



# COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 9

**Queens Borough Hall**  
**120-55 Queens Boulevard, Room 310-A**  
**Kew Gardens, NY 11424**

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**Sherry Algreto, Chairperson \* James S. McClelland, District Manager \* Donovan Richards Jr., Borough President**

**JUNE 13, 2023 MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING**  
**QUEENS BOROUGH HALL 120-55 QUEENS BOULEVARD ROOM 213 KEW GARDENS NY 11424**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

ABSENCES AS OF APRIL 2023-MARCH 2024

2<sup>nd</sup> # Represents Absences as of January-December 2023 (Borough President's Attendance)

Inderpaul Ahluwalia	(0)(0)	Sandra Datnarain	(1)(1)	Regina Santoro	(0)(0)
Sherry Algreto	(0)(0)	Joan DeCamp	(0)(0)	Jarnail Singh	(1)(2)
Faiuze Ali	(0)(0)	Warlito DeLeon	(0)(0)	Maharani Singh	(1)(2)
Juan Batista II	(0)(0)	Stephen Forte	(0)(0)	Mohinder Singh	(1)(2)
Dulal Bhattacharjee	(0)(0)	Albert Gamarra	(0)(0)	Raghibir Singh	(0)(2)
Kamal Bhuiyan	(1)(2)	Daniel Grieve	(0)(1)	Victor Starsky	(0)(0)
Kirpal Billing	(0)(1)	Sylvia Hack	(0)(0)	J. Richard Smith	(0)(0)
Zoila Bofill	(0)(0)	Joseph Iaboni	(0)(0)	Alexandria Sumpter-Delves	(0)(1)
John Carter	(0)(0)	Reaz Khan	(2)(3)	Esta-Joy Sydel	(1)(1)
Daniel Chu	(2)(3)	Nina Kulkarni	(0)(0)	Andrew Taranto	(0)(0)
Andrea Crawford	(1)(2)	Kevin O'Leary	(0)(0)	Seth Welins	(0)(0)
Ruben Cruz	(0)(0)	Tiffanie Placeres	(0)(0)		
Marilyn Custodio	(0)(0)	Rabbi Daniel Pollack	(2)(2)		

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

Marla Abarca	(3)(3)	Carmela Isabella	(1)(1)	Mohamed Safie	(2)(4)
Dilraj Batchu	(1)(1)	Sassy Ramoutar	(2)(4)	Matthew Singh	(3)(4)
Stephen Esposito	(1)(2)	Cristal Rivera	(3)(3)	Marie Turley	(2)(2)
Daniel Coffaro Hill	(2)(4)	Bernard Robert	(3)(3)		

\*ABSENT FOR 2 OR MORE VOTES

**ALSO PRESENT**

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

**LEGISLATORS/REPRESENTATIVES, CITY AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES**

Seth Urbinder, Rep. Council Member Lynn Schulman  
 Ann Marie Costella, Rep. Senator Joe Addabbo  
 Daiquan Llewellyn, Rep. Senator Leroy Comrie  
 Linda Fogal, Rep. Council Member Joan Ariola  
 Anthony Lemma, Rep. Assembly Member David Weprin  
 Viola Isufaj, Rep. Assembly Member Jenifer Rajkumar  
 Mufassil, Rep. Assembly Member David Weprin  
 Ariella Davidov, Rep. Queens Borough President Donovan Richards  
 Jonathan Betancourt, Rep. Congress Member Velazquez  
 Capt. Jeremy Kivlin, Commanding Officer, 102<sup>nd</sup> Pct.  
 PO Scott Adelman, 102<sup>nd</sup> Pct.  
 Jared Hunter, Rep. Congress Member Gregory Meeks

Chair Algreto asked the guests from Queens Community House Beacon Program to perform the Pledge of Allegiance.

She also made the board members aware of the fact that starting June 18<sup>th</sup>, there will be no more virtual meetings, including committee meetings.

## 1. OPENING OF MEETING & READING OF MINUTES

Chair Algreto asked if there were any corrections/additions to May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting minutes and motions. There were none. Andrea Crawford motioned to accept the minutes as presented, Sylvia Hack seconded the motion.

