

**JANUARY 13, 2015 MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR
MEETING RICHI RICH PALACE
110-19 ATLANTIC AVE**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

ABSENCES AS OF APRIL 2014-MARCH 2015

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

| | | | | | |
|------------------|---------|--------------------|---------|-------------------|---------|
| David Adorno | (2) (3) | Stephen Esposito | (3) (3) | Raj Rampershad | (1) (1) |
| Julio Batista | (1) (1) | Dr. V. Evangelista | (1) (1) | Regina Santoro | (1) (2) |
| D. Bhattacharjee | (0) (1) | Laraine Fletcher | (1) (1) | Jagir Singh | (2) (2) |
| Kamal Bhuiyan | (1) (1) | Linda Fogal | (1) (2) | Jarnail Singh | (2) (2) |
| Latchman Budhai | (3) (4) | Joseph Iaboni | (1) (2) | Maharani Singh | (2) (2) |
| Jim Coccovillo | (0) (1) | Scott Jordan | (2) (2) | J. Richard Smith | (1) (1) |
| Nick Comaianni | (1) (3) | Sherman Kane | (1) (2) | Dr. Stephen Sofer | (0) (0) |
| Andrea Crawford | (0) (0) | Patrick Khan | (1) (1) | Marie Turley | (0) (0) |
| Sandra Datnarain | (0) (1) | Joel Kuszai | (1) (2) | Seth Welins | (0) (0) |
| Richard David | (1) (1) | Marian Molina | (2) (2) | Naidoo Veerapen | (2) (4) |
| Joan DeCamp | (0) (0) | Ivan Mrakovic | (0) (0) | Clark Whitsett | (1) (1) |
| H. Singh Duggal | (1) (1) | Kevin O'Leary | (0) (1) | Kenichi Wilson | (0) (0) |
| Sam Esposito | (2) (3) | Rabbi D. Pollack | (0) (0) | | |

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|---------|------------------|---------|---------------|---------|
| Inderpaul Ahluwalia | (1) (2) | Ralph Gonzalez | (1) (1) | Mohamed Safie | (4) (6) |
| Alex Blenkinsopp | (2) (2) | Sylvia Hack | (2) (2) | Ragbir Singh | (2) (3) |
| John Carter | (2) (3) | Priscilla Levine | (4) (4) | Maria Thomson | (1) (1) |

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
Anthony Lemma, Rep. Assembly Member David Weprin
Jahi Rose, Rep. Council Member Ruben Wills
Council Member Karen Koslowitz
Lauren Cafocci, Rep. Rep. Assembly Member Hevesi

Guests' sign-in sheets are available upon request.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

1. Opening of Meeting & Reading of Minutes

1st Vice Chair Rampershad opened the meeting and thanked Richi Rich Palace for hosting the meeting. Marie Turley asked for additions/corrections to the minutes. There were none.

Motion # 1: To adopt minutes as presented.

Vote # 1: 34 in favor and 4 abstentions

2. Monthly Update Report 102 Pct.-unable to attend

3. Chairperson's Remarks & Exec Report- Ralph Gonzalez-unable to attend (illness)

4. Acting District Manager's Report- Lisa Gomes

Good Evening Everyone! - I hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday Season.

I attended the Queens Borough Presidents Cabinet Meeting this morning. There were two presentations:

- National Grid discussed their current Project which is "The Updating of Gas Service" to ensure safe And reliable gas systems and to comply with the mandated FDNY Local Law 30 and the NYC building code Program. It will take no more than 4hrs but no less than 2 hours. This will provide a modern gas network that will improve reliability and much needed gas capacity to support Economic growth. In CB9 they are starting with Kew Gardens & Richmond Hill.

They will be installing shut- off devices (service valves) outside designated building units to ensure that safety devices are accessible to first responders in the event of an emergency.

The Hallen Company is the authorized contractor. Employees of National Grid and Hallen will have Photo ID and residents are advised not to let anyone in without the photo ID and call the Police immediately. In your packages you will find info from National Grid regarding this project. They will

complete the program in Queens by 2016. They encourage residents to comply and it is of no cost to the customer. They will be working on 1&2 family homes, Hospitals and Critical Care facilities.

- NYS Energy Research and Development Authority “NYSERDA” discussed the NY-Sun Initiative established by Governor Cuomo. This is a public/private partnership to increase growth of the Solar Industry and to make solar technology more affordable to New Yorkers. The Governor has committed 1 Billion for this initiative. Goals are to:
 - Reduce Energy consumption
 - Promote renewable energy sources
 - Create a clean energy economy
 - Protect the environment

The Office remains busy with constituent & agency inquires. For the month of December 13 complaints were processed and 16 were processed in November.

