



# 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: [qn09@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:qn09@cb.nyc.gov)

Website: [www.nyc.gov/queenscb9](http://www.nyc.gov/queenscb9)

Kenichi Wilson, Chairperson \* James S. McClelland, District Manager \* Sharon Lee, Acting Borough President

## APRIL 21, 2020 MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING TELECONFERENCE VIRTUAL MEETING

### BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

ABSENCES AS OF APRIL 2020-MARCH 2021

2<sup>nd</sup> # Represents Absences as of January-December 2020 (Borough President's Attendance)

Sherry Algreto	(0)(1)	Laraine Fletcher	(0)(0)	Regina Santoro	(0)(0)
Julio Batista	(0)(0)	Linda Fogal	(0)(0)	Maharani Singh	(0)(0)
Dulal Bhattacharjee	(0)(0)	Daniel Grieve	(0)(0)	Mohinder Singh	(0)(0)
John Carter	(0)(0)	Sylvia Hack	(0)(0)	J. Richard Smith	(0)(0)
Andrea Crawford	(0)(0)	Joseph Iaboni	(0)(0)	Naima Sultana	(0)(0)
Joan DeCamp	(0)(0)	Sherman Kane	(0)(0)	Seth Welins	(0)(0)
Sandra Datnarain	(0)(0)	Marian Molina	(0)(1)	Kenichi Wilson	(0)(0)
Stephen Esposito	(0)(0)	Kevin O'Leary	(0)(0)		
Jan Fenster	(0)(0)	Rabbi Daniel Pollack	(0)(1)		

### BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Inderpaul Ahluwalia	(1)(1)	Nick Comaianni	(1)(2)	Matthew Singh	(1)(0)
Faiuze Ali	(1)(1)	Lisa Komninos	(1)(1)	Ragbir Singh	(1)(2)
Kamal Bhuiyan	(1)(1)	Cristal Rivera	(1)(3)	Marie Turley	(1)(1)
Zoila Bofill	(1)(1)	Mohamed Safie	(1)(3)		
Latchman Budhai	(1)(2)	Jarnail Singh	(1)(1)		

### ALSO PRESENT

James McClelland, District Manager  
Irina Barayeva, Community Associate

### LEGISLATORS/REPRESENTATIVES, CITY AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

Senator Joe Addabbo  
Melinda Katz, Queens District Attorney  
Amparito Rosero, Rep. Acting Borough President Sharon Lee  
Samantha Kung, Rep. Assembly Member Mike Miller  
Ben Geremia, Rep. Council Member Holden  
Anthony Giudice, Rep. Senator Joe Addabbo  
Pietro Ruggero, Rep. Council Member Eric Ulrich  
Michael Cohen, Rep. Council Member Karen Koslowitz

## 1. PUBLIC HEARING

*Liquor, wine, Beer & Cider Licenses, Letters of Intent Received*

### a. On Premises Liquor License Application – New

Chrome 101 Inc.  
96-03 101<sup>st</sup> Ave  
Ozone Park, NY 11416                      *no speakers*

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

La Noriega Bar Inc.  
131-09 Jamaica Ave  
Richmond Hill, NY 11418                      *no speakers*

Cancun Café Corp.  
86-05 Jamaica Ave  
Woodhaven, NY 11421                      *no speakers*

### c. Method of Operation Change Application

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

## 2. REPORTS FROM LEGISLATIVE OFFICIALS

Senator Joe Addabbo spoke about the COVID-19 virus crisis stating that there is a lot to learn. In every level of the government they understand the urgent situation the hospitals are in, and they will find the means to protect the healthcare system. After closing several hospitals in Queens, they understand the importance of these hospital beds.

Senator answered Rabbi Pollack's question about Food Pantries stating that there is money in the budget, but it needs to be allocated immediately.

Melinda Katz, Queens DA

DA's office is running relatively well; we have video conferencing for all arraignments and hearings. We have done conferencing via Skype, and we are working every single day to make sure that justice is served.

There is a relative drop in crime because people aren't on the street.

