



COMMUNITY BOARD NO.9

**Queens Borough Hall
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Kew Gardens, NY 11424**

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

**FEBRUARY 13, 2018 MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING
QUEENS BOROUGH HALL, RM. 200, 120-55 QUEENS BLVD. KEW GARDENS, NY 11424**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

ABSENCES AS OF APRIL 2017-MARCH 2018

2nd # Represents Absences as of January 2018-December 2018 (Borough President's Attendance)

Inderpaul Ahluwalia	(1)(0)	Richard David	(4)(1)	Raj Rampershad	(1)(0)
Faiuze Ali	(1)(0)	Stephen Esposito	(2)(0)	Regina Santoro	(3)(0)
Julio Batista	(2)(0)	Laraine Fletcher	(2)(1)	Jagir Singh	(0)(0)
Kamal Bhuiyan	(4)(0)	Linda Fogal	(0)(0)	Jarnail Singh	(2)(0)
Zoila Bofill	(0)(0)	Sylvia Hack	(0)(0)	Maharani Singh	(3)(0)
John Carter	(0)(0)	Sherman Kane	(0)(0)	Mohinder Singh	(3)(0)
Jim Coccovillo	(2)(0)	Marian C. Molina	(3)(0)	J. Richard Smith	(1)(1)
Andrea Crawford	(2)(0)	Kevin O'Leary	(1)(0)	Seth Welins	(1)(1)
Sandra Datnarain	(1)(0)	Rabbi D. Pollack	(1)(0)	Kenichi Wilson	(0)(0)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

D. Bhattacharjee	(2)(1)	Daniel Grieve	(2)(1)	Matthew Singh	(4)(1)
Latchman Budhai	(4)(2)	Joseph Iaboni	(2)(1)	Raghbir Singh	(5)(2)
Nick Comaianni	(3)(2)	Ivan Mrakovcic	(4)(1)	Marie Turley	(2)(1)
Joan DeCamp	(1)(1)	Cristal Rivera	(3)(2)	Naidoo Veerapen	(4)(2)
Jan Fenster	(6)(2)	Mohamed Safie	(4)(2)		

ALSO PRESENT

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

LEGISLATORS/REPRESENTATIVES, CITY AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

Assembly Member Andrew Hevesi
Amparito Rosero, Rep. QBP Melinda Katz
Carl Moore, Rep. Senator Joe Addabbo
Greg Mitchell, Rep. Council Member Robert Holden
Brent Weitzberg, Rep. Assembly Member Hevesi
Alexa Arcchi, Rep. Assembly Member Daniel Hevesi
Kate Mooney, Council Member Adrienne Adams
Carmela Isabella, Rep. Assembly Member Mike Miller

PO Severino, Community Affairs, 102nd Pct.
PO Martinez, Community Affairs, 102nd Pct.
Lt. Estrella, 102nd Pct.
Bruce Eiber, Rep. Council Member Karen Koslowitz
Julio Salazar, Rep. Congress Member Nidia Velasquez
Anthony Lemma, Assembly Member David Weprin
Hallah Saleh, Department of City Planning

Guest sign in sheets are available upon request.

Chair Rampershad read Addendum to the Agenda: *Greater Woodhaven Development Corp.- "Wonderful Woodhaven Street Festival"* **the date was changed to Sunday, September 30th, 2018.**

1. PUBLIC HEARING

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

a. On Premises Liquor License Application – New

Michael & Natalie LaBoy
105-06 Jamaica Ave
Richmond Hill, NY 11418

Mr. LaBoy addressed the board and gave a timeframe for submitting the paperwork to the Board office.

Casabe Bar & Grill Inc.
79-17 Atlantic Ave
Woodhaven, NY 11421

Mr. Rodriguez, representative for Casabe Bar & Grill Inc., stated that he attended the CB9 Public Safety and Consumers Affairs Committee and submitted all necessary paperwork. They will be Hiring a licensed security company as required by NY State.

b. On Premises Liquor License Application – Renewal

El Gran Canario II Restaurant Inc.
111-17 Jamaica Ave
Richmond Hill, NY 11418 *No speakers*

Atlantic Bamboo Garden Inc.
D/b/a Atlantic Bamboo Garden
107-04 Atlantic Ave
Ozone Park, NY 11416 *No speakers*

Royal India Palace and Restaurant Inc.
D/b/a Royal India Palace & Restaurant
118-08 Atlantic Ave
Richmond Hill, NY 11419 *No speakers*

Woodhaven Manor Caters and Banquet Inc.
96-01 Jamaica Ave
Woodhaven, NY 11421 *No speakers*

c. Corporate Change

Vikeira Partners LLC
D/b/a Karnival Belize
117-03 Hillside Ave
Richmond Hill, NY 11418 *No speakers*

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

➤ *Guest Speaker Assembly Member Andrew Hevesi – Home Stability Support Presentation*

Special Guest – Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi – Presented his plan on Home Stability Support (HHS.) All Board members received a copy of his proposed plan. The Health and Social Services Committee strongly supports this plan. A letter of support will be presented for a vote at our next General meeting.