**Motion # 1:** To adopt minutes as presented

**Vote # 1:** Unanimous

## 2. GREETINGS FROM LEGISLATIVE OFFICIALS

Senator Joe Addabbo – stated that the budget passed late last week. He also thanked the board for sending a letter in support of making Diwali a public-school holiday. Students will have a day off beginning 2024.

The Senator thanked the Sanitation Department, Woodhaven BID, Chair Algreto, and DM McClelland for their help in dealing with the issue of food vendors without proper permits on Jamaica Ave.

Senator Addabbo introduced his new representative Ms. AnnMarie Costella.

## 3. CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS & EXEC. REPORT—Sherry Algreto & District Manager's Report - J. McClelland

- DM McClelland wished Happy Birthday to Inderpaul Ahluwalia, Joan DeCamp, Joe Iaboni, Nina Kulkarni, Kevin O'Leary, and Alexandria Sumpter-Delves. Met with the other Queens District Managers to discuss budget consultations for various city agencies. They are in the process of formulating a line of questions for about 14 different agencies regarding budgeting, staffing, programs, and services for future budget meetings.
- Working with Council Member Ariola on making Jamaica Ave from Woodhaven Boulevard to 80<sup>th</sup> Street a vendor free zone to help small business owners stay in business.
- Wished everyone a happy and healthy summer.

Chair Algreto gave a brief recap of Borough Board meeting presentations for the month of June, 2023, recognized LGBTQ month, as well as 2023 graduates. She congratulated fellow board members Joe Iaboni, who has been elected a Vice President of 102<sup>nd</sup> Pct. Community Council, and Raghbir Singh for being nominated the Commissioner of Human Rights Commission.

Chair Algreto stated that starting in September CB9 committees will be meeting every other month except for Public Safety & Consumer Affairs Committee.

## 4. MONTHLY UPDATE NYPD 102<sup>nd</sup> Pct. Report

Capt. Jeremy Kivlin, the 102<sup>nd</sup> Precinct's Commanding Officer, stated that crime is down 12% for the last 28 days and is down 6% year to date. There is a minor increase in burglary and a significant decrease in shootings and robberies in 102<sup>nd</sup> Pct.

The 102<sup>nd</sup> Pct. website is being updated regularly regarding new and current scams: phone calls, check washings, etc.

An illegal Smoke Shop was shut down on the corner of Jamaica Ave & 110<sup>th</sup> Street, and another fifteen of them are subject to closure.

Question and answer period followed.

## 5. PUBLIC FORUM

Janet Ponce, QCH Beacon Program @ MS 210 spoke about Beacon Youth Council Program and the work they have done throughout the school year. She stated that the kids have been learning about the importance of Civic

Engagement and Community Involvement as well as their plans looking ahead into next school year.

Ms. Ponce introduced Gianna Reyes who spoke about the importance of the services that are provided by the Youth Council Program.

Sam Esposito, President of OPRBA congratulated Tiffany Placeres who became the second Vice President of the Queens High School Council.

Mr. Esposito stated that the Dashi Senior Center in Ozone Park is now called 360 Adult Care Center and suggested that Community Board 9 should host their monthly board meetings at this venue in the future.

He invited all to their Annual Awards Gala which will take place on Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 12 PM at Russo's on The Bay in Howard Beach.

Brina Ciaramella, Ozone Park gave a brief report about Lion's Club of Ozone Park, the services that they provide and upcoming scheduled events.

Alejandro Vega, Woodhaven Resident voiced his concerns regarding the parking situation in his neighborhood, loud music complaints and the consequences of an illegal auto shop operating on 78<sup>th</sup> Street and 87<sup>th</sup> Road.

