



COMMUNITY BOARD NO.9

Queens Borough Hall
120-55 Queens Boulevard, Room 310-A
Kew Gardens, NY 11424

(718) 286-2686
Fax (718) 286-2685
Email: communitybd9@nyc.rr.com
Website: www.nyc.gov/queenscb9

Raj Rampershad, Chairperson * Lisa Gomes, District Manager * Melinda Katz, Borough President

NOVEMBER 14, 2017 MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING
QUEENS BOROUGH HALL, ROOM 200, 2nd FL.
120-55 QUEENS BLVD. KEW GARDENS, NY 11424

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

ABSENCES AS OF APRIL 2017-MARCH 2018

2nd # Represents Absences as of January 2017-December 2017 (Borough President's Attendance)

Inderpaul Ahluwalia	(1)(1)	Linda Fogal	(0)(1)	Jagir Singh	(0)(0)
Julio Batista	(1)(1)	Daniel Grieve	(1)(1)	Jarnail Singh	(2)(2)
Zoila Bofill	(0)(0)	Sylvia Hack	(0)(0)	Mohinder Singh	(2)(3)
John Carter	(0)(1)	Joseph Iaboni	(1)(2)	Raghbir Singh	(3)(4)
Andrea Crawford	(2)(3)	Sherman Kane	(0)(0)	J. Richard Smith	(0)(0)
Sandra Datnarain	(1)(1)	Kevin O'Leary	(1)(1)	Maria Thomson	(2)(2)
Joan DeCamp	(0)(1)	Rabbi D. Pollack	(0)(0)	Marie Turley	(1)(2)
Stephen Esposito	(2)(3)	Raj Rampershad	(1)(1)	Naidoo Veerapen	(2)(3)
Jan Fenster	(3)(4)	Cristal Rivera	(1)(1)	Seth Welins	(0)(0)
Laraine Fletcher	(1)(1)	Mohamed Safie	(2)(5)	Kenichi Wilson	(0)(0)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Faiuze Ali	(1)(1)	Jim Coccovillo	(2)(2)	Ivan Mrakovcic	(3)(5)
D. Bhattacharjee	(1)(2)	Nick Comaianni	(1)(2)	Regina Santoro	(3)(4)
Kamal Bhuiyan	(4)(5)	Richard David	(3)(3)	Maharani Singh	(2)(2)
Latchman Budhai	(2)(3)	Marian C. Molina	(2)(3)	Matthew Singh	(2)(4)

ALSO PRESENT

Lisa Gomes, District Manager
Irina Barayeva, Community Associate
Victor Ampuero, Community Assistant

LEGISLATORS/REPRESENTATIVES, CITY AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

Amparito Rosero, Rep. QBP Melinda Katz
Carmela Isabella, Rep. Assembly Member Mike Miller
Carl Moore, Rep. Senator Addabbo
Adrienne Felton, Rep. Public Advocate Letitia James
Kate Mooney, Rep. Council Member Elizabeth Crowley
Bruce Eiber, Rep. Council Member Karen Koslowitz
Julio Salazar, Rep. Congress Woman Velazquez
Felix Omorisi, Rep. State Senator Sanders
Deputy Inspector Deodat Urprasad, 102nd Pct.
P.O Edwin Martinez, 102nd Pct.

Guest sign in sheets are available upon request.

1. PUBLIC HEARING

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

a. On Premises Liquor License Application – New

Punjabi Diner Inc.
116-01 101st Ave
Richmond Hill, NY 11419 *No speakers*

Kukin Bar & Grill Corp.
106-01 Jamaica Ave
Richmond Hill, NY 11418 *No speakers*

J's Tandoori Flame Inc.
D/b/a Sohna Punjab
117-10 Atlantic Ave
Richmond Hill, NY 11419
Mr. F. Singh, the owner, spoke regarding his establishment.

VC Restaurant Bar & Lounge Corp.
104-19 Jamaica Ave
Richmond Hill, NY 11418
Mr. V. Sotomayor, establishment owner, talked about his intentions to serve the best quality food.

