



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 Board Meeting/Public Hearing held on Wednesday, May 11, 2022, at the Hillcrest Jewish Center located at 183-02 Union Turnpike.

Attendance:

Board Members Present:

Dilafroz Ahmed, Heather Bennett-Idels, Robert H. Block, Edward Chung, Susan D. Cleary, Maria DeInnocentiis, Allen Eisenstein, Kevin Forrestal, Howard A. Fried, James Gallagher, Wendy Gennaro, Ashan Habib, Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Steven Konigsberg, Mohammed Islam “Delwar”, Paul S. Lazauskas, Jennifer Martin, Yaniv Meirov, David Mordukhaev, Dilip Nath, Rabbi Shlomo Nisanov, Alan Ong, Tamara Osherov, Hersh Parekh, Simon Pelman, Frances Peterson, Mohammad Rahman, Charlton Rhee, Jesse Rosenbaum, Seymour Schwartz, Deepti Sharma, Douglas Sherman, Harbachan Singh, Dr. Penny M. Stern, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin, Amy Tse and Jacob Weinberg.

Board Members Absent:

Kenneth Cohen II, Solomon Davydov, Bhitihara-Martha Fulton, John Gebhard, Tami Hirsch, Neeta Jain, Mitch Lisker, Elke Maerz, Mary Maggio, Tamika Williams-Moore, and Emanuel Yllescas.

Others Present:

Evelyn Li representing Congresswoman Grace Meng, Max Weprin representing Borough President Donovan Richards, Honorable Council Member Linda Lee, Michelle Sanjose representing Council Member James Gennaro, Ashley Lin representing State Senator John Liu, Daiquan Llewelyn representing State Senator Leroy Comrie, Hudy Rosenberg representing Assembly Member Nily Rozic, Rokeya Khter representing Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz, Ben Goodman representing the NYC School Construction Authority (SCA), Gayle Mandaro, NYC SCA, Andrea Bender, NYC SCA, Deputy Inspector Kevin Chan, 107th Precinct, P.O. Kevin McCarthy, 107th Precinct Community Affairs, CB8 District Manager and Jatna Reyes, CB8 Staff Member.

Call to Order:

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

Public Participation:

Evelyn Li – Ms. Li was representing Congresswoman Grace Meng. She informed us that Congresswoman Meng passed legislation on a bill that will create the first national museum to preserve the history, culture, and accomplishments of Asian Pacific Americans. Other news and press releases can be found on her website by visiting: <https://meng.house.gov/>.

Chairperson Taylor invited Council Member Linda Lee to say a few words.

Honorable Council Member Linda Lee – CM Lee informed us that along with Assembly Member Nily Rozic, Congresswoman Grace Meng, they wrote a letter to Mayor Eric Adams about what is going with the Wyndham Hotel [61-27 186th Street]. They are being asked not to extend the contract, which is set to expire on June 30, 2022, since there have been issues with their security. They are having weekly conversations with them as well as the NYC Comptroller about this contracting issue. Along with Council Member Erik Bottcher, she is introducing legislation to increase the penalties for excessive noise which is a huge concern in some areas in our district. She is also working with District Manager Marie Adam-Ovide and the Department of Transportation to schedule the Co-Naming of Foothill Avenue. She informed us that her office still has funds available for the removal of graffiti. She asked if anyone has any locations that have graffiti, to please let her office know. They have a good relationship with ACE and Wildcats who do the graffiti removal. They will forward it to them for removal. They will be having a Health Fair on Sunday, May 15th at the Alley Pond Park [Springfield Boulevard and 76th Avenue] from Noon to 3:00 p.m. If anyone has any questions, they can call her office at: 718-468-0137.

Marc A. Haken – Mr. Haken asked CM Lee about what the City Council is doing to combat gun violence as well as prevent gun entrance in schools. We experienced several shootings in our District of teenagers. He wanted to know what safety measure will be taken from now on.

