



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, June 10, 2026 at the Hillcrest Jewish Center at 183-02 Union Turnpike, Queens, NY 11366.

Attendance:

Board Members Present:

Saaif Alam, Heather Bennett-Idels, Edward Chung, Damian Corbett, D. Lavelda Davis, Sheleeza Deen, Maria Deinnocentiis, Marva Dudley, Allen Eisenstein, Sultana Fatema, Sharlene Forbes, Howard Fried, Bhitihara-Martha Fulton, James Gallagher Jr., John Gebhard, Ahsan Habib, Michael Hannibal, Mohammed “Delwar” Islam, Rebecca Montalbano, Marisol Morales, Dilip Nath, Alan Ong, Tammy Osherov, Hersh Parekh, Marisol Perez, Israel Peskowitz, Frances Peterson, Mohammad Rahman, Dr. Penny M. Stern, Martha Taylor and Amy Tse.

Board Members Absent:

Sara Abiboutros, Dilafroze Ahmed, Armando Echeverry, Neeta Jain, Wendy Gennaro, Kiiru Gichuru, Elke Maerz, Jennifer Martin, Caitlin Marzilian, Doretha McFadden, Nikolas Michael, David Mordukhaev, Jesse Rosenbaum, Araliya Senerat, Seymour Schwartz, Kelly Sexton, Douglas Sherman, Mayer Waxman and Jacob Weinberg.

Others Present:

Keith Felsenfeld representative of Council Member Linda Lee, Georgia Katsalis representative of Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, Joon Hur representing Congresswoman Grace Meng, 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, Vanessa DiNardo, representative of Assembly Member David Weprin, Jamilla Uddin, representative of Assemblywoman Nily Rozic, Daisy Wang, Housing Works, Lieutenant David Uriguen, Special Operations, 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

Dr. Alexander Pestesi

He spoke about the Mountain Bike Trail in Cunningham Park. He mentioned how dirt bike/motorcycle riders come through the park riding very fast on the trail and this creates a dangerous situation for pedestrians.

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

Elected Officials' Announcements

Rokeya Akhter representing District Attorney Melinda Katz

The DA is continuing her focus on closing unlicensed cannabis dispensaries. Working with the NYPD and the NYC Sheriff's office, she recently shuttered a smoke shop on Bell Boulevard in Bayside. Inside the shop and an apartment above the store, thousands of pounds of cannabis were seized. The products confiscated included 526 pounds of cannabis flower, 417 pounds of THC vapes, 284 pounds of cannabis edibles, 17 pounds of THC concentrate, 1,635 pounds of flavored tobacco products and 101 pounds of other tobacco products. These items had a combined value of \$10 million. Two people were arrested and charged with criminal possession of cannabis in the first degree, a felony.

Peter Paolo representing Councilmember James Gennaro

Upcoming Events: If you need additional information, please call the office (718) 217- 4969. Flyers are on the table.

Ryan Alwi representing Senator Leroy Comrie

Upcoming Events: If you need additional information, please call the office (718) 765-6359. Flyers are on the table.

The budget for this year has passed, the Senator did not get everything he wanted but did have several notable achievements, such as:

- \$1.6 billion for Universal Pre-K.
- \$150 million for EmPower Plus to help families lower energy expenses.
- \$40 million for weatherization assistance to improve energy efficiency and reduce utility bills.
- Up to \$200 in rebate checks for eligible families who are suffering from high energy costs.

And much more!

Joon Hur representing Congresswoman Grace Meng

Upcoming Events: If you need additional information, please call the office (718) 358-6364. Flyers are on the table.

Scott Sieber - representing Senator John Liu

Upcoming Events: If you need additional information, please call the office (718) 765-6675. Flyers are on the table.

Vanessa DiNardo – representing Assembly Member David Weprin

Upcoming Events: If you need additional information, please contact the Fresh Meadows district office (718) 454-3027.

Albany Budget Concluded: The state budget process has officially wrapped up for the year.