Tilt Lounge Corp.
131-15 Jamaica Ave
Richmond Hill, NY 11418 *No speakers*

b. On Premises Wine, Beer & Cider Application – New

S A A K Imperio Corp.
D/b/a El Rey IV Billiard & Lounge
75-16 Rockaway Blvd
Woodhaven, NY 11421 *No speakers*

c. On Premises Liquor License Application – Renewal

Yayo Restaurant Corp.
D/b/a El Viejo Yayo
97-12 101st Ave
Ozone Park, NY 11416 *No speakers*

Happy Days Lounge Corp.
118-16 Jamaica Ave
Richmond Hill, NY 11418 *No speakers*

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

Lucky Thailand Kitchen Inc.
D/b/a Thailand Kitchen
86-05 Jamaica Ave (86/87th Streets)
Woodhaven, NY 11421 *No speakers*

New Metro Sushi Café Inc.
D/b/a Metro Sushi Café
118-21 Metropolitan Ave
Kew Gardens, NY 11415 *No speakers*

e. **Class Change**

Richi Rich Palace NY Inc.
D/b/a Richi Rich Palace
110-17/19 Atlantic Ave
Richmond Hill, NY 11418 *No speakers*

f. **Alteration – Change of Hours**

88 18 Tropical Restaurante Corp.
88-18 Jamaica Ave
Woodhaven, NY 11421 *No speakers*

2. **PUBLIC FORUM**

Farad Khan, Woodhaven Resident, Ozone Park Resident, stated that safety improvement measures are desperately needed at the intersection of 90th St & 103rd Ave.

Paul Hudon, Kew Gardens Resident, urged everyone to talk to their legislative representatives about NYC property tax rates being high.

Marina Gonzalez, Citizens Committee for NYC, stated that all community based organizations can apply for up to \$3,000 grants for their projects. The deadline to apply is January 22nd, 2018.

Cynthia Egido, Richmond Hill Resident, spoke in favor of speed hump installation on 91st and Atlantic Avenue.

Margaret O'Halloran, Richmond Hill Resident, stated that the new traffic pattern on Park Lane South and Metropolitan Ave slows down the traffic. She also spoke about the overdevelopment of neighborhood of Kew Gardens.

Dave Rubin, Kew Gardens Resident, stated that the opening of the Homeless Shelter in Comfort Inn Hotel on 82nd Ave in Kew Gardens created more problems, i.e. drug selling, prostitution, homeless congregation on the corner, etc.

Kevin Burns, Kew Gardens CSA, thanked all who participated in the Kew Gardens Community Supported Agriculture Group events and invited all to participate next year.

Philicia Chandipersaud, Tilt Lounge Corp., introduced herself to the board members.

Chair Rampershad recognized legislative representatives.

Carl Moore, Rep. Senator Addabbo, wished all a Happy Thanksgiving.

Carmella Izabella, Rep. Assembly Member Mike Miller, stated that the Assembly Member and the Queens Chronicle are sponsoring a Holiday Toy Drive. Starting next week, unwrapped toys can be dropped off at their office located at 83-91 Woodhaven Boulevard.

Adrienne Felton, Rep. Public Advocate Letitia James stated that it is Public Advocate's responsibility to help constituents in working with city agencies. The contact numbers are: (646) 942-1663 and (212) 669-7683.

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

Kate Mooney, Rep. Council Member Elizabeth Crawley, wished all a Happy Thanksgiving.

Julio Salazar, Rep. Congress Member Velazquez, reported on the following:

- Congresswoman Velazquez will continue to advocate for the people of Puerto Rico.
- The Congresswoman will not support the tax reform bill as it will hurt the middle class.
- Congresswoman Velazquez will be seeking CB9's support re: American Promise Act 2017.

Amparito Rosero, Rep. QBP Melinda Katz, stated that Community Board Member Applications are now available on Queens Borough President's website. Deadline for new and renewal applications is January 12, 2018.

3. Opening of Meeting & Reading of Minutes

1st Vice Chair Smith asked if there were any corrections/additions to October 10th, 2017 minutes. There were none.

Motion # 1: To accept October 10th, 2017 minutes as presented

Vote # 1: Unanimous

4. **Monthly Update Report 102 PCT**

Deputy Inspector Deodat Urprasad thanked all Veterans for their service and he stated the following:

- 102nd Pct. is down 21% in crime comparing to last year. Out of 77 precincts in the city the 102nd Pct. is rated second in crime reduction.
- A recurring problem with commercial vehicles parking in residential area was addressed last week.
- 102nd Pct. is now the second command in Queens South to have its officers equipped with body cameras. Deputy Inspector Urprasad gave a quick demonstration of the cameras. He stated that not every officer in Richmond Hill, Woodhaven and the northern section of Ozone Park will be equipped with the cameras - right now, the officers on the 4 p.m. to midnight shift will only be wearing them. Eventually, every officer in the city will have the cameras on their uniform.
- Gentlemen's Club, Trap House, located at 78-16 Atlantic Ave, liquor license will be revoked and it will be closed as of Friday, November 17th, 2017,

Question and answer period followed.

5. **Chairperson's Remarks & Exec. Report – Raj Rampershad** stated that:

- The next Executive Committee meeting will take place on Tuesday, November 28th, 2017 at 7 p.m. at the board office.
- CB9 is having its Annual Toy Drive. We are also starting a Coat Drive this year. Flyers will be distributed widely.
- Wished happy belated Veteran's Day to J.R. Smith, Nick Comaianni and Joe Iaboni.
- Requested a meeting with the Department of Homeless Services; date will be announced.

6. **District Manager's Report – Lisa Gomes:**

The Office has received & processed 45 complaints in October 2017.

As of 11/13/17 Fiscal Year FY 18 our Other Than Personal Service Budget is:

\$20,335.42 - Actual Available Balance.

\$10,717.18 Projected Available Balance Personal

Total Projected Agency Surplus \$31,052.60

Attended the Queens Borough Presidents Cabinet Meeting. There were two presentations:

NYC Department of Sanitation Snow Removal Plan (They will be sending us the presentation via email).

There was also a Presentation from the NYC Department of Environmental Protection. They gave information on NYC Rain Gardens aka Bio Swales.

- **FY 2019 Capital & Expense Budget**

Motion # 2: To accept CB9Q FY2019 Capital & Expense Budget

Vote# 2: 29 in favor and 1 abstention

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

- The CB office received the following email from the DOE:
“There was a proposed boiler conversion from fuel to natural gas at P.S. 64. The laboratory analyses of soil samples identified one volatile organic compound and three semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), which were above the criteria set by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). The sampled soil is located beneath a gated yard south of the existing school building. Laboratory analysis of groundwater samples also identified several SVOCs above the criteria set by NYSDEC, however, they were at relatively low concentrations. These results are attributed to the historic fill material. Groundwater is not used for drinking water in Queens and is not accessible at the site”.
Please note that this message and the full environmental report (accessible on the P.S. 64 web site) does not include a statement about any possible harm these small traces of chemicals might have on students and the surrounding community. Senator Addabbo and the Public Advocate’s office have been notified about our concerns.
- Queens Library representatives presented plans for the upcoming renovation of the Richmond Hill Library. The library will be closed for about 2 years during which time a temporary structure will be erected on the site to provide very basic library services.
- *NY Queens Public Library, Richmond Hill Library Presentation – Luisa Benedetto Government Affairs Manager*

NY Queens Public Library representatives gave a Power Point presentation on the Richmond Hill Branch Library Renovation Project. The renovation is going to start in March, 2018 and aimed to be completed within eighteen months. Ms. Benedetto thanked Legislative officials who helped to allocate the total of \$8,260,099 for this project: Mayor de Blasio, Queens Borough President Katz, Senator Comrie, Council Member Koslowitz, Council Member Ulrich, and Assembly Member Simanowitz.

Question and answer period followed.

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

J. R. Smith stated that the City Council is trying to get a resolution to have all agencies involved in city gardening to come up with a rule book.

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

Andrea Crawford read the Resolution re: Kew Gardens Bridge and the MTA/LIRR.

“The retail commercial sections on the side-bridges along Lefferts Boulevard as it passes over the Long Island Railroad in Kew Gardens are under threat of demolition. The MTA/Long Island Railroad, which owns and controls this unique over 100-year-old property, have failed to properly and safely maintain the structures. So, instead of taking responsibility for the current rundown, and possibly unsafe, conditions, the LIRR proposes to use the present situation as a development opportunity, despite the fact that this would totally change and destroy the character of Kew Gardens as we know it, a cherished asset of Queens CB 9.

The local civic associations, having advocated for the structures’ proper maintenance for decades, are insistent that it is the MTA/LIRR responsibility to provide for the necessary repairs or reconstruction necessary to maintain the bridges and the neighborhood stores.

Community Board 9 opposes any reconstruction or demolition of the Lefferts Boulevard Bridge in Kew Gardens that changes the character and use of the current structure. We resoundingly reject the idea of offering this property as a development opportunity. For over a century the bridge, known locally as the *Ponte Vecchio*, has been the heart and soul defining what is the “urban village” of Kew Gardens. For almost a century this property has provided **income** to the railroad, with little of it being used for bridge maintenance.

We note that thousands of community residents and individual associations are supporting the path to restoration.

Therefore, Queens Community Board 9 unequivocally supports the continuation of the current character and nature of this property. We ask the MTA/ LIRR to fulfill its responsibilities to fund and begin the renewal of this special place starting in early 2018.

