



# COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 9

Queens Borough Hall  
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Sherry Algreto, Chairperson \* James S. McClelland, District Manager \* Donovan Richards Jr., Borough President

## OCTOBER 14, 2025, MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING ROOM 200, 120-55 QUEENS BOULEVARD, KEW GARDENS, NY 11424

### BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

ABSENCES AS OF APRIL 2025-MARCH 2026

2<sup>nd</sup> # Represents Absences as of January-December 2025 (Borough President's Attendance)

Inderpaul Ahluwalia	(0)(0)	Stephen Forte	(0)(0)	Himmat Singh	(0)(0)
Sherry Algreto	(0)(0)	Vanessa Fuentes	(0)(0)	Jarnail Singh	(2)(2)
Faiuze Ali	(2)(2)	Albert Gamarra	(1)(1)	Matthew Singh	(0)(0)
Kirpal Billing	(1)(1)	Daniel Grieve	(0)(0)	Raghib Singh	(0)(0)
Swapan Chakraborty	(2)(2)	Sylvia Hack	(0)(0)	J. Richard Smith	(0)(0)
Rick Chetram	(0)(0)	Joseph Iaboni	(0)(0)	Esta-Joy Sydel	(0)(0)
Daniel Chu	(0)(0)	Fahovi Noman	(3)(3)	Andrew Taranto	(0)(0)
Andrea Crawford	(2)(2)	Kevin O'Leary	(0)(0)	Harpreet Toor	(1)(1)
Marilyn Custodio	(1)(1)	Ijaz Rahim	(1)(1)	Keith Villanueva	(0)(0)
Warlito DeLeon	(0)(0)	Cristal Rivera	(0)(0)	Seth Welins	(1)(1)
Hilary Dvorkin	(1)(1)	Philip Ross	(0)(0)	Stacey Yearwood	(0)(0)

### BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Dulal Bhattacharjee	(1)(1)	Rev. Ruben Cruz	(2)(2)	Rabbi Daniel Pollack	(1)(1)
Visnoonand Bisram	(2)(2)	Joan DeCamp	(1)(1)	Regina Santoro	(3)(3)
Zoila Bofill	(1)(1)	Stephen Esposito	(3)(3)	Mohinder Singh	(2)(2)
Maricela Cano	(1)(1)	Alicia Hassin	(2)(2)	Alyssa Velez	(2)(2)
John Carter	(1)(1)	Carmela Isabella	(2)(2)		

### ALSO PRESENT

James McClelland, District Manager  
Irina Barayeva, Community Coordinator

### LEGISLATORS/REPRESENTATIVES, CITY AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

Senator Joe Addabbo  
Council Member Lynn Schulman  
Assembly Member Jenifer Rajkumar  
Ann Marie Costella, Rep. Senator Joe Addabbo  
Rokeya Akhter, Rep. Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz  
Max Rose, Rep. Congress Member Gregory Meeks  
Clare Collins, Rep. Queens Borough President Donovan Richards  
Kevin Visniewski, Rep. Assembly Member Andrew Hevesi  
James Mongeluzo, Rep. NYC Comptroller Brad Lander

## 1. Opening of Meeting and Reading of Minutes

Chair Algreto stated that October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. She recognized Council Member Lynn Schulman as a five-year breast cancer survivor. She also remembered a 13-year-old high school student who was a victim of a shooting.

Chair Algreto offered her condolences to Regina Santoro, who recently lost her father, and to Joan DeCamp, who lost her nephew and his three children in a house fire.

October is also Domestic Violence Awareness Month and Italian Heritage Month.

**Senator Joe Addabbo** addressed the board:

- As a former member of Community Board 10, he expressed his heartfelt thanks to all board members and stated that their volunteer service truly helps to make the community a great place to live, work, and raise a family.
- There are two major projects currently underway. The first is Average Investment, which has long been a blight on the community due to graffiti and other issues. The Senator thanked the residents who came together to improve the area, and to the partners at the MTA and the 102<sup>nd</sup> Precinct for their assistance.  
The second project involves wooden murals that are being installed in various parts of the neighborhood.  
These areas were also previously marred by graffiti, but now residents are working together to create beautiful, community-driven art installations. He thanked the FDNY for helping clean the cement surfaces and the local company that assists with graffiti removal and litter cleanup.
- The Senator emphasized that improvements like these may seem cosmetic, but they help prevent other crimes from happening. For example, adding lighting or increasing police presence around revitalized areas make the neighborhood safer.
- October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Early detection and evaluation are critical.  
In recognition of this, he is hosting a mammogram event this Sunday at the Middle Village office, from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM.
- The Senator also recognized that October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, noting that even those who are not directly affected may know someone who is, and it's important to know where to turn for help.
- Finally, the Senator discussed the upcoming legislative session and state budget challenges. They are facing an estimated \$3B deficit, in addition to anticipated federal cuts, which may affect both state and city programs.

