

OCTOBER 11, 2016 MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING
QUEENS BOROUGH HALL, 120-55 QUEENS BLVD RM 213

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

ABSENCES AS OF APRIL 2016-MARCH 2017

2nd # Represents Absences as of January 2016-December 2016 (Borough President's Attendance)

Inderpaul Ahluwalia	(0) (0)	Stephen Esposito	(0) (0)	Raj Rampershad	(0) (0)
Julio Batista	(2) (2)	Jan Fenster	(0) (0)	Jagir Singh	(1) (2)
D. Bhattacharjee	(0) (0)	Laraine Fletcher	(0) (0)	Jarnail Singh	(1) (2)
Kamal Bhuiyan	(1) (1)	Linda Fogal	(1) (2)	Maharani Singh	(1) (1)
Alex Blenkinsopp	(0) (0)	Sylvia Hack	(0) (1)	Matthew Singh	(1) (1)
Latchman Budhai	(0) (1)	Joseph Iaboni	(0) (0)	Mohinder Singh	(1) (1)
John Carter	(0) (1)	Mohamad Z. Islam	(2) (3)	Raghibir Singh	(0) (1)
Jim Coccovillo	(0) (0)	Sherman Kane	(0) (0)	J. Richard Smith	(0) (0)
Nick Comaianni	(1) (3)	Joel Kuszai	(2) (2)	Maria Thomson	(1) (1)
Andrea Crawford	(1) (1)	Marian C. Molina	(1) (1)	Marie Turley	(0) (0)
Sandra Datnarain	(0) (0)	Ivan Mrakovic	(0) (1)	Seth Welins	(0) (0)
Richard David	(1) (1)	Kevin O'Leary	(0) (0)	Kenichi Wilson	(0) (0)
Joan DeCamp	(0) (0)	Rabbi D. Pollack	(0) (0)		

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Priscilla Levine	(4) (6)	Mohamed Safie	(4) (5)	Regina Santoro	(1) (2)
Dr. Stephen Sofer	(3) (3)	Naidoo Veerapen	(2) (3)		

ALSO PRESENT

Lisa Gomes, District Manager
 Victor Ampuero, Community Assistant
 Leela Venketachalam, Community Service Aide

*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/REPRESENTATIVES, CITY AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

Carl Moore, Rep. Senator Joseph Addabbo
Nick Gulotta, Rep. CAU/Mayor's Office
Brandon Clarke, Rep. Council Member Wills
Muhammad Rahman, Rep. Assembly Member David Weprin
Kevin Tschirhart, Rep. Council Member Ulrich
Kevin Jean Baptiste, Rep. Senator Sanders
Carmella Isabella, Rep. Assembly Member Miller
Deputy Inspector Urprasad, NYPD/102 Pct.
P.O. Jose Severino, NYPD/102 Pct.

Guests' sign-in sheets are available upon request.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

1. PUBLIC HEARING

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

a. On Premises Liquor License Application – New

Nikka Lounge, Inc.
D/b/a Nikka Restaurant & Lounge
117-15 101st Ave
Richmond Hill, NY 11419

Applicant/owner Ann Narine, who also owns Spice Restaurant and Lounge on Atlantic Ave, addressed the board. She asked the board members for support in obtaining a liquor license that will allow her to serve alcohol until four a.m. The premises is more than six thousand square feet and she is planning on holding many events, i.e. conferences, weddings, etc. Ms. Narine has been in the catering business for more than sixteen years and has never had any problems.

b. On Premises Beer & Cider Only Application – New

113 Deli Grocery, Inc.
112-27 Jamaica Ave
Richmond Hill, NY 11418 *No speakers*

c. On Premises Liquor License Application – Renewal

97-07 Jamaica Ave Tavern Corp.
D/b/a Tavern Lounge
97-07 Jamaica Ave
Woodhaven, NY 11421 *No speakers*

i. Corporate Change

La Negra Restaurant Corp.
102-03 Jamaica Ave
Richmond Hill, NY 11418 *No speakers*

e. TLC Base Station License – Renewal

Kew Gardens Enterprises, Inc.
122-11 Hillside Ave
Richmond Hill, NY 11418 *No speakers*

