filed under BSA Cal. No. 135-08-BZ has been withdrawn.

Nominations – Dr. Penny Stern, Chair of the Nominating Committee

In accordance with the By-laws of Community Board 8, the April meeting is a nominating meeting. The procedure is that in April we nominate candidates to serve as Officers of the Board. At the May meeting, there is a vote. To be eligible for nomination, a member must have served a minimum of one term [or two years]. In accordance with the By-Laws, I now open the floor for nominations:

Dr. Penny Stern - Is there a nomination for Chairperson of the Board?

Answer [Michael Hannibal] - I am nominating Martha Taylor for Chairperson of the Board.

Dr. Penny Stern - Do I have a second?

Answer [Bhitihara Fulton] – I second.

Dr. Penny Stern - Are there any other nominations on the floor for Chairperson? Hearing none, Dr. Stern closed nominations for Chairperson.

Dr. Penny Stern - Is there a nomination for 1st Vice-Chair of the Board?

Answer [Hersh Parekh] - I am nominating Michael Hannibal for 1st Vice-Chair of the Board

Dr. Penny Stern Do I have a second?

Answer [Dr. Penny Stern] – I second.

Dr. Penny Stern - Are there any other nominations on the floor for 1st Vice-Chair? Hearing none, Dr. Stern closed nominations for 1st Vice-Chair.

Dr. Penny Stern - Is there a nomination for 2nd Vice-Chair of the Board?

Answer [Michael Hannibal] - I am nominating Seymour Schwartz for 2nd Vice-Chair of the Board.

Dr. Penny Stern - Do I have a second?

Answer [Wendy Gennaro] – I second.

Dr. Penny Stern Are there any other nominations on the floor for 2nd Vice-Chair? Hearing none, Dr. Stern closed nominations for 2nd Vice-Chair.

Dr. Penny Stern - Is there a nomination for 3rd Vice-Chair of the Board?

Answer [Martha Taylor] - I am nominating Dilip Nath for 3rd Vice-Chair of the Board.

Dr. Penny Stern Do I have a second?

Answer (Islam “Delwar” Mohammed] – I second.

Dr. Penny Stern - Are there any other nominations on the floor for 3rd Vice-Chair? Hearing none, Dr. Stern closed nominations for 3rd Vice-Chair.

Dr. Penny Stern Is there a nomination for Treasurer of the Board?

Answer [Wendy Gennaro] - I am nominating Hersh Parekh for Treasurer of the Board.

Dr. Penny Stern Do I have a second?

Answer [Saaif Alam] – I second.

Dr. Penny Stern - Are there any other nominations on the floor for 3rd Vice-Chair? Hearing none, Dr. Stern closed nominations for Treasurer.

Dr. Penny Stern - Is there a nomination for Secretary of the Board?

Answer [Saaif Alam] - I am nominating Bhitihara Fulton for Secretary of the Board

Dr. Penny Stern Do I have a second?

Answer [Michael Hannibal] – I second.

Dr. Penny Stern - Are there any other nominations on the floor for Secretary? Hearing none, Dr. Stern closed nominations for Secretary.

Dr. Penny Stern Please be prepared to vote in May.

Health Minute with Dr. Penny Stern – Health Committee Chair

April is National Stress Awareness Month. Since 1992, this month has been dedicated to raising awareness about the potential for negative impacts of stress. Everyone experiences stress – it is an inevitable part of life, yet not everyone experiences stress in the same way. Stress includes many different symptoms: frustration, helplessness, difficulty concentrating, headaches, body aches, gastrointestinal complaints, the use of substances such as alcohol, cigarettes and drugs. Stress is more than a mental issue. It affects blood pressure, heart rate, glucose, sugar etc. Take care of yourself: eat healthily, exercise regularly, get plenty of rest, take a break if you feel stressed, reach out and talk to someone. For more information, you can go online to the American Institute of Stress and the National Institutes of Health.

Chairperson Taylor invited DM Marie Adam-Ovide to read her report. The DM highlighted a couple of points and asked the members to read the report which is included in their packets.

- Con Edison – Discounts on utility bills
- Areas in/near District 8, that have been approved for a reduction in speed limits.

The DM also asked the new members to please submit their birth dates

District Manager's Report, April 2026

Department of Parks and Recreation

Work is ongoing at Cunningham Park's upper parking lot. They are making progress; however, we are still waiting for a completion date. Other work started near the ballfields. DEP and Parks are working collaboratively to address the drainage issues there.

The agency started their spring operations. They are now addressing the garden beds.

We were notified that the Captain Tilly Goose Pond Restoration Project's construction started two weeks ago. They plan to drain and clear the pond of garbage. The anticipated date of completion is August 2027.

Con Edison

The utility company informed us that until recently, the Enhanced Energy Affordability Program (EAP) was only available to customers enrolled in certain government assistance programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid, and the Home Energy Assistance Program. Due to an expansion that they advocated for, the program is now available to customers with household incomes below the area median who are not currently enrolled in

government assistance programs. Bill discount amounts vary based on household income and size. Customers who qualify based on income will need to apply directly for program benefits.