**Council Member Lynn Schulman** addressed the board and stated the following:

- Every year, council member's office participates in the Participatory Budgeting process, which will be starting soon. Each council member receives \$5 million in capital funding, and \$1 million of that is set aside for projects decided directly by the community. Residents can start submitting project proposals. The deadline for ideas will be sometime in late November.
- This past weekend, the council member held a historic street naming ceremony at 114<sup>th</sup> Street and 101<sup>st</sup> Avenue in Richmond Hill, officially naming it "Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji Marg Way," home to the Gurdwara Makan Chalabana. This honor recognizes the Guru's legacy of sacrifice, compassion, and his unwavering stance on justice.
- Council Member Schulman proudly shared that she is a five-year breast cancer survivor, crediting screening and early detection for saving her life. She strongly encourages everyone to make screening a priority. Her office is also working to expand local access to cancer screenings and awareness initiatives.
- She also mentioned that there are charter revision proposals on the November 4<sup>th</sup> ballot that will affect community boards, the City Council, and the broader community.

Chair Algreto asked if there were any corrections/additions to September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025, minutes and motions. There were none. EJ Sydell motioned to accept the minutes as presented. Regina Santoro seconded the motion.

**Motion # 1:** To adopt minutes as amended

**Vote # 1:** 29 in favor and 4 abstentions

The minutes were adopted as presented

## **2. Chairperson's Remarks & Exec. Report–Sherry Algreto, District Manager's Report–James McClelland**

Chair Algreto had nothing to report, as the Borough Board meeting was postponed to a later date.

DM McClelland wished happy birthday to: Vanessa Fuentes, Jarnell Singh, Matthew Sing and Mohinder Singh. He stated that the agency budget consultations are now complete.

An email was sent to all board members requesting their capital and expense suggestions for CB9's priority list. The DM asked the board members to submit them by October 31<sup>st</sup>. The board will be voting on the capital and expense priority list at the November board meeting, and the DM must submit the final list by November 14<sup>th</sup>.

## **3. Public Hearing**

### **➤ FY2027 Capital & Expense Budget Priorities**

Sol McCants, Richmond Hill Resident, suggested allocating funding to PSAL.

## **4. Public Forum**

Jonathan Rinaldi, Forest Hills Resident - spoke against Ballot Proposals 2, 3, and 4 on this year's NYC ballot, warning that they could reduce local control over neighborhood development, giving more power to the mayor's appointees and big developers. He drew comparisons to Local Law 97, cautioning against the possibility of higher costs and fewer protections for homeowners, co-op owners, and renters. Noted that the City of Yes plan could fast-track zoning changes without proper community input, risking displacement and rising costs. Emphasized keeping local voices in decision-making and protecting neighborhood stability.

Sol McCants, Richmond Hill Resident, spoke about the anniversary of George Floyd's death, various forms of electronic payments, and other related topics. (Testimony submitted.)

## **5. 102<sup>nd</sup> Precinct Briefing**

Capt. Pratima Maldonado stated that compared to last year, crime has decreased in several major categories, but GLAs (grand larcenies of automobiles) remain a concern. Residents are urged to secure their vehicles and install tracking devices like Air Tags, as thieves are using advanced technology to access and start newer cars.

The 102<sup>nd</sup> Precinct also reports a jewelry scam targeting elderly residents. Suspects, often posing as emotional individuals in distress, approach victims and swap their real jewelry for fake pieces or offer "free gifts" as part of the scam. Residents are advised to warn seniors and call 911 immediately if approached. Officers are aware and are monitoring the situation.

Question and answer period followed.

**6. Parks, Environment & Recreation Committee Report, J. Richard Smith, Chair**

- *Resolution: Forest Park – Barking Lot Dog Run Reconstruction Project*

**Motion # 2:** To support committee's resolution on Barking Lot Dog Run Reconstruction Project

**Vote # 2:** 31 in favor and 2 abstentions

Committee Chair Smith stated that tree pruning will be taking place in the Community Board 9 area next spring. The area scheduled for pruning is south of Jamaica Avenue, from 85<sup>th</sup> Street to 104<sup>th</sup> Street, down to 103<sup>rd</sup> Ave.