Answer: [CM Lee] – CM Lee stated that this topic came up during the Safety Council meeting they just had with the Police Department. They are requesting more patrol on the streets, especially near schools. A representative from the District Attorney Katz was also present who spoke about the gun buyback program. They have retrieved a lot of guns [335] from the streets since she took office. They are working with the schools and the NYPD closely on this.

Daiquan Llewellyn representing Senator Leroy Comrie – Mr. Llewellyn informed us that several bills have been passed in the Senate this past week: Bill S4708 which deals with the expansion on remedies for violations of New York State uniform fire prevention and building code and bill S3791 which deals with establishing the crime of misappropriation of payroll funds. Several other events will be held this month. Flyers were left at the table.

Marc A. Haken – To [Mr. Llewellyn] – Senator Comrie for a number of years was the chair of School District 29. He has great interest in schools. What role is he playing in the Senate in regard to all of these gun issues, penalty for possession of guns and that entire genre.

Answer: [Mr. Llewellyn] – We are understanding what's going on in our communities and making sure we have legislation that are put in to secure and safeguard the situations that are happening. We understand that gun violence is something that is going on nationally. We want to make sure that we are doing more legislative work to make sure that we can assist the issue further.

Ashley Lin representing Senator John Liu – Senator Liu was able to secure \$20M in funding to combat anti-hate crimes. They will also have an E-Waste event on Saturday, May 21st at 10:00 a.m. at St. Anastasia Church in Douglaston.

Hudy Rosenberg representing Assemblywoman Nily Rozic – The MTA will be hosting the Queens re-design meeting tomorrow night. If anyone is unable to attend, they can reach out to their office, and they'll make sure comments get submitted. They have COVID-19 test kits available in their office upon request. You can call their District office at: 718- 820-0241.

Rokeya Khter representing Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz – Ms. Khter informed us that the office of DA Katz is working closely with each Community Board in doing presentations on Domestic Violence, Gun violence, Human Trafficking, etc. They will have two events this month. They will have an API event on May 24th. On May 26th, they will have a Memorial Day event at 11:00 a.m. at the Elmhurst Veteran’s Park. It will be a hybrid event. She will email us the flyers for distribution.

Public Hearing:

Proposed Addition to MS216Q – 64-20 175th Street/BBL 4-06903-1 – Marc A. Haken, Chair of the Youth, Education and Libraries Committee

Presentation by Mr. Ben Goodman representing the School Construction Authority (SCA) –The School Construction Authority (SCA) has filed for the construction of a new, approximately 540-seat addition to Middle School 216Q in School District 26, which is within the confines of Community Board/District 8. The proposed addition will be constructed on a portion of the existing, approximately 103,000 square feet (2.365 acres), Middle School 216Q’s campus in the Fresh Meadows section of Queens.

These are some of the main highlights of the presentation:

- The school is located on the East side of 175th Street, to the south of 64th Avenue, and east of 174th Street. The proposed site will be located on a portion of the existing Middle School 216Q campus, in the Fresh Meadows section of Queens.
- The site plan and supplemental materials summarizing the proposed action are available at: 30-30 Thomson Avenue in Long Island City. Comments on the proposed action may be submitted to the NYC SCA at the above address or by email to sites@nycsca.org and will be accepted until May 25, 2022.
- As part of their process for site selection, they are required to present school site to local Community Boards and the community education council within 45 days of public comment period. The process includes a State Quality Partner Overview, engagement with different types of city agencies before going into the City Council for final approval.
- An aerial view of the proposed site was shown.

Questions from the Board Members:

Martha Taylor – Exactly where does this addition go in the playground?

Answer: [Mr. Goodman] – The new addition will be located in one of the playgrounds going towards 65th Avenue.

Jesse Rosenbaum – Has a consideration been given in regard to parking? One, for the staff members that you may have and second for pick-up and drop-off of the total number of students that you are going to have in addition to the amount of students that are there now? I don’t know how you are going to do that with the infrastructure you have now.