2. Monthly Update Report 102nd Pct. Deputy Inspector Urprasad reported on the following:

- The 102nd Pct. is 70% down in crime reduction from January 2016 to present and is ranked number four out of seventy seven precincts citywide.
- Homicide is one of the categories that is negative 50% in the city. The 102nd Pct. had three homicide incidents throughout the year; two of which are close to arrests and one is pending investigation.
- Gun arrests are up comparing to last year's numbers.
- There are thirty new Police Officers in the 102 Pct.

3. Public Forum

Elsa Fraysse, NYC Dept. of Sanitation, talked about the Fall Leaf Collection Program: leaves and compost will be collected on Sundays, November 20th and December 4th, 2016. The public can also drop off compost every Thursday, 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. on Kew Gardens Rd, btwn 80th Rd & 81st Ave. The compost is used in parks and helps to keep the community clean.

Walter Chalusant, Woodhaven Resident, spoke in opposition to SBS plans for Woodhaven/Crossbay Blvd. Corridor.

Joseph Maldonado, Woodhaven Resident, stated that opening a Homeless Shelter in his community will reduce value of their houses and affect quality of life.

Jillian Selby, Scholl Crossing Guard, stated her objection to SBS plans for Woodhaven/Crossbay Blvd. Corridor.

Christian Capo, Woodhaven Resident, stated that current SBS plan for Woodhaven/Crossbay Blvd. Corridor would create dangerous situations for bus riders.

Joanne Roberto, Ozone Park Resident, spoke in opposition to SBS plans for Woodhaven/Crossbay Blvd. Corridor.

John Hughes, Boys & Girls Club of Metro Queens, stated that the implementation of SBS plans is dangerous, especially for the kids.

Vance Barbour, WRBA Director, spoke in opposition to SBS plans for Woodhaven/Crossbay Blvd Corridor stating that the current SBS proposal does not make any sense and there was no outreach since the last Public Hearing.

Paul Capocasale, Woodhaven Resident, stated that the SBS Proposed Plan will be deadly; if this plan is implemented peoples' lives, particularly children, will be put in danger.

Giedra Kregzdys, WRBA Vice President, stated that the Woodhaven Residents Block Association has been overwhelmed by the opposition to the SBS Plan. Ms. Kregzdys presented a petition signed by 2,000 residents of Woodhaven and nearby communities.

Terry Baranoff, Woodhaven Resident, spoke in opposition to SBS plans for Woodhaven/Crossbay Blvd. Corridor.

Dorothy Nixon, Committee for Compassionate Neighborhoods, presented key points from the pamphlet that she handed out "Toward reasonable solutions for both our communities and our local homeless people".

William Ruiz, Ozone Park Resident, spoke in opposition to SBS plans for Woodhaven/Crossbay Blvd. Corridor.

Nayan Barua, Woodhaven Resident, invited all to the event that will be held at his temple at 87-30 120th St. on Sunday, October 16, 2016 at 1 p.m.

Asta Luhosevichis, Woodhaven Resident, spoke in opposition to SBS plans for Woodhaven/Crossbay Blvd Corridor.

Chair Rampershad recognized legislative representatives.

Nick Gulotta, Rep. Mayor de Blasio, stated the following:

- Woodhaven/Crossbay Blvd. SBS Proposal is part of Mayor de Blasio Vision Zero Initiative.
- DOT has done unprecedented community outreach for this project and the core of it is safety.
- Woodhaven/Crossbay Blvd. Corridor is considered the most dangerous corridor in Queens.
- There were over 3,000 injuries and 22 fatalities from 2009 to 2013 on the corridor.
- Urged the board members to take those facts into consideration before taking a vote on SBS.