Assemblymember Weprin has been proud to support and celebrate alongside the community at several recent events across the district.

Georgia Katsalis - representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards

Upcoming Events: If you need additional information, please call the office (718) 286-3000. Flyers are on the table.

Keith Felsenfeld – representing Council Member Linda Lee

Upcoming Events: If you need additional information, please contact the office (718) 468-0137. Flyers are on the table. The council member is passing the following two bills:

- Congratulations to Board Member Michael Hannibal and his wife, Tania Hannibal, on their recent 40-year wedding anniversary! Michael understands the meaning of commitment. We wish them continued happiness.
- The minimum guidelines for the City Council to approve street co-naming requests are included in your packets. While the proposed agenda included a request to co-name a street in Jamaica Estates in honor of Sikender Lal Malik, it had to be withdrawn. It was determined that his contributions did not meet the street criteria for co-naming.
- There will be an informational hearing at the Hillcrest Jewish Center with the MTA on Tuesday, June 30, 2026 at 7:30 pm. This is to provide information to our residents and straphangers about ADA work planned for the Parsons Boulevard and Briarwood subway stations on the E and F lines. Please come and have your questions answered.
- There have been complaints about the Post Office not delivering mail that is properly addressed. Some have been returned to the sender although the mailing address and zip codes are correct. There was even an instance where a mailer was returned stating "Return to sender, temporarily away - unable to forward." When no request to hold the mail or to forward the mail was made by the resident. Primary day is on Tuesday, June 23rd and early voting starts this weekend. I encourage you to go out and vote in person, if you can.

Guest Speaker - Robert Levine, EVP/COO, Flushing Hospital

He is joined by Dr. Andrew Rubin, Director of Community and Intergovernmental Affairs. Dr. Levine presented highlights of "The New Flushing Hospital Medical Center".

Question: (CB8 Member) – What are the costs of the private rooms?

Response: (Dr. Levine) – We don't charge extra for private rooms.

Comment: (CB8 Member) – What does your in-patient center look like?

Response: (Dr. Levine) – It is pretty busy in there.

Guest Speaker - Michael Nussbaum, Former President, Queens Jewish Community Council

He gave a presentation on the NY Holocaust Memorial Garden. Below is a summary.

The mission of the Queens Holocaust Memorial Garden is to memorialize the Jewish victims of the Holocaust and to honor those heroes who resisted Nazi terrorism in ghettos, camps, on the battlefields of World War II and in the pursuit of a Jewish homeland. It honors refugees who made their way to New York City, men of whom settled in Queens County, becoming intricate members of the borough's mosaic fabric as well as New York Society.

Health Minute with Dr. Penny Stern – Health Committee Chair

June 1-7 is CPR and AED Awareness Week.

Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) saves lives. This week was established in 2007 by Congress in an effort to increase awareness and save lives. AED is a device that automatically analyzes the heart's rhythm and when the device senses that the heart is in trouble, it generates an electrical shock. AED's are designed to be used by lay people, bystanders, not just medical personnel. You can find one in many public spaces. CPR is initiated when a person is found to suddenly have no pulse of heartbeat and is not breathing. To learn CPR look to the Red Cross and/or the American Heart Association for information about such training.

Israel Peskowitz – Gave a shout out to Peter Paolo who is leaving public service for a new life in the Priesthood. Thank you, Peter!