Answer: [Mr. Goodman] – Regarding your second question on the pick-up and drop-off, this is something that the SCA does not apply. It is not part of our review.

Dr. Penny Stern – I actually went to that school years ago, I can envision the area pretty well. How much of the nice playground area will be left there?

Answer: [Mr. Goodman] – As of this time, we are not certain as we need to go through the design phase. There will be some area of the playground left.

Answer: [Ms. Bender] – We know this is something that the community is focused on, so we will do our very best to conserve as much as possible.

Dilip Nath – So friends, I had the privileged honor to serve on the PTA at M.S. 216. One of the best middle schools of New York City. If you walk any day at Ryan 216, the school is overcrowded with over 200 people. We are doing an injustice to our children. We need additional capacity; we have been asking this for years. This is our opportunity and moment. It's time to support this.

Alan Ong – So, for clarification, the additional 540-seat, is it to relieve, as Dilip said, the overcrowdings and not really additional for more kids to come in?

Answer: [Mr. Goodman] – We are usually asked to relieve overcrowding in a geographic area. In addition, it also serves for additional population growth in the area which we do see, especially where Ryan is located. We have no control over the DOE, solely enrollment zoning or admission.

Kevin Forrestal – As somebody who's been involved with schools over the years, I was the president of the PTA at Ryan many years ago, also served for 6 years as the parliamentarian. Several members of this board, Sey Schwartz, myself, Councilman Gennaro was also very involved in procuring staff parking for schools that was provided (i.e., Gateway School for Sciences, etc.). There were many spots that were allocated to the staff, free of charge. While they may not do it routinely or even often, it is done. There is nothing that would preclude from providing staff parking. I don't know the details, but this was something that the faculty at Gateway was very appreciative as well as many of the neighbors of the area as more parking was available to them. I ask you to please consider this.

Marc A. Haken – Possibly, the School Construction Authority, can go with the NYPD to provide additional on-street parking reserved for school staff only. I was at a school (P.S. 18) just yesterday and there is an entire block that had signs reserved for staff members only. This may be something that it can be included in your recommendation.

Howard A. Fried – I have a two-part question. You mentioned that you will do as best as you can to preserve as much as the pretty park grounds as possible. How much does “best as possible” mean? On the map, you had two sections mapped out, they seem to be a quarter or so of those two blocks of the property.

Answer: [Ms. Bender] – The shaded area to the north is the existing school. The area on the south, where the play yard is, the addition will be on one side or the other. [explaining the location on the slide shown of the proposed site].

Was any consideration given to expand on top of the school? Instead of taking parts of the playground.

Answer: [Mr. Goodman] – That's something we do not do. If you are building on top of the school, it will have to be vacant through the duration of the construction.

Answer: [Ms. Mandaro] – In addition, if we build a higher building where we have little kids, moving kids up and down through a fire drill or an emergency will be radical. We will also have to do a substantial structural analysis to determine if we can build on top.

Edward Chung – My child went to that school when he was a kid. The best part of that school is the adequate playground for the kids. It was built there for children to exercise and recreation. By taking away part of that playground, you're taking away the physical part of the education. The kids here need fresh air, exercise, and education, by doing this you are compromising that space for the kids.

Jesse Rosenbaum – I need to respond to that comment about the parking for the teachers around the building. Several concerns, one, school buses. They are going to be bringing school buses in, they'll need a place for discharge and pick-up for the kids. Two, when that goes on and you have parents

bringing in and dropping off their kids, they double park and triple park. We have seen that all over and it needs to be addressed before putting part of the plans into effect. I am very much in favor of expanding the school and adding to the education of the population, but you can't just leave this like this.

Maria DeInnocentiis – Will the building have a basement? If so, what will you be doing to prevent flooding. It is in a flood area.

Answer: *[Mr. Goodman]* – We don't know yet if there is going to be a basement, that will be decided as we go through the designs. For flood work we do have professional architects and engineers. We will make the best effort as we can and with the technology and the current construction codes to prevent flooding. That's something we do take very seriously. After Ida, we know what happened. We are going to give that good due consideration.

