

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, November 13, 2024, at the Hillcrest Jewish Center at 183-02 Union Turnpike, Queens, NY 11366.

Attendance:

Board Members Present:

Saaif Alam, Kenneth Cohen II, Maria DeInnocentiis, Marva Dudley, Allen Eisenstein, Howard A. Fried, Bhitihara Martha-Fulton, James Gallagher Jr., Wendy Gennaro, Joshua Glickman, Ashan Habib, Michael Hannibal, Mohammed "Delwar" Islam, Elke Maerz, Mary Maggio, Jennifer Martin, Caitlin Marziliano, Nikolas Michael, Alan Ong, Tammy Osherov, Hersh Parekh, Frances Peterson, Israel Peskowitz, Mohammad Rahman, Jesse Rosenbaum, Aliyah Salim, Seymour Schwartz, Deepti Sharma, Douglas Sherman, Harbachan Singh, Dr. Penny M. Stern, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin, Steven Villaran, Rabbi Mayer Waxman and Jacob Weinberg.

Board Members Absent:

Dilafroz Ahmed, Heather Bennett-Idels, Edward Chung, John Gebhard, Neeta Jain, David Mordukhaev, Dilip Nath, Tobias Paris, Simon Pelman, Jenna Citron Schwab, Amy Tse.

Others Present:

Assembly Member Sam Berger, Assembly Member Nily Rozic, Shubhra Datta representing Borough President Donovan Richards, Andy Melendez representing Council Member Linda Lee, Jose Valera representing Councilman James F. Gennaro, Rokeya Akhter representing District Attorney Melinda Katz, Scott Sieber representing Senator John Liu, Lya Rothmann representing Senator Toby Stavisky, Anthony Lemma Sr. representing Assembly Member David Weprin, Hoshahnia Kumaran representing Assembly Member Nily Rozic, Ricky Malone representing Assembly Member Samuel Berger, Residents Hadar Weisz and Joan Hausmann, Pablo Romano representing Queens Hispanic American Civic Council, Inc., D.M. Marie Adam-Ovide, CB8 Staffers Soleil Griffin, and Nettie V. Norris.

Call to Order:

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

Chairperson Taylor requested for a roll call

DM Adam-Ovide announced we have a quorum

Elected Officials' Announcements

Honorable Assembly Member Nily Rozic

The Queens Civic Congress will be honoring Kevin Forrestal. She wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and thanked the civic leaders. Her office gave out over a thousand daffodils during their giveaway. She also thanked the civic leaders for assisting her in crafting legislation on reckless driving in parking lots. The legislation was signed into law by Governor Hochul.

Council Member Linda Lee, Martha Taylor and Assembly Member Nily Rozic put together a letter to the comptroller to end the contract for the Wyndham Garden Hotel. She also requested that resident's sign-up for the newsletter.

Rokeya Akhter representing District Attorney Melinda Katz

Last month, the District Attorney's office hosted a domestic violence event. There is a 24-hour hotline for domestic violence victims, 718-286-4410. She wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and to be aware of any scams.

Ricky Malone representing Assembly Member Samuel Berger

Assembly Member Berger is in support of the Metropolitan Project – ULURP N250046ZMQ & C250047MMQ. Mr. Malone stated that the project addressed community concerns of traffic flow, sound, and public safety.

Public Participation:

Joan Hausman

Stated that she is in support of the street co-naming of the northeast corner of 182nd Street and 73rd Avenue to Brinckerhoff Memorial Way. She provided the history of the lot and requested for the board to support the conaming.

Kenneth Paek

He asked who is liable when someone trips over an e-scooter in front of someone's property. He then asked if he should buy two or three garbage bins. What happens if it gets damaged by a sanitation worker or if it overflows. He also asked if he should call 911 if the garbage bins are stolen.

Chairperson Taylor introduced Chief Williams. She requested that he and Captain Tsang speak.