Brandon Clarke, Rep. Council Member Wills, stated that Council Member Wills has already conveyed his opposition to Proposed Transitional Shelter Facility and Drop-in Center at 100-32 Atlantic Ave. This decision is based on the sole fact that the High School for Construction, Trade, Engineering and Architecture is located within one-thousand feet of the site, and may result in a situation that would constitute a violation of the NYS Penal Law that prohibits certain geographically restricted sex offenders from knowingly entering into school's grounds.

Mr. Clarke announced the tentative date for the town hall meeting is Monday, October 17, 2016 at, between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. at the High School for Construction, Trade, Engineering and Architecture.

Nancy DiCroce, Howard Beach Resident, spoke in opposition to SBS plans for Woodhaven/Crossbay Blvd Corridor stating that it will be impossible for handicapped people to get on the bus.

Madeline Lavallo, Howard Beach Resident, spoke in opposition to SBS plans for Woodhaven/Crossbay Blvd Corridor stating that there is no purpose for it.

Philip McManus, Queens Resident, spoke in opposition to SBS plans for Woodhaven/Crossbay Blvd Corridor stating it's a way for the city to take away services.

Mike Scala, Queens Public Transit Committee, stated that his committee is against a public transit addition like SBS.

4. Opening of Meeting & Reading of Minutes

Executive Secretary Mrakovcic asked for any corrections or additions to September 13, 2016 minutes. There were none.

Motion # 1: To accept September 13, 2016 minutes as presented

Vote # 1: 35 in favor, 2 not present and 1 abstention

5. Conflicts of Interest Board Presentation – Galvin Kendell, Trainer

Mr. Kendell explained the main purpose of Conflict of Interest Board units.

He stated that all Community Board members are governed by the City's Conflicts of Interest Law (City Charter Chapter 68). The law's purpose is to ensure that public servants do not use their public positions to benefit their private interests or those of their families or associates.

He stated that all Board Members received printouts in their folders with the following information:

- A list of regulations concerning the conduct and activities of Community Board members.
- An explanation of the method of tabulating votes if Board members have conflicts of interest.
- Selected passages from Charter Chapter 68 and explanatory notes.
- A summary of COIB advisory opinions concerning Community Boards.

Call Conflicts of Interest Board at (212) 442-1400 with any questions or concerns.

Question and answer period followed.

6. Chairperson's Remarks & Exec. Report – Raj Rampershad reported on the following:

- Dr. Stephen Sofer has resigned from the board after twenty five years of service.
- Met with QBP Katz to discuss a Drop in Center and express our concerns.

- Met with DHS Assistant Commissioner Matt Borden and handed a list of all Civic and Religious communities in CB9 so they can reach out to them and let them know what they are doing.

7. District Manager’s Report – Lisa Gomes

- **FY 2018 Capital & Expense Budget**

” I had the honor of attending the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Renovation/Expansion Of the Ferrara Family Center for Hospice Care at Jamaica Hospital. Mr. Joe Ferrara and his family are a generous and caring family who donate thousands of dollars to ensure that families have a safe haven for their loved ones and know they are treated with care, dignity and respect.

I attended the parks budget consultations with J.R. Smith & Regina Santoro along with Commissioner Lewandowsky and her staff.

We were given A Capital Projects Status Report for CB9. Forest Park Carousel got new asphalt path from the playground to the Carousel (\$297,000) and it was completed in May 2016. In total there were 4 projects that were completed from May to June 2016. In this report there was also Projects that are in Design. If you want more information let me know.

Tree Pruning/ Emergency Work: CB9 had 32 work orders for FY 16.

Forestry received 1,847 requests for broken tree limbs, uprooted trees, etc. If you want the full report I can provide you with it.

Queens Budget for Forestry:
 Block Pruning 2.1 Million
 Stump Removal \$1 Million
 Tree Removal \$ 75,000

Irina processed 47 complaints in September 2016.