We are really concerned that domestic violence is vastly underreported since COVID-19 started. People who are quarantining or sheltering-in are worried that if they report they will have nowhere to go, or if their partner gets arrested, where is he going to go or they are concerned that the partner is going to get the virus. There is a Domestic Violence Hotline that has been formed because of this, and the ADA is manning this hotline 24 hours a day. The number to call is 718-286-4410.

Amparito Rosero, Rep. Acting Borough President Sharon Lee

- Ms. Rosero stressed the importance of everyone's participation in the 2020 Census.
- Community Board Members term extensions: The BP announced on March 30<sup>th</sup> that the term for 2020 Community Board appointees will now begin on May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020 instead of April 1<sup>st</sup> and will last until March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022. Her 2020 Community Board appointments will be made in the coming weeks. Current Board Members, whose terms expired March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020, will continue serving for an additional sixty days, pursuant to Chapter 70, Section 2800a, which states: The New York City Charter members shall serve until their successors are appointed, but no member may serve more than sixty days after the expiration of his/her original terms, unless re-appointed by the Borough President.

James Mongeluzo, Rep. Comptroller Scott Stringer

- The office released a report that estimates some financial impacts that COVID-19 will have on the city budget.
- They have been advocating for more help for frontline workers.
- Comptroller Stringer's COVID-19 Resource Center is the most comprehensive set of materials in terms of a singular website that a person can visit and find information about what benefits there are for people who are hurting in the wake of this crisis.
- The office is holding webinars for business owners, minority and women owned businesses every Tuesday and Thursday.

Michael Cohen, Rep. Council Member Karen Koslowitz

The office is closed, but staff members are working from home handling all constituent concerns.

The City Council is holding a stated meeting tomorrow – it will be the first remote meeting that the Council has ever had.

Council Member Koslowitz is spending most of her days with matters of the city budget; she is the Chair of the Queens County Delegation. She is also on a budget negotiating team.

Rabbi Daniel Pollack, Rep. Congress Member Grace Meng

The office is working non-stop; approximately a thousand cases a week are being handled.

Congress Member Meng has been on the frontline trying to help hospitals and nursing homes. She is also fighting to get additional funding for stimulus bills.

Congress Member personally delivered hand sanitizers and masks to the local Precinct and to the FDNY to make sure they are protected as they go out in a public. If anyone needs assistance, please contact Congress Member's Office at 718-358-6364.

Stacey Yearwood, Rep. Council Member Adrienne Adams

Council Member Adams is also a member of the Budget Negotiating Team and is working diligently to get the budget passed. At the virtual stated meeting tomorrow, Council Member Adams will be joining her colleagues in introducing a legislative package that will focus on COVID-19 relief. The key areas are: essential workers, protecting renters and small businesses, prioritizing public health.

The office contact number is 718-206-2068.

Joy Resor, NYC Department of City Planning, stated that the ULURP processing is on hold due to the pandemic.

Daniel Kurzyna, Rep. Council Member Bob Holden stated the following:

- The first-ever virtual stated meeting will take place tomorrow. In 82 years that the City Council has been legislative body, they never had a remote meeting.
- Apart from COVID-19, the other issue that the office is dealing with is: the increasing amount of graffiti on storefronts. The DSNY made an announcement today that they are suspending the Graffiti Free NYC Program, which has not improved the situation. The Council Member has the graffiti removal program. Please submit the locations by calling the office at 718-366-3900 or email them to [district30@council.nyc.gov](mailto:district30@ council.nyc.gov).
- Constituents who are not successful in filing for their unemployment benefits should also contact the office.

Andrea Crawford asked Mr. Michael Cohen from Council Member Koslowitz office for help in addressing the car/bike-racing problem that is constantly occurring in Kew Gardens and Richmond Hill, as well as the ongoing car vandalism issue.

### 3. PUBLIC FORUM

#### Shruti Murti, Census 2020 Bureau

Ms. Murti gave a quick update on Census 2020:

- The Borough of Queens is at 38.8% response rate.
- NYC is at 40%
- NYS is at 45%
- The national average is 50.7%

As of today, areas in Richmond Hill have 26.2 % response rate, Woodhaven – 24.5% and many neighborhoods in north Ozone Park range from 25 to 30%.