Chief Kevin Williams, Commanding Officer of Patrol Borough Queens South

Introduced himself. Provided an overview of what is happening in Queens Borough Patrol South. He stated that crime is up 61 for the year, which is a 0.2% increase of the total overall crime. The frequent crime in Patrol South is auto theft. The 107th Precinct has a total of sixteen officers for the year. He also stated that the 116th Precinct should be opening soon. The new Commanding Officer for that Precinct is Captain Jean Beauvoir.

Chairperson Taylor - You mentioned crime overall in [Queens] borough south, what about the 107th Precinct?

Captain Mo Tsang, 107th Precinct Commanding Officer

During the 28 day period, the 107th Precinct crime is down. The only crime that is up is grand larceny of vehicles (GLA). He asked residents to not leave their vehicles running and to not leave their valuables. Last week the precinct gave out air tags to fifty cars. There is a high auto theft of Honda, Acura, Infinities, and Toyota Highlander.

Maria DeInnocentiis – What is the update on people dressed as gardeners and burglarizing homes?

Mo Tsang – There were about twenty burglaries in my command where people were dressed as landscapers without any equipment. Last week there was another one in Sector B. We have a NYPD burglary vehicle driving around. The crime is happening between 12 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Chairperson Taylor calls Shubhra Datta to speak.

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

Shubhra Datta – representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards

The Community Board applications will be available soon on the QBP website. There is a Veterans Day event on November 14th and Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 19th. He then wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Approval of Minutes: Harbachan Singh made a motion to approve the minutes of Wednesday, October 9, 2024, seconded by Jesse Rosenbaum. The motion passed unanimously.

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

 $\underline{0}$ Yes $\underline{0}$ No $\underline{0}$ Abstentions

Members for: Saaif Alam, Kenneth Cohen II, Maria DeInnocentiis, Marva Dudley, Allen Eisenstein, Howard A. Fried, Bhitihara Martha-Fulton, James Gallagher Jr., Wendy Gennaro, Ashan Habib, Michael Hannibal, Elke Maerz, Mary Maggio, Caitlin Marziliano, Nikolas Michael, Alan Ong, Tammy Osherov, Hersh Parekh, Frances Peterson, Mohammad Rahman, Jesse Rosenbaum, Aliyah Salim, Seymour Schwartz, Douglas Sherman, Harbachan Singh, Dr. Penny M. Stern, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin, Steven Villaran, and Rabbi Mayer Waxman.

Chairperson's Report – Martha Taylor

In your packets, you have the tentative meeting dates for the Executive and Board Meetings for 2025. The list was sent to everyone last week for review. I trust that you all have checked your calendars. If there aren't any more changes, these dates are being finalized.

On Friday, November 22, 2024, the entire CB8 staff will be going to a Department of Buildings training at Borough Hall. The office will be closed. If you need any assistance during that time, you can contact 311 for complaints or send an email to qn08@cb.nyc.gov and will be responded to when the staff returns to the office.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Chairperson Taylor asked Hersh Parekh, Zoning Committee Chair to present the Public Hearing on ULURP N250046ZMQ & C250047MMQ Text Amendment.

Zoning Chairperson Hersh Parekh introduced ULURP N250046ZMQ & C250047MMQ Text Amendment and requested the applicant to provide a brief presentation.

Michael "Sully" Sullivan

Introduced himself as the Chief of Staff to Mets owner Steve Cohen. When he [Steve Cohen] bought the team four years ago, he got on Twitter to hear from Mets fans. One big ask that they heard repeatedly was to transform the area around Citi Field. This proposal would take the twenty-five acres of the fifty acres of asphalt parking lots around Citi Field and build a brand-new New York City public park. The other twenty-five acres of asphalt would be an entertainment destination.

Next summer, will be the gaming portion of the project. The casino gaming will pay for the project to transform the area around Citi Field. This will draw people in year-round when there is not a game. This is part of a much longer process that will happen within the next fourteen months.