**7. Public Safety & Consumer Affairs Committee Report/Public Hearing (Letters of Intent Received)  
Albert Gamarra, Chair**

**a. On Premises Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider License Application – New**

Lalchanad Kallicharan  
131-10 101<sup>st</sup> Avenue  
Richmond Hill, NY 11419

*No Speakers*

**Motion # 3:** To oppose the new On Premises Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider License Application

**Vote # 3:** 31 in favor and 2 abstentions

**b. On Premises Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider License Application – Renewal**

Blend Restaurant & Lounge LLC  
127-07 94<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Richmond Hill, NY 11419

*No Speakers*

Tu Casa #4 Restaurant Corp., d/b/a La Sala by Tu Casa  
116-35 Metropolitan Avenue  
Kew Gardens, NY 11415

*No Speakers*

**c. On Premises Wine, Beer & Cider License Application – Renewal**

2020 Sabores Latinos Restaurant Bakery Corp.  
124-04 Jamaica Avenue  
Richmond Hill, NY 11418

*No Speakers*

**d. On Premises Beer & Cider License Application – Renewal**

Richmond Hill Deli Corp.  
D/b/a Richmond Hill Deli Restaurant  
123-07 Jamaica Avenue  
Richmond Hill, NY 11418

*No Speakers*

Letters regarding the above-mentioned renewal applications will be sent to the SLA.

The next Public Safety & Consumer Affairs Committee Zoom meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 28<sup>th</sup>.

Ann Marie Costella, Rep. Senator Joe Addabbo

Anne-Marie greeted attendees and shared legislative updates in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month and Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

She reported that Senator Addabbo co-sponsored a bill expanding eligibility for breast cancer screenings to include individuals with a second-degree relative with a history of breast cancer.

She also highlighted domestic violence–related legislation included in the FY26 enacted budget, which strengthens New York’s discovery laws to better support survivors, prevent case dismissals due to technicalities, and allocates \$135M for prosecutors and defenders to ensure compliance. Additional funding includes \$3.3M to increase reimbursement rates for forensic exams and expand virtual forensic exam services in underserved areas.

Rokeya Akhter, Rep. Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz

Ms. Akhter thanked Chair Algreto for acknowledging the DA’s ongoing work across Queens, including on cannabis enforcement. She warned residents to be cautious of current scams, particularly jewelry schemes, noting a recent case in which a friend’s mother was victimized. She also referenced the recent double homicide in Bellerose, where the suspect—recently released from jail—targeted residents by pretending to need help charging his phone. Ms. Akhtar emphasized the need for vigilance and awareness, especially regarding who we interact with. She also highlighted growing violence among youth, urging parents and neighbors to stay alert and report suspicious activity to authorities.

Max Rose, Rep. Congress Member Gregory Meeks, provided the following updates from federal agencies:

1. Medicare Open Enrollment runs from October 15 through December 7 each year. Coverage for those who enroll during this period will begin January 1, 2026.
2. Richmond Hill Post Office Parking: The Post Office in Richmond Hill has been notified regarding precinct parking issues, and the matter is being reviewed.
3. TSA Cares – Assistance for Travelers:  
Offers personalized assistance for travelers with disabilities - from trip planning to destination arrival. Travelers can contact them up to 72 hours prior to travel for help with screening policies, procedures, and what to expect at the security checkpoint.  
TSA Cares can also arrange assistance for injured service members, veterans, and wounded warriors.  
TSA Cares Helpline: 855-787-2227.

Clare Collins, Rep. Queens Borough President Donovan Richards

Ms. Collins, the new CB9 liaison from the Office of Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, announced two upcoming events:

- Filipino American History Month Celebration on October 18 at St. James Episcopal Church in Elmhurst, featuring performances, workshops, and free meals.
- South Queens Job Fair on October 23 at the Ozone Park Library, with networking and on-site interviews. Event details are available at [queensbp.nyc.gov](https://queensbp.nyc.gov).

Assembly Member Jenifer Rajkumar

The Assembly Member reported on several recent and upcoming events, including a street co-naming ceremony at the 114<sup>th</sup> Street Gurdwara and a Hispanic Heritage Month celebration honoring CB9 members Albert Gamarra, Crystal Rivera, and Zoyla Bofill.

The Homeowners Assistance Program has been expanded and will become a permanent biweekly service starting in January.

The Veterans Affairs initiative continues to grow, with another services day scheduled for tomorrow and new partnerships with local schools to engage students in honoring veterans.

