

City of New York



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

Website: www.nyc.gov/queenscb9

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

FEBRUARY 11, 2020 MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING WOODHAVEN MANOR CATERERS & BANQUETS, 96-01 JAMAICA AVE, WOODHAVEN NY 11421

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

ABSENCES AS OF APRIL 2019-MARCH 2020

2nd # Represents Absences as of January-December 2019 (Borough President's Attendance)

Inderpaul Ahluwalia	(2)(0)	Jan Fenster	(1)(0)	Maharani Singh	(2)(1)
Faiuze Ali	(0)(0)	Laraine Fletcher	(2)(0)	Matthew Singh	(5)(0)
Julio Batista	(0)(0)	Linda Fogal	(1)(0)	Mohinder Singh	(2)(0)
Dulal Bhattacharjee	(1)(0)	Sylvia Hack	(0)(0)	Ragbir Singh	(1)(0)
Kamal Bhuiyan	(2)(0)	Joseph laboni	(1)(0)	J. Richard Smith	(1)(0)
Zoila Bofill	(0)(0)	Lisa Komninos	(1)(0)	Naima Sultana	(5)(0)
Latchman Budhai	(5)(1)	Marian Molina	(2)(1)	Marie Turley	(2)(0)
John Carter	(0)(0)	Kevin O'Leary	(1)(0)	Seth Welins	(1)(0)
Nick Comaianni	(5)(1)	Rabbi Daniel Pollack	(1)(0)	Kenichi Wilson	(0)(0)
Sandra Datnarain	(1)(0)	Regina Santoro	(2)(0)		
Joan DeCamp	(0)(0)	Jarnail Singh	(3)(0)		

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Sherry Algreto	(1)(1)	Daniel Grieve	(1)(1)	Cristal Rivera	(1)(1)
Andrea Crawford	(4)(1)	Sherman Kane	(1)(1)	Mohamed Safie	(8)(1)
Stephen Esposito	(2)(1)	Ivan Mrakovcic	(7)(2)		

ALSO PRESENT

Irina Barayeva, Community Associate
Victor Ampuero, Community Assistant

LEGISLATORS/REPRESENTATIVES, CITY AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

Samantha Kung, Rep. Assembly Member Mike Miller
Michael Cohen, Rep. Council Member Karen Koslowitz
Kate Mooney, Rep. Council Member Adrienne Adams
Julio Salazar, Rep. Congress Member Nidia Velazquez
Anthony Giudice, Rep. Senator Joe Addabbo
Ben Geremia, Rep. Council Member Holden
Peter Ruggero, Rep. Council Member Eric Ulrich
Joy Resor, Department of City Planning
Mohamed Rahman, Rep. Assembly Member Weprin
Lisa George, Rep. Senator James Sanders Jr.
Kevin Morris, Rep, CAU/Mayor' Office
James Mongeluzo, Rep. NYC Comptroller

1. PUBLIC HEARING

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

a. On Premises Liquor License Application – New

C Bar Lounge & Restaurant Inc.
120-31 83rd Ave
Kew Gardens, NY 11415 *no speakers*

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

Cali Café Corp.
D/b/a Cali Café Panaderia Y Picanteria Colombiana
94-28 Van Wyck Expressway
Richmond Hill, NY 11419 *no speakers*

Tony's Pizza 2020 Corp.
109-18 Jamaica Ave
Richmond Hill, NY 11418 *no speakers*

c. On Premises Liquor License Application – Renewal

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

d. BSA Application # 215-09-BZ, 92-16 95th Ave *no speakers*

2. REPORTS FROM LEGISLATIVE OFFICIALS

Samantha Kung, Rep. Assembly Member Mike Miller

- Thanked those who donated to the Assembly Member's Valentines For Veterans Drive. It was a great turnout.
- 2020 NYC Alternate Side Parking Regulations Calendars are available.
- Invited all to Women Of Distinction Awards Ceremony that will be held on Monday, March 9th, 2020 at 7 PM at the Richmond Hill Block Association, 110-08 Jamaica Ave. The Honorees are: Arvelyn Batista, Deokie Jagdeo, Amelia Joseph, Natitia Sasha Khan, Janine Magon, and Assembly Member Catherine Nolan.