The office continues to process complaints, and assists constituents with their concerns & requests, i.e. Illegal signs posted on private property, trees, etc.

I am going to be working on the District Needs statement and I will be contacting Committee Chairs for their input & suggestions. “

8. Land Use Committee Report – Sylvia Hack & Sherman Kane, Co-Chairs

- **Special District in Kew Gardens**

Sylvia Hack stated that before the summer the board had contacted the Department of City Planning for a special district to cover parts of Kew Gardens in which multiple family dwellings are going up and off street parking is being waived. She indicated that we did not receive a response from them.

9. Transportation & Traffic Committee Report – Kenny Wilson, Chair

Speed Hump Requests:

- **Beverly Rd. between Lefferts Blvd. & Brevoort St**

Motion # 2: To send a letter of support to DOT for speed hump installation

Vote # 2: Unanimous

- **88th St between Park Lane South & 85th Rd**

Motion # 3: To send a letter of support to DOT for speed hump installation

Vote # 3: Unanimous

- **88th St between 85th Rd. & Jamaica Ave (meets the criteria for 3 speed humps)**

Motion # 4: To send a letter of support to DOT for speed hump installation

Vote # 4: Unanimous

- **Grenfell St. between Union Turnpike & 80th Rd**

Motion # 5: To send a letter of support to DOT for speed hump installation

Vote # 5: 35 in favor, 2 not present and 1 opposed

- **Grenfell St. between 80th Rd & 82nd Ave**

Motion # 6: To send a letter of support to DOT for speed hump installation

Vote # 6: 35 in favor, 2 not present and 1 opposed

- **Grenfell St. between 82nd Ave & Audley St**

Motion # 7: To send a letter of support to DOT for speed hump installation

Vote # 7: 35 in favor, 2 not present and 1 opposed

- **Position to be taken on Current SBS Plan**

Kenichi Wilson read CB9 SBS Resolution. CB9 is opposed to the Proposed Select Bus Service on Woodhaven and Crossbay Boulevards (see attachment).

Alexander Blenkinsopp made a motion to accept the resolution, Nick Comaianni seconded the motion.

Discussion on the motion followed.

Motion # 8: To support CB9 Resolution to oppose the Proposed Select Bus Service on Woodhaven & Crossbay Boulevards

Vote # 8: 33 in favor, 2 not present and 3 opposed

10. Public Safety & Consumer Affairs Committee Report – Maharani Singh & James Coccovillo, Co-Chairs

a. On Premises Liquor License Application – New

Nikka Lounge, Inc.
D/b/a Nikka Restaurant & Lounge
117-15 101st Ave
Richmond Hill, NY 11419

Motion # 9: Not to oppose new on premises liquor license application with 1 a.m. stipulation for Nikka Lounge, Inc., d/b/a Nikka Restaurant Lounge, 117-15 101st Ave

Vote # 9: 34 in favor, 2 not present, 1 opposed and 1 abstention

b. On Premises Beer & Cider Only Application – New

113 Deli Grocery, Inc.
112-27 Jamaica Ave
Richmond Hill, NY 11418

Motion # 10: To oppose new on premises beer & cider application for 113 Deli Grocery, Inc., 112-27 Jamaica Ave

Vote # 10: Unanimous

Maharani Singh stated that the next Public Safety Committee meeting will take place on Monday, October 17, 2016 at 7 p.m. at the district office.

11. Health & Social Services Committee Report – Marian C. Molina, Chair

“The Health & Social Services Committee had a second meeting with DHS Assistant Commissioner Matt Borden re: Breaking Ground Drop in Center on September 27th, 2016. Mr. Borden stated that there is no update on the proposal at this time as it’s still under review. Once the proposal is rated, the DHS will forward it to the Community Board. If the proposal gets high ratings, the contract is drafted and it goes to public hearing. Mr. Borden has emailed a 44-page RFP Application. A copy of this application is available for review. The rating of the proposal is based on the site, budget, services provided, appropriateness of the site and the neighborhood. We don’t have a list of locations that were also considered. The DHS will be working on helping people to obtain IDs or Birth Certificates in order for them to be screened before checking into the Center. There will be seventy five beds at the Center for both genders (single adults 18 years and older).”

