



COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 9

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

JUNE 16, 2020 MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR TELECONFERENCE VIRTUAL MEETING

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

ABSENCES AS OF APRIL 2020-MARCH 2021

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

Inderpaul Ahluwalia	(1)(1)	Joan DeCamp	(0)(0)	Rabbi Daniel Pollack	(0)(1)
Sherry Algreto	(0)(1)	Stephen Esposito	(0)(0)	Cristal Rivera	(1)(3)
Faiuze Ali	(1)(1)	Catherine Feeney	(0)(0)	Mohamed Safie	(2)(4)
Dilraj Batchu	(0)(0)	Jan Fenster	(0)(0)	Regina Santoro	(0)(0)
Julio Batista	(0)(0)	Laraine Fletcher	(0)(0)	Jarnail Singh	(1)(1)
Dulal Bhattacharjee	(0)(0)	Linda Fogal	(0)(0)	Maharani Singh	(1)(1)
Kamal Bhuiyan	(2)(2)	Daniel Grieve	(0)(0)	Raghibir Singh	(1)(2)
Zoila Bofill	(1)(1)	Sylvia Hack	(0)(0)	Sursattie Singh	(0)(0)
Latchman Budhai	(1)(2)	Joseph Iaboni	(0)(0)	J. Richard Smith	(0)(0)
John Carter	(0)(0)	Sherman Kane	(0)(0)	Alexandria Sumpter-Delves	(0)(0)
Daniel Chu	(0)(0)	Kemanad Kishore	(0)(0)	Marie Turley	(2)(2)
Marilyn Custodio	(0)(0)	Lisa Komninos	(1)(1)	Seth Welins	(1)(0)
Andrea Crawford	(0)(0)	Kevin O'Leary	(0)(0)	Kenichi Wilson	(0)(0)
Sandra Datnarain	(0)(0)	Raquel Olivares	(0)(0)		

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Nick Comaianni	(3)(3)	Marian Molina	(2)(3)	Matthew Singh	(3)(2)
Mohinder Singh	(2)(2)				

ALSO PRESENT

James S. McClelland, District Manager
Irina Barayeva, Community Associate

LEGISLATORS/REPRESENTATIVES, CITY AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

Senator Joe Addabbo
Julio Salazar, Rep. Congress Member Nidia Velasquez
Michael Cohen, Rep. Council Member Karen Koslowitz
Daniel Kurzyna, Rep. Council Member Bob Holden
Kate Mooney, Rep. Council Member Adrienne Adams
James Mongeluzo, Rep. Comptroller Scott Stringer
Rabbi Daniel Pollack, Rep. Congressmember Grace Meng

1. PUBLIC HEARING

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

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

Kiss Entertainment Inc.
130-35 91st Ave
Richmond Hill, NY 11418 *No speakers*

b. **On Premises Liquor License Application – Renewal**

Ked's I Corp.
D/b/a Nest Restaurant and Bar
125-17 101st Ave
Richmond Hill, NY 11419 *No speakers*

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

Tauros Bar and Restaurant Corp.
D/b/a Tauros Bar Restaurant
108-02 Jamaica Ave
Richmond Hill, NY 11418 *No speakers*

d. **TLC For- Hire Base Station License – Renewal**

TD Maintenance Corp.
D/b/a Four Ones Car Service
127-01 Metropolitan Ave
Kew Gardens, NY 11415 *No speakers*

Cautious Cars Inc.
76-19 Rockaway Blvd
Woodhaven, NY 11421 *No speakers*

Boulevard Operating Inc.
122-11 Hillside Ave
Richmond Hill, NY 11418 *No speakers*

2. REPORTS FROM LEGISLATIVE OFFICIALS

Julio Salazar, Rep. Congressman Nidia Velazquez, stated that their office continues to take calls from constituents who need help with immigration issues, to find resources for small business owners, etc. The Congressman will hold a telephone Town Hall Meeting on Thursday, June 18th at 5:30 PM. This event, "What's Next for New York: Addressing Police Violence and Reopening Our City Post-COVID-19", will allow constituents to interact with various experts on these topics.

Senator Joe Addabbo gave an update on COVID-19 stating that June 8th was Phase I in the city and June 22nd will be Phase II. The Senate urges the Governor to open businesses as best and safely as possible. Senator's offices are open Monday through Friday 10 AM to 2 PM and 24 hours online.

Michael Cohen, Rep. Council Member Karen Koslowitz, gave a short synopsis on several police bills on which the city

is slated to vote tomorrow, stating that Council Member Koslowitz is voting in the affirmative on all the bills. One of the bills will ban the use of chokeholds; second bill will permit the public to film police activity and to retain custody of any materials recorded; the third bill will help to identify troubling patterns in officers experiencing issues with performance. The NYPD will be required to maintain a centralized tracking system for complaints received by the Civilian Complaint Review Board and by the NYPD, and the results of the investigations by CCRB and the NYPD and the depositions resulting from such complaints. The last bill will require all NYPD officers to display their shield number or their rank number.

NYC Budget must be balanced by June 30th or else, by Charter, the NYC Financial Control Board will take over the city's finances. This should be avoided at all cost. The city is looking at a possible a \$9B deficit, so without the external aide of the State or the Federal Government, this is going to be a daunting task.

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

- Council Member's office and Community Board 9 have partnered up recently to achieve the goal of giving back to the community. Mr. Kurzyna thanked Chair Wilson and DM McClelland for their help.
- On Thursday, June 16, 2020 Council Member Holden's Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to requiring certain spillage prevention equipment on concrete mixer trucks will be passed.

Kate Mooney, Rep. Council Member Adrienne Adams

Council Member is putting forward an introduction regarding property tax liability on real estate. Properties with an assessed value exceeding \$250K will be on hold depending on whether homeowners were affected by COVID.

A joint statement was brought out by Council Speaker Corey Johnson and the Council Member regarding their hope to renew programs for youth, seniors and community development as opposed to putting \$1B into NYPD.

The office is involved in mask distribution, all Census 2020 events, and will be participating in Food Pantries which will pop up every Friday until August at the Sikh Cultural Society.

Congratulated all the graduating seniors at the Construction Trades School, Richmond Hill High School and Epic North High School whose graduation will be remembered because of the pandemic and gave a big shot out to all teachers.

James Mongeluzo, Rep. Comptroller Scott Stringer

Two reports were issued by the office: Quarterly Cash Report and Cash Balance Projection for the City. Both of those reports look at the data from January through March, therefore, it does not have a great amount of information on COVID-19 impact. The next report will be more illuminating.

The Annual Claims Report just came out; the city paid less money in claims than it did in the previous two fiscal years. 36% of the money paid was due to claims against NYPD.

Rabbi Daniel Pollack, Rep. Congress Member Grace

The Congress Member will be in Kew Gardens from 9:45 to 10:45 tomorrow distributing PPE, masks, etc.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

Ken Baxer, Census Bureau

Mr. Baxer gave an update on the change in response rates from May 19th > June 16th:

United States – 59.6% > 61.4%
New York State – 54.4% > 56.7%
Queens County – 48.8% > 51.9%

Kew Gardens – 49.73% > 51.1%
Ozone Park – 38.16% > 41.67%
South Ozone Park – 42.21% > 43.32%
Richmond Hill – 41.2% > 46.03%
South Richmond Hill – 37.25% > 41.29%
Woodhaven – 41.75% > 44.45%

Operational Updates:

- In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Census Bureau adjusted its 2020 Census operations, which will as of now be extended to October 31st for the self-response phase. Non-Response Follow Up (NRFU, 'door-knocking') starts August 11th – October 31st
- Recently, the Census Bureau announced resuming field operations in some locations, while continuing to follow CDC guidelines, but as of now NYC's 5 boroughs continue THEIR current operational mode. Most Area Census Offices have reopened, with limited operational functioning and staffing.
- With the phased re-opening of NYC, the Census has allowed limited field operations, with the explicit request made by partners for Census staff to be physically present. We have participated in several PPE giveaways, and other in-person essential services activities to give out Census goodies and help people respond. If you know of any activities such as these, please let us know so that we can support in helping the community respond.

Talking Points:

- With Non-Response Follow Up beginning in less than 2 months, we are encouraging everyone to self-respond. This limits the in-person follow up we will need to do to get everyone counted. Considering the COVID-19 situation, we want to encourage everyone to help minimize the need for in-person follow up.
- With the schoolyear ending, we are asking for any opportunity to engage with families about the Census. Children were one of the most undercounted populations in 2010, with over 1 million children undercounted, costing billions of dollars in federal aid. We know that once the school-year ends, it will be much more difficult to contact families. Please connect us with school and education leaders you know so that we may leverage these remaining weeks of school. We are working with Principle Nick Sforza and P.S. 99 Kew Gardens for their Instagram event this Friday.
- With the pandemic and the recent social unrest, significant policy decisions are being made and will be made affecting our future. We want to make sure these policy decisions are made with the right information about their community's people. Your response to the Census ensures the right representation and facts about the people and place are included as these decisions are made.
- Working with Council Member Holden and Koslowitz' s offices and have hosted a few webinars. Webinars can be hosted for your organization and constituents. Please let us know how we can help get the message further into your community. For any businesses willing to work with us, please share your contact info so that we may reach out to you.
- Again, we want to emphasize the point that responding to the Census ensures health clinics, fire departments, emergency food assistance, unemployment insurance, rental assistance programs and supportive housing for the elderly, and federal funding and support for the next ten years.

Eddie Lau, Center for NYC Neighborhoods

This is a non-profit housing organization funded by the city and state. It provides free assistance and counseling to homeowners and residents who are struggling to pay their mortgage.

4. OPENING OF MEETING & READING OF MINUTES

Chair Wilson asked if there were any corrections/additions to May19th,2020 meeting minutes and motions. There were none. Andrea Crawford made a motion to adopt the minutes, Joe Iaboni seconded it.

Motion # 1: To accept May 19th, 2020 meeting minutes and motions as presented
Vote # 1: 31 in favor and 10 abstained

5. MONTHLY UPDATE NYPD 102nd PCT REPORT

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

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

- Introduced and welcomed the new board members to the board: Dilraj Batchu, Daniel Chu, Marilyn Custodio, Catherine Feeney, Kemanad Kishore, Raquel Olivares, Sursattie Singh and Alexandria Sumpter-Delves.
- The Chair has been working with the DOE trying to temporarily remove basketball hoops from school playgrounds.
- An email with the Committee Preference Form will be sent to all Board Members and a new CB9 Committee List will be issued shortly after.
- The next Exec Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 25th, 2020 at 6 PM.
- Addressed the issue of cars that are parked on expired meters in business district not being ticketed. Traffic Enforcement agents are using discretion towards car owners who have not move their cars for a long period of time, as they could be in hardship and affected by COVID.
- Was involved in many Food Drives with our civic organizations, co-sponsored by Fresh Direct, Healthy New York. Since these organizations cannot operate on the weekend, they been boxing up food and giving it out to the public.
- Another free cardiovascular and antibody testing event, sponsored by Council Member Holden, will take place June 26th, 2020, 10 AM – 6 PM by Nears Restaurant.
- Wished all a great summer break.

7. DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT – James S. McClelland

District Manager welcomed all new board members.

Spoke about mobile COVID Testing sites and working with the Mayor's office to get advanced notice of future testing coming to the district.

DM stated that June 16th is the last day to request an absentee ballot for the June 23rd Primary.

Wished everyone a happy and healthy summer and looks forward to getting back to normal operations in September.

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

"By March, it started to surface that staff at schools may be infected.

March 13th was the last school day and New York went on pause March 16.

Suddenly the Education world as we know it took on a whole new platform. "Virtual Classroom" became the new norm as educators scrambled to find a new way to keep educating our children while fearing this deadly pandemic. Many lives were lost along the way that we will forever mourn.

Some teachers did live teaching, and some did not. Some kids had internet and devices to learn on, while others had nothing and providing and getting to them became a new obstacle. Children lost loved ones and had to stay inside and deal with this tragedy.

Meetings from Parent Leaders have had to be done via "Zoom", a platform that most people never heard of before.

Looking on the bright side I attended over 7 meetings in the past weeks to keep informed of Education changes which I might not have been able to if had to go there in person.

Where are we now educationally? Kids have done most of their work to date through virtual learning, graduations are being held online, summer school for some online, and kids are being admitted to Elementary, Middle, High school and colleges through letters as no open house or visitation can be done.

School District 28 Diversity plan has been put on hold.

What will the September 2020-2021 school year look like?

The Chancellor has a survey for parents to fill out with suggestions: schools.nyc.gov/returntoschool2020, which we will post on our site this week.

During a presentation at CEC27 meeting yesterday, it was noted that there is Capital Funding for 1300 seats in Richmond Hill/ Ozone Park neighborhood so if anyone has a suggested space to build a school, please let us know as many of our CB9 schools in D27 are over capacity.

I have the list and will work on getting this and other statistical data I just received posted later for everyone to see. Things are very uncertain, but we remain hopeful and prayerful that things will get better in September.

As a mother of a child with special needs who has had no live teaching, it has been tough, but we found out how resilient we are through this time of trial.

I am going to end my education report with an inspiring story amidst all this disheartening news. A story of a boy that was born with autism and could not speak. I will let him tell his story himself with the hope it will inspire us and teach us about perseverance and not giving up, no matter what life throws at us. Have a wonderful and safe summer all and now I introduce Marc Anthony Mendez."

Mr. Mendez shared his story with the board, stressing how the Early Intervention Program was pivotal in his life and helped him with his learning disability. He asked that above all else, people never give up on any child.

9. HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT – Andrea Crawford, Chair

- From June 12th through June 15th out of those tested for COVID-19 at Community Testing Tent at the Queens Hospital, 2.5% were positive out of those tested, which was down from 5%. However, Emergency Room testing was up 4.5% from 3%. Hopefully, the numbers can stay low if everyone keep wearing face covering in public.
- Free antibody testing tent is open Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 5 PM.
- Health Care Industry is preparing for a second wave of this virus for October of this year. It is very important to get a flu vaccine when it comes out in September. It will be easier to differentiate COVID-19 from the flu.

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

Sylvia Hack asked the District Manager to follow up with Council Member Holden's office on borough-based jails project and a possibility of forming a committee to determine if it is better to build a new jail at Rikers Island.

11. ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT – Cristal Rivera, Chair

"Welcome to the new members. We entered Phase I, as I am sure we are all aware: construction, manufacturing, curbside pickup for retails as of June 8th. There have been concerns, not necessarily about those restrictions being eased, but more so about the warm weather and more freedom that people feel around gathering in public. Regardless of all of that, we are still moving into Phase II on June 22nd. Phase II involves office space jobs, professional services, building management, real estate, retail in store shopping, hair salons, barber shops and outdoor dining.

There are additional resources available that I can share with James to post on Social Media, i.e., SBS and their COVID-19 relief efforts. The Queens EDC is still hosting webinars on post COVID-19 relief for small businesses. The Mayor's Office has also partnered with Signature Bank to offer loans up to \$10K per business. The grant will help impacted minority and women-owned businesses as well as those with annual revenues of less than \$1.5 million with their recovery efforts, including repairs, security systems, locks, inventory and more. Wish everyone a safe summer."

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

a. On Premises Liquor License Application – New

Kiss Entertainment Inc.
130-35 91st Ave
Richmond Hill, NY 11418

Motion #2: To table new on premises liquor license application for Kiss Entertainment Inc., 130-35 91st Ave
Vote #2: Unanimous

Rabbi Pollack stated that the SLA is looking to shut down the Hangar 11 Bar located at 119-11 Metropolitan Ave.

Public Safety Committee will be meeting over the summer to discuss the renewals and new liquor licenses.

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

The MTA continues to shut down all subway stations for deep cleaning every night from 1 AM to 5 AM. Bus and train ridership have increased over the past month.

The Van Wyck Expressway Overpass Repair Project is ongoing. On June 11th contractors closed Exit 5 which leads to Atlantic Ave. It will be reopened tentatively on June 24th weather and other logistics permitting. Drivers can use Exit 4 instead.

Free toll over the Crossbay Memorial Bridge would have taken effect this summer, but due to the budget deficit, the transition was aborted.

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

- Tree planting season started. If there is letter T marked on your curb – a new tree will be planted.
- All graffiti complaints should be reported to Ms. Santoro so she can submit it to Council Member Holden's office.
- The Committee is also compiling a list of locations with overgrown grass and bushes so that it can be taken care of as one group effort.

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

- Thanked the staff for keeping up with the bills and payments.
- We are two weeks from the end of FY2020. Best estimate is that we will return around \$25-30K from our OTPS budget (assuming we are able to spend some community outreach number from this FY), and we will return around \$13K from our personal service budget.
- NYC has reduced our FY 2020 budget by \$4K and we expect, as of now, that it will reduce our FY 2021 budget by approximately \$8K.
- We await news of our budget for next year when the City arrives at an agreement

16. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT – Joan DeCamp, Chair

The Committee will be working on the by-laws over the summer.

17. OLD BUSINESS *no speakers*

18. NEW BUSINESS

Sherman Kane stated that more details are needed for handling graffiti complaints. Regina Santoro asked the board members to email the addresses to her so she can compile a list and report it to the appropriate agencies.

19. PUBLIC FORUM *no speakers*

Andrea Crawford made a motion to adjourn. Joe laboni seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson at 9:35 PM.