



COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 9

Queens Borough Hall
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Kenichi Wilson, Chairperson * James S. McClelland, District Manager * Donovan Richards Jr., Borough President

FEBRUARY 9, 2021 MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR TELECONFERENCE VIRTUAL MEETING

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

ABSENCES AS OF APRIL 2020-MARCH 2021

2nd # Represents Absences as of January-December 2021(Borough President's Attendance)

Inderpaul Ahluwalia	(1)(0)	Sandra Datnarain	(0)(0)	Regina Santoro	(0)(0)
Sherry Algreto	(0)(0)	Joan DeCamp	(0)(0)	Maharani Singh	(2)(0)
Faiuze Ali	(2)(1)	Jan Fenster	(1)(0)	Matthew Singh	(6)(1)
Dilraj Batchu	(1)(0)	Laraine Fletcher	(1)(0)	Mohinder Singh	(4)(0)
Julio Batista	(0)(0)	Linda Fogal	(0)(0)	Raghibir Singh	(1)(0)
Dulal Bhattacharjee	(0)(0)	Daniel Grieve	(0)(0)	Sursattie Singh	(1)(1)
Kamal Bhuiyan	(3)(0)	Sylvia Hack	(0)(0)	J. Richard Smith	(0)(0)
Zoila Bofill	(1)(0)	Sherman Kane	(0)(0)	Alexandria Sumpter-Delves	(0)(0)
Latchman Budhai	(1)(0)	Kemanad Kishore	(3)(1)	Marie Turley	(2)(0)
John Carter	(0)(0)	Kevin O'Leary	(0)(0)	Seth Welins	(0)(0)
Daniel Chu	(0)(0)	Rabbi Daniel Pollack	(0)(0)	Kenichi Wilson	(0)(0)
Andrea Crawford	(0)(0)	Cristal Rivera	(2)(0)		
Marilyn Custodio	(1)(1)	Mohamed Safie	(3)(0)		

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Nick Comaianni	(9)(2)	Joseph Iaboni	(2)(2)	Raquel Olivares	(3)(1)
Stephen Esposito	(3)(1)	Lisa Komninos	(4)(1)	Jarnail Singh	(3)(1)

ALSO PRESENT

James S. McClelland, District Manager

Irina Barayeva, Community Associate

LEGISLATORS/REPRESENTATIVES, CITY AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

Jenifer Rajkumar, Assembly Member

Amparito Rosero, Rep. Queens Borough President Donovan Richards

Anthony Giudice, Rep. Senator Joe Addabbo

Michael Cohen, Rep. Council Member Karen Koslowitz

Ben Geremia, Rep. Council Member Bob Holden

Ty Hankerson, Rep. Council Member Adrienne Adams

Muhammad Rahman, DA Melinda Katz

James Mongeluzo, Rep. Comptroller Scott Stringer

Lisa George, Rep. Senator James Sanders Jr.

Joy Resor, Department of City Planning

1. PUBLIC HEARING

Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider Licenses, Letters of Intent Received

a. **On Premises Liquor License Application – New**

Mama Carmens Restaurant & Bar LLC
104-19 Jamaica Ave
Richmond Hill, NY 11418 *No speakers*

Rinconsito Inverteno Corp.
126-20 Atlantic Ave
Richmond Hill, NY 11418 *No speakers*

b. **On Premises Beer & Cider Application - New**

2020 Sabores Latinos Rest & Bakery Corp.
124-04 Jamaica Ave
Richmond Hill, NY 11418 *No speakers*

c. **On Premises Liquor License Application - Renewal**

Heat Caribbean Kitchen & Lounge Inc.
100-05 Atlantic Ave
Richmond Hill, NY 11418 *No speakers*

d. **Class Change Application**

Tu Casa #4 Restaurant Corp.
D/b/a La Sala By Tu Casa
116-35 Metropolitan Ave
Richmond Hill, NY 11418 *No speakers*

e. **Greater Woodhaven Development Corp. – “Woodhaven Fall Street Fair”** *No speakers*

2. REPORTS FROM LEGISLATIVE OFFICIALS

Assembly Member Jenifer Rajkumar

- Introduced her first bill at the State Assembly that will make ‘antibody cocktail’ widely available.
- AM Rajkumar is a co-sponsor of the bill that will allow vaccination by getting 4-hours paid time off from work in any job, private or public.
- A bill was passed by the State Assembly that gives small businesses an eviction and foreclosure moratorium until May 1st.
- Introduced a bill to make a Diwali a school holiday.
- The Assembly Member’s office staff will answer all questions regarding vaccination sites, etc.
- 13 laptops will be given away to the victims of recent house fire in Richmond Hill. They are donated by Tzar Realty with the help of Sherry Algreto.

Amparito Rosero, Rep. Queens Borough President Richards

- The Community Board Membership Applications are due February 19th.
- Up to \$20,000 in grants are available to support operational expenses for Queens small businesses in need. The info can be found at queensbp.org.
- Citi Field is open for COVID-19 vaccinations for Queens residents.
- Virtual Job Fair will take place on February 18th at 2 PM. Must RSVP.

Anthony Giudice, Rep. Senator Joe Addabbo, stated that the Senator is in budget negotiations and encourages everyone to weigh in on things they would like to see in this year's budget.

Mr. Giudice made an announcement of the upcoming events sponsored by the Senator. For information contact the office at 718-738-1111.

Michael Cohen, Rep. Council Member Koslowitz

- Explained the reasons why it's difficult to get an appointment for the vaccine.
- Deadline to submit Council discretionary funding requests is Feb. 16th, and Queens delegation funding is Feb. 22nd. The link to submit applications is: <https://council.nyc.gov/budget/fiscal-year-2022-discretionary-funding-expense-application-filing-period/>.

Ben Geremia, Rep. Council Member Bob Holden

Council Member will be hosting a virtual Your Councilman Event on Thursday, February 18th at 7:30 PM.

Council Member Holden's bill intro 2044 will be passing in the City Council this week. It will extend the moratorium on business awnings and signs for another two years from the date that the bill becomes law. The proposed legislation would also extend the temporary DOB assistance program established by Local Law 28 of 2019 for two years and would increase the 75% waiver of certain permit fees related to accessory sign installation to a 100% waiver of such fees.

The office is still working remotely, with appointments available for in person meetings. Feel free to give the office a call at 718-366-3900, or email them at district30@council.nyc.gov.

Ty Hankerson, Rep. Council Member Adrienne Adams, stated the following:

- CHHAYA is offering free tax preparation services, call 718-478-3848 to make an appointment.
- Council Member is sponsoring two Coat Giveaway Events with NYPD and AGABE Inc. at Rochdale Village and South Jamaica Houses.
- Notice of Property Value Event with the Department of Finance will be held on February 25th 7-8PM.
- E-Waste Recycling Event with DSNY will take place on February 27th 12-2 PM.
- Hand Sanitizer Refill Events and PPE Giveaways are also offered by the Council Member.
- Mr. Hankerson can be reached at 646-596-0518 or by email thankerson@council.nyc.gov.

Muhammad Rahman, Rep. DA Melinda Katz, stated that he can be reached at 929-816-9311.

James Mongeluzo, Rep. Comptroller Scott Stringer, reported on the following:

- NYC Comptroller Stringer's Weekly Economic & Fiscal Outlook Newsletter is published every Monday.
- Comptroller Stringer released 'Fair Shot NYC' Plan to Vaccinate Equity – <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/newsroom/comptroller-stringer-releases-fair-shot-nyc-plan-for-vaccine-equity/>
- Plan is unveiled to ensure fair distribution of PPP to NYC Small Businesses - <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/newsroom/comptroller-stringer-unveils-plan-to-ensure-fair-distribution-of-ppp-to-new-york-city-small-businesses/>
- Comptroller Stringer urged City to stop shortcutting nonprofit organizations on the frontlines of COVID relief – <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/newsroom/comptroller-stringer-urges-city-to-stop-shortcutting-nonprofits-on-the->

[frontlines-of-covid-relief/](#)

- Mr. Mongeluzo can be reached at 646-689-6509 or by email jmongel@comptroller.nyc.gov.

Lisa George, Rep. State Senator J. Sanders, Jr., stated that a COVID vaccination site has just opened in Richmond Hill at the Sikh Cultural Society. Appointment can be made by email: somosvaccinations.com or by calling 1-833-SOMOSNY.

Ms. George can be reached at 718-327-7017 or 917-446-9986.

3. PUBLIC FORUM *no speakers*

4. OPENING OF MEETING & READING OF MINUTES

Chair Wilson asked if there were any corrections/additions to January 12th, 2021 meeting minutes and motions.

Addition submitted by Seth Welins:

Page 6, under New Business, Mr. Seth Welins asked all to take a moment of silence in memory of Brian Sicknick, the police officer who was murdered during the January 6th insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. "Our moment of silence also reflects our deep concern for the injured police officers, the traumatized elected officials, and Capitol employees who experienced this terrible event."

Motion # 1: To accept January 12th, 2021 meeting minutes and motions as amended

Vote # 1: Unanimous

5. MONTHLY UPDATE NYPD 102nd PCT REPORT

Capt. Fidacaro stated that the 102nd Pct. is currently doing better in crime this year compared to last year but still are experiencing a lot of issues related to grand larceny auto. He stressed the importance of not leaving vehicles running and unlocked. There are also numerous car break-ins in the north east area of the Command, especially in Kew Gardens.

The 102nd Pct. is still maintaining its presence at the Umbrella hotel to maintain order.

Question and answer period followed.

6. CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS & EXEC. REPORT – Kenichi Wilson

- Woodhaven BID and the WRBA are working with DOT on postponing parking meters rate increase that was proposed before COVID.
- There were no snow removal complaints received by the board office despite heavy snow.
- Chair Wilson is working with DM McClelland and HPD on resolving the heat and hot water complaints from the remaining residents of the Umbrella Hotel.
- Have been advocating for restaurant workers to get priority on their vaccination.

7. DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT – James S. McClelland

- Wished Happy Birthday to Faiuze Ali, Nick Comaianni, Rabbi Daniel Pollack and Sursattie Singh. Also, wished Happy Wedding Anniversary to Irina and her husband.
- Community Board applications are due Friday February 19th. Emails were sent to Board members who are up for re-appointment. If you have a question about whether you need to re-apply, please contact the office.
- Testified at the Queens Budget Hearings last Monday. Emphasized the need for the Elected Officials to fight for restoring funding for critical services.
- The office receives numerous complaints regarding illegal dumping, litter basket pickups, graffiti, road resurfacing, sewer repair and many other quality of life issues.
- Also emphasized the need for the Richmond Hill Library to move forward since it is fully funded.
- Over the next few weeks will meet with each of our council members to discuss our Capital and Expense Budget priorities.
- Despite heavy snow fall we received very few snow removal complaints; however, a few problematic locations have

been identified and we are working with agencies to address these areas.

- The next District Service Cabinet Meeting will be on Thursday, February 25th.

8. EDUCATION & YOUTH SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT – Sherry Algreto, Chair

“Due to time constraint at general board meeting, we are having our speakers at our monthly education meetings and all board members are welcome to attend.

On January 25th we met with Mr. Denis Rosenberg and other staff members at Birch Family Services which has opened a new location at 92nd Street and 101st Ave. They have acquired a facility that was formerly owned and run by Catholic Charities and have done a complete renovation of the facility. This two-level group home will house young adults that are severe on the autism spectrum. The house manager and the staff will always be present in each facility. These young adults come from the OPWDD - Office for People with Developmental Disabilities.

The DOE has a Parent University Training with 278 courses in 8 different languages and includes a yoga class for parents.

Middle school test results will be released in early May, and High School in early June.

Spoke with Mr. Norment, the Deputy Superintendent of District 27 about the ways masks are being distributed to teachers. They will address this when meeting with principals.

The next Education and Youth Services committee meeting will be held on Monday February 22nd at 6:30pm. Jonathan Hunter with the Community House program at JHS210 will be presenting on youth programs that are available online.”

Seth Welins reported on Gifted and Talented Program proposed changes based on a DOE meeting on February 8:

- No changes are planned for Gifted and Talented programs next year. However, teachers will now evaluate students and recommend students deemed eligible for the G and T program. The previous formal qualifying test for Pre-K 4-year old kids will not be used anymore. A lottery will decide which of these eligible students will be offered a place in the program.
- The DOE believes that there are many talented children in every school and each school should have challenging programs for these students. The goal is to make these programs more inclusive and more available to students in every school.
- Next year, all middle schools will be unscreened since they will not have students' current test scores for evaluation purposes. High schools will be able to consider 2019 test scores and other academic grades from early 2020 as criteria for acceptance. In the future, the DOE aims to have all high schools un-zoned.

9. HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT – Andrea Crawford, Chair

Ms. Crawford explained the difference between COVID-19 vaccines and stressed the importance of getting vaccinated and continued testing.

10. LAND USE & HOUSING COMMITTEE REPORT – Sylvia Hack & Sherman Kane, Co-Chairs

Mrs. Hack urged every board member to attend a very important special meeting (date TBD) via Zoom regarding Council Speaker's new zoning legislation Intro 2187 that will reduce/exclude participation by community board and civic associations in critical land-use issues regarding zoning and density leading to the demise of one family homes in Queens.

Land Use & Housing Committee co-chairs asked Mr. Paul Graziano, a zoning specialist, to lead the discussion as he has with several other community boards.

The committee will be preparing a resolution to be voted on by the Executive Committee and sent to the City Council and the elected officials.

Mrs. Hack also urged everyone to take part in the City Council Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 23rd. If you are planning on testifying live via video conferencing, please register at <https://council.nyc.gov/testify/> no later than 24 hours before the hearing.

11. ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT – Cristal Rivera, Chair

- Indoor dining is opening on Friday, February 12 with a 25% capacity restriction.
- The Committee will have a meeting at the end of February where a guest from the Woodhaven BID will talk about a grant that they received as well as Queens EDC representatives talking about their new programs.

12. PUBLIC SAFETY & CONSUMER AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT – Rabbi Daniel Pollack, Co-Chair

a. On Premises Liquor License Application – New

Mama Carmens Restaurant & Bar LLC
104-19 Jamaica Ave
Richmond Hill, NY 11419

Motion # 2: Not to approve new on premises liquor license application for Mama Carmens Restaurant & Bar LLC,
104-19 Jamaica Ave

Vote # 2: Unanimous

Rinconsito Inverteno Corp.
116-20 Atlantic Ave
Richmond Hill, NY 11418

Motion #3: Not to oppose new on premises liquor license application for Rinconsito Inverteno Corp,
116-20 Atlantic Ave with 1 AM Stipulation

Vote #3: Unanimous

b. On Premises Beer & Cider Application - New

2020 Sabores Latinos Rest. & Bakery Corp.
124-04 Jamaica Ave
Richmond Hill, NY 11418

Motion #4: Not to approve new beer & cider application for 2020 Sabores Latinos Rest. & Bakery Corp.
124-04 Jamaica Ave

Vote #4: Unanimous

c. Class Change Application

Tu Casa #4 Restaurant Corp.
D/b/a La Sala By Tu Casa
116-35 Metropolitan Ave
Richmond Hill, NY 11418

Motion #5: Not to oppose class change application for Tu Casa #4 Restaurant Corp., d/b/a La Sala By Tu Casa, 116-35 Metropolitan Ave with 1 AM Stipulation

Vote #5: Unanimous

The next Public Safety and Consumer Affairs Committee meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 17th, 2021 at 6:30 PM via Zoom.

13. TRANSPORTATION & TRAFFIC COMMITTEE REPORT – Faiuze Ali, Chair, no report.

14. PARKS, RECREATION & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT – Regina Santoro, Chair

- Park Enforcement officers will be doing a spot check due to an increase in number of complaints regarding unleashed dogs.
- COVID Testing van is still located at the Overlook. There is a minimum waiting time as it's very well operated. The hours are 10 AM to 3:30 PM. Monday through Friday.
- Any parks related complaints should be referred to the committee.

15. BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT – John Carter, Chair

- NYC OMB has called for \$3,600 budget cut for FY 2021. We had money in Personal Services to cover that.
- The new budget cut for FY 2022 is going to be \$8,100 which we will be able to absorb if the same budget is allocated.

16. OLD BUSINESS *No speakers*

17. NEW BUSINESS

Kevin O'Leary asked the board office to address the issue of garbage dumping and homeless encampment at the Northbound Van Wyck Expressway Exit onto Atlantic Ave. DM McClelland stated that it was already reported to State DOT.

Regina Santoro stated that on Friday, February 12th, at 11 AM there will be a mass for the second passing anniversary of Detective Simonsen at the Holly Child Jesus Church. It will be streamed online at www.hjccatholic.com.

18. PUBLIC FORUM *No speakers*

Sherman Kane made a motion to adjourn. Regina Santoro seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson at 9:03 PM.