Will the plan include retrofitting the main school to prevent flooding like we had during Ida?

Answer: *[Mr. Goodman]* – I believe at this time Ryan actually, there was emergency repairs immediately after Ida. I will follow up and see where we are with that and get back to the Board. We all know that Ryan needs to be increased. Since Ryan is a community school, those 540-seats you are taking in, will that be taken by CB8 students, or is it going to be open beyond the district?

Answer: *[Mr. Goodman]* – We wouldn't know because we are the construction folks, the Department of Education (DOE) is the one to decide school enrollment and the geographic enrollment zone. That would be something that the DOE could answer.

I feel that you are asking us to vote for a plan, we don't know where the site is going to be located, we don't know the impact on the grassy areas, we don't know the parking information, we don't know flooding information. We really don't have anything from you to go on but you want us to vote. I think this is something distorted.

Marc A. Haken – Maria [DeInnocentiis], 216 has had flooding for years, well before Ida. With the play or grassy area, we can go and ask them to put tennis provisions there. When you say we don't know where it is going to be on the track, is it going to be in tennis courts, it is very important to us, and we need answers to that type of stuff.

Harbachan Singh – Have you look into the possibility in buying any additional properties to compensate for the loss of space that will be utilized for building the extension.

Answer: *[Ms. Mandaro]* – We didn't have additional parcel. My job every day is to identify parcels to buy, lease to expand or construct new school sites for the benefit of the kids in the City of New York. If we could find properties and the sizes of property to construct additional annexes, we will certainly be interested. As all of you know, this is a very well-developed community and there is not a lot of large parcels of land available to expand or construct. The same site that we are asking you guys to submit comments to, if you know of sites that are available and are on the market for the sale, whether it be vacant land, vacant buildings, etc. Please let us know and submit the addresses at: www.nycsca.org. I promise to you that I personally review every site that comes into us to determine whether or not is feasible to construct a new school.

James Gallagher – When do you plan to start and when will it be finished?

Answer: *[Ms. Mandaro]* – September 2026 potential school opening as of our predictions.

Answer: *[Mr. Goodman]* – Generally it takes us about two to three years to build and one year for design.

DM Adam-Ovide – To *[Ms. Mandaro]* – You didn't really answer the question that was asked by our Board Member Harbachan Singh. He asked if you sought adjacent properties to make sure that they compensate for the school yard that you are taking away. You did not mention that you asked

neighbors if they were willing to sell their lots so you can add it to the property. I think that was his question.

Answer: [Ms. Mandaro] – We are not, as a general rule, we are not in the business of trying to remove folks from their homes.

DM Adam-Ovide – Not remove, only if they are willing to.

Answer: [Ms. Mandaro] – Quite frankly man with all due respect, in order to make an appropriate play yard, we will need more than one residence and it can take away its fashion. We need an assemblance of neighbors ready and able to sell their homes in the same timeframe that will work for us in order to create the place that we are trying to build. We are not opposed to that, but I tell you from experience, is very challenging to find multiple neighbors willing to sell for a fair market value and at the same time. I'll take this comment into advisement.

If you don't ask, you'll never know if you will get a yes.

Dilip Nath – We had a meeting in School District 26, when they came, we asked the same question, where will they build the school, they will not take away the entire playground, there is a lot of space to build the additional seat. I'd rather sacrifice the parking over education. Today, at Ryan we are overcrowded. Folks please, we need this.

Marc A. Haken – Every parent wants their child to be in the school near their home or in a good district. This is School District 26. I live in District 29, I have parents that live there and want their children to attend schools in District 26 and they are accepted in School District 26 with which criteria, I don't know. I was the guest speaker at a meeting last night at a school, 1/3 of the school students there did not reside in the catchment area of that school. That is my observation.

Chairperson Taylor – Are we proposing to add an addition to the school to bring additional children from other districts to our district?