2nd Vice Chair Smith recognized legislative representatives.

Carl Moore, Rep. Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, stated that Senator Addabbo will be in Albany this week and some of the items the senator is working on this session are:

- Expiration of the mayoral control of city schools
- Common Core changes
- Rent Stabilization laws

Council Member Karen Koslowitz addressed the board and wished all a happy and healthy New Year.

David Renz, Rep. Assembly Member Miller, stated that AM Miller is in Albany working on legislation. Mr. Renz distributed 2015 NYC Parking Calendars.

Anthony Lemma, Rep. Assembly Member Weprin, AM Weprin is in Albany working on legislation and wished all a Happy New Year.

Scott Wolf, Rep. Assembly Member Simanowitz, stated that he brought a new publication of important telephone numbers.

Jasmine Merengue, Rep. QBP Katz, reminded all about the State of the Borough Address on Thursday, January 22, 2105 at Queens College Colden Auditorium.

Redmond Haskins, Rep. Council Member Ulrich, invited all to a Bowling For Vets event at the Cozy Bowl, 98-18 Rockaway Blvd at 1:30 pm. Councilman is sponsoring Queens Symphony Orchestra Concert Series which starts Feb. 25, 2015 at 7pm. All concerts are free of charge.

Lauren Cafocci, Rep. Assembly Member Hevesi, stated the assembly will begin legislative sessions in Albany and encouraged all to call the office if they need help or have questions.

5. PUBLIC FORUM

J. Reuter, Richmond Hill Resident suggested adding elevators to the Queensway design.

Hasib Ali, Ozone Park Discount & Variety Merchant, stated that DOT did not restore two-way traffic on 101st Ave. He wants action to be taken sooner or businesses will phase out and will have to be closed. Their livelihoods have been affected since the Pedestrian Plaza was created.

Sasha Austrie, Resorts Worlds Casino, informed all about an event taking place on Saturday, January 17, 2015 featuring Lisa Lisa.

Jahi Rose, Rep. Council Member Rubin Wills, stated that the Councilman's State of the District Address will take place on Saturday, January 17, 2015 at York College in the Small Theatre at 10:30 am.

6. NYC DOT / MTA Presentation- Select Bus Service (SBS)

Nicole Garcia, Deputy Commissioner DOT

Joe Raskin, MTA Assistant Director Government and Community Relations

K. Wilson, Chair of the Transportation Committee introduced the presenters.

Eric Beaton, Director of Transit Development for NYC Public Transportation spoke about the Woodhaven Select Bus Service Project. (Copy of the presentation is available upon request).

Question and answer period followed.

K. Wilson recognized Joe Raskin, Assistant Director Government and Community Relations, MTA. Mr. Raskin stated that he is retiring and this is his last CB 9 meeting.

Mr. Patel, Design Director for the J-Line spoke about repairs that will be done on the J and Z line subway stations: 104th Street Station, 111th Street and 121st Street. He stated that:

- Scope of work will include heavy construction activity.
- Work will be similar to the previous painting and line structure repair contract.
- Maintenance and protection of traffic will be similar to previous work and will include lane diversions along Jamaica Ave. There will be temporary street closures and detours.
- NYC Transit will work with the community to minimize impact.

The construction will start in June 2015 and will continue for 30 months. (Copy of presentation is available upon request). Question & answer period followed.

Andrea Crawford presented Mr. Joe Raskin with a CB 9 Certificate of Appreciation.

7. PUBLIC HEARING

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

a. On Premise Liquor License Application-New

EL Gran Canario II Restaurant, Inc.

111-17 Jamaica Ave

Richmond Hill, NY 11418

No speakers

b. On Premise Beer & Wine Renewal

101 Bar & Grill Corp.

D/b/a Caribbean Temptation

106-05 101 Ave

Ozone Park, NY 11416 *No speakers*

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

On Premise Liquor License Application-New

EL Gran Canario II Restaurant Inc.

111-17 Jamaica Ave.

Richmond Hill, NY 11418

VOTE TO BE TAKEN

The committee recommends approving the new liquor license application for this establishment. Questions were raised regarding its close proximity to school and house of worship. Discussion followed.