Kate Mooney, Rep. Council Member Adrienne Adams

Brought flyers on some of the events that the Council Member is sponsoring: Free Tax Prep, Small Business Services, Events at the Resort World Casino, legal services and many more.

A private memorial service will be held for Detective Brian Simonsen tomorrow in Holly Child Jesus Church.

Public hearings at City Council on the \$98M budget for city agencies will start in the beginning of March. The public is welcome to give their concerns on where funding should go to. Capital and Expense Applications should be submitted by February 18th, 2020.

Ben Geremia, Rep. Council Member Bob Holden

Mr. Geremia had no updates this evening but asked the public to call the office at 718-366-3900 with any questions, issues or concerns.

Michael Cohen, Rep. Council Member Karen Koslowitz

Starting March 1st, 2020, a new bag waste reduction law will take effect in New York State. All plastic carryout bags are banned from distribution by anyone. A consumer will be charged 5 cents for each paper carryout bag provided at checkout. Whether you're going to the grocery store, clothes shopping, or to a home improvement store, make sure to bring your reusable bags.

Queens Bus Redesign Proposal: neighborhoods may see reduced bus service. Bus routes and bus stops will move farther apart in many areas. MTA's intentions are good, but the proposal needs a lot of work and Queens delegation will be working with them to attempt a more viable plan.

Peter Ruggero, Rep. Council Member Eric Ulrich

A no-cost mammogram event, sponsored by the Council Member and the American-Italian Cancer Foundation, will take place of Friday, March 6, 2020, 9 AM to 4:30 PM. Appointments are required.

Anthony Giudice, Rep. Senator Joe Addabbo

Stated that Senator Addabbo is in Albany working on the budget as are all other legislatures to get the budget out on time. He is advocating for changes to the new bail reform law as it is not working 100% as everybody thought it would.

The following are some of the upcoming events sponsored by the Senator:

- Anti-Semitism Educational Town Hall is on Thursday, February 20 – 6PM to 8PM at West End Temple, 147-02 Newport Ave, Rockaway Park. RSVP is required.
- Senior Job Fair will take place on Friday, May 15 – 10 AM to 2 PM at Queens Community House, 80-02 Kew Gardens Road.

Julio Salazar, Rep. Congress Member Nidia Velazquez

- Thanked District Manager McClelland and Chairperson Wilson for their participation and cooperation at the Town Hall Meeting.
- Congress Member and her colleagues will be advocating against \$270B cuts to Medicaid and \$30B cuts to Social Security. Updates to follow.

Joy Resor, Department of City Planning

The Department of Design and Construction is holding a public workshop on Thursday, February 13, 2020 at 5:30 PM at the Helen Marshalls Cultural Center to discuss the borough-based jails project parking garage and community facility.

Kevin Morris, Rep. CAU/Mayor's Office

A Community Town Hall, co-sponsored by Council Member Karen Koslowitz, will take place on Wednesday, February 19, 2020, 6-8 PM at Russel Sage Junior High School in Forest Hills. Residents of the Council Member's District will have an opportunity to discuss and address community concerns and issues in front of the Mayor of the city. RSVP is required.

James Mongeluzo, Queens Borough Liaison for NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer

Distributed brochures about creating more park space in NYC, a blueprint for serving NYC's growing senior population, as well as ways to keep senior citizens in their homes and not forced to move to an assisted living facility or to other states due to cost issues.

Mr. Mongeluzo can be contacted at 646-689-6509 or by email jmongel@comptroller.nyc.gov regarding the performance of any city agency. For example, an audit was issued after receiving complaints regarding rain gardens maintenance: 95 out of 101 rain gardens were not being maintained properly.

Lisa George, Rep. Senator James Sanders Jr.

Property Tax Event for the Richmond Hill area will take place on Tuesday, March 3rd, 2020, 6-8 PM at 110-05 Liberty Ave where constituents' questions will be answered by the NYC Department of Finance representatives.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

Sam Esposito, OPRBA President, spoke about an incident that took place in Ozone Park on Sunday where a 61-year-old man was brutally beaten and robbed after coming back from a mosque. He urged all to attend OPRBA Call to Action meeting on Thursday, February 13, 2020.

City Line Ozone Park Civilian Patrol was formed after the incident. Mr. Iqbal Ali is the president.

Philia Chondipersaud, Owner of Tilt Lounge, asked the board members to vote in favor of Liquor License Extension of Hours request to operate her restaurant located at 131-15 Jamaica Ave.

Crystal Wolfe, Catering for Homeless, spoke about a nonprofit organization that she founded stating that its main mission is to end hunger by utilizing food excess from catering companies, restaurants, schools, and grocery stores for the homeless and food insecure. She partnered with different offices, legislatives and community boards in order to provide meals that otherwise would have gone to waste. She also provides toiletries, clothing items, food pantry items, etc. Ms. Wolfe works for advocacy for the homeless as well. For more information visit her website www.cateringforthehomess.com.

Eddie Lau, Center for NYC Neighborhoods, stated that the Center for NYC Neighborhoods is funded by New York City and New York State. The Center promotes and protects affordable homeownership so that working-class families can build thriving communities. It meets the diverse needs of homeowners throughout New York State by offering free, high-quality housing services.

Adam Whiteman, Vice President of the Kew Gardens Civic Association, urged that Board Members not approve the application for an On-Premises Liquor License for C Bar Lounge & Restaurant Inc. at 120-31 83 Ave as there were numerous complaints with the previous restaurant called Coconuts.

Rene Levine, Kew Gardens Resident, on behalf of concerned Kew Gardens residents, Ms. Levine reiterated Mr. Whiteman's concerns of opening a new bar at 120-31 83 Ave as it will affect the quality of life for many Kew Gardens residents in proximity.

Dominic Mossa, Kew Gardens Resident, voiced his concern regarding the fate of the stores on Lefferts Blvd. Bridge after their lease expires in March 2020.

Lewis Gottlieb, Kew Gardens Resident, voiced his opposition to the opening of a new bar at 120-31 83 Ave.

Mark Crisante, Director of External Relations for neighborhood Charter Schools, invited all to an Open House at 135-25 79th St in Howard Beach on February 19th, 2020 at 1 PM and on February 22nd, 2020 at 11PM.

Shruti Murti, US Census Bureau, stated that starting March 12th through March 20th, 2020 every household in the United States will be receiving an invitation to participate in the Census. This is the first time when people can fill out the form online, over the phone or on a paper form in over 12 non-English languages. There are also video tutorials in 59 non-English languages. Recruitment is still ongoing with training starting in March.

4. OPENING OF MEETING & READING OF MINUTES

Chair Wilson asked if there were any corrections/additions to January 14th, 2020 meeting minutes and motions. There were none. Joan DeCamp made a motion to accept, Sylvia Hack seconded the motion.

Motion # 1: To accept January 14th, 2020 meeting minutes and motions as presented.

Vote # 1: 30 in favor and 1 abstention

5. MONTHLY UPDATE NYPD 102nd PCT REPORT

Capt. Antonio Fidacaro introduced himself as the new 102nd Pct. Commanding Officer stating that before he was transferred here, he was a Commanding Officer in Transit Police in Manhattan and before that he was a sergeant in 106th Pct. in Queens.

Capt. Fidacaro stated that his main concern is an almost 80% increase in major crimes for the last 28 days. The Precinct is on top of it, creating new zones, making arrests, etc.

Question and answer period followed.

6. CHAIRPERSON’S REMARKS & EXEC. REPORT – Kenichi Wilson

Chairperson Wilson reported on the following:

- Community Board Application deadline has been extended to March 13th, 2020.
- Sherry Algreto is in Canada taking care of family issues.
- Attended the State of the City Address. Among the topics that were brought up was a topic of helping the small businesses.
- Had a meeting with the Department of Sanitation and the Woodhaven BID where the topic of issuing of a large amount of tickets was discussed.
- At the Borough Cabinet meeting an announcement was made regarding the NYPD obtaining new tow trucks.

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

- Happy Birthday - Nick Comaianni and Rabbi Daniel Pollack.
- DHS has informed us that next Community Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 5th at 6:30pm at the shelter. If anyone is interested in attending, please let the office know.
- Queens Week of Service involving all the Community Boards in partnership with BP’s office are collecting items for veterans at St. Albans. Please refer to the flyers in your folders.
- At the recent Borough Cabinet meeting the DOB gave an update on the Awning Law (Local Law 28). There is a moratorium on awning violations until Feb 2021. A task force is being created to assist with outreach to local businesses. I have asked DOB to provide the board with a list of businesses within CB9 that have been issued awning violations so our office can follow up and ensure owners understand the new law and are getting assistance.
- Last week I received an email from a local company named Alphapointe regarding a problematic parking restriction. I visited the location and the General Manager invited me to take a tour of the operations. Alphapointe employs about 200 people most of whom are completely or partially blind. The company has many government contracts including making 7000 army jackets a month. I would like to arrange another tour with interested members of the board.

8. HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT – Marian C. Molina, Chair:

“I am very concerned about the spike in crimes affecting our neighborhoods and City. NYPD statistics show that crime has gone up by 17% since the Bail Free Reform took effect. According to these statistics repeat offenders get re-arrested on average, 2 weeks after their original arrest. Albany is looking into giving judges more discretion. I encourage residents to reach out to your elected officials to find solutions to this safety crisis. Supporters of the Bail Free Reform Act argue that it is far too soon to blame the spike in crime on the Bail Free Reform Act.

Statistics on Index Crimes

	Janaury 2020	Janaury 2019	+/-	+/-%
Murder	23	29	+6	-20.7%
Rape	127	155	-25	-18.1%
Robbery	1,290	943	+347	+36.8%
Assault	1,587	1,471	+116	+7.9%
Burglary	1,124	932	+192	+20.6%
Grand Larceny	3,708	3,350	+358	+10.7%
G.L.A.	578	335	+243	+72.5%
TOTAL	8,437	7,215	+1,222	+16.9%

Coronavirus - As of today, there are 0 cases of Coronavirus in NYC. Symptoms can include fever, cough or shortness of breath.

Prevention - get a flu shot, cover your mouth when coughing and sneezing, wash hands frequently, stay home if you are not feeling well.”

➤ **Guest Speakers:**

1. Crystal Wolfe, Catering for the Homeless, Inc. is asking for our support and donations. She is also asking for volunteers to help with the 2020 Census. For more information contact <http://www.cateringforthehomeless.com>. A petition to the DOE is being circulated asking for them to donate food. To participate log on to onchange.org.
2. Pamela Esposito - Amery - T.E.A.L. Org. (Tell Every Amazing Lady). spoke about the signs and prevention of ovarian cancer at our general meeting. For more information contact Pamela at <http://www.telleveryamazinglady.org>, 917-310-4835.

9. EDUCATION & YOUTH SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT – Sherry Algreto, Chair

➤ **Presentation from DOE Office of Admissions on Changes to the Pre-K through High School Admission Process – Ahmad Shilleh and Kelid Brown**

Pre-K through High School enrollment specialists gave clarifications to the new admission process:

- Children born in 2016 are eligible to apply for Pre-K for 2020-2021 school year.
- Children born in 2017 are eligible to apply for 3-K in School District #27. The application closes on March 16th, 2020 for the Pre-K and April 24th, 2020 for the 3-K.
- Parents can apply by visiting www.myschools.nyc. They explore their children’s personalized school options and get guidance on the admissions process from start to finish. They can apply for up to twelve programs.
- The DOE will be hosting An Application Session at the Jamaica Central Library on March 2nd, 2020, 2-5 PM.