Answer: [Marc Haken] – It will happen. We want to know if these seats will be occupied by CB8 children or if any seat will be reserved for children who don't reside in the district. We want to know how many children get accepted outside of the district in our schools yearly. This is a real problem that we face.

Wendy Gennaro – Is there any data available. If the school is 200% over capacity, isn't there any data about this that we know how many students are accepted from our district?

Answer: [Marc Haken] – Of course there is, whether they will release it, I don't know. But it exists.

Answer: [Mr. Goodman] – That's an enrollment question and I think the DOE may have that.

Answer: [Ms. Mandaro] – The district office at the Department of Education may be able to supply to you those statistics, certainly not the SCA, we build schools.

Marc A. Haken – To [Alan Ong] – You are on the board with the Department of Education. Will we be able to get the information?

Answer: [Alan Ong] – If we need data from the DOE, we should be able to get it from student enrollment. I think this is the only school that take kids from a different district. If we inquire, we may get that information of course.

Paul Lazauskas – With the green space that will be taken away, in the new plans, let's say, will there be a plan to build a gym or an auxiliary gym to make up for the loss of the green space?

Answer: [Mr. Goodman] – We do provide physical education spaces during the new addition. That is something we don't know yet since we are in the design phase still. This is something we can take into account certainly.

Jesse Rosenbaum – I would like to make a motion to table the vote on this proposal until all our questions are answered.

Answer: *[Marc Haken]* – I don't think we can do that.

Yes, many questions we have asked, the answer is I don't know.

Answer: *[Marc Haken]* – The clock has been started. I don't think we can. Where are we with the clock?

Answer: *[Ms. Mandaro]* – You have until May 25th. Based on the notice of filing and the hearing date that is today.

Jesse Rosenbaum made a motion to table the vote on the proposed addition to M.S. 216 until all the questions raised by the Board Members are answered, seconded by Howard A. Fried.

Discussion:

Gayle Mandaro – Under legislation, we are required to come to the community board and the community education council with any proposed site selection. We started the clock ticking by posting it in the New York Post, City Record and doing the notice of filing. After consulting with the community board and the community education council as to their availability to entertain us for a meeting. Based on our notice of filing, you have until May 25, 2022, to submit any comments either in affirmative, negative or suggestion. All of that will be included in our final package submitted to City Council and the Mayor for final vote and approval.

Marc A. Haken – Jesse *[Rosenbaum]* may I ask that you rescind your motion and second and that a motion be made including all the questions so that these questions are part of the motion and then we can vote on it.

Answer: *[Jesse Rosenbaum]* – [Are] you looking for it to be turned down?

No. Something to the effect that we approve the addition to M.S. 216 provided that there be sufficient parking available and all of the things that we spoke about be part of the motion. We only have until the 25th and I don't think we can meet again.

DM Adam-Ovide – I just want to add that they did submit their documents to us on time. We reached out to them for a meeting last month and that date did not work for them. That is the reason why they are here tonight.

Answer: *[Chairperson Taylor]* – We have a problem. It is not ours, it's theirs.

Kevin Forrestal – I would vote on postponing it and we should come up with a message that we are postponing it because they have not presented a plan. They started the clock, and they haven't provided the basic information. They haven't even said where they are going to be building it. This means that there are no plans. Let's approve it being provided that they answer all the questions.

Maria DeInnocentiis – We did this with P.S. 26, and they just overwrote all of our objections and built it the way they wanted it. I think we need to get answers before we make a decision. There is no one on this board that is opposed to expanding Ryan, no one, but I think we need to have answers as to whether we are losing our green space, whether we are going to have parking, whether we are going to a flood plan so that we won't have flooding. We need those answers.

Answer: *[Marc Haken]* – I have no problem, there is a motion on the floor, let's run the motion please.

Marc A. Haken - asked Jesse Rosenbaum to re-state the motion.