Free civil legal services will be offered on October 30 at the Borough President's office.

The Assembly Member is also advancing an initiative to reduce prescription drug prices by allowing New York State to partner directly with manufacturers to increase competition.

Upcoming celebrations include Diwali events across the state and a "Hot or Scary" Halloween party in Ridgewood (CB5) featuring free food, music, and a costume contest.

#### Kevin G. Wisniewski, Rep. Assembly Member Andrew Hevesi

Kevin Wozniacki, representing Assembly Member Andrew Hevesi's office, reported that ongoing invitations and initiatives will now be shared with the Board by email.

He announced a Domestic Violence Awareness Month hearing on improving state support for survivors, following last year's veto of the Safe Shelter Act.

Assembly Member Hevesi has five bills awaiting the Governor's signature, including measures to expand childcare through tax abatements, provide proper luggage for foster children, and prevent false child abuse reports.

He also noted major budget challenges, including a \$13 billion Medicaid shortfall and potential federal cuts to SNAP and childcare programs.

The office will continue coordinating with Senator Addabbo's team on SLA issues and welcomes input from the Board.

#### James Mongeluso, Rep. NYC Comptroller Brad Lander

Provided updates on recent audits:

- Human services audit: over \$8M in improper subcontractor payments were identified across agencies, with gaps in competitive bidding and oversight.
- Sanitation Commercial Waste Zone audit: 12 of 18 audited zones had pending civil litigation and poor contractor records. Recommendations include revisiting contracts, strengthening oversight, and establishing merging mechanism for affected businesses or workers.
- Prevailing wage milestone: \$15M returned to underpaid workers; a public database is available to locate unclaimed back pay, including residents in Richmond Hill and Woodhaven.

### **8. Land Use & Housing Committee Report – Sylvia Hack & Andrew Taranto, Co-Chairs**

Mr. Toronto stated that the City Council Land Use Division was unable to join the board tonight to discuss the land use-related November ballot proposals. They will send the information to the District Manager, who will distribute it via email so attendees can share it within their networks.

The Land Use Committee, which met on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, reviewed a presentation on the Borough-Based Jail by the City's design consultant team. This team has held three prior community meetings at the Helen Marshall Cultural Center. DM McClelland has emailed the presentation, and the review process is ongoing. Another

community meeting will be held for input, after which the design team will update the committee with revisions.

## **9. Kirpal Billing, Budget & Finance Committee, Chair**

- Approved merit increases for community board staff - payment completed from the board's budget.
- Good and Welfare Fund currently has \$940. Members who haven't contributed are encouraged to donate \$20 voluntarily. Contributions can be submitted to the board office.
- Board-sponsored events funded from the budget:
  - Bounce Houses: PS64, Friends of Smoky Park, PS56
  - Neon Light for Woodhaven Holiday Lighting
  - Woodhaven Street Fair Lights
  - Queens Cancer Walk
  - Richmond Hill Block Association events
  - Park Fair events
- Additional budget details to be shared after approval by the Borough President's office and will be discussed at the next meeting.

## **10. Old/New Business**

Raghibir Singh extended gratitude to committee members, especially Chair Algreto, Council Member Lynn Schulmand, and Assemblywoman Jennifer Rajkumar, for supporting the honor of Gurdwara - Installation of a sign on 114<sup>th</sup> Street, commemorating Guru's sacrifice, which was officially completed on October 11<sup>th</sup>.

He invited all to participate in the upcoming Sikh Parade in Richmond Hill to celebrate Guru Nanak's birthday which will be held on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Parade route: 114<sup>th</sup> St & 101<sup>st</sup> Ave → 114<sup>th</sup> St → Liberty Ave → 123<sup>rd</sup> St → Atlantic Ave → 118<sup>th</sup> St & 114<sup>th</sup> St. The event will include free food and activities.

Warlito DeLeon had a question regarding any updates from the LIRR on the cost assessment of repairs to the Lefferts Boulevard overpass. DM McClelland answered that as of now, there have been no updates on the project. He will follow up with the MTA on a few items and will add this to the list. The MTA is supposed to provide a cost estimate soon; it's expected in approximately two weeks.

Harpreet Toor shared an update on e-bikes: bills are currently progressing through both the City Council and state legislature. No passage yet but moving in the right direction.

## **11. Public Forum**

*No speakers*

Andrea Crawford made a motion to adjourn the meeting; EJ Sydell seconded it.

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson at 8:58 PM.