



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, February 11, 2026 at the Hillcrest Jewish Center at 183-02 Union Turnpike, Queens, NY 11366.

Attendance:

Board Members Present:

Dilafroz Ahmed, Saaif Alam, Lavelda Davis, Howard Fried, Bhitihara-Martha Fulton, James Gallagher Jr., John Gebhard, Wendy Gennaro, Ashan Habib, Michael Hannibal, Mohammed “Delwar” Islam, Neeta Jain, Jennifer Martin, Caitlin Marziliano, David Mordukhaev, Dilip Nath, Alan Ong, Tammy Osherov, Hersh Parekh, Israel Peskowitz, Mohammad Rahman, Jesse Rosenbaum, Douglas Sherman, Dr. Penny M. Stern, Martha Taylor, Amy Tse and Mayer Waxman.

Board Members Absent:

Heather Bennett-Idels, Edward Chung, Kenneth Cohen II, Sheleeza Deen, Maria Deinnocentiis, Marva Dudley, Armando Echeverry, Allen Eisenstein, Joshua Glikman, Roger Joyner, Elke Maerz, Doretha Mcfadden, Nikolas Michael, Marisol Perez, Frances Peterson, Aliyah Salim, Seymour Schwartz, Kelly Sexton, Mohammed Tohin, Steven Villaran and Jacob Weinberg.

Others Present:

Keith Felsenfeld representative of Council Member Linda Lee, Georgia Katsalis representative of Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, Henry Yam representative of Council Member James Gennaro, Dan Brown representative of District Attorney Melinda Katz, Josh Simanowitz representative of Assembly Member Sam Berger, Scott Sieber representative of Senator John Liu, Waael Abdullah representative of State Senator Toby Stavisky, Ryan Alwi representative of Senator Leroy Comrie, Jennifer Martin, Schwartz Brothers-Jeffer Memorial Chapels, Daisy Wang, Housing Works, Jamilla Uddin representative of Assemblywoman Nily Rozic, Anthony Lemma representative of Assembly Member David Weprin, Sergeant Oscar Li, 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.

Public Participation

Jennifer Martin – Schwartz Brothers-Jeffer Memorial Chapels

Upcoming Events: Please see the flyers on the tables. Two years ago the decision was made to have free, non funeral related programs (musicals, poetry, book authors etc.) called “Events On The Boulevard” The 2026 Winter & Spring Schedule has begun. To learn more about the events, to RSVP contact Jennifer.Martin@DignityMemorial.com or call 718-263-7600.

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

Elected Officials' Announcements

Ryan Alwi representing Senator Leroy Comrie

Upcoming Events: If you need additional information, please call the office at 718-765-6359.

Friday, February 20th from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. – 2026 Notice of Property Value Outreach Session at the Queens Public Library in Briarwood regarding property taxes. You can register at bit.ly/nopv2026.

Saturday, February 21st at 2:30 p.m. – Forest Hills Asian Association in partnership with several elected officials, will host a Lunar New Year celebration at the Ridgewood Savings Bank on Queens Blvd.

The New York State Senate Youth Leadership Recognition Awards – This program honors outstanding high school sophomores, juniors and seniors who excel academically and through leadership or volunteer work. If you know a student who deserves recognition, please encourage them to apply by February 28th.

The Senator is partnering with Urban Upbound, Assemblymember Alicia Hyndman and Council Member Selvena Brooks-Powers to offer free, high-quality tax preparation services for families earning \$97,000 or less. You can book an appointment at uutaxbooking.org.

The Senator is working on getting the following bills passed: S9055, S9054, S9117 and S9120.

Dan Brown representing District Attorney Melinda Katz

He introduced himself on behalf of DA Melinda Katz. On January 28th, the DA was able to get 2 homes returned to their rightful owners. Four people were indicted. Since 2020 The Housing Worker Protection Bureau was able to return 23 homes back to their rightful owners. If you believe you may be the victim of identity theft, deed fraud or have issues with Squatters, please contact our office at 718-286-6593.

Scott Sieber - representing Senator John Liu

Upcoming Events: Please see flyers on the table

February 19th – Mobile Lung Cancer Screening

February 13 and March 11th – Property Tax Benefit Workshops

Please call the office to register at (718) 765-6675.

Waael Abdallah – representing State Senator Toby Stavisky

Upcoming Events: Please see flyers on the table.

The Senator, in collaboration with the NYC Department of Finance is hosting a “Senior Citizens and Disabled Homeowner’s Exemption Workshop” on February 20th from 3:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. at the Bellerose Library. Call the office to RSVP at 718-445-0004.

Georgia Katsalis - representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards

Upcoming Events: Please see flyers on the table.

Apply to serve on your Community Board. Applications are open until February 13, 2026.

February 23rd from 5:00-8:00 pm – Lunar New Year Celebration

February 25th at 6:00 pm – Annual Black History Month Celebration

February 26th from 6:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m. – Dominican Independence Celebration

Please call 718-286-3000 to RSVP/confirm location and times.

Keith Felsenfeld - representing Council Member Linda Lee

Upcoming Events: Please see flyers on the table.

Notary Services offered free of charge (please bring ID)

CUNY Lawyer Services offered free of charge

Veterans Services assistance offered

The application for the 3K/Pre-K is now open. The deadline is February 27th.