12. Education & Youth Services Committee Report – Seth Welins, Chair reported on the following:

- On Sept. 28th, members of CB 9 attended a Community Day event at Richmond Hill

HS. The event inaugurated the new athletic field. Principal Ganesh spoke about the progress the school has made during the past year.

- As part of the D.O.E.'s outreach initiative, the D.O.E held a second meeting on Sept. 24th with community board members at the Tweed Courthouse. Officials described some of the new programs that the D.O.E introduced that will strengthen the academic programs in our schools. D.O.E. officials will be invited to attend one of our future board meetings, possibly in January.
- Our committee met with a representative of the proposed Circle Academy Charter School. He told us that the school will officially request space for the new charter school in one of our Woodhaven schools, even though these schools have no extra space for the school. Under the current NYS Education Law, if the D.O.E. cannot accommodate this request for space in a public school building, then NYC will have to offer space in another NYC owned building or private facility and pay the rent for that building. Circle Academy has some interest in a private facility on 91st Street in Woodhaven.

13. Ad Hoc Committee Report – John Carter & Rabbi Daniel Pollack, Co-Chairs

J. Carter explained the process which the Committee followed. He highlighted eight areas of the proposed new by-laws and explained why (or why not) changes were made. He also explained the Committee has reached out to the Borough President's Office for guidance and clarification on the use of a super-majority. If all is completed, the by-laws may be ready for a vote at the November meeting.

14. Parks, Environment & Sanitation Committee Report – J.R. Smith & Regina Santoro, Co-Chairs

J. Richard Smith stated that sidewalks are being renovated on Myrtle Ave by the Buddy Monument. After this work is completed the sidewalks on the other side of Woodhaven Blvd. will be renovated. Public bathrooms at the Overlook will also be upgraded.

15. Economic Development Committee Report – Richard David & Matthew Singh, Co-Chairs

Richard David reported on the following:

- The Committee is working on arranging a cleanup for a lot on Lefferts Blvd & Jamaica Ave. Previously, there was a deli that went out of business and the fenced off property became a dumping ground.
- The Public Safety Committee continues to reference a Board Policy that requires restaurants to stop serving alcohol at 1am. In my 8 years on the Board, I have never seen this policy and have asked for it at least quarterly. I urge the Committee to either produce the policy they are referencing, or draft a new policy for the Board to review.
- The city is looking for submissions for proposed Link locations within our district. The Link structures will provide unprecedented services to New Yorkers, including free high speed Wi-Fi and free domestic phone calls.

16. Old Business *No speakers*

17. New Business

Alex Blenkinsopp suggested the Community Board to strongly reconsider holding meetings on religious Holydays and Election Day.

Ragbir Singh invited all to a Celebration of Guru Nanak Birthday on November 5th, 2016 at 1 p.m. at the intersection of 114th St & 101st Ave. Free food and beverages will be served.

Stephen Esposito invited all to the GWDC Wonderful Woodhaven Street Festival 2016 on Jamaica Ave, btwn Woodhaven Blvd. & 80th St. on Sunday, October 16, 2016 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. The event is featuring the Malaysian Lion Dancers, Country Western Band, Mary Lamont and rides for children.

Sandra Datnarain announced the next 102nd Precinct Community Council meeting will take place on Tuesday, September 18th, 2016 at the Richmond Hill Branch Library at 7 p.m.

Kevin O'Leary inquired if the Transportation Committee would contact DOT and MTA for the possibility of studying more storm shelters for bus stops in Community Board 9.

18. Public Forum *No speakers*

Latchman Budhai made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Sherman Kane seconded it.

The meeting ended at 10:13 p.m.