Presentation: (slideshow)

The area that will be transformed is New York City public land. It will remain New York City public land. Steve Cohen controls the site for the next eighty-one years. If the area does not transform through this process, it will remain a parking lot for the next eighty-one years.

The project is in partnership with Hard Rock because of their live music. The design and development teams are based in New York City.

The project will consist of:

- 25 acres public park space
- Bars and restaurants
- Sportsbook
- 5,000 seat indoor live music venue
- Solar panels on structured parking
- Hotel towers
- Gaming facility
- Tailgate park

- 100,000 sq ft of Conference spaces
- Public plaza
- Queens food hall and community space
- Community Athletic fields
- Playground
- Renovate the 7 train to be ADA accessible
- Bike paths

The site was originally a swamp and became a Citi Field parking lot in 2007. In 1936, Robert Moses, former Parks Commissioner, wrote a letter to World's Fair Committee to request money to buy the land in which the parking lot is on. His letter was approved. The land was mapped and zoned as park land even though it was turned into a free commuters parking lot for people traveling into Manhattan.

They are requesting the community boards to vote in support of the proposed changes to the city map and the zoning map. The mapping changes will allow for the transformation of the Citi Field parking lots into Metropolitan Park, a sports and entertainment park. If they do not win the gaming license, the area will remain a parking lot.

This is a union project. They created a program that will allow restaurant card holders to use the points they receive on their Hard Rock card to spend on local restaurants in Queens. They have an MWBE and local hiring program that has a Queens hiring priority.

They announced a \$1 billion community benefit agreement to Queens. The agreement includes:

- \$320 million for public park and athletic fields (25 acres);
- \$480 million for accessible MTA station and climate infrastructure;
- \$163 million for a community improvement fund;
- \$150 million for taste of Queens and community space;
- \$25 million for neighborhood projects.

Zoning Chairperson Parekh began the public participation.

Tom Grech - Queens Chamber of Commerce

In support of the project. The project will provide 23,000 union jobs. The project will be privately funded. Taxpayers will not be paying for the project.

Costa Constantinides - Variety Boys and Girls Club

In support of the project. The project will be a carbon sink. It will soak up water and heat.

Brian Chen – Chinese American Planning Council

In support of the project. The project is inclusive, has a community intergraded workforce and economic development potential which aligns with the council's mission.

Rabbi Hecht - Project Lead

In support of the project. The project will create good paying local union jobs and careers. There will be safe access to the waterfront.

Nicole Labades - NYCHA Latimer

In support of the project. The project has plans to fix the roadways. Encouraged the audience to go to a listening session and/or visit the 360 room.

Alan Sherman

In support of the project. The project will keep tourists in Queens.

Zoning Chairperson Parekh invited Assemblymember Sam Berger to speak

Honorable Assemblymember Sam Berger

In support of the project. The project will be an investment of a lifetime for the community. The community needs the economic development and the jobs. The Mets and Hard Rock have made sure that they listened to the community and meet community concerns.

Keith Felsenfeld- District Leader/JFK & Stevenson Club

In support of the project. The project will improve the quality of life for all Queens residents. The project will attract visitors to stay in Queens and spend money at local shops and restaurants.

Danny Dromm – Former Council Member

In support of the project. Out of the 23,000 union jobs a number of them will be permanent and some of them will be the workforce for the construction of the project.

Sky Kennan Zeng – Korean American Families Service Center

In support of the project. The center will be working with the applicant to develop a program for workforce development and gambling addiction prevention.

Ted Tang - Taiwanese Chamber of Commerce

In support of the project. The project will provide jobs and long-term economic stability for families in the community.

Michael De Valera – Resident of Corona

In support of the project. The location was a stop in the underground railroad. The project will address the past injustices done by Robert Moses.

Donovan Finn – Urban Planner

In support of the project. The project will address transportation, climate, equity issues and economic development.

Moe Chan

In support of the project. He spoke with Sully about the impact of COVID-19 on people's health, he asked if money would be put into healthcare. He stated \$163 million was available for whatever they can do to improve healthcare.