Answer: *[Jesse Rosenbaum]* – We want this to go through but if we don't get answers to our questions we can't. I want to table the vote until the next meeting being provided that they give us

the answer to these questions. These are very standard questions, where you are building, how are you building, parking, pick-up, and drop-off. You should have been ready for that. I'm sorry.

Jesse Rosenbaum made a motion to table the vote on the proposal of the proposed addition to M.S. 216Q until the School Construction Authority (SCA) is able to respond to the question that have been posed, seconded by Howard A. Fried.

A roll call vote was taken.

Count in favor: **34** Opposed: **5** Abstained: **0**

Members in Favor: Dilafroz Ahmed, Heather Bennett-Idels, Robert H. Block, Edward Chung, Susan D. Cleary, Maria DeInnocentiis, Allen Eisenstein, Kevin Forrestal, Howard A. Fried, James Gallagher, Wendy Gennaro, Ashan Habib, Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, , Mohammed Islam “Delwar”, Jennifer Martin, Yaniv Meirov, David Mordukhaev, , Rabbi Shlomo Nisanov, Alan Ong, Tamara Osheroov, Simon Pelman, Frances Peterson, Mohammad Rahman, Charlton Rhee, Jesse Rosenbaum, Seymour Schwartz, Deepti Sharma, Douglas Sherman, Harbachan Singh, Dr. Penny M. Stern, Martha Taylor, Amy Tse and Jacob Weinberg.

Members opposed: Steven Konigsberg, Paul S. Lazauskas, Dilip Nath, Hersh Parekh and Mohammed Tohin.

Salute to the Flag

Chairperson Martha Taylor led the salute to the flag.

Approval of Minutes:

Michael Hannibal made a motion to approve the minutes of March 23, 2022, seconded by Harbachan Sing.

Approval of Minutes:

Michael Hannibal made a motion to approve the minutes of April 13, 2022, seconded by Dr. Penny Stern.

Chairperson Taylor called on Kevin Forrestal, Chair of the Community Board 8 Nominating Committee to begin the Nominations of Officers.

Kevin Forrestal – Mr. Forrestal presented the Executive Board slate of nominations for officers of the board. The procedure is that in we nominate candidates for the various officers that are available. Then at the next meeting which will be in June, there is a vote. In accordance with the By-Laws, I now open the floor to nominations.

Chairperson – Martha Taylor

Nominated by Marc Haken, seconded by Jesse Rosenbaum.

1st Vice Chair – Michael Hannibal

Nominated by Howard A. Fried, seconded by Harbachan Singh.

2nd Vice Chair – Seymour Schwartz

Nominated by Charlton Rhee, seconded by Martha Taylor.

3rd Vice Chair – Mary Maggio [Ms. Maggio was not present. She indicated that accepts nominations if nominated. She sent a written statement via email to the CB]

Nominated by Seymour Schwartz, seconded by Michael Hannibal.

Treasurer – Harbachan Singh

Nominated by Dilafroz Ahmed, seconded by Wendy Gennaro.

Secretary – Bhitihara Martha-Fulton [Ms. Fulton was not present. She indicated that accepts nominations if nominated. She sent a written statement via email to the CB]

Nominated by Susan Cleary, seconded by Wendy Gennaro.

Kevin Forrestal closed nominations for all categories. Next month will be the vote for these candidates.

Chairperson’s Report – Martha Taylor

- Welcome to our new Community Assistant Sandra Aikens-Williams. She started two weeks ago and is being trained.
- In your packet, you have the Committee Selection Form. Each member must serve on at least two committees. Please complete the form and return it to the District Manager tonight or by the end of next week. If you do not return them, you will be kept on the same committees that you were on last year.
- We have free COVID-19 Testing Kits that were provided to our Board by Assembly Member Nily Rozic and State Senator John Liu. There are two tests in each kit. She asked everyone to take one home tonight.
- The Sinai Chapels has not closed. They sold the Fresh Meadows Building and re-located to Forest Hills. The phone number is still the same. Any questions, see Jennifer Martin.

District Manager’s Report – May 2022

May is Military Appreciation Month! The NYC Department of Veterans Services has many resources for veterans. Please go to their website at www.nyc.gov/veterans to learn more. We learned at the Borough Cabinet meeting this month that the rate of veteran suicides is higher than that of the general population (31% v. 18%). The suicide hotline number is 800 273-8255 (Press 1 for Vets).

Mayor’s Community Affairs Unit (CAU)

Although there are less murders now than there was this time in 2021, there has been an increase in violent crimes throughout the city. Many of the crimes included guns. The administration is planning two town hall meetings in each borough including one for the Queens North precincts and the other for the Queens South precincts. They are looking for venues that can hold up to 300- 400 people. This should occur around June.

Fire Department (FDNY)

They are currently working on fire hydrant inspections. They are planning block parties and Fire House open houses for this summer (date TBA). They are also planning events around the CPR awareness week in June.

Department of Transportation (DOT)

DOT’s representative announced that Car Free Earth Day went well! This year all five boroughs participated. In the past, it was only held in Manhattan. He reminded us that DOT has programming grants for organizations that want to have open streets.

He also urged everyone to take special care as they drive through work zones to keep road construction workers safe. Too many of them get injured on the road every year.

Department of for the Aging (DFTA)

The Home Energy Assistance Program’s (HEAP) the cooling component opened this week on May 2, 2022. The application can be found on their website.

NYC Commission on Human Rights

There will be a youth symposium on June 9, 2022. We will receive a flyer soon. Additionally, the bystander workshops are still being held virtually. They have partnered with the Queens Public Library on this.

Department of Buildings (DOB)

The 2021 deadline to submit the benchmarking and energy efficiency report was extended for large buildings. They have until May 31, 2022, to submit it.

They still have not received the quarterly report from the former Wyndham Hotel on 186th Street. They are being fined \$1,000 a month and the fines are up to \$3,000 as of May 4, 2022.

Department of Sanitation

We often receive inquiries about street sweeping (mechanical broom service) for our district from residents. We have requested and received the routing sheet for the areas with mechanical broom service. We have it in the office for reference.

At the Queens Borough Cabinet, we learned that new buildings that will have at least 150 housing units and those doing major alterations are now required to submit a Waste Management Plan. In this plan, they must show how they can contain 150% of the waste that they generate. It must include a separate area dedicated to recycling. This new mandate became effective on April 1, 2022. The Department of Sanitation is already working with the Department of Buildings (DOB) on this. DOB has submitted a list of properties for all five boroughs. Those who are submitting Alteration Type 1 plans are also on that list. They have identified 148 applications in the five boroughs and 20 of which are in Queens so far. Once notified these applicants have up to sixty (60) days to respond. If plans are rejected, they are given additional time to resubmit.

There are no fines associated with failure to submit the Waste Management Plan; however, the Department of Sanitation may stop garbage and/or recycling collection service. This would require management to arrange for private carting which is very expensive.

Happy Birthday to: Jacob Weinberg, Mitch Lisker, Edward Chung, Mary Maggio and Heather Bennett-Idels

Marie Adam-Ovide

Borough President’s Donovan Richards Representative – Max Weprin

- Borough President Richards is hosting an AAPI Heritage Month celebration on May 19th at 6:00 p.m. at Queens Borough Hall.
- On Thursday, May 26th at 2:00 p.m., there will be a recruitment job fair at the Helen Marshal Cultural Center at Queens Borough Hall. You can RSVP for these events at: www.queensbp.org.
- On June 3rd at 10:00 a.m., Borough President Richards will be delivering his State of the Borough Address at LaGuardia Community College. If anyone has any questions, he can be reached at: 718-286-2678 or via email at: mweprin@queensbp.org.

Chairperson Taylor stated that there were two items pending final vote from the April 13, 2022, Board Meeting/Public Hearing due to lack of quorum. She asked for a motion and vote of both items.

Item #1:

Co-Naming: Request for co-naming of 164th Place corner of Goethals Avenue as a tribute to late Detective Raymond Abear.

Marc A. Haken made a motion to approve the street Co-Naming of 164th Place at Goethals Avenue as a tribute to late Detective Raymond Abear, seconded by Michael Hannibal.

A roll call vote was taken.

Count in favor: 37 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0

Members in Favor: Dilafroz Ahmed, Heather Bennett-Idels, Robert H. Block, Edward Chung, Susan D. Cleary, Maria DeInnocentiis, Allen Eisenstein, Kevin Forrestal, Howard A. Fried, James Gallagher, Wendy Gennaro, Ashan Habib, Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Steven Konigsberg, Mohammed Islam “Delwar”, Paul S. Lazauskas, Jennifer Martin, David Mordukhaev, Dilip Nath, , Alan Ong, Tamara Osherov, Hersh Parekh, Simon Pelman, Frances Peterson, Mohammad Rahman, Charlton Rhee, Jesse Rosenbaum, Seymour Schwartz, Deepti Sharma, Douglas Sherman, Harbachan Singh, Dr. Penny M. Stern, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin, Amy Tse and Jacob Weinberg.

Members opposed: None.

The motion was approved.

Item #2:

BSA Cal. No. 214-06-BZ – 196-23 Hillside Avenue/BBL 4-10509-265 – An application to extend the term of a variance, which expired on April 10, 2022, for a gas station.

Marc A. Haken made a motion to approve BSA Cal. No. 214-06-BZ – 196-23 Hillside Avenue to extend the terms of a variance for 10 years, seconded by Wendy Gennaro.

A roll call vote was taken.

Count in favor: 37 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0

Members in Favor: Dilafroz Ahmed, Heather Bennett-Idels, Robert H. Block, Edward Chung, Susan D. Cleary, Maria DeInnocentiis, Allen Eisenstein, Kevin Forrestal, Howard A. Fried, James Gallagher, Wendy Gennaro, Ashan Habib, Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Steven Konigsberg, Mohammed Islam “Delwar”, Paul S. Lazauskas, Jennifer Martin, David Mordukhaev, Dilip Nath, Alan Ong, Tamara Osherov, Hersh Parekh, Simon Pelman, Frances Peterson, Mohammad Rahman, Charlton Rhee, Jesse Rosenbaum, Seymour Schwartz, Deepti Sharma, Douglas Sherman, Harbachan Singh, Dr. Penny M. Stern, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin, Amy Tse and Jacob Weinberg.

Members opposed: None.

The motion was approved.

Committee Reports:

Health Minute with Dr. Penny Stern, Health Committee Chair – Dr. Stern spoke about Hypertension also known as high blood pressure. About 116 million people in the U.S. have hypertension. This a huge risk factor for the development of cardiovascular disease. Even though this has been known for many years. It is amazing how many people still think that heart disease is something that happens to other people.

The truth is, that heart disease is the number one killer among men and women. Women have some natural protection in the form of estrogen for part of their lives, but heart blood pressure can impact us at any time. Women in particular need to be aware for the risk for elevated blood pressure during pregnancy which can turn into Eclampsia, a life-threatening medical emergency that can result in maternal and infant death. The month of May has been set aside to remind people about the importance of being educated about Blood Pressure. There are many resources available online to keep you informed. She asked everyone to make sure they are informed about their blood pressure.

If your healthcare provided has recommended that you start exercising or lose some weight to help with blood pressure, take the opportunity to do that. If you’ve been told that medication is indicated, take those medications as directed. In the words of former Surgeon General Everett Koop nearly four decades ago, “Medications don’t work in patients who don’t take them”. She asked everyone to get educated about blood pressure. Know your numbers and act accordingly!

Adjournment

Howard A. Fried made a motion to adjourn this meeting at 8:52 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jatnna Reyes, CB8 staff
May 18, 2022*