

**DECEMBER 9, 2014 MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING &
REGULAR MEETING THE NEW TRUMP PAVILION
89-40 135 STREET**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

ABSENCES AS OF APRIL 2014-MARCH 2015

2nd # Represents Absences As of January 2014 (Borough President's Attendance)

Inderpaul Ahluwalia	(0) (1)	Stephen Esposito	(3) (3)	Regina Santoro	(1) (2)
D. Bhattacharjee	(0) (1)	Laraine Fletcher	(1) (1)	Jarnail Singh	(2) (2)
Kamal Bhuiyan	(1) (1)	Linda Fogal	(1) (2)	Ragbir Singh	(2) (3)
Alex Blenkinsopp	(1) (1)	Ralph Gonzalez	(0) (0)	J. Richard Smith	(1) (1)
John Carter	(1) (2)	Sylvia Hack	(1) (1)	Dr. Stephen Sofer	(0) (0)
Jim Coccovillo	(0) (1)	Joseph Iaboni	(1) (2)	Maria Thomson	(1) (1)
Nick Comaianni	(1) (3)	Sherman Kane	(1) (2)	Marie Turley	(0) (0)
Andrea Crawford	(0) (0)	Patrick Khan	(1) (1)	Seth Welins	(0) (0)
Sandra Datnarain	(0) (1)	Joel Kuszai	(1) (2)	Naidoo Veerapen	(2) (4)
Richard David	(1) (1)	Marian Molina	(2) (2)	Clark Whitsett	(1) (1)
Joan DeCamp	(0) (0)	Ivan Mrakovcic	(0) (0)	Kenichi Wilson	(0) (0)
H. Singh Duggal	(1) (1)	Kevin O'Leary	(0) (1)		
Sam Esposito	(2) (3)	Rabbi D. Pollack	(0) (0)		

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

David Adorno	(2) (3)	Scott Jordan	(2) (2)	Jagir Singh	(2) (2)
Julio Batista	(1) (1)	Priscilla Levine	(3) (3)	Maharani Singh	(2) (2)
Latchman Budhai	(3) (4)	Raj Rampershad	(1) (1)		
Dr. V. Evangelista	(1) (1)	Mohamed Safie	(3) (5)		

ALSO PRESENT

Lisa Gomes, Acting District Manager
Irina Barayeva, Community Assistant

*Absences from a meeting shall mean physical non-attendance and /or failure to be present for voting on two or more agenda items marked "Vote to be Taken" at any regular or special meeting of the Board.

LEGISLATORS & LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES

David Renz, Rep. Assembly Member Mike Miller
Scott Wolf, Rep. Assembly Member Michael Simanowitz
Redmond Haskins, Rep. Council Member Ulrich
Carl Moore, Rep. Senator Joseph P. Addabbo
Jahi Rose, Rep. Council Member Ruben Wills
Bruce Eiber, Rep. Council Member Karen Koslowitz

Lauren Cafocci, Rep. Rep. Assembly Member Hevesi
P.O. Severino, 102 Pct.
Helen Ho, Rep. Mayor de Blasio
Vishnu Mahadeo, Rep. Senator Saunders, Jr.
Dev Awasthi, Rep. Comptroller Stringer

Guests' sign-in sheets are available upon request.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Bruce J. Flanz, President and CEO of Jamaica Hospital wished all a happy holiday season. Mr. Flanz gave an update on Jamaica Hospital's health care delivery system stating that their main focus is being stressed on quality of patients' safety. He reported on the following:

- Out of 160 hospitals in New York State, 45 had met the joined Commission's measures in terms of quality, and Jamaica Hospital was one of them. The Jamaica Hospital is the only hospital in Queens that was able to meet those standards.
- Jamaica Hospital has been very successful in reducing the number of hospital acquired infections.
- Flu Vaccination Program is very successful. Over 88% of employees had taken their flu shots.
- Jamaica Hospital is very active in preparation for other types of challenges one of which is a Baby Friendly Status-a set of standards that focuses on the best interests of the baby and the mother. "We hope to be awarded this designation by the end of next year."
- Out of forty hospitals that are currently participating with Health First, a Managed Care Company, Jamaica Hospital is ranked number seven in terms of quality performance.
- The hospital is a Level One Trauma and Stroke Center.