Ariel Bermudez – Local 3 Union Member

In support of the project. The project will give people union jobs in the community, an opportunity to pursue an education, and healthcare.

Caleen Davis – Local 3 Union Member

In support of the project. The project will be built by union workers which will allow for all demographics to be evenly represented.

Jasmine Spencer – Local 3 Union Member

In support of the project. If the project goes through, it will provide a safe space for her sixteen-year-old son and open space for her eight-year-old daughter to play.

Eduardo Valentin

In support of the project. The project will take the Willets Point train station and make it ADA accessible.

Reggie Pegues

In support of the project. The area is an urban oven. The project will improve the quality of health, the air quality and reduce the temperature of the community.

Zoning Chairperson Parekh stated that Henry Lo provided a written testimony. He is in support of the project. There was also a letter by Rebecca Pryor that expressed opposition to the project.

CB8 members' questions:

Dr. Penny Stern

Where do you plan on putting all the cars?

Answer [Sully] - The letter 'E' in the presentation is where they will be building a parking garage. The garages will have solar panels on the roof. It is designed for people coming from Connecticut and Westchester. A parking ticket can be sold with each game ticket. This is located north of Citi Field and would get them directly back onto the Whitestone Expressway. There is a smaller garage on the west and southeast part of the site. There will also be two layers of parking underneath the main building on the lot.

Saaif Alam

How can people with disabilities request for accommodation once job opportunities are available? What kinds of job opportunities will be available for the youth and young adults? What is the minimum age for employment?

Answer [Jeffrey Hook – Hard Rock Cafe] - Depending on the jurisdiction, there are requirements for accommodation. There are a tremendous number of jobs. We have the visually impaired that work for us. We try to be accommodating. The minimum age in our facilities is 18. It also depends on state requirements. You can not work in the gaming establishment unless you are 21 years old.

Harbachan Singh

What measures will be in place for the protection from industrial, water and noise pollution? Will there be an environmental study conducted before the project is commenced?

Answer [Sully] – Part of the design of the project is to make the entire site climate resilient. Willets Point does not have sewers. The area floods when there is a big rainstorm, and everything ends up in the Flushing Creek and Flushing Bay. There will be green roofs on the buildings and solar panels on the garages. There will be large tanks underneath the building to capture the rainwater. There is a twelve-degree higher temperature in the area because of the asphalt.

Hersh Parekh

To clarify, you did an environmental impact statement for the project.

Answer [Sully] – Yes. We worked with the city to design an EIS. We did an entire environmental study.

Aliyah Salim

Can you share what the community members who are opposing this project are saying?

Answer [Sully] – It is hard for me to tell you what the opposition for this project is. There are ten other bidders who are trying to win one of these gaming licenses. They have done their best to generate opposition. What I know is that I have personally done over 1,000 meetings in the community at our local churches, civic associations. About 95% of concerns that were mentioned, were addressed and will be incorporated into the design.

Israel Peskowitz

Is there room in the park to provide housing? How much will be parking cost?

Answer [Sully] — As part of phase two of Willets Point, which is across the street from us, look at Cedar Way, where there are buildings east of Citi Field. This is a 25,000-seat soccer stadium that was proposed. To the north and south of that are 2500 units of affordable housing. That is not our project. It is a joint venture between the prior owners of the METS and the DuPont family. We have enabled that project to move forward by sharing the parking. We would love to give as many people living across the street from us the opportunity to work at this project. There will be onsite childcare. The parking cost is complicated. At the beginning of the season, as part of our lease, we have to work out parking rates with the city of New York. Commuter parking for people in the neighborhood who want to take the 7 line get a reduced parking rate which is \$5. The integrated resort building is going to want the parking to be free. We will have to create some kind of a voucher system where you can park and come to our restaurants or entertainment you will get the parking rate credited back. People have requested to bring the ferry back. Council Member Moya and Queens Borough President Donovan Richards have been championing this idea. We offered to help fix the ferry dock.