Motion # 2: To table new liquor license for El Gran Canario II Rest. Inc. 111-17 Jamaica Ave

Vote # 2: Unanimous

1st Vice Chair Rampershad asked Dr. Evangelista to give District Manager Search Committee update: DMSC met on Thursday, January 8, 2015; eleven resumes were reviewed for the District Manager position for Community Board 9 and five were selected. The interviews will take place tomorrow, January 14, 2015 @ 7 pm at Queens Borough Hall, Rm 213 Part II. They will choose three candidates to be presented to the board at the February board meeting to be voted upon. The candidate with the most popular vote will win. Based on parameters given by CB 9 Budget & Finance Committee, the recommended starting salary for the District Manager position is \$67,500. QBP personnel will promulgate what the benefit package would be.

Dr. Evangelista invited all board members to attend tomorrow night's interview process and submit their questions in writing prior to the interviews.

Jim Coccovillo made a motion to adopt the evaluation from the ad hoc committee which was to use as an evaluation tool. The motion is:

1. To have the Search Committee for DM disclose to all candidates that the position of District Manager is subject to an annual evaluation by the presiding Chair of CB9 and at least one more elected board officer at the time it is conducted.

2. The responsibility for conducting the evaluation annually between the first day of the eleven month and the last day of the twelfth month of the DM's employment year is the responsibility of the CB 9 Chair and one other board officer be added to the CB 9 By-Laws.
3. The evaluation form is to become part of the DM's personnel file and shall become personal and confidential and all contents shall only be discussed in executive session ensuring the trust and confidants of the employee and the integrity and conduct of all the board members.

Sherman Kane seconded the motion.

Discussion followed.

Motion # 3: To have an annual review policy to evaluate the DM

Vote # 3: Unanimous

Andrea Crawford stated: "Hiring a District Manager is often hijacked by a lot of outside forces. These are very desirable positions and there are always elected officials who want to push their agendas. The person that we hire is going to be in this position for a long time and we have to make sure that this person understands our communities and is of a temperament to be able to interface with all of the elected officials because this person becomes a face of Community Board 9. It is not a repository for elected officials to place their people in this position. This is for Community Board 9, this is not for pay back, nor is it for favors. Since none of us filled this position before we need to understand what potential traps are out there and take it very seriously."

9. Budget & Finance Committee Report- E. David Adorno, Chair

- At the last Committee meeting it was agreed upon that the starting salary for the DM position will be \$67,500.
- An executive session will take place at the February board meeting where we will vote on the proposed raises for office personnel Lisa Gomes and Irina Barayeva which will be retroactive from September 2014.

10. Transportation Committee Report- Kenichi Wilson, Chair-see DOT/MTA Presentation.

11. Land Use Committee Report – Clark Whitsett, Chair

Mr. Whitsett announced that the next Land Use Committee meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 27, 2015.

Sherman Kane stated that the CB 9 Resolution on Basement Apartments will be mailed to the Mayor, Elected Officials and Queens Community Boards.

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

- There is a proposed new elementary school in Centerville. While this school is not located within CB 9, it might entail rezoning some of our schools.

- The DOE will allow students to carry cell phones in school. Each school will have to develop rules and regulations regarding when or if the phones can be used during school hours. The full chancellor's regulations can be found on the DOE website.

13. Health & Social Services Committee Report- Joan DeCamp, Chai

The Committee will meet to discuss Smoking in Apartments.

**14. Parks, Recreation & Environment Committee Report-Nick Comaianni & J.R. Smith-Chairs
*No report***

15. Economic Development Committee Report- Richard David, Chair

Richard David spoke about the Municipal ID card and explained the process of obtaining it. He stated the following:

- The card enables residents to access city services and grants admission to city buildings, like schools and hospitals.
- The card can be presented as proof of identification with police and is also an accepted form of ID for opening a bank account at select city banks.
- It can be used at any city public library.
- The card can only be used in New York City.
- The municipal ID card will offer discounts on movie tickets, Broadway shows, sporting events and theme parks.
- The application is on-line but should be delivered in person to one of the centers.

16. Old Business

Regina Santoro requested to write a letter to the SLA to see if El Gran Canario II Restaurant, Inc. located at 111-17 Jamaica Ave, is in violation of the 200ft and 500ft rule.

17. New Business

Stephen Esposito informed all about a new telephone IRS scam.

Sam Esposito asked for an update on Priscilla Levine's health. Lisa stated that she lives at the Atria in Kew Gardens.

Latchman Budhai reminded board members that the next 102 Pct. Community Council meeting will be on Tuesday, January 20, 2015, 7-9 pm at the Richmond Hill Branch Library.

Jim Coccovillo told everyone to be aware about kidnapping scam.

18. Public Forum *No speakers.*

David Adorno made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Scott Jordan seconded the motion.

The meeting ended at 10:30 pm