All Board Members received a copy of the Fiscal 2018 Executive Budget for Department of Homeless Services, to review at their leisure. Please email any questions you may have for DHS. We are trying to schedule a meeting with them.

Email correspondence with Amanda Nasner, DHS - they use commercial hotels as emergency. The notification policy on commercial hotels is not official. They try to give as much notification as they possibly can, but it may be hours before they move folks in. DHS will eventually move individuals out of hotels, in 5 years, once they open up more shelters. DHS pays \$175 per room each night.

Claire Sheedy of the Drop in Center – Atlantic Avenue – informed me that no changes have been made as of the present time. The Center is operational from 8:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M. She also stated that they are close to finalizing their budget. No date given.

d. Greater Woodhaven Street Festival – Oct. 14, 2018 *No speakers*

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

3. PUBLIC FORUM

Tricia Ramcharit, Civilian Complaint Review Board, spoke about ways to file a complaint with the Civilian Complaint Review Board.

Joseph Reuter, Richmond Hill Resident, stated that traffic lights along 103rd Ave need to be in sync in order to alleviate speeding and congestion problems.

Michael Moore, Friends of Forest Park, spoke about events organized by volunteers of Friends of Forest Park Organization that will take place this year. List of events are available upon request.

Dr. Mushahid Farooqi, City Health Urgent Care, spoke about the new location at 85-15 126th St in Kew Gardens, where they have Open Clinic and free consultations every Monday and Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Chair Rampershad recognized legislator representatives.

Bruce Eiber, Rep. Council Member Karen Koslowitz, no report.

Carl Moore, Rep. Senator Joe Addabbo, announced upcoming free events sponsored by Senator Addabbo:

- Free Mammograms on Thursday, March 22nd, 2018, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (by appointment only).
- Free Prostate Screenings on Saturday, April 7th, 2018 10 to 11:30 a.m.
- NYLAG Mobile Legal Help Center will be at Beth Gavriel Bukharian Congregation, 66-35 108th St, on Monday, April 9th, 2018, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Spring Recycling Event on Sunday, April 29th, 2018, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Bandshell Parking Lot in Forest Park.

Kate Mooney, Rep. Council Member Adrienne Adams, reported on the following:

- Council Member Adams sends greetings, as well as condolences for the loss of Maria Thomson and all her years as a civic leader.
- CM Adrienne Adams is Chair of Landmarks, Maritime Use and Public Sitings in NYC Council.
- Also sits on: Finance, Economic Development, Land Use, General Welfare, Rules, Privileges and Elections.
- She is sponsoring a Challenge Your Property's Assessed Value event with Dept. of Finance at Faith Assembly Church on Thursday, Feb. 15 from 10-12 event.
- Reminder that Discretionary Funding Applications are due by Midnight February 20, 2018.
- CM Adams is starting Mobile Office hours at QBPL Lefferts Branch starting Thursday, February 22nd, and every Thursday thereafter from 10- 1pm (tentative hours).
- The Council Member's e-newsletter is available to anyone who wishes to share their email with us.

Carmella Isabella, Rep. Assembly Member Mike Miller, stated that this year's annual Women of Distinction Awards Ceremony will take place on Thursday, March 8th, 2018 at 7 p.m. at One Stop Richmond Hill Community Center, 110-08 Jamaica Ave. This year's ceremony is in honor of the late Maria Thomson, a civic leader from Woodhaven and past recipient of this award.

- Amparito Rosero, Rep. QBP Melinda Katz, stated that HEAP mobile office will be at Queens Borough Hall until March 14th, 2018 on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Anthony Lemma, Rep. Assembly Member David Weprin, no report.

Greg Mitchel, Rep. Council Member Robert Holden, stated that:

- CM Holden, along with Senator Addabbo and Maspeth Federal Savings Bank will be co-sponsoring Free Mammograms & Clinical Breast Exams Event on Thursday, March 22nd, 2018, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at 56-18 69th St.
- Property Tax Assessment Event will take place on Wednesday, March 7th, 2018.
- Council Members Robert Holden and Eric Ulrich will present the Co-Naming of N/E Corner of Jamaica Ave & Forest Parkway to Maria Thomson Way as piece of legislature to NYC Council and will get it approved. The tentative time for the Co-Naming Ceremony is spring.