2nd Vice Chair J. Richard Smith recognized legislative representatives.

Helen Ho, Rep. Mayor de Blasio, introduced herself and stated that she the sole mayor's representative for the borough of Queens. Ms. Ho reported on a new initiative, the IDNYC Program which will offer a photo identification card for residents of New York City who are at least 14 years old. This municipal ID card will connect New Yorkers to services, programs, and benefits, regardless of immigration status, homeless status, or gender identity.

The IDNYC card will be available in January 2015 and is free of charge.

Dev Awasthi, Rep. NYC Comptroller Stringer, stated the Comptroller is working on expanding opportunity for minority and women-owned businesses. Website www.checkbook.nyc is an online transparency tool that for the first time placed the City's day-to-day spending in the public domain.

Vishnu Mahadeo, Rep. Senator Saunders, Jr., wished happy holidays to all. The Senator held a meeting after the decision on the Eric Garner case. He will be holding a party for seniors at Villa Russo on 12/21/14.

Carl Moore, Rep. Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, wished a Happy Holiday Season to all.

David Renz, Rep. Assembly Member Miller, wished Happy Holidays to all.

Scott Wolf, Rep. Assembly Member Simanowitz, stated that over 100 veterans and over 50 stores signed up for the Veterans Discount Program since it was introduced on Veteran's Day. Mr. Scott wished all a prosperous New Year.

Lauren Cafocci, Rep. Assembly Member Hevesi- stated the Assemblyman had a hearing today in Albany on Homeless Services. Ms. Cafocci distributed Community Update flyers and wished all Happy Holidays.

Bruce Eiber, Rep. Council Member Karen Koslowitz, wished all a Happy Holiday Season.

Redmond Haskins, Rep. Council Member Ulrich, wished all Happy Holidays. The Council's Veterans Food Drive was a success. The Council collected 3,000 lbs. of food and Councilman Ulrich collected 1,000 lbs. The Councilman is having another Participatory Budget session

Jahi Rose, Rep. Council Member Ruben Wills, wished happy holidays to all.

Elissa Velazquez, Rep. BP Katz- invited all to the State of the Borough Address on January 22, 2015 and wished all a Happy Holiday season.

1. Monthly Update Report 102 Pct.

P.O. Severino stated that starting November 7th, the speed limit on all New York City streets will be 25 MPH unless otherwise posted. This new speed limit will be enforced by the NYPD and with speed enforcement cameras.

The 102nd Pct. is now on twitter. If you have something very important to report, send your twit to NYPD102pct.

Question and answer period followed.

2. Opening of Meeting & Reading of Minutes

Marie Turley asked for additions/corrections to the minutes. There were none.

Motion # 1: To adopt minutes.

Vote # 1: 34 in favor, 3 abstentions

3. Chairperson's Remarks & Exec Report – Ralph Gonzalez

Chair Gonzalez stated that the tentative date for the DMSC meeting is January 8, 2015 and it is open to the public.

The office staff has been working very hard and is handling everything very well despite two people doing the job of three.