Asked if CB9 can utilize their social media platforms to remind their constituents to do the self-response online or to fill out the paper questioner when they receive it in order to get an accurate count for 2020 Census.

#### Sam Esposito, OPRBA President

Mr. Esposito asked the board members to table the vote for the Chrome 101 Inc., located at 96-03 101<sup>st</sup> Ave, as it is a Veteran's Bar.

The Ozone Park Residents Block Association and other fourteen other organizations have delivered 2,000 bags of food in Community Boards 9 and 10; they have delivered over 600 meals to the first responders in NYPD and FDNY. Over 15,000 masks and boxes of gloves were delivered to three different hospitals. The community has donated \$20,000. Thanked Community Board 9 for being part of the Coalition.

Andrea Crawford thanked Mr. Esposito and the Ozone Park Residents Block Association for their mask donation to the hospitals.

### 4. OPENING OF MEETING & READING OF MINUTES

Chair Wilson announced that the reading of minutes will be reinstated the next time the Board meets.

### 5. MONTHLY UPDATE NYPD 102<sup>nd</sup> PCT REPORT

The NYPD officers are restricted from Zoom; therefore, they could not join tonight's meeting.

The office is contact with the 102<sup>nd</sup> Pct. as the number of crimes, e.g. commercial break-ins and auto theft, is increasing.

### 6. CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS & EXEC. REPORT – Kenichi Wilson

Chairperson Wilson reported on the following:

- Has been involved in food deliveries to those in need.
- The former Chair of Queens CB 6 has passed away.

### 7. DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT – James S. McClelland reported on the following:

- The district office is operational; all calls are being forwarded to our cell phones. We have access to emails, and we have been keeping in touch with our elected officials and city agencies through video conferencing. Thanked elected officials and all city agency representatives for being accessible at this time.
- Mayor's Street Activity Permit Office has cancelled all street events until further notice.
- The office is facing budget cuts. Sent info to Budget & Finance Committee Chair John Carter. Will keep the board apprised of those changes after receiving information from OMB.

**8. EDUCATION & YOUTH SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT – Sherry Algreto, Chair** stated the following:

“Our hearts and prayers go out to all the educators, staff members and children that have been affected by the pandemic.

It has been quite a challenge to suddenly be left with very little notice in NYC to change the way our children have to be educated. One month later, I must say, we at the Education and Youth Services Committee are so proud of the our educators, principals and staff, and children who have had to find a different way of teaching and learning online in the middle of this pandemic, the first we have seen in our lifetime.

A special praise to parents who did not have training to specialize in different subjects but have found themselves co-teaching their kids. As a parent myself, who is teaching my son with special needs, I learned about Eukaryotic and Prokaryotic cells and still cannot pronounce the names properly.

Everyone seems to be doing the best they can.

Notes from a Teacher’s perspective: Face-to-Face interaction is an essential aspect of educating students. Distance learning completely removes that level of interaction and adds pressure of the students to adapt as best as possible.

For many students Face-to-Face is critical to drive instructions and deepens the learning experience.

Motivation and Engagement: The absence of Face-to-Face interaction tremendously impacts teachers in motivating and keeping the students engaged at all times. This critical component of the classroom experience reduces the many opportunities to motivate students to learn new ideas and take on new challenges.

Social Skill Building: Classroom experience, coupled with interaction, reinforces social skill building and shapes interaction among peers and adults. There is very limited social interaction with distance learning, which can hinder motivation and overall social growth.

Hands on Learning: Student learning occurs with different modalities. Removed from distance learning is the hands-on approach. This forces students to abandon their traditional modalities and rely on less effective learning modalities. It also over saturates the students with electronic information.

Immediate Feedback and Coaching: Critical for academic growth is the readily available feedback to students. This experience strengthens and speeds up the process. With distance learning, there is a significant delay in providing that critical feedback, which delays progress.

Both teachers and students were never trained with deep-rooted understanding of its reach and impact. The true impact on distance learning for the younger learners is not yet known.

I have been able to get in touch with some of our CB9 schools to see how they are doing.

I spoke to Principal Ganesh of Richmond Hill High School this past week and get some statistical info from him. They had approximately 700 kids that need devices. They had 400 in hand to immediately give out and worked with DOE to get the other 300 for the kids and delivered directly to them. About 200 needed Internet and the PC along with administration worked to get free Internet from Spectrum from them. Attendance reports average 93%. 25 kids could not be located; this was happening before school closed and has been reported to Central Office.

PS 97 the PC and teachers have been making sure they post messages weekly to the kids to tell them how much they are missed. They are even trying to get food and supplies for families who are struggling. PS 62 continues to post resources on their Facebook page for families.

There are still a few struggles with some schools that are not live teaching and posting work for kids. Children with IEPs do not have the classroom support as they had before. As the complaints get to schools, things are being done to address this.

There were a few incidences in the beginning with cafeterias not putting food out and starting to serve later. We put in complaints as received to our Chair and District Manager who has been making sure full compliance is met.

If anyone still needs devices, they can have the Principals reach out the DOE to get them. For the situations in schools, please reach out to our District Manager who is always in touch with the DOE.

For now, schools are closed until May 15.

To all those who have suddenly had their lives impacted, we thank you for making the best of this situation. For those who have lost loved ones, we mourn with you.

I want to end my report by saying: stay safe, keep up the social distancing, wear your gloves and masks and let's love each other and look out for one another. God bless you all."

## **9. HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT – Marian C. Molina, Chair:**

The city has begun expanded, appointment only, COVID-19 testing at two Queens Hospitals: NYC Health + Hospitals/Elmhurst (formerly Elmhurst Hospital Center) and NYC Health + Hospitals/Queens (formerly Queens General Hospital) in Jamaica with cases passing the 1,400 mark in the borough as of Friday morning.

### What You Need to Know About COVID-19

#### **NYC: STAY AT HOME**

- Only go outside for essential tasks. Those tasks include working for an essential business, getting groceries and supplies, or securing necessary medical care. If you must go outside keep at least six feet or distance between yourself and others, wear a face covering. Governor Cuomo has imposed a \$1000 fine to those not wearing a mask outside and engaging in social gatherings.
- Wash your hands with soap and water often, for at least twenty seconds every time, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Report social distancing violations – take a picture and send to 311-692, call 311 or go to [nyc.gov/311](http://nyc.gov/311).

#### **NYC Health Department: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)**

### WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE SICK

COVID-19 is a disease that can affect your lungs and airways.

Symptoms include:

- Fever (temperature of 100.4 degrees F or 38.0 degrees C or greater) • Cough
- Shortness of breath (trouble breathing)
- Sore throat

Some patients also report:

- Loss of a sense of taste or smell
- Feeling achy
- Headache
- Diarrhea

If you have any of these symptoms, and they are not due to a preexisting health condition such as asthma or emphysema, you may have COVID-19 and you must stay home.

If you have mild to moderate symptoms associated with COVID-19, isolate yourself at home immediately. After three to four days, if you still feel sick, contact your health care provider. If you have severe symptoms, such as difficulty breathing, call 911.

HEALTH AND EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING EMPLOYMENT AND JOBS

FOOD

## FOODHELP NYC

ACCESS HRA - To sign up for SNAP benefits or cash assistance from home.

HELPNOWNYC - For ways to donate food, cash, or supplies to those in need.

Resources for New Yorkers: [www.nyc.gov](http://www.nyc.gov) or call 311 - these resources can offer support for food, employment, health insurance, housing and more.

For a more detailed list of resources visit Help Now NYC or NYC311. For updates on service changes visit the City Agency Suspension Updates page.

Get information and resources to help protect yourself and others from COVID-19. View the latest data on COVID-19 in NYC.

Connect with a counselor. Find support for domestic violence survivors.

Get tips and information about coping and emotional wellbeing.

Sign up for unemployment.

Find a job. Learn about paid sick leave.

Map of free food resources across the city, including food pantries and Grab & Go meals at NYC Schools, available for all children or adults in need.

## NYC FOOD DELIVERY ASSISTANCE

### RENT AND HOUSING

SCREEN FOR BENEFITS - Visit ACCESSNYC and find out more about benefits.