Israel Peskowitz

Where will be the commuter parking lot?

Answer [Sully] – It will be where it is today which is south of Roosevelt Avenue.

Jesse Rosenbaum

I have a question about the highway infrastructure. When there is the US Open or a game, the highways will get backed up. My second question is about the sewer. How are you going to take care of the waste? My last question is about the height of the casino.

Answer [Sully] — We added city bike racks to the site. We have advertised mass transit in which we are working with DOT to use the highway message boards two or three days ahead of time if we have a sold-out game. They opened the new station for the Long Island Railroad in Manhattan. The zoning actions that we are requesting for you to approve will create a new slip ramp to get back onto Northern Boulevard and add lanes to get back onto the Whitestone Expressway. We are going to spend \$17 million to build a new pedestrian bridge over Shea Road to get to the waterfront. The site is height restricted because we are at the approach cone of LaGuardia Airport. The maximum height is 344 feet. We will be under that. We have to do a lot of work to connect the site to the sewer system. We have to create the catch basins and treat the water before it goes out.

Jesse Rosenbaum

Is 344 feet 30 stories?

Answer [Sully] – It is probably 24 stories maximum. We will announce the actual number of rooms next summer when we submit our RFA application.

Zoning Chairperson Parekh concluded the Q & A period. He made a motion to approve the on ULURP N250046ZMQ & C250047MMQ Text Amendment and to have board discussion.

Chairperson Martha Taylor seconded the motion to approve the on ULURP N250046ZMQ & C250047MMQ Text Amendment

Kenneth Cohen II

This is a very important project that the board will be voting for. Union jobs are at risk in the city. As we see more development take place, contractors are hiring less union workers. To hear an opportunity like this is something that we need to take advantage of. Especially because Local 3 is housed in this community board. There is an opportunity on the table to be able to employ people in the community with union jobs.

Wendy Gennaro

From our community board, who was able to go to Citi Field to see the presentation? It is very impressive. I was appointed to the community board by former Council Member Lancman to give a voice to people with disabilities. A conversation came up about hiring veterans and seniors. We spoke about forwarding that conversation and I look forward to doing that. Hopefully there will be a sensor and accessible parks for people with disabilities and children.

Nikolas Michael

There is a lot about this project to like and the visuals are impressive. The commitment to creating a public space in Queens is good. The commitment to union labor is critical. I have concerns specifically about the gaming license. If there was a consideration to move past this one specific less than ten percent of the project portion.

Mohammed Tohin

How long will it take to complete the project? I was a Local 6 member for 25 years. I see you are offering union jobs and speaking with local leaders. This is very impressive. I hope our board members will pass this.

Harbachan Singh

This adds value to the demographic of Queens. It is a very commendable project.

Howard Fried

On game day, there is a lot of traffic on the Grand Central Parkway in both directions. It sounds like there is not change in the roadways in the immediate area except for the new entrance ramps. I am concerned that with the new construction, the public space, the casino and restaurants, that we will have a lot more of that every single day. People on the Grand Central going to LaGuardia or work will get caught up in that mess that is only on game day. I do not see changes in the roadway to accommodate that.

Zoning Chairperson Parekh stated that all four members from the Zoning Committee voted in favor of it. He then listed a few items that came up during the meeting. He also informed the community that the board is not voting on the casino license since that is not up to the board.

Zoning Chairperson Parekh requested a roll call.

Members for: Saaif Alam, Kenneth Cohen II, Maria DeInnocentiis, Marva Dudley, Allen Eisenstein, Howard A. Fried, Bhitihara Martha-Fulton, James Gallagher Jr., Wendy Gennaro, Joshua Glickman, Ashan Habib, Michael Hannibal, , Mohammed "Delwar" Islam, Elke Maerz, Mary Maggio, Jennifer Martin, Caitlin Marziliano, Alan Ong, Tammy Osherov, Hersh Parekh, Frances Peterson, Israel Peskowitz, Mohammad Rahman, Jesse Rosenbaum, Seymour Schwartz, Harbachan Singh, Dr. Penny M. Stern, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin, Rabbi Mayer Waxman and Jacob Weinberg.

