



# COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 9

Queens Borough Hall  
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Kenichi Wilson, Chairperson \* James S. McClelland, District Manager \* Donovan Richards Jr., Borough President

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## JUNE 8, 2021 MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR TELECONFERENCE VIRTUAL MEETING

### BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

ABSENCES AS OF APRIL 2021-MARCH 2022

2<sup>nd</sup> # Represents Absences as of January-December 2021 (Borough President's Attendance)

Marla Abarca	(0)(0)	Sandra Datnarain	(0)(0)	Mohamed Safie	(2)(2)
Inderpaul Ahluwalia	(1)(1)	Joan DeCamp	(0)(0)	Regina Santoro	(1)(1)
Sherry Algreto	(0)(0)	Stephen Esposito	(1)(2)	Anjali Seegobin	(0)(0)
Faiuze Ali	(0)(1)	Laraine Fletcher	(0)(0)	Jarnail Singh	(0)(1)
Dilraj Batchu	(0)(0)	Linda Fogal	(0)(1)	Maharani Singh	(0)(0)
Julio Batista	(1)(2)	Daniel Grieve	(0)(0)	Ragbir Singh	(0)(0)
Dulal Bhattacharjee	(1)(1)	Sylvia Hack	(0)(0)	Sursattie Singh	(0)(1)
Kamal Bhuiyan	(1)(1)	Joseph Iaboni	(0)(2)	J. Richard Smith	(0)(0)
Kirpal Billing	(0)(0)	Sherman Kane	(1)(1)	Alexandria Sumpter-Delves	(0)(0)
Zoila Bofill	(0)(0)	Reaz Khan	(1)(1)	Esta-Joy Sydell	(0)(0)
Latchman Budhai	(0)(0)	Katharine Maradiaga	(0)(0)	Marie Turley	(0)(0)
John Carter	(0)(0)	Kevin O'Leary	(0)(0)	Seth Welins	(0)(0)
Daniel Chu	(0)(0)	Michael Pereira	(0)(0)	Kenichi Wilson	(0)(0)
Andrea Crawford	(1)(1)	Rabbi Daniel Pollack	(0)(0)	Lilian Yagual	(1)(1)
Marilyn Custodio	(0)(1)	Sassy Ramoutar	(0)(0)		

### BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Nick Comaianni	(3)(6)	Jan Fenster	(1)(1)	Matthew Singh	(2)(3)
Raquel Olivares	(2)(3)	Cristal Rivera	(1)(3)		
Mohinder Singh	(2)(2)	Kemanad Kishore	(1)(3)		

### ALSO PRESENT

James S. McClelland, District Manager

Irina Barayeva, Community Associate

### LEGISLATORS/REPRESENTATIVES, CITY AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

Anthony Giudice, Rep. Senator Joe Addabbo

Viola Isufaj, Rep. Assembly Member Jenifer Rajkumar

Amparito Rosero, Rep. Queens Borough President Donovan Richards

Ben Geremia, Rep. Council Member Bob Holden

Michael Cohen, Rep. Council Member Karen Koslowitz

Muhammad Rahman, DA Melinda Katz

Julio Salazar, Rep. Congress Member

James Mongeluzo, Rep. Comptroller Scott Stringer

**1. PUBLIC HEARING**

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

**a. On Premises Wine, Beer & Cider License Application – New**

Kevinkel Corp.  
D/b/a Sean Lucas Beer Garden  
106-05 101<sup>st</sup> Ave  
Ozone Park, NY 11416 *No speakers*

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

KDR Restaurant Inc.  
D/b/a Kaieteur Restaurant & Sports Bar  
87-12 Lefferts Blvd.  
Richmond Hill, NY 11418 *No speakers*

Don Kew Inc.  
D/b/a The Hangar Bar & Grill  
119-11/119-13 Metropolitan Ave  
Kew Gardens, NY 11415 *No speakers*

82 60 Austin Street Corp.  
D/b/a Auston Steak and Ale House  
82-70 Austin St  
Kew Gardens, NY 11415 *No speakers*

Tu Casa Restaurant Corp.  
D/b/a Tu Casa Restaurant  
119-05 Metropolitan Ave  
Kew Gardens, NY 11415 *No speakers*