4. District Manager's Report-Lisa Gomes, Acting District Manager

- ADM Gomes attended QBP November Borough Cabinet meeting. It was mentioned in the Dept. of Sanitation Snow Plan presentation that the Borough of Queens has the most snow removal equipment and more primary roads than any other borough. The copy of the full report is available at the office.
- Mortgage Scam presentation revealed that over 2,700 families across New York state have been affected. Tonya Rapley, the Outreach Coordinator from The Center for NYC Neighborhoods, offered free help and high quality legal services for those families. The contact info and the full report are available at the office.
- Held CB9 District Cabinet Meeting on November 20, 2014. Agency and legislative reps gave their reports. Assemblyman Miller's representative stated that the Assemblyman has secured \$250K for the 102, 104 & 106 Pct. and \$500K for school technology upgrades. Assembly Member Weprin is sponsoring a Food & Toy Drive. NYDS Supt. Maisel also reported on the Snow Plan.
- Attended December QBP Borough Cabinet Meeting where DOT/MTA gave a presentation The Select Bus Service. DOT will give this presentation at CB 9's January Board meeting.

5. Public Forum

Katie Grassie, Citizens Committee for NYC Neighborhood, not present.

Melinda Rosario, Delicias de Acapulco Rest, asked the board members to approve the renewal of their liquor license.

Eduardo Venagas, Ozone Park Resident, reported on the problems with the Logan Bus Co, i.e. parking with the engines running, honking, littering, etc. He stated that the solution for this problem is to change the exit for the buses back to Atlantic Ave instead of 95th Ave.

Zara Sheikh, Foster Parent Recruitment, not present.

Sasha Austria, Resorts World Casino, announced a second annual Coat Drive event and invited all to celebrate the New Year at the casino.

Hasib Ali, Ozone Park Discount & Variety Merchant- spoke about the ongoing concerns of the neighboring business owners and residents in the vicinity of 75 Street and Drew St on 101st Ave. He stated that all businesses are either for sale or borrowing money to operate. If the situation doesn't improve, businesses will have to close down. Mr. Ali suggested the following solution:

- Drew Street must be brought back to its original condition.
- 101st Ave must remain a two way street.
- The parking must be as it always has been.

Martin Colberg, WRBA President, asked the board members to support the resolution opposing the illegal conversion of basements and cellars and stated that he has a petition signed by 75% of Woodhaven residents.

Giedra Kregzdys, WRBA Vice President commended the members of CB 9 for placing the issue of illegal conversions on their agenda. She spoke strongly against illegal cellar and attic apartments.

6. PUBLIC HEARING

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

a. On Premise Beer License Application-Renewal

Summons Grocery Inc.
79-09 Rockaway Blvd.
Woodhaven, NY 11421
No Speakers

b. Alteration Application

Fusion NYC Inc.
124-12/14 101st Ave
Richmond Hill, NY 11419
No Speakers

7. Public Safety & Consumer Affairs Committee Report- Joe Iaboni, Chair

Mr. Iaboni stated that the committee has all the proper documentation and has no objection with Summons Grocery Inc. license renewal located at 79-09 Rockaway Blvd. Fusion NYC Inc. located at 124-12/14 101st Ave did not submit their paperwork.

The next committee meeting will be held on Monday, December 15, 2014 at 7pm at the board office.

8. Budget & Finance Committee Report- E. David Adorno, Chair *Not present*

9. Transportation Committee Report- Kenichi Wilson, Chair

- Mr. Wilson received a CD on the final draft report of the Woodhaven Congestion Corridor Study and will report on this issue at the next meeting.
- Submitted KGCA request to DOT for speed hump feasibility study on Park Lane South, btwn Onslow Place and Grenfell St.
- As of November 12th, 2014 meeting, DOT removed the blocks, painted new parking lines and restored eight parking spots to the 101 Ave Pedestrian Plaza but have not removed the signs.

- The MTA & DOT will come to the next monthly board meeting with a presentation on the Selected Bus Services and Rapid Bus Transit in Woodhaven.
- The Transportation committee is expecting Joe Raskin from MTA to give a presentation on rebuilding of J and Z lines at the February board meeting.

Mr. Wilson answered board members questions and wished all Happy Holidays.