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

➤ BSA Application # 215-09-BZ, 92-16 95th Ave

Motion #2: To approve BSA # 215-09-BZ, 92-16 95th Ave Application for a variance

Vote #2: 30 in favor and 1 abstention

Sylvia Hack stated that the Queens Borough-Based Jail design workshop for the parking garage and community facility will take place on Thursday, February 13, 2020 at 6:30 PM at the Helen Marshalls Cultural Center, 120-55 Queens Boulevard.

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

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

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

C Bar Lounge & Restaurant Inc.
120-31 83rd Ave
Kew Gardens, NY 11415

Motion #3: Not to oppose new On Premises Liquor License Application for C Bar Lounge & Restaurant., 120-31 83rd Ave

Vote #3: 5 in favor, 22 opposed, 2 abstentions and 2 not present for the vote

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

Cali Café Corp.
D/b/a Cali Café Panaderia Y Picanteria Colombiana
94-28 Van Wyck Expressway
Richmond Hill, NY 11419

Motion #4: Not to oppose new On Premises Beer & Cider Only License Application for Cali Café Corp., d/b/a Cali Café Panaderia Y Picanteria Colombiana, 94-28 Van Wyck Expressway

Vote #4: 30 in favor and 1 opposition

Tony's Pizza 2020 Corp.
109-18 Jamaica Ave
Richmond Hill, NY 11418

Motion #5: Not to oppose new On Premises Beer & Cider Only License Application with 1 AM Stipulation for Tony's Pizza 2020 Corp., 109-18 Jamaica Ave

Vote #5: 30 in favor and 1 opposition

Joe laboni reported on the following:

- A letter of withdrawal was received for Caleta 111 Bar Inc. (111-25 Jamaica Ave). They also re-notified the board with a new application, but it appears it may also need to be withdrawn due to an error in their form. New applications were recently received which are currently being processed and will be up for a vote in March. A renewal application was recently received for Atlantic Bamboo Garden Inc., d/b/a Atlantic Bamboo Garden (117-04 Atlantic Ave).
- Letters of No Opposition were recently sent for El Gran Canario II Restaurant Inc. (111-17 Jamaica Ave) and Richmond Hill Deli Corp., d/b/a Richmond Hill Deli Restaurant (123-07 Jamaica Ave). All required paperwork was received and there were no issues/complaints with the NYPD.
- Next CB9 Public Safety Committee Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 20th, 2020 at 7 PM at the district office.

13. TRANSPORTATION & TRAFFIC COMMITTEE REPORT – Faiuze Ali, Chair

Mr. Ali talked about the alarming rise of anti-muslim bigotry and assaults against south Asians/Bangladeshi residents In Ozone Park. He read parts of the resolution that he drafted for the Board Members to take a vote.

Discussion followed. Marian Molina made a motion to table the vote on resolution. Regina Santoro seconded the motion.

Motion # 6: To table the vote on the Anti-Muslim Bigotry & Assaults Resolution

Vote # 6: 13 in favor, 14 opposed and 4 not present for the vote

Sylvia Hack made a motion to accept a resolution with a minor change. Faiuze Ali seconded the motion.

Motion # 7: To accept the Anti-Muslim Bigotry & Assaults Resolution with the amendment

Vote # 7: 25 in favor, 2 opposed, 1 abstention and 3 not present for the vote

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

The Committee will be meeting with the 102nd Pct. and the Forest Park administration on Thursday, February 13, 2020 at 1 PM at the district office to discuss off leash dog enforcement in Forest Park.

15. BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT – John Carter, Chair, no report.

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

17. OLD BUSINESS

Rabbi Daniel Pollack – houses of worship that want to apply for a Homeland Security Grant should contact Congress Member Meng's office for information.

18. NEW BUSINESS *no speakers*

19. PUBLIC FORUM *no speakers*

Sylvia Hack made a motion to adjourn. Kamal Bhuiyan seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson at 10:10 PM.