101 12 Restaurant Corp.  
D/b/a Villa Russo  
118-16 101<sup>st</sup> Ave  
Richmond Hill, NY 11419 *No speakers*

**c. Hotels Special Permit Citywide Text Amendment (N210406ZRY) *No speakers***

**d. Health & Fitness Text Amendment (N210382ZRY) *No speakers***

**e. BSA Calendar No. 2021-17BZ, 87-19 Rockaway Blvd.**

Diwakap Gupta stated that Cal. # 2021-17-BZ was filed with the BSA for the gas station located at 87-19 Rockaway Blvd. The proposal is to construct a new canopy, relocate two existing dispensers, add one new dispenser, and replace the underground fuel tanks.

## 2. REPORTS FROM LEGISLATIVE OFFICIALS

Anthony Giudice, Rep. Senator Joe Addabbo, stated that the Senator introduced several bills that are awaiting Governor Cuomo's signature. One of the bills is called Fred's Law. It will ensure persons with disabilities can have an essential support person present for the duration of their hospital stay.

Mr. Giudice also spoke about the events sponsored by the Senator. For more information call the office at 718-738-1111.

Viola Isufaj, Rep. Assembly Member Jenifer Rajkumar,

- A new Pizza Dance Foundation Festival will take place in Forest Park on June 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Queens Rock Fest is coming back to Forest Park
- Office contact information is 718-805-0950 and [rajkumari@nyassembly.gov](mailto:rajkumari@nyassembly.gov) .

Amparito Rosero, Rep. Queens Borough President Donovan Richards

- Borough President's Virtual Job Fair will take place on Thursday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2-3:30 PM. RSVP at [www.queensbp.org/rsvp](http://www.queensbp.org/rsvp) .
- ID NYC Pop-Up Enrollment site will be at Queens Borough Hall, Room 213 until August 30<sup>th</sup>. Appointments are required. Call 311 or visit [www1.nyc.gov](http://www1.nyc.gov).
- Virtual Father's Day event will take place on June 17<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM.
- BP Richards has partnered with Queens County Farm Museum to open the first farm stand in front of Queens Borough Hall, 120-55 Queens Boulevard. It is going to run from July 1<sup>st</sup> to November 4<sup>th</sup> every Thursday from 10 AM to 3 PM.

Ben Geremia, Rep. Council Member Bob Holden, stated that the office has been dealing with social media inquiries of several quality of life issues, i.e. increased drag racing, speeding and reckless driving. They have also received complaints regarding illegal car meetups, including portions of the 102<sup>nd</sup> Pct., where individuals drink and play loud music at all hours of the night.

CM Holden will be hosting several events including: Pet Adoption, Children's Concert, Food Giveaways, Vaccine Clinics, Thyroid Scanning, Mammograms, Self Defense Classes and Community Clean Ups. Detailed information is available at Council Member's social media.

Michael Cohen, Rep. Council Member Koslowitz, stated that the NYC Advisory Committee on Property Tax, that is authorized to make recommendations to NYC Council for revisions in a way property tax is collected in the city of New York, will have a Queens County Public Hearing tomorrow. Members of public can testify on their website.

Muhammad Rahman, Rep. DA Melinda Katz, stated that the DA is hosting a Gun Buy Back Event that will take place on Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM to 4 PM at St. Mary Magdalene Church in Springfield Gardens. Pride Celebration Virtual Event will take place on Thursday, June 10<sup>th</sup> from 6 PM to 8 PM. Visit [queensda.org](http://queensda.org) to register.

Julio Salazar, Rep. Congress Member Velasquez, spoke about Homeowners Assistance Fund stating that he will notify the office as soon as those resources are available.

James Mongeluzo, Rep. Comptroller Scott Stringer stated that the following Comptroller's reports were posted online:

- Comptroller Stinger Audit: DSNY Failed to Follow Procurement Guidance and Awarded \$14M COVID-19 Emergency Food Contract to an inexperienced, ineffective vendor with recent criminal conviction.
- Comments on NYC's FY 2022 Executive Budget.
- NYC Cash Balance Projection and NYC Quarterly Cash Report.
- Mr. Mongeluzo can be reached at 646-689-6509 or [jmongel@comptroller.nyc.gov](mailto:jmongel@comptroller.nyc.gov).