Please call the office for times and location at (718) 468-0137

Henry Yam - representing Councilmember James Gennaro

Upcoming Events: Please see flyers on the table.

The application for the 3K/Pre-K is now open. The deadline is February 27th. If you or you know of anyone who has children of this age, please sign up now. Also, if you know of anyone living in a Co-op or Condominium and don't have heat, please call our office. There was an incident at a Co-op where residents didn't have heat for 2 weeks. This should not be the case. We can help get the necessary agencies involved if we know about it.

Josh Simanowitz – representing Assemblymember Samuel Berger

The budget is in full swing. He is working hard to get all the funding that he can for District 27.

Upcoming Events: March 8th the office is hosting a free shredding/e-waste event partnering with other elected officials. Please call our office for more information – 718-969-1508.

Anthony Lemma – representing Assemblymember David Weprin

The legislative session has started so it's a busy time up in Albany. Assemblymember Weprin is the Chair of the Insurance Committee. One of the many things he's pushing hard for is acupuncture treatments to be covered by insurance companies.

Jamilla Uddin – representing Assemblywoman Nily Rozic

Upcoming Events: Assemblywoman Nily Rozic in partnership with Senator Leroy Comrie is hosting a "2026 Notice of Property Value Outreach Session" on February 20th from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the Queens Public Library at Briarwood. The Assemblywoman hosted a Ring Camera Giveaway which was very successful. Please call our office for more information at 718-820-0241.

Dr Penny Stern thanked the officers from the 107th Precinct – Her car was vandalized a couple of weeks ago where her air bag was stolen and the officers came out to help her.

Chairperson Martha Taylor announced that we have a ULURP Application for the re-zoning of 164th Street. The Public Hearing will be held at our next CB meeting on March 11th

Chairperson Martha Taylor thanked Jim Gallagher for accepting the responsibility of representing Community Board 8 at Queens Solid Waste Advisory Board meetings.

Health Minute with Dr. Penny Stern – Health Committee Chair

February is known for the observance of American Heart Month, which is dedicated to raising awareness of cardiovascular disease and its impact on practically everyone. February 28th is Rare Disease Day. When you hear the word "rare", it tends to obscure the fact that some 300 million people around the world suffer from what is termed a "rare" disease. Rare Disease Day started in 2008 and is now recognized in more than 100 countries. The idea is to help ensure that those rare diseases have the same opportunities for healthcare, for diagnosis and treatment as do people with more well-known and/or common conditions. Dozens of organizations came together to work towards awareness and advocacy.

Department of Transportation

There are plans to install 600 red light cameras citywide by the end of 2026. They are planning to install 50 red light cameras a week.

Our DOT representative reiterated the successes of Vision Zero by providing the stats for 2025:

- Through December 31, 2025, the overall number of traffic fatalities is at 205, a 22% decline from the 253 fatalities recorded in 2024. 2025 has been the safest year on record in the City's history, as per DOT. The overall traffic deaths are down 31 % since the launch of Vision Zero in 2014.
- As for the borough of Queens, there was a 23% decline in traffic deaths, down from 74 traffic deaths in 2024 to 57 in 2025. Every major travel mode experienced a decline in traffic deaths in 2025, including among pedestrians, cyclists, and motor vehicle occupants.
- Leading the decline was the sharp drop in deaths among people in cars, by 40% and motorcycle users, by 32%.
- Pedestrian fatalities remain at the lowest levels ever and have also declined 9%, from 122 pedestrian deaths in 2024 to 111 in 2025. Deaths among motorized two-wheelers, generally—which include e-bikes, motorcycles, stand-up e-scooters—are also down 19% from 73 deaths in 2024 to 59 in 2025.

We received requests for markings for the speed bumps in front of 72-01, 72-25 and 73-09 136th Street, a few months ago. The Department of Transportation informed us that these speed bumps were not installed by the agency but by an unknown entity. The agency's representative stated that they will be removed along with the signs that were also installed on their utility poles.

NYC Commission of Human Rights

We have a new commissioner for the NYC Commission on Human Rights. Christine Clarke who comes from a civil rights background. The agency is also planning a Housing Court training at their Queens office on February 18th. More information to follow.

Department of Design and Construction

Most of the DDC projects for our area have been stalled. They will resume when the weather improves. The Community Construction Liaisons will send weekly updates as usual, even to let us know that no work will take place.

The Tide Gate Bridge Project, however, is proceeding with demolition of the bridge which is being done in stages. The east side of the bridge was taken down. The parapet walls were also taken down. They are starting the electrical work now.

Department of Buildings

Our Department of Buildings representative will be leaving the agency as of this Friday, February 6, 2026. He will assume a new position with the Borough President's office as the Director of Constituent Liaison. We wish him well.

Department of Consumer and Worker Protection

The agency has filed a lawsuit against Radiant Solar due to multiple consumer complaints received. There were instances where they provided fraudulent loans. The company has left work undone/incomplete and caused damage to residents' roofs. They have failed to respond to residents' complaints when contacted to resolve these problems.

Chairperson Martha Taylor requested a motion to adjourn.

Wendy Gennaro made the motion to adjourn at 8:05 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Nettie V. Norris, CB8 Staff
February 25, 2026*