10. Land Use Committee Report – Clark Whitsett, Chair

- Resolution Re: Mayor’s Proposals & Laws re: Use & Occupancy Of Basement and Attic Apartments

Sherman Kane reported and distributed a newspaper article about a home in South Ozone Parke that contained illegal conversions. He stated that the purpose of the committee’s resolution is for the board to take a stand on the Mayor’s proposal of creating 200,000 new units, 120,000 of which are supposed to come from the existing housing and that it is not by legalization of cellar or attic apartments.

Clark Whitsett stated that the committee is in favor of creating more opportunities to create affordable and safe housing through redevelopment and taking advantage of existing recent zoning changes, i.e. the up-zoning of Atlantic and Jamaica Ave and the intersection of Lefferts Blvd & Liberty Ave; as well as redevelopment of under-utilized city owned properties.

Joan DeCamp made a motion to amend the resolution and added the following:

Therefore, Community Board 9 strongly opposes any proposed changes to the current zoning regulations and housing codes with regard to permitting basement and cellar conversions to rental apartments. In addition, N.Y.C. must rigorously enforce the current housing codes and penalize those who rent space in their illegal basements and cellars. The city should and must find and build safe and affordable housing stock for all our residents.

Because these “informal” housing arrangements are a major challenge to the Community Board 9 residents, CB9 requests to be deemed a “relevant stakeholder” to be included in any discussions to “bring these units into the regulated system”.

Alexander Blenkinsopp seconded the motion. Discussion on the motion followed.

Motion # 2: To add an amendment to the Land Use Committee Resolution.

Vote # 2: 36 in favor, 1 abstention

Discussion on the resolution continued.

Motion # 3: To support the Land Use Committee Resolution.

Vote # 3: 33 in favor, 3 opposed, 1 abstention

11. Education & Youth Services Committee Report– Seth Welins, Chair

The Community Board 9 Education and Youth Services committee supports PS 90Q efforts to get a gym and air conditioners for their school.

12. Health & Social Services Committee Report- Joan DeCamp, Chair *No report*

13. Parks, Recreation & Environment Committee Report – N. Comaianni & J.R. Smith Chairs

J. Richard Smith stated that Ed Wendell from the Woodhaven Historic Association had uncovered a Memorial in Forest Park for World War I Veterans. A number of trees will be replaced and the veterans' names will be placed on the tree.

14. Economic Development Committee Report- Richard David, Chair

The NYC Small Business Services Department is issuing their Avenue NYC grant which will allow BIDs, Community Based Development and Non for Profit Organizations to apply for up to \$15,000 that they can use to beautify their districts. The application is available online www.nyc.gov/sbs.

15. Old Business

No speakers

16. New Business

Maria Thomson said that the Woodhaven BID sponsored Holidays in Woodhaven this weekend. This included a Menorah and Tree Lighting Ceremony and was attended by over 300 people. Saturday's Parade was cancelled due to the inclement weather. This weekend and next Saturday there will be Pictures with Santa Clause (free of charge) at the Forest Parkway Plaza area from 1-4 pm. The GWDC will have a free trolley on Jamaica Ave on 12/14/2014 from 1 to 5 pm and all are invited.

Ms. Thomson stated that there will be 16 year old members joining the community boards.

Sandra Datnarain announced there will be no 102 Pct. Community Council meeting in December. The next meeting is January 20, 2015.

John Carter addressed the Internal Memo stating that it appears to be a misapplication of the concept of fiduciary and encouraged the Chair to vacate a vote on these issues.

Kamal Bhuiyan invited all to attend the HIP Council for Community Development's Holiday Dinner at PS 50, 143-26 101 Ave on Saturday, December 13, 2014 from 3-to 6 pm.

17. Public Forum

Phil Konigsberg, CB 7Q, spoke about a Resolution for Smoke-Free Housing and encouraged the board members to support this resolution.

Chair Gonzalez acknowledged former board member Anton Dietrich.

Nick Comaianni made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Joe Iaboni seconded the motion.

The meeting ended at 10:30 pm