



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 9, 2026, at the Hillcrest Jewish Center at 183-02 Union Turnpike, Queens, NY 11366.

Attendance:

Board Members Present:

Sara Abiboutros, Dilafriz Ahmed, Saaif Alam, Heather Bennett-Idels, Edward Chung, Maria DeInnocentiis, Marva Dudley, Sultana Fatema, Sharlene Forbes, Bhitihara Martha-Fulton, James Gallagher Jr., Ashan Habib, Michael Hannibal, Mohammed “Delwar” Islam, Jennifer Martin, Caitlin Marziliano, Nikolas Michael, Rebecca Montalbano, Marisol Morales, Dilip Nath, Alan Ong, Tammy Osherov, Marisol Perez, Israel Peskowitz, Frances Peterson, Mohammad Rahman, Jesse Rosenbaum, Araliya Senerat, Kelly Sexton, Douglas Sherman, Martha Taylor, Amy Tse, and Mayer Waxman.

Board Members Absent:

Damian Corbett, D. Lavelda Davis, Sheleeza Deen, Armando Echeverry, Allen Eisentstein, Howard Fried, John Gebhard, Wendy Gennaro, Kiiru Gichuru, Neeta Jain, Elke Maerz, Doretha McFadden, David Mordukhaev, Hersh Parekh, Seymour Schwartz, Dr. Penny M. Stern, and Jacob Weinberg.

Others Present:

Darin Sawan representative of Mayor Zohran Mamdani, Joonyoung Hur representative of Congresswoman Grace Meng, Georgia Katsalis representative of Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, Anika Marziliano representative of Council Member Linda Lee, Rokeya Akhter representative of District Attorney Melinda Katz, Scott Sieber representative of Senator John Liu, Ryan Alwi representative of Senator Comrie, Plabon Saha representative of Assembly Member David Weprin, Nile Johndon representative of Assembly Member Samuel Berger, Daisy Wang representative of Housing Works, Sharon Ng representative of Parkway Village, Detective Lennard Cox from NYPD Transit District 20, and D.M. Marie Adam-Ovide.

Call to Order:

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

Public Participation:

Dilip Nath

Requested that something be done about basement flooding when it rains in Fresh Meadows and Jamaica Hill.

Sherry Reisner representing Queens Civic Congress

The Queens Civic Congress has an upcoming event. To register, residents can email queenscivic@gmail.com.

Elected Officials' Announcements

Plabon Saha representing Assembly Member David Weprin

Mr. Saha is the new legislative coordinator for Assemblymember Weprin. The Assembly Member has upcoming events. To learn more about the events, you can give their office a call at (718) 454-3027 or email Mr. Saha at sahap@nyassembly.gov.

Joonyoung Hur representing Congress Member Grace Meng

In light of the flood in Nepal, Congress Member Meng has expressed solidarity with the Asian Community. To reach out to their office, residents should call (718) 358-6364.

Rokeya Akhter representing District Attorney Melinda Katz

District Attorney Katz hosted a news conference alongside Governor Kathy Hochul to announce the guilty pleas and sentencing for two individuals who orchestrated two car crashes on the highway to file insurance claims. The District Attorney's office holds mobile office hours twice a month at different libraries throughout Queens.

Georgia Katsalis representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards

Borough President is hosting several events in which residents can register. To register, residents can visit their website at queensbp.nyc.gov/rsvp or call their office at (718) 286-3000. There will also be a "Borough Hall on Your Block" between October 19th – 23rd. The Queens Borough President will provide a week of programing and services to the community. The full schedule of events will be announced in the coming weeks.

Nile Johnson representing Assembly Member Sam Berger

Assembly Member Berger passed an e-scooter bill in which additional notices will be sent out about the age requirement. To learn more, you can give their office a call at (718) 969-1508.

Ryan Alwi representing Senator Leroy Comrie

Senator Comrie has upcoming events. To learn more about the events, you can give their office a call at (718) 765-6359.

Chairperson Taylor recognized the elected official representatives who did not sign-up for public participation. She then introduced and welcomed Detective Lennard Cox and Officer Diaz from MTA.

Detective Lennard Cox – NYPD Transit District 20

Detective Cox's district is located in Briarwood Van Wyck. He did not have anything to report.

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 requested a motion to approve the minutes.

Approval of Minutes: Michael Hannibal made a motion to approve the minutes of Wednesday, June 10, 2026, seconded by Bhitihara Martha-Fulton.

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

33 Yes

0 No

0 Abstentions

The motion passed unanimously without corrections.