Motion # 3: To support CB9Q Resolution re: Kew Gardens Bridge and the MTA/LIRR

Vote # 3: Unanimous

This resolution will be sent to the MTA and LIRR.

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

Not present to give a report.

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

Motion # 4: To support speed hump installation on 108th Street between Jamaica Ave & 91st Ave and on 108th St between 91st Ave & Atlantic Ave

Vote # 4: Unanimous

Motion # 5: To support speed hump installation on 90th St between 97th Ave & 101st Ave

Vote # 5: Unanimous

Motion # 6: To support speed hump installation on 85th Street:

Between 87th Ave & 87th Rd
Between 87th Rd & 88th Ave
Between 88th Rd & 89th Ave
Between 89th Ave & 91st Ave
Between 91st Ave & Atlantic Ave

Vote # 6: Unanimous

Kenny Wilson gave an update on the Woodhaven SBS Project stating that November 13th, marked the official launch of the project. Commuters must wait on stops on the median between the main road and on service roads. MTA vehicles now travel along bus-only lanes. Cameras will soon take photos of drivers using the bus lanes. The cameras will go in effect Sunday, November 19 and for sixty days motorists will only be issued warnings.

12. Public Safety & Consumer Affairs Committee Report – James Coccovillo & Rabbi Pollack, Co-Chairs

Punjabi Diner Inc.

116-01 101st Ave

Richmond Hill, NY 11419

Motion # 7: Not to oppose new on premise liquor license for Punjabi Diner Inc., 116-01 101st Ave

Vote # 7: Unanimous

Kukin Bar & Grill Corp.

106-01 Jamaica Ave

Richmond Hill, NY 11418

Motion # 8: Not to oppose new on premise liquor license for Kukin Bar & Grill Corp., 106-01 Jamaica Ave

Vote # 8: 29 in favor and 1 opposed

J's Tandoori Flame Inc.

D/b/a Sohna Punjab

117-10 Atlantic Ave

Richmond Hill, NY 11419

Motion # 9: Not to oppose new on premise liquor license for J's Tandoori Flame Inc., d/b/a Sohna Punjab,
117-10 Atlantic Ave

Vote # 9: Unanimous

VC Restaurant Bar & Lounge Corp.
104-19 Jamaica Ave
Richmond Hill, NY 11418

Motion # 10: Not to oppose new on premise liquor license for VC Restaurant Bar & Lounge Corp,
104-19 Jamaica Ave

Vote # 10: Unanimous

S A A K Imperio Corp.
D/b/a El Rey IV Billiard & Lounge
75-16 Rockaway Blvd
Woodhaven, NY 11421

Motion # 11: To oppose new on premise wine, beer & cider application for SAAK Imperio Corp.,
D/b/a El Rey IV Billiard & Lounge, 75-16 Rockaway Blvd.

Vote # 11: 29 in favor and 1 opposed

Richi Rich Palace NY Inc.
D/b/a Richi Rich Palace
110-17/19 Atlantic Ave
Richmond Hill, NY 11418

Motion # 12: Not to oppose class change application for Richi Rich Palace NY Inc., d/b/a Richi
Rich Palace, 110-17/19 Atlantic Ave

Vote # 12: 29 in favor and 1 abstention

88 18 Tropical Restaurante Corp.
88-18 Jamaica Ave
Woodhaven, NY 11421

Motion # 13: To oppose change of hours for 88 18 Tropical Restaurante Corp.,
88-18 Jamaica ave

Vote # 13: 29 in favor and 1 abstention

The next Public Safety Committee Meeting will take place on Monday, November 20th, 2017 at 7 p.m. at the district office. Rabbi Pollock thanked Mr. Ampuero for processing a big amount of paperwork.

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

Not present to give a report

14. Ad Hoc Committee Report – John Carter,

Mr. Carter stated that the Ad Hoc Committee is working on the following:

- Treasurer Reports
- Communication and email policies
- CB9 Election Procedures

Maria Thomson asked when the Ad Hoc Committee's work will be concluded. Chair Rampershad responded that it will be concluded at the end of his term, which is March, 2018.

15. Old Business

Maria Thomson stated that 2017 GWDC Street Fair was a huge success. She thanked board members for their support.

16. New Business

John Carter voiced his concern regarding mail not being delivered from/to Kew Gardens Post Office.

Rabbi Pollack suggested to contact Congress Member's office.

17. Public Forum

Anthony Johnson, Queens Resident, requested a timeframe on the completion of the 121st Street train station renovation.

Rabbi Pollack made a motion to adjourn. Andrea Crawford seconded the motion.

Meeting ended at 9:28 p.m.