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

- H.R.4792 (Small Business Access to Capital After a Natural Disaster Act)
 - a. Passed in the House with bi-partisan support.
 - b. Helps small businesses secure loans and capital necessary to rebuild after a disaster.
 - c. FEMA reports 40% of businesses don't reopen after a disaster.
- Small Business 7(a) Lending Oversight and Reform Act
 - a. As the Ranking Member on the House Small Business Committee, together with Chairman Chabot, introduced the bill mentioned above.
 - b. If passed, will implement reforms necessary to support the long-term viability of the 7(a) lending program.
 - c. For years, the 7(a) lending program has played a vital role in helping existing businesses expand, and new ones start. Whether a small or large business, the Congresswoman wants to ensure our entrepreneurs have the resources necessary to succeed.
- Congresswoman opposes the Trump administration proposed budget because:
 - a. Cuts Medicare and Medicaid funding by a combined \$1.4 trillion
 - b. Cuts SNAP program by \$138 billion
 - c. Cuts EPA budget by \$2.5 billion
 - d. This budget will negatively affect our seniors, working-class families, environment, amongst other key areas. The Congresswoman believes this budget doesn't work for our community, and is a result of the massive tax giveaways found in the recently signed tax bill.
- Congresswoman will be hosting a Woodhaven Tax Bill Teach-in on March 3rd, 11 am, at All Saints Episcopal Church (85-45 96th Street, Woodhaven).

4. Opening of Meeting & Reading of Minutes

1st Vice Chair Smith asked if there were any changes/additions to January 9th, 2018 Minutes. There were none.

Motion # 1: To accept January 9th, 2018 minutes as presented.

Vote # 1: 26 in favor and 1 abstention

5. Monthly Update Report 102 Pct.

Police Officer Edwin Martinez reported on the following:

- There was a 25% decrease in all major crimes in the 102nd Pct. in the last twenty days, and 16.7% year to date.
- The next 102nd Pct. Community Council monthly meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 20th at the Richmond Hill Public Library at 7 p.m.
- You can follow 102nd Pct. by Twitter at @NYPD102PCT.
- Informed and warned all regarding a cyber tax scam. 102nd Pct. would like all to remain vigilant.

Question and answer period followed.

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

- The next Executive Committee Meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 27, 2018 at 7 p.m. at the district office.
- Looking to set up a meeting with the Department of Homeless Services Commissioner for March 15, 2018.
- Chair Rampershad extended his condolences to the family of late Maria Thomson who

served as a CB9 member for over thirty five years.

Steven Esposito read Maria Thomson's eulogy:

How do you express in words the loss of such a woman, as Maria A. Thomson, caring, determined, unwavering, strongminded and tenacious. I'm not sure that these words can adequately describe Maria.

When Maria started something she saw it through to the end and never gave up. A perfect example is the carousel in Forest Park, with the help of numerous public officials, she had it landmarked. It may have taken 25 years, but she had it done.

She was not only the mayor of Woodhaven but the heart and soul. She was the little engine that could. We will never be able to replace Maria but we will try our best to keep doing what she did and that was to keep Woodhaven a safe and viable community.

I would like, with the help of our elected officials, to rename Forrest Park Plaza to the Maria A. Thomson Plaza, I think that would be the perfect way to honor all the great work she did for her beloved Woodhaven, as she put it a Haven in the City.

A special thanks goes to her husband Bob Thomson for his unwavering support, driving her to various meetings thought the city and at all hours. To you Bob: we sincerely appreciate what you have given.

7. District Manager's Report – Lisa Gomes, reported on the following:

- For the month of January, 2018 Irina processed 26 complaints.
- Attended Borough President's Katz's Budget Hearings.

8. Con Edison's Free LED Lightbulb Program-Franklin Energy Services

Sharon Laudisi of Franklyn Energy Services stated that they are working diligently in parts of Community Board 9 to promote Con Edison's free LED lightbulb program and discussed criteria for eligibility and program sign-up. She stated that LED lightbulbs should be upgraded because they use up to 85% less electricity, they last up to 25 years, and need to be replaced less often.

To schedule LED upgrade appointment and find more ways to save on the energy bill go to coned.com/neighborhood or call 1-877-870-6118.

Question and answer period followed.

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

- Mr. Wilson stated that there was a complaint received recently regarding box cars that are being left for days on the trestle between Babbage St. and Bessemer St. Mr. Hector Garcia of LIRR has addressed the issue by stating that the cars are sometimes temporarily staged ("stored" means long-term) at that location, and are either waiting to be picked up by CSX or to be moved out East due to capacity constraints at Fresh Pond Yard.
- He also stated that Kew Gardens Safety Improvement Project at Park Lane South/Park Lane/Beverly Rd and Onslow Place has been completed.

➤ Fees/tickets will be enforced for driving on SBS lanes starting February 20, 2018.