## 6. PUBLIC SAFETY & CONSUMER AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT – Rabbi D. Pollack & Maharani Singh, Co-Chairs

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

Bella Vista Sports Bar Corp.  
111-15 Jamaica Ave  
Richmond Hill, NY 11418 *No speakers*

**Motion # 2:** To oppose new On-Premises Liquor License Application  
**Vote # 2:** Unanimous

Oasis Bar & Restaurant, Inc.  
118-07 Atlantic Avenue  
Richmond Hill, NY 11418 *No speakers*

**Motion # 3:** To oppose new On-Premises Liquor License Application  
**Vote # 3:** Unanimous

Simply Fried LLC (*Reconsideration*)  
83-06 Austin Street  
Kew Gardens, NY 11415 *No speakers*

**Motion # 4:** Not to oppose new On-Premises Liquor License Application  
**Vote # 4:** 32 in favor, 4 opposed and 1 abstention

BSR Restaurants, Inc.  
D/b/a Palm Court Restaurant & Bar  
125-17 101<sup>st</sup> Avenue  
Richmond Hill, NY 11418 *No speakers*

**Motion # 5:** Not to oppose new On-Premises Liquor License Application  
**Vote # 5:** 36 in favor and 1 opposed

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

El Pollo Inka NY, Inc.  
D/b/a El Pollo Inka  
89-20 101<sup>st</sup> Avenue  
Ozone Park, NY 11416

*No speakers*

**Motion # 6:** Not to oppose new On-Premises Wine, Beer & Cider License Application

**Vote # 6:** Unanimous

Rabbi Daniel Pollack reported on the renewal applications listed below. He asked the public for their concerns or comments regarding these licenses. There were none.

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

RT Hospitality Group LLC  
D/b/a Atlantis  
93-10 Woodhaven Boulevard  
Woodhaven, NY 11421

8260 Austin Street Corp.  
D/b/a Austin Steak and Ale House  
82-70 Austin Street  
Kew Gardens, NY 11415

Don Kew Inc.  
D/b/a The Hangar Bar & Grill  
119-11/13 Metropolitan Ave  
Kew Gardens, NY 11415

Tu Casa Restaurant Corp.  
D/b/a Tu Casa Restaurant  
119-05 Metropolitan Ave  
Kew Gardens, NY 11415

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

Tajadas Bakery Restaurant, Inc.  
97-05 Jamaica Avenue  
Woodhaven, NY 11421

The next Public Safety and Consumer Affairs Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, June 21, 2023 at 7 PM at the district office.

Assembly Member Jenifer Rajkumar addressed the board stating that she is proud to report her victory: Diwali, the South Asian Festival of Lights, will be recognized as a school holiday in New York City. The announcement came after state lawmakers recently passed legislation to make it a holiday in the nation's largest school system.

**7. RECOGNITION OF OFFICIALS' REPRESENTATIVES**

Seth Urbinder, Rep. Council Member Lynn Schulman stated that the councilmember's bill that would give the city the right to fine landlords who illegally rent to illegal cannabis shops is going to pass the full Council on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The meeting with the DOE, SCA and the Mayor's Office regarding the proposed elementary school in Richmond Hill is scheduled for next Wednesday.

Ann Marie Costella, Rep. Senator Joe Addabbo introduced herself stating that she is looking forward to working with the board and serving the community.

Daiquan Llewellyn, Rep. Senator Leroy Comrie spoke briefly about upcoming town hall meetings and bike lane redesign on Jamaica Avenue and Union Turnpike.

Linda Fogal, Rep. Council Member Joann Ariola wished all a safe and happy summer.

Anthony Lemma, Rep. Assembly Member David Weprin announced the Rain Barrels Giveaway event in Smokey Park on Sunday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 12 PM.

Jonathan Betancourt, Rep. Congress Members Nydia Velasquez spoke briefly about budget and federal funding allocations.

Viola Isufaj, Rep. Assembly Member Jenifer Rajkumar encouraged all to attend the National Night Against Crime Event on Tuesday, August 1<sup>st</sup> and wished all a great summer.

Ariella Davidov, Rep. QBP Donovan Richards made an announcement regarding events sponsored by the Borough President.

Nathaniel Hezekiah III, Rep. Congress Member Gregory Meeks spoke about inflation, passport renewals and other important issues.

#### **8. EDUCATION & YOUTH SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT – Alexandria Sumpter-Delves & Seth Welins, Co-Chairs**

Co-Chair Sumpter-Delves stated that the Summer Youth Employment Program is turning 60 years old this year and it will kick off on July 5<sup>th</sup>.

The Committee members are planning to participate at the National Night Against Crime Event and resume their meetings in September.

Seