



COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 9

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

MAY 19, 2020 MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING 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)	Kevin O'Leary	(0)(0)
Sherry Algreto	(0)(1)	Stephen Esposito	(0)(0)	Rabbi Daniel Pollack	(0)(1)
Faiuze Ali	(1)(1)	Jan Fenster	(0)(0)	Cristal Rivera	(1)(3)
Julio Batista	(0)(0)	Laraine Fletcher	(0)(0)	Regina Santoro	(0)(0)
Dulal Bhattacharjee	(0)(0)	Linda Fogal	(0)(0)	Jarnail Singh	(1)(1)
Zoila Bofill	(1)(1)	Daniel Grieve	(0)(0)	Raghibir Singh	(1)(2)
Latchman Budhai	(1)(2)	Sylvia Hack	(0)(0)	J. Richard Smith	(0)(0)
John Carter	(0)(0)	Joseph Iaboni	(0)(0)	Naima Sultana	(0)(0)
Andrea Crawford	(0)(0)	Sherman Kane	(0)(0)	Seth Welins	(1)(0)
Sandra Datnarain	(0)(0)	Lisa Komninos	(1)(1)	Kenichi Wilson	(0)(0)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Kamal Bhuiyan	(2)(2)	Mohamed Safie	(2)(4)	Mohinder Singh	(1)(1)
Nick Comaianni	(2)(2)	Maharani Singh	(1)(1)	Marie Turley	(2)(2)
Marian Molina	(1)(2)	Matthew Singh	(2)(1)		

ALSO PRESENT

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

LEGISLATORS/REPRESENTATIVES, CITY AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

Kate Mooney, Rep. Council Member Adrienne Adams
Amparito Rosero, Rep. Acting Borough President Sharon Lee
Senator Joe Addabbo
Julio Salazar, Rep. Congress Member Nidia Velasquez
Michael Cohen, Rep. Council Member Karen Koslowitz
Andrew Taranto, Rep. Senator Leroy Comrie
Daniel Kurzyna, Rep. Council Member Bob Holden
Rabbi Daniel Pollack, Rep. Congressmember Grace Meng

1. **PUBLIC HEARING** *no items to be discussed*

2. **REPORTS FROM LEGISLATIVE OFFICIALS**

Kate Mooney, Rep. Council Member Adrienne Adams

Council Member's website is updated weekly and is a good source of COVID-19 related information, i.e., antibody testing sites and schedule, etc.

Food Pantry Give Away Event, co-sponsored by the Gurudwara Cultural Center, will take place next week.

The budget will be constrained due to the pandemic.

Advanced Cardiovascular Testing Event, co-sponsored by Assembly Member Weprin, will take place on Thursday, May 28th, 2020 at Richi Rich Palace, 110-19 Atlantic Ave. COVID-19 antibody testing will also be provided.

Launching a Zoom Conference with all their Census partners in Richmond Hill and Ozone Park. Council Member Adams' District 28 is the third lowest response of all the 51 Districts.

Amparito Rosero, Rep. Acting Borough President Sharon Lee

- Queens Borough President's Office is operating remotely. The staff is working hard to make sure that all resources are available for constituents. Thousands of PPE was distributed throughout the borough in conjunction with legislative officials, local organizations and labor unions. Ikea was among those companies which donated many of their items to communities in need.
- Ms. Rosero stressed the importance of filling out the 2020 Census Form as it helps with federal funding for the schools, hospitals, and so many other things which we have been lacking in Queens.
- Stated that it is important to request absentee ballots for the June 23rd, 2020 Elections.
- Borough President Lee and Queens DA Katz are holding a Virtual Ceremony to commemorate Memorial Day. It will take place on Thursday, May 21, 2020 at 11 AM. Visit BP's website for login information.
- The term for new Board Members will begin on May 31, 2020.

Senator Joe Addabbo

At a zoom meeting with Department of Labor Commissioner Reardon it was stated that for the months of March through May of 2020 they handled two million applications from NYS residents for unemployment claims, which is the average number of claims processed in a two-year period. Four thousand new case workers were hired in addition to the existing three thousand, who are all working 12-hour shifts seven days a week so that these applications can be processed.

The State Senate will resume meetings via conference calls and the senators are expected to start legislative work next week via Zoom. They are going to choreograph these legislative matters with the Assembly and the Governor by creating a COVID-19 related legislation. Details are to follow.

The State Senate is urging the Governor to get some restrictions lifted so that small businesses can reopen.

Julio Salazar, Rep. Congress Member Nidia Velazquez, stated that the Congress Member was in Washington DC last week regarding the vote for the Heroes Act. Among the issues that were discussed were: the PBP Program for small businesses, unemployment insurance enhancement for New York State, SNAP and several other programs.

Congressmember Velazquez has held numerous virtual town hall meetings with some of her city and state partners

and federal agencies to address COVID-19 issues. Constituents should contact the office with any questions or concerns. Office phone number is 718-599-3658.

Michael Cohen, Rep. Council Member Karen Koslowitz, stated that the office is still operating remotely and is being very successful in resolving food insecurity and unemployment payments issues.

A co-naming ceremony of the north west corner of Lefferts Blvd. and Austin St after late Aaron Adler is rescheduled for Sunday, July 26, 2020, environment permitting.

The City Council is working virtually in order to pass the next Fiscal Year's Budget by midnight, June 30th, 2020. If anyone wants to participate in a budget hearing, go to the Council website or submit a written testimony to council.nyc.gov/testify.

Andrew Toronto, Rep. Senator Leroy Comrie, stated that:

- Senator Comrie is running Serving Our Seniors Initiative by serving 800 families, seniors and essential workers hot meals and grocery deliveries every Thursday. Anyone can sign up for it by calling the office at (718) 765-6359.
- The office helped resolve 300 labor department related cases thus far. Contact the office for help in expediting unemployment payment claims.
- Helping to facilitate any community organizations that need PPE for conducting their operations and food pantries. Working closely with medical professionals and houses of worship to conduct free diagnostic and antibody testing.
- Working with local banks to make sure that small businesses are getting PPP loans.

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

- At the first virtual stated meeting on Wednesday, April 22nd, 2020, City Council introduced many pieces of COVID-19 related and some of them were passed, i.e. residential and commercial tenant protection, COVID-19 relief to small businesses.
- The Council Member wanted to personally applaud the CB9 Executive Committee for the email sent on Friday attempting to convince the City Council not to vote for the FY21 Executive Budget with borough-based jails in it. Council Member Holden stood by CB9 last year when the board had unanimously voted against building a new jail in Kew Gardens. A legislation Intro 940 was introduced in May of 2018, which was sponsored by six other Council Members, that would create a Commission to study the costs of renovating Rikers Island Jail. Due to some of the restraints and the fact that less tax revenue is coming to the Budget due to everything being shut down, the Mayor cancelled about \$140M in previously planned spending for this design of borough-based jails.
- The office was able to help 76 individuals in receiving their unemployment payments.
- Council Member Holden spoke with the Commanding Officers of 102, 104, 108, 110 and 112th Precincts about the numerous complaints regarding speeding and excessive noise coming from car mufflers.

Rabbi Pollack, Rep. Congressmember Grace Meng, stated that:

Congress Member Meng was able to extend the Kew Gardens Post Office lease for another five years which was a big relief for Kew Gardens community.

10,000 masks were distributed by the Congress Member's office to assorted organizations and food pantries.

The fourth Stimulus Bill is still shaping up and must go through the Senate, but the main purpose is to get additional funding for our city and state.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

Sam Esposito, OPRBA President

The Ozone Park Residents Block Association in conjunction with Kiwanis and many other organizations will be giving out toys for kids and distributing food to our Muslim Community for Ramadan celebrations. Will be giving out 300 boxes of food in the Ozone Park and Woodhaven area next week. Those who need food should contact OPRBA via Facebook or email, add their names to the list, and it will be delivered to them.

Thanked the Community Board for being part of the Coalition stating that it helped to bring the community together.

Ken Baxer, Census Bureau

Mr. Baxer gave an update on the Census Bureau response rates:

USA-59%
NYS-54%
Queens-48%

CB9 neighborhoods:

Kew Gardens - 49%
Ozone Park – 38%
Richmond Hill – 41%
Woodhaven – 41%

The data for the 2020 Census Self-Response Rate Map is available in the Census Bureau's public API: <https://www.census.gov/data/developers/data-sets/decennial-response-rates.html>.

The Census Bureau continues to promote self-response online, on the phone and by mail. Several offices will be re-opening soon.

Matthew Walker, Council for Airport Opportunity

Stated that positions at the airports are still being filled as the airports are still going forward with their redevelopment processes. Orientation webinars are held every Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10-11 AM. Resumes can be forwarded to couriers@caony.com or mwalker@caony.com. The contact number is 718-523-7100.

4. OPENING OF MEETING & READING OF MINUTES

Chair Wilson asked if there were any corrections/additions to March 10th, 2020 meeting minutes and motions. John Carter abstained.

Motion # 1: To accept March 10th, 2020 meeting minutes and motions as presented
Vote # 1: 29 in favor and 1 abstention

Chair Wilson asked if there were any corrections/additions to April 10th, 2020 meeting minutes. Lisa Komninos and Cristal Rivera abstained.

Motion # 2: To accept April 21st, 2020 meeting minutes and motions as presented
Vote # 2: 28 in favor and 2 abstentions

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

- Chairperson Wilson stated that he has been working a lot with civic associations lately participating in their Food Drive events.
- Made an announcement regarding the passing of a former board member, Scott Jordan.
- The next Exec Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 2nd, 2020 at 6 PM.
- Would like to start delivering masks donated by the city to houses of worship and senior centers.
- 114 people attended the free cardiovascular and antibody testing event yesterday in Richmond Hill. CB9 is looking forward to participating in another one of these events.

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

The office is still operating remotely, and many constituents are calling regarding various issues. Budget consultations among Queens district managers are ongoing in preparation for the budget consultations with various agencies in September. Wished everyone a Happy Memorial Day stating that we should not forget those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

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

- COVID-19 antibody tests (IgG tests) are available to the public. If you test positive, it means you were exposed within 90 days. A positive test result does not mean you are immune. If it's negative, it means you've been doing a good job of protecting yourself.
- The IgM test is still being studied and is restricted to health care workers.
- The Queens Hospital Center on 164th Street has a tent where anybody can get tested for antibodies between the hours of 8 AM to 4 PM.
- There has been a spike in COVID-19 positive cases since the weather has gotten warmer. Educate your staff regarding the following: masks only work if everyone is wearing them; the importance of washing hands and keeping social distancing; stay home if you are not feeling well. Encourage people to get tested for COVID-19.
- This virus affects every organ in our bodies and is not to be minimized in any way. A second wave is expected in October.

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

- High cost of iPads - This had to be done quickly with this pandemic giving no leeway to procrastinate. However, parents who signed must return it and if broken or damaged, my understanding is that they must pay for it. Many feel it could have been better negotiated. NYC Department of Education has paid \$897 each for 300,000 iPads, plus various services to get them running, for students learning from home during the COVID-19 shutdown.
- Disparity in Teaching- Some are still not using Google meets, and working parents are finding it quite challenging, especially working from home and helping teach their kids work that is just posted to them. Attended the last Parent Advisory meeting via zoom and even the Queensborough President made a request for more live teaching to be done.
- NYC School Chancellor released a letter on May 18 to schools explaining about the mystery illness affecting kids. They called it Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children.

Summer Youth Programs

As part of the Executive Budget released in April, Mayor de Blasio proposed saving more than \$175 million by suspending summer youth programs provided by the City's Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) for the upcoming season. The cuts would impact nearly 175,000 youth. According to DYCD, the decision was made from an abundance of caution for participants and providers.

I must say a special thank you to James and Kenny for being so proactive at a time like this.

Kenny you have been, here, there and everywhere representing this board at a time when many of us are at home. Everyone be safe, practice social distancing, wear masks and go out only when necessary.

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

A Resolution was sent out to the City Council to address the fact that the cuts in the city's budget will affect many services provided by the city agencies but will not include any cuts to the borough-based jails project.

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

Gave an update on federal aid programs such as PPP (Paycheck Protection Program), etc. The stimulus checks under the CARES Act are coming out, the Heroes Act was approved by Congress and going into the Senate. The Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, which provides an additional \$600 per week, is available to the public until July 31st. Paycheck Protection Program is still receiving applications and dispersing funds. This round it is being more successful for small businesses than the first.

In terms of our local community and the city, Queens EDC has been offering assistance on those PPP Applications. Reboot and Restart is their new webinar series commencing May 26. Webinar experts will provide advice as businesses prepare to reopen. We will post it on our social media.

Queens Chamber of Commerce has been hosting many elected officials and representatives from banks, which are important entities that have impact on small businesses.

In addition to that, SBS and EDC have opened a Neighborhood Challenge Connect & Recover Program – public platform for sharing ideas on how recovery looks like for small businesses, and they want to use it to crowdsource new ideas for our local businesses.

Census 2020 – we want to be able to increase the participation on that.

Thanked everyone who was doing frontline work.

12. PUBLIC SAFETY & CONSUMER AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT – Joe Iaboni & Rabbi Daniel Pollack, Co-Chairs
no report

Chair Wilson stated that the licenses renewal applications are being reviewed and approved by the Exec Committee if there are no complaints from the 102nd Pct. or the civic organizations.

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

The MTA started to shut down all 472 subway stations for deep cleaning every night from 11 PM to 5 AM. Essential workers and those who use trains during those hours can take a bus or call 511 and request means of transportation complimentary of the MTA. This will be in effect until June 15th.

In order to protect bus drivers from COVID-19, bus riders are to enter the bus from the rear door.

Alternate Street Cleaning Rules took effect yesterday. May 18th through May 23rd, 2020 cars must be moved for Sanitation trucks to clean the roads.

Van Wyck Expressway Bridges Rehabilitation Project is ongoing without any interruptions in traffic flow.

Wished the Muslim community Eid Mubarak.

James Mongeluzo, Rep. City Comptroller Scott Stringer, stated that the Comptroller's Office COVID-19 Resource Guide has been updated and translated into traditional Chinese and Spanish. It consists of helpful links for tenants and homeowners, information about food pantries, and links to cultural institutions that have online galleries.

There are \$2.5M in unclaimed wages that the Comptroller's Office Labor Law Department is trying to get to people who worked on city contracts and are owed money because the contractor did not pay the prevailing wage.

A weekly newsletter is put out on the economic impacts of COVID-19 and the fiscal outlook for the City of New York.

Comptroller's Office completed a special report on City Board of Elections and how they conduct Election Day business.

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

- Crossing guards in private schools have been dismissed.
- Received an email stating that there may be a pop-up movie theater coming to Forest Park in August.
- There is an organization that wants to restore the Organic Collection Program in New York.

Seth Welins raised his concern regarding chaotic conditions of Forest Park Drive in terms of the cyclists and pedestrians stating that there should be designated lanes before there are fatal consequences.

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

With the end of the fiscal year approaching, CB9 will be alright budget-wise. Both James and Irina will get to the office over the next couple of weeks to take care of some of the recurring bills.

There is some real concern regarding next year's budget. They originally projected, as of early April, that they will call back \$8,700. Will report on any new developments at the next community board meeting.

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

17. OLD BUSINESS *no speakers*

18. NEW BUSINESS

Sandra Datnarain made an inquiry regarding postponement of property taxes for small business owners.

Sherry Algreto requested a list of streets that will be closed over the weekend.

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 9:49 PM.