Resolution in Support of QueensLink

Israel Peskowitz, Member of Transportation Committee

- New York City has the opportunity to reactivate the Rockaway Beach Branch (RBB) to create the only north-south subway line in Queens and up to 33 acres of new parkland.
- This subway connection, called the QueensLink, would reconnect Queens and result in time savings for over 75,000 daily riders.
- The QueensLink would increase capacity on the overcrowded Queens Boulevard local lines by 50% by diverting the M train south at Rego Park, thereby allowing the G train to return to Forest Hills and speeding many trips between Brooklyn and Queens.
- By eliminating up to 4.7 million car trips a year, the QueensLink would make travel on our streets faster and safer for cars, trucks, buses, pedestrians, and bicyclists, while dramatically reducing pollutants.
- New York State and MTA have shown increased commitment to expanding public transit by building the Second Avenue subway and planning its extension across 125th Street, as well as planning the Interborough Express, which, like the QueensLink, takes advantage of an underutilized heavy rail corridor.
- The 5-acre, \$43 million QueensWay Metropolitan Hub park has been designed so that adding transit would require destroying the park, thus wasting needed public funds and causing unnecessary strain on the community.
- New York City, State, and the MTA have never engaged the community on the potential reactivation of rail transit along the RBB corridor, considering economic development potential, environmental impact, recreation, time savings, and other quality-of life concerns;

Chairperson Taylor – We need QueensLink. You never give up on railroading the right of way to throw flowers on it. If you want to put flowers next to it, that's fine. We need to get from the middle of Queens to the Rockaways without having to go all around the city.

Chairperson Taylor – We are going to make a motion to write a letter to the MTA, with copies to all of the elected officials including the borough president telling them how important this QueensLink is to our borough.

Howard Fried made the motion seconded by Bhitihara Fulton.

All in favor of this motion, please raise your hands.

Yes – 30

No – 1

Obstention – 0

Any opposition?

Hersh Parekh – Opposed

Members for: Saaif Alam, Heather Bennett-Idels, Edward Chung, Damian Corbett, D. Lavelda Davis, Sheleeza Deen, Maria Deinnocentiis, Marva Dudley, Allen Eisenstein, Sultana Fatema, Sharlene Forbes, Howard Fried, Bhitihara-Martha Fulton, James Gallagher Jr., John Gebhard, Ahsan Habib, Michael Hannibal, Mohammed “Delwar” Islam, Rebecca Montalbano, Marisol Morales, Dilip Nath, Alan Ong, Tammy Osheroov, Marisol Perez, Israel Peskowitz, Frances Peterson, Mohammad Rahman, Dr. Penny M. Stern, Martha Taylor and Amy Tse.

Public Hearing

Co-naming – NE Corner 72nd Avenue and Parsons Boulevard to Raphael Nathaniel Yusapov Way

Dr. Penny Stern, Area4/5 Chair

Betty Yusapov, sister of Raphael Nathaniel Yusapov. She spoke of his work in the community and his love for it. She read his bio listing all of the reasons why this honor is so important to her family. She thanked CB8.

Chairperson Taylor – Saaif is making the motion to have this street co-naming seconded by Izzy.

Izzy Peskowitz – At our transportation committee meeting we had 2 co-naming requests come before us. One had 31 signatures this one has 200 signatures. The entire block was in favor. That is why this one is on the agenda and the other one is not. Please vote in favor.

Chairperson Taylor – For this we need a roll call.

DM Adam-Ovide – called out the roll call

Yes – 30

No – 0

Abstention - 0

The motion passed unanimously.

Members for: Saaif Alam, Heather Bennett-Idels, Edward Chung, Damian Corbett, D. Lavelda Davis, Sheleeza Deen, Maria Deinnocentiis, Marva Dudley, Allen Eisenstein, Sultana Fatema, Sharlene Forbes, Howard Fried, Bhitihara-Martha Fulton, James Gallagher Jr., John Gebhard, Ashan Habib, Michael Hannibal, Mohammed “Delwar” Islam, Rebecca Montalbano, Dilip Nath, Alan Ong, Tammy Osheroov, Hersh Parekh, Marisol Perez, Israel Peskowitz, Frances Peterson, Mohammad Rahman, Dr. Penny M. Stern, Martha Taylor and Amy Tse.

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.