➤ **Co-Naming of N/E Corner of Jamaica Ave & Forest Parkway to Maria Thomson Way**

Motion # 2: To approve co-naming of N/E Corner of Jamaica Ave & Forest Parkway to Maria Thomson Way.

Vote # 2: Unanimous

➤ **Greater Woodhaven Development Corp.-“Wonderful Woodhaven Street Festival”
September 30, 2018**

Motion # 3: To send a letter of support for the GWDC September 30th, 2018 Street Festival

Vote # 3: 26 in favor and 1 abstention

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

- P.S. 56 has a number of safety and environmental issues that must be resolved. The school needs surveillance cameras at the external doors. Opaque Plexiglas classroom windows need to be replaced with clear glass windows. There are various plumbing and electrical problems that need immediate repairs. Classrooms need air conditioners. The committee is in the process of writing a letter of support for P.S 56 which will be sent to our elected officials and D.O.E. personnel.
- A letter was sent to Senator Addabbo’s office requesting his support of a swing space for the Woodhaven Library when the library will be closed for renovation.
- The committee had a productive meeting with a D.O.E. Community Affairs representative. She offered new information about the Gifted and Talented program as well as other education related matters.
- The NYS Regents and the NYS Education Department have filed suit against the State University of New York and its charter committee to block an action that would allow charter schools to hire teachers who do not meet the current teacher license standards set by NYS.

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

Mr. J.R. Smith stated that the Parks Department will be giving a presentation on the design and repairs that will be done to the Dog Run in Woodhaven at Park Lane South and 85th Street.

Sylvia Hack made a motion to keep supporting the Dog Runs in CB9. Lorraine Fletched seconded the motion.

Motion # 4: To continue supporting the Dog Runs in CB9

Vote # 4: Unanimous

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

Sylvia Hack reported on the following:

- **Re: The Lefferts Boulevard bridge in Kew Gardens.**

Patrick Nowakowski, President of the LIRR, answered our letter of November 14, 2017 with a letter dated January 25, 2018 which arrived at the Board office on February 7. His letter does not respond at all to the issues which the Board and the community have brought to the attention of the MTA/LIRR, namely that the Lefferts Boulevard bridge can be repaired, rather than torn down, and replaced with high-rise buildings —

according to experienced engineers talking to the community. The LIRR letter states that they want to work with the community for the best possible outcome for this location. However, it doesn't say for whom this outcome will be best. The letter appears to be written by a public relations representative rather than someone who wants to have a serious conversation about a serious problem. The Board will be requesting a meeting with Mr. Nowakowski .

- **Kew Gardens Special District to answer a serious parking problem**

The Community Board had proposed a special district in a particular section of Kew Gardens to alleviate the serious problem of parking - where one family homes have been and are being demolished and replaced with large apartment buildings that have no on-site parking. Because most of these apartment buildings are constructed on sites of under 10,000 ft.², they are not required to provide parking. So where we used to have one family, we have multiples of 20, 30 and 40 families and more and yet no required on-site parking where that one family house might have had one to 3 cars. The Queens DCP claims that the present zoning is working and thus a special district is not warranted. We found this inadequate and expressed our dismay that the very reason why we came to DCP with the request for a special district is because there is a serious problem in that area of Kew Gardens. So now we have to think of perhaps not a total solution but ways in which the problem can be alleviated.

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

a. On Premises Liquor License Application – New

Michael & Natalie LaBoy
105-06 Jamaica Ave
Richmond Hill, NY 11418

Motion # 5: To oppose the new on premises liquor license application for Michael & Natalie LaBoy, 105-06 Jamaica Ave

Vote # 5: 25 in favor and 2 opposed

Casabe Bar & Grill Inc.
79-17 Atlantic Ave
Woodhaven, NY 11421

Motion # 6: Not to oppose the new on premises liquor license application for Casabe Bar & Grill Inc., 79-17 Atlantic Ave

Vote # 6: 26 in favor and 1 opposed

The next Public Safety Committee meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 21st, 2018 at 7 p.m. at the district office.

14. Economic Development Committee Report – Richard David & Matthew Singh, Co-Chairs
No report

15. Ad Hoc Committee Report – John Carter, Chair

- The committee will present a budgetary process report in March.
- Will make further recommendations regarding items that should be looked at for CB9 Policies and Procedures.

16. Old Business *No speakers*

17. New Business

Sandra Datnarain asked if there is money in the budget to buy plaques.

18. Public Forum

Frank Cotignola, Kew Gardens Resident, made a suggestion to change the existing No Parking sign to No Standing Anytime on 82nd Rd between Queens Blvd. and Kew Gardens Rd.

Jim Coccovillo made a motion to adjourn, Rabbi Pollack seconded the motion.

The meeting ended at 10:00 p.m.