Member opposed: Nikolas Michael, Aliyah Salim, Douglas Sherman, and Steven Villaran.

Chairperson Martha Taylor turned it over to Transportation Chairperson Jesse Rosenbaum for the street conaming portion.

Transportation Chair Jesse Rosenbaum presents the first street co-naming for Jack "Giacomo" Virdone Way. This will be located on the southwest corner of Manton Street and Queens Blvd. in Briarwood.

Transportation Chair Jesse Rosenbaum informed the community that the request received letters of support from various civic leaders and elected officials. A petition was received with 466 signatures. The committee requested that the initial location that was requested, intersection of Queens Blvd & Main St, be moved to the southwest corner of Manton Street and Queens Blvd. He then began the public participation.

Pablo Romano

Supports the street co-naming. He provided the biography of Jack "Giacomo" Virdone and how he positively affected the community.

Transportation Chair Rosenbaum made a motion to approve the street co-naming for Jack "Giacomo" Virdone Way to be located on the southwest corner of Manton Street and Queens Blvd.

Howard Fried seconded the motion.

Transportation Chair Rosenbaum requested a roll call.

32 Yes 0 No 0 Abstentions

<u>Members for:</u> Saaif Alam, Kenneth Cohen II, Maria DeInnocentiis, Marva Dudley, Allen Eisenstein, Howard A. Fried, Bhitihara Martha-Fulton, James Gallagher Jr., Wendy Gennaro, Ashan Habib, Michael Hannibal, , Mohammed "Delwar" Islam, Elke Maerz, Mary Maggio, Jennifer Martin, Caitlin Marziliano, Nikolas Michael, Alan Ong, Tammy Osherov, Hersh Parekh, Frances Peterson, Israel Peskowitz, Mohammad Rahman, Jesse Rosenbaum, Seymour Schwartz, Douglas Sherman, Harbachan Singh, Dr. Penny M. Stern, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin, Steven Villaran, Rabbi Mayer Waxman and Jacob Weinberg.

Transportation Chair Rosenbaum introduced the second street co-naming for Brinckerhoff Memorial Way to be located on the northeast corner of 182nd Street & 73rd Avenue. A petition was received with 24 signatures. The request was supported by various civic leaders and elected officials

Ashook Ramsaran

Supports the street co-naming. He urged the community board to approve the request in recognition of the extraordinary historical significance of the New York City Landmarked Brinckerhoff Colonial Cemetery. He also provided a letter of support from Lynn Manger who is the descendant of Abraham Joris Brinckerhoff.

Transportation Chair Rosenbaum made a motion to approve the street co-naming for Brinckerhoff Memorial Way to be located on the northeast corner of 182nd Street & 73rd Avenue.

Seymour Schwartz seconded the motion.

Transportation Chair Rosenbaum requested a roll call.

 $\underline{32}$ Yes $\underline{0}$ No $\underline{0}$ Abstentions

Members for: Saaif Alam, Kenneth Cohen II, Maria DeInnocentiis, Marva Dudley, Allen Eisenstein, Howard A. Fried, Bhitihara Martha-Fulton, James Gallagher Jr., Wendy Gennaro, Ashan Habib, Michael Hannibal, , Mohammed "Delwar" Islam, Elke Maerz, Mary Maggio, Jennifer Martin, Caitlin Marziliano, Nikolas Michael, Alan Ong, Tammy Osherov, Hersh Parekh, Frances Peterson, Israel Peskowitz, Mohammad Rahman, Jesse Rosenbaum, Seymour Schwartz, Douglas Sherman, Harbachan Singh, Dr. Penny M. Stern, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin, Steven Villaran, Rabbi Mayer Waxman and Jacob Weinberg.