District Manager’s Report, June 2026

Department of Parks and Recreation

The work has been completed at Cunningham Park’s upper parking lot. The Philharmonic Orchestra will be playing at Cunningham Park on June 11, 2026, at 8 p.m. See link:

<https://www.nycgovparks.org/events/2026/06/11/ny-philharmonic-cunningham-park-queens>

Con Edison

We are heading into a heat wave and the utility company encouraged residents to conserve energy. They recommend keeping your thermostat as high as comfortable; closing your shades and curtains; using your ceiling fans to circulate the air. Additionally, avoid using appliances during peak hours. The best time to use appliances is between midnight and 8 a.m., during non-peak hours.

Department of Buildings

The stats for CB8 are as follows:

Complaint Category/Description	Number	Rank in Queens
Illegal Conversion	119	1
Work Without Permit	110	2
Elevator Complaint (more than one)	86	1
Zoning Non-conforming	83	2
Elevator (single device)	61	3
Defective Boiler	29	1
Fence	27	2
Certificate of Occupancy	27	6
Building Shaking/Vibrating	26	4

Construction Safety Enforcement	23	-
Construction Contrary to Plans	23	2
Construction Safety Compliance	23	6

Department of Transportation

The agency encourages residents to go on their website for transportation updates during the World Cup. They also have 50 soccer streets/open streets. None are in CB8.

The speed bump that were illegally installed in Kew Gardens Hills have been removed by DOT.

At the request of St John's University, DOT will be installing the corrals for the e-scooters. They hope to do the work in the coming months; however, they do not have a set date. The agency is looking to implement the Kissena Safety Plan. They will bulb-out at the intersection of Kissena and Horace Harding Expressway by the end of the summer.

Department of Social Services

The New York City Human Resources Administration (HRA) informs residents about Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) work rules for Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD requirements) through direct mail, digital alerts, and community outreach. Notices are sent by mail or posted to online accounts when a recipient is identified as subject to the new work rules.

Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

The agency is partnering with Council Member James Gennaro to host a Rat Academy where building supers can go and learn how to protect their properties from rodent infestation. Flyers will be sent out.

Department of Design and Construction

Project HWPR20QC – Complex Ped Ramp – They are working on the southeast corner of the bridge deck at Parsons Blvd. and GCP. They are excavating and installing new sidewalk and curb at Horace Harding Expressway and 164th Street – near the center medians. Construction is from Monday through Friday between 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

HW34TOUR – State Touring Route Resurfacing - They are planning to resurface the GCP Highway Westbound Exit Ramp adjacent to the NYPD Highway Patrol Unit 3 (near Cunningham Park). They anticipate starting in mid-June. This will be done during the overnight hours from Monday through Friday from 10 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Department of Environmental Protection

Our office requested a report on the damage from flooding in our community district. This is to assist in formulating our needs statement and budget requests to be submitted in October. We have not received it yet. We sent two follow-up emails with no success.

Department of Sanitation

******Our office did not receive a concrete response or information about the Department of Sanitation's plans to address center median clean-up. My initial request was made in the beginning of May. We are already getting complaints about the center medians on Francis Lewis Boulevard,

Hillside Avenue and Union Turnpike. We had a walkthrough with Sanitation to address sanitary conditions and speak to businesses along Hillside Avenue. The agency has failed to follow up with the businesses, and we have seen no improvements.

Everyone is welcome to attend our Health Fair on **Friday, June 26, 2026**, from 2 to 5 p.m. at Cunningham Park (196th Place and Union Turnpike). We will have blood pressure screening, HIV screening, Zumba, and many other services.

****Please note: We received an email from Anthonio Whitaker, DSNY, late today with an update. The department will address the median clean-up. They started spraying the weeds on Union Turnpike and after that they will start trimming. They will continue to Francis Lewis Boulevard and Hillside Avenue. I was assured that sanitation will follow up with the issues from the walkthrough. This is to ensure the businesses are doing what they are supposed to.**



Wishing a very Happy Birthday to: Elke Maerz, Alan Ong, Sharlene Forbes and John Gebhard

Chairperson Martha Taylor requested a motion to adjourn.

Hersh Parekh made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Nettie V. Norris, CB8 Staff
June 30, 2026*