### 3. PUBLIC FORUM

Kevin Burns, Kew Gardens, spoke about the new food scrap drop off site in Kew Gardens, which happens on Sunday mornings from 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM in the Kew Gardens Cinemas Park.

Laura Mrakovcic, Richmond Hill Resident, asked for board's help in submitting a request to DOT to conduct a new traffic safety study at the corner of 114<sup>th</sup> St & 85<sup>th</sup> Ave as accidents keep occurring there on a regular basis.

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

Chair Wilson asked if there were any corrections/additions to May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting minutes and motions. There were none. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as presented.

**Motion # 1:** To accept May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting minutes and motions as presented

**Vote # 1:** 42 in favor and 2 abstentions

### 5. MONTHLY UPDATE NYPD 102<sup>nd</sup> Pct. Report, Det. Iftekher reported on the crime stats stating that there is a decrease in some areas, i.e., 364 vs 378 overall, 46 vs 60 in burglary, 95 vs 115 grand larceny, and 39 vs 45 in robbery cases.

Question and answer period followed.

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

- Reminded all board members to submit their Committee Choice Preference Forms so that committees can be formed before the next Executive Committee meeting.
- Made an announcement regarding the passing of former District Manager Mary Ann Carey stating that she became CB9 DM on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 1984 and retired on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014. The funeral arrangements can be obtained by contacting the board office. A moment of silence was held in honor of her memory.
- Chair Wilson encouraged all to come out and volunteer on May 22<sup>nd</sup> Queens Symphony Orchestra's Return to Music concert at the Forest Park Band Shell.

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

Wished Happy June birthday to Inderpaul Ahluwalia, July birthday to Sherman Kane and Anjali Seegobin and August birthdays to Joan DeCamp, Joseph Iaboni, Katharine Maradiaga, Kevin O'Leary, and Alexandria Sumpter-Delves.

DM McClelland continues to meet with fellow District Managers to discuss budget consultations that are scheduled for September. Queens DMs are in the process of formulating a line question for city agencies regarding budgeting, staffing, programs, and services.

Since January the office has received over 130 complaints, concerns, or questions regarding various quality of life issues and requesting assistance. A vast majority of these cases have been resolved and the office will continue to work to ensure that each one is closed to the satisfaction of the constituent.

DM McClelland wished everyone a happy and healthy summer.

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

- Education committee meeting held on May 24<sup>th</sup>. Special guest Adrienne Austin, Acting Deputy Chancellor, Division of Community Empowerment, Partnerships and Communications addressed expectation of \$3.2B in federal stimulus monies, impending CEC results and "Parent University".
- Schools will be fully reopened on September 13, 2021 with no remote option announced by NYC Mayor.
- Children 12 and up are eligible for vaccine. High school waitlist is open.
- Announced PEBT benefits offered to children in schools with federal lunch program for 2020-2021. For lost PEBT card call 1-833-452-0096.

- CB9 Education Committee presented certificates to CEC 28 for all their hard work and dedication in volunteer work as parent leaders, especially during this pandemic.
- Announced QPL to move 11 more libraries from To Go Service and to offer browsing, computer usage and in-person reference.
- Thanked Senator Addabbo for proposing bill on special-need families having rights to accompany children in certain places while awaiting guardianship.
- Summer Rising Program will be implemented during summer for all public-school children.
- Wished everyone a safe summer and stated that there will be no education committee meetings during summer months.

**9. HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT – Andrea Crawford, Chair**, stated the following:

- COVID's Delta variant is hitting the under the age 15 population, who are not vaccinated.
- The research shows that people who had COVID and are vaccinated have amazing protection and might not need a booster.
- If you get vaccinated at any NYC site, you get free unlimited metro cards and free tickets to popular attractions like Lincoln Center, NYC Aquarium and the Bronx Zoo.
- NYC is providing in-home vaccinations of Johnson& Johnson single shot for anyone who is 75 years old or older.
- COVID positive rate in NYC is under 1%.

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

**a. On Premises Wine, Beer & Cider License Application – New**

Kevinkel Corp.  
 D/b/a Sean Lucas Beer Garden  
 106-05 101<sup>st</sup> Ave  
 Ozone Park, NY 11416

**Motion # 2:** Not to oppose new on premises Wine, Beer & Cider License Application for Kevinkel Corp., d/b/a Sean Lucas Beer Garden, 106-05 101<sup>st</sup> Ave with the 1 AM Stipulation

**Vote # 2:** Unanimous

The next Public Safety and Consumer Affairs Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 6:30 PM.