The flyer is available on their website, [conEd.com/EAP](https://www.coned.com/EAP). There are also payment plans available and other resources online at <https://www.coned.com/en/accounts-billing/payment-plans-assistance>.

Queens Public Library

The Queens Public Library will be celebrating Earth Month all throughout April. They will also provide services for college readiness. They encourage everyone to go to their website -<https://www.queenslibrary.org>, where you can learn more about their programs and events.

NYC Commission on Human Rights

April is Fair Housing Month! Since 2008, the source of income discrimination has been illegal in New York City. Most New York City rental properties are subject to the NYC Human Rights Law's source of income protections, regardless of number of units on the property. (Exceptions apply to small owner-occupied buildings and units that are not publicly advertised.)

Department of Buildings

The stats for CB8 are as follows:

Illegal Conversion	80
Elevator Complaint (more than one)	76
Work Without Permit	73
Zoning not Conforming	66
Elevator Complaint (single device)	37
Defective Boiler	24
Fence	18
Structural Stability	18
Certificate of Occupancy	18
Construction Safety Compliance	18

Department of Transportation

The deadline to apply for Summer Streets with the Department of Transportation is June 26, 2026. Roadway Dining Season started on April 1st and will end on November 29th. Sidewalk dining is all year round. Sammy's Law that reduces the speed limit to 15 MPH in school zones has been expanded (*see attached list of locations*).

Department of Social Services

The agency encourages the use of the Access HRA for benefits. If there are any issues (i.e. street homelessness), please file a complaint with 311.

Department of Design and Construction

Project HWPR20QC – Complex Ped Ramp – They were in the process of installing two (2) catch basins. They are also doing electrical work at Horace Harding Expressway and 164th Street. This will be followed by sidewalk and curb reconstruction.

Project HPWPR321 – Work resumed recently. They are working on about a dozen corners in Kew Gardens Hills to install pedestrian ramps. Parking is restricted in those areas from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

HPPED800Q Tide Gate Bridge – The city contractor continues with demolition activities on the east side of the Tide Gate Bridge over Flushing Creek in Flushing Meadows Corona Park, including:

- ☐ Pier abutment (*the substructure at the end of the bridge*, and pier extensions.

- The east approach slab.

Prior to lining the water main, the city contractor will install the necessary components associated with the water main.



Wishing a very Happy Birthday to:

Saaif Alam, Dilafroz Ahmed, David Mordukhaev!

Approved Areas for Speed Reduction to 15 MPH

The following areas in/near District 8 have been approved for a reduction in speed limits:

- 137 St, between 76 Ave and 77 Ave (P.S. 164 Queens Valley)
- 147 St, between 76 Rd and 76 Ave (Rabbinical Seminary of America)
- 152 St, between 84 Rd and 84 Dr (Growing Up Green Charter School II)
- 168 St, between Grand Central Pkwy and Gothic Dr (High School for Community Leadership; Hillside Arts & Letters Academy; Jamaica Gateway to the Sciences; Q752 (D75) at Thomas A. Edison Vocational H.S.; Queens Collegiate; Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Education High School)
- 174 St, between 65 Ave and 64 Ave (J.H.S. 216 George J. Ryan)
- 188 St, between Grand Central Pkwy S S/R and Wicklow Pl (Summit Upper School)
- 188 St, between Midland Pkwy and Avon Rd (P.S./I.S. 178 Holliswood)
- 64 Ave, between 174 St and Utopia Pkwy (J.H.S. 216 George J. Ryan)
- 65 Ave, between 155 St and 156 St (P.S. 201 the Discovery School for Inquiry and Research)
- 65 Ave, between 174 St and 175 St (J.H.S. 216 George J. Ryan)
- 69 Ave, between 193 Ln and 197 St (P.S. Q224)
- 84 Ave, between 170 St and 172 St (P.S. 131 Abigail Adams)
- 84 Dr, between Parsons Blvd and 151 St (Growing Up Green Charter School II)
- 87 Rd, between 150 St and Parsons Blvd (Young Women's Leadership School - Jamaica)
- Chapin Pkwy, between 168 St and Chapin Ct (High School for Community Leadership; Hillside Arts & Letters Academy; Jamaica Gateway to the Sciences; Queens Collegiate)
- Dalny Rd, between Devonshire Rd and Wexford Ter (The Mary Louis Academy)
- Dalny Rd, between Wareham Pl and Radnor St (Immaculate Conception Catholic Academy)
- Highland Ave, between Parsons Blvd and 162 St (Hillcrest High School; P.S. 86)
- Oceania St, between Horace Harding Expwy. and 210 St (J.H.S. 74 Nathaniel Hawthorne)

Chairperson Martha Taylor requested a motion to adjourn.

Dr. Stern made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Wendy Gennaro. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Nettie V. Norris, CB8 Staff
May 6, 2026*