District Manager's Report, September 2024

Department of Design and Construction

The DDC Project #**HWTRQX1** will be starting soon. The have multiple locations in Queens and one in the Bronx. In CB8, they will work on 186th Street between 73rd and 75th Avenues. They will do trench restoration, water main replacement and resurfacing. There is no scheduled start date yet for this work. They expect it to be probably in the new year.

Department of Environmental Protection

Queens Borough Commissioner Alfonso Lopez announced that there is a drought watch. Please report leaky hydrants. Fix leaks around your house and make every effort to conserve water (i.e. Do not let the water run as you brush your teeth.).

Department of Buildings

Reminder - On Friday, November 15, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Community Board 8 will host another **DOB** in **Your Community District**. We encourage residents to register to attend. They will meet with residents that have DOB questions as well. You do not have to have a violation to meet them in our office.

NYC Aging

The agency announced that Medicare Open Enrollment started from October 15th and will end on December 7th. Any older adult may contact Aging Connect at (212) 244-6469, if they have any questions.

Queens Public Library

The Queens Public Library will close on Thanksgiving and the day after Thanksgiving. The Hollis Library is now closed for renovation. The work is expected to last for the next two years. There is mobile library service on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Con Edison

In preparation for the winter, Con Edison will host a meeting with Community Boards, elected officials and their representatives in December. Con Edison also wanted to remind residents that they should contact Con Ed by calling the 800 number if someone comes to their door claiming to be a Con Ed employee. Con Ed employees have badges with their picture. They can check with the company if the person is indeed a Con Ed employee by verifying the ID number on the badge. When in Doubt call the company.

Mayor's Community Affairs Unit

The E-bike Battery Trade- in program is still in effect. This program has been successful in preventing fires. The administration touted that they sealed 12,000 locations and confiscated \$80 million worth of cannabis product. They will be disposed of at an out-of-state site – in Ohio.

The Community Board 8 Office will be closed on **Friday, November 22, 2024**, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The whole staff will be attending a Department of Buildings' training at Borough Hall. If you need to reach us during that time, please send us an email at qn08@cb.nyc.gov.



Happy Birthday to: Douglas Sherman and James Gallagher, Jr.

Marie Adam-Ovide

Health Minute with Dr. Penny Stern - Health Committee Chair

I'd like to start by telling everyone that today is World Kindness Day, which is celebrated around the world on November 13. First introduced in 1998 by the World Kindness Movement, World Kindness Day offers an opportunity to highlight good deeds in the community and the common thread of kindness.

On a more serious health note, November is Lung Cancer Awareness Month during which we make an effort to raise awareness of the leading cause of cancer death in both men and women in the US. More people die of lung cancer than of breast, prostate, and colon cancers combined. What does this mean in numbers? More than 228,000 people will be diagnosed with lung cancer this year and more than 140,000 will die.

It's important to let everyone know about lung cancer screening programs designed to detect the disease early, which helps promote survival. The estimate is that as many as 15,000 peoples' lives could be saved through screening and early detection.

Everyone should be aware of symptoms that may suggest the presence of lung cancer – although people keep in mind that often symptoms do not appear until the disease is relatively advanced, which is why screening can be life-saving. Some symptoms may include a chronic cough – sometimes referred to as a 'smoker's cough' as well as shortness of breath, hoarseness, persistent bronchitis, bouts of pneumonia and even coughing up blood.

So, what can you do to help prevent lung cancer? Here is what the Society of Thoracic Surgeons recommend:

- **Stop Smoking:** Cigarette smoking is the number one lung cancer risk factor and avoid second-hand smoke.
- **Be aware of air pollution:** The more dangerous chemicals you breathe in, the higher the lung cancer risk
- **Exercise:** Daily exercise and breathing exercises are ways to exercise your lungs.
- Keep you with your medical checkups on a regular basis.

And, if you are at risk for lung cancer, ask your doctor about being screened.

Adjournment

Wendy Gennaro made a motion to adjourn, the motion carried unanimously. The meeting ended at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Soleil Griffin, CB8 Staff November 20, 2024