**11. LAND USE & HOUSING COMMITTEE REPORT – Sylvia Hack, Chair**

➤ **Hotels Special Permit Citywide Text Amendment (N210406ZRY)**

Ms. Joy Resor of the Department of City Planning gave a presentation on Hotels Special Permit Citywide Text Amendment (N210406ZRY) stating that all new hotels will have to:

- File for a Special Permit with the Department of City Planning
- Go through the full ULURP process for approval
- Will need to meet the findings of the special permit and will be subject to site plan approval

Ms. Hack stated that the Committee recommends the approval of the proposed text amendment that would create a new special permit for hotel development citywide. This text amendment will create a consistent framework for hotel development and ensure that hotels do not negatively affect the surrounding area.

**Motion # 3:** To vote in favor of the Hotels Special Permit Citywide Text Amendment (N210406ZRY)

**Vote # 3:** 42 in favor and 2 opposed

➤ **Health and Fitness Text Amendment (N210382ZRY)**

Ms. Resor made a presentation on Department of City Planning proposed changes for gyms and spas.

Sylvia Hack made a motion to table, Steven Esposito seconded the motion.

**Motion # 4:** To table a vote on Health and Fitness Text Amendment (N210382ZRY)

**Vote # 4:** Unanimous

Committee Chair Hack gave an update on Kew Gardens Jail issue development.

➤ **BSA Cal. No. 2021-17-BZ, 87-19 Rockaway Blvd.**

The committee recommends approving the above BSA application to maintain existing gasoline service station, relocate and add one new dispenser, install new canopy, remove and replace underground fuel, and obtain new Certificate of Occupancy.

**Motion # 5:** To approve BSA application Cal. No. 2021-17-BZ, 87-19 Rockaway Blvd.

**Vote # 5:** Unanimous

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

**13. TRANSPORTATION & TRAFFIC COMMITTEE REPORT**

Chair Wilson stated that the Kew Gardens Interchange Project will be completed in one year.

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

- Tree Planting schedule is pushed from Spring to fall as there is not enough time. List of new trees to be planted in CB9 is available upon request.
- Organic curbside composting pick-up will resume in October. It will be picked up if you sign up by contacting 311.

**15. BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT – John Carter, Chair, stated that four requests for merit increases will be submitted to OMB with the following in mind:**

- As far back as FY 2016, the Board experienced a long-term deteriorating health situation that could have impacted the work and direction of the Board's functioning. It did not, owing to the conscientious performance and good work of the staff.
- Additionally, the functioning of the staff through the pandemic has permitted steady functioning and increased community outreach.
- Since early in calendar year 2019 the Board's direction and functioning had experienced a tightening and professionalization owing to the appointment of a new District Manager.
- The Board regards itself as a sensible steward of funds, having returned a surplus each year since FY 2016, and almost certainly for prior years."

John Carter stated that the Committee is making a motion to submit

**Motion # 6:** To submit merit increases proposal to the OMB

**Vote # 6:** 43 in favor and 1 abstention

**16. OLD BUSINESS**

Regina Santoro asked for an update on a street co-naming after our late Board Member Ivan Mrakovcic. District Manager McClelland will follow up on it.

Michael Pereira asked to re-visit the issue of installing more lights in Victory Field. Regina Santoro will look into it.

**17. NEW BUSINESS**

EJ Sydell made an announcement regarding a free Doggy Wash Event in Kew Gardens Barking Lot on Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup>. A proof of vaccination must be presented.

Seth Welins asked the office to follow up on a request to replace benches along Park Lane South that were removed during renovation a few years ago.

Kevin O'Leary asked for more park enforcement at the Overlook. Ms. Santoro will relay this request to the Parks Commissioner.

Sandra Datnarain stated that there will be no 102<sup>nd</sup> Pct. Community Council meetings for the months of July and August.

**18. PUBLIC FORUM**      *No speakers*

J.R. Smith made a motion to adjourn. Sherman Kane seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson at 9:46 PM.