### SCHOOL AND EDUCATION

If you cannot go out to get food, no one can bring you food, and you are not able to use private delivery options, New York City will deliver emergency meals to you in the coming days. Check your eligibility and sign up.

Find out about emergency cash assistance for rent. Get help paying for heat and utilities.

Get Learn at Home resources. Request an iPad for students.

Additional Resources:

COVID-19 Funeral, Burial and Cremation Information<sup>[SEP]</sup> Find resources and information for people with disabilities.<sup>[SEP]</sup>

Learn more about resources for children and families.<sup>[SEP]</sup> Get assistance with Medicare and connect to other helpful services for seniors. Find resources available for veterans. Get information for immigrants, regardless of status.

## 10. LAND USE & HOUSING COMMITTEE REPORT – Sylvia Hack & Sherman Kane, Co-Chairs

Sylvia Hack stated her concern regarding the city's \$10B budget deficit while the Borough-Based Jail Project is not going to get hit. She suggested for her committee to draft a letter that will urge the Mayor and the City Council not to spend \$2M per bed for 400 inmates when 8.5 million New Yorkers are in need of that money.

## 11. ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT – Cristal Rivera, Chair, not present to give a report.

**12. PUBLIC SAFETY & CONSUMER AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT – Joe Iaboni & Rabbi Daniel Pollack, Co-Chairs**

**a. On Premises Liquor License Application – New**

Chrome 101 Inc.  
96-03 101<sup>st</sup> Ave  
Ozone Park, NY 11416

Executive committee voted to oppose this application due to lack of information.

**b. On Premises Wine, Beer & Cider Only License Application-New**

La Noriega Bar Inc.  
131-09 Jamaica Ave  
Richmond Hill, NY 11418

There is no opposition to this new application.

Cancun Café Corp.  
86-05 Jamaica Ave  
Woodhaven, NY 11421

Executive committee voted to oppose this application due to lack of information.

**c. Method of Operation Change Application**

Tilt Lounge Corp.  
131-15 Jamaica Ave  
Richmond Hill, NY 11418

The request to change serving alcohol until 4 AM has been opposed.

**13. TRANSPORTATION & TRAFFIC COMMITTEE REPORT**

Chair Wilson reported on the following:

- The office is in receipt of numerous complaints regarding the MTA changing their weekday schedule to the weekend schedule. It made the trains overcrowded and inconvenient for the essential workers to get to their destination. The office has contacted the MTA regarding this issue.
- The other problem that was resolved was the postponement of installation of new rain gardens project in the CB9 area as it involves the need to remove parked cars in order to clear the entire block.

Marian Molina stated that a large amount of garbage is being dumped in the median between Park Lane South and Forest Park Drive. Neither the management of the adjacent building nor the city agencies want to claim responsibility for picking it up. DM McClelland will be addressing the issue.

**14. PARKS, RECREATION & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT – Regina Santoro, Chair**

- There will be no organic collection starting May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020.
- There is an increase in places being covered by graffiti. Since the Graffiti Task Force is not working out, Council Member Holden suggested creating a list of locations, storefronts, light poles, etc., so that his office can take care of it.
- Given Forest Park is being over-utilized, Forest Park employees are performing an exceptional job on a daily basis. It is being cleaned regularly and the trash containers are being emptied. The committee will send a thank you letter to the Parks administration.



**15. BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT – John Carter, Chair**

The office will be facing two rounds of budget cuts, one for this fiscal year, which is absorbable, and a bigger one for the next fiscal year, which will also be absorbable but will limit us in doing certain things.

**16. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT – Joan DeCamp, Chair, *no report.***

**17. OLD BUSINESS**

Rabbi Daniel Pollack thanked James and Irina for organizing an annual Passover pick up before the holiday.

Sandra Datnarain requested the info regarding the Liquor License for Majestic Marquis Catering Hall. She also asked for help in getting business loans applications.

**18. NEW BUSINESS**

Sandra Datnarain made a complaint regarding used gloves and masks being thrown all over the streets.

**19. PUBLIC FORUM**      *no speakers*

J. Richard Smith made a motion to adjourn. Andrea Crawford seconded the motion.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 9:45 PM.