Members for: Sara Abiboutros, Dilafoz Ahmed, Saaif Alam, Heather Bennett-Idels, Edward Chung, Maria DeInnocentiis, Marva Dudley, Sultana Fatema, Sharlene Forbes, Bhitihara Martha-Fulton, James Gallagher Jr., Ashan Habib, Michael Hannibal, Mohammed “Delwar” Islam, Jennifer Martin, Caitlin Marziliano, Nikolas Michael, Rebecca Montalbano, Marisol Morales, Dilip Nath, Alan Ong, Tammy Osherov, Marisol Perez, Israel Peskowitz, Frances Peterson, Mohammad Rahman, Jesse Rosenbaum, Araliya Senerat, Kelly Sexton, Douglas Sherman, Martha Taylor, Amy Tse, and Mayer Waxman.

Chairperson’s Report – Martha Taylor

Congratulations to our esteemed member of the community board, James Gallagher, for his forty-two years of service with the City of New York. She also welcomed former Community Board 8 Member Janet Kramer (*she received warm applause*)

Chairperson Taylor wished Dr. Stern good health as she was not well enough to attend the meeting and to provide her health minute report.

District Manager’s Report, September 2026

Department of Parks and Recreation

There were complaints about the cleanliness of the ladies’ restrooms at Cunningham Park over the summer. The park’s manager has addressed this and will be monitoring this closely moving forward. We thank him for his diligence.

Con Edison

The utility company reiterated that residents should apply for the Enhanced Energy Affordability Program (EEAP). They estimated that a third of customers are eligible for the discount. For instance, a family of four earning \$97K a year may save up to \$168 a month in savings. Details of this program are available on the Con Ed website at **www.coned.com/EAP**.

Department of Buildings

The stats for CB8 are as follows:

Complaint Category/Description	Number
Work Without Permit	208
Illegal Conversion	203
Zoning Non-conforming	155
Elevator (single device)	123
Elevator Complaint (more than one)	115
Fence	61
Building Shaking/Vibrating	42
Sustainability Enforcement Work Order	42
Certificate of Occupancy	41
Construction Safety Compliance Action	41

Department of Transportation

Open street and roadside Dining are now permanent. The restaurateurs no longer have to remove their tables and chairs. We raised concerns about the Department of Sanitation’s ability to clean the street. We will provide updates once we learn of the city’s plan to maintain the cleanliness of these areas.

Department of Social Services

You may recall that the Human Resources Administration (HRA) informed us of the work rules for Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD requirements). The agency's representative reported that everything is going well. She has not received any complaints relating to this.

Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

We have a new representative for the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. She is Megan Yuan, who has city government experience. We are looking forward to working with her.

Department of Design and Construction

The agency will be installing raised crosswalks at three intersections in our district:

- Highland Avenue and Homelawn Street
- Kissena Blvd. and 71st Avenue
- Queens Blvd. and 84th Drive.

Project HWPED800Q - The contractor completed the excavation of the foundation and wall structure of the upper half of the retaining wall. This will be reconstructed; however, the lower half will be kept. Temporary wooden molds have been installed to hold the concrete, as part of the concrete form work. The contractor continues to work during the US Open, reconstructing the retaining wall. They are adding rebar and concrete floor work. They will be re-lining the watermain; installation of hydrants will follow the utility work.

Project HWPR20QC -This project is wrapping up. The Community Construction Liaison, Yatta Jerome Gibbs, has retired from the agency. We thank her for all her work. She was very responsive, as a CCL.

Briarwood Library – The renovation is on schedule. They expect to receive the Notice to Proceed by the end of the year.

HW349TOUR – 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 started the work in mid-August. They have been working through last week and the work continues this week as well. It occurs during the overnight hours from Monday night through Friday morning (from 10 p.m. to 5:30 a.m.).

Department of Sanitation

The agency has addressed every center median under their jurisdiction in CB8. They have had to return to some of them due to weeds growing back after rainstorms. The superintendent expressed concerns about the raised crosswalks. He wanted to make sure that signs are posted so his team can be alerted to raise their plows during snowstorms as they approach these intersections.

Department of Environmental Protection

We have a new Queens Commissioner for DEP, Antonio Whitaker. We are very familiar with his work. He was the former Assistant Director of Public Affairs for the Department of Sanitation. He will start later this month.

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I attended Queens Borough President Donovan Richards' Public Safety Roundtable for Houses of Worship last week. We learned that the top hate crimes in New York City were: Anti-Jewish, Anti-Gay and Anti-Muslim. The panelists encouraged us to report these crimes by calling 911. We can also report them to the District Attorney's office by calling 718-286-6812. The Mayor's Office of Community Safety's office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes has several initiatives (see flyers on the table).



Happy Birthday to: Damian Corbett, Wendy Gennaro and Dr. Penny Stern!

Marie Adam-Ovide

Chairperson Taylor requested a motion to adjourn.

Dilip Nath made the motion. Adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Soleil Griffin-Green, CB8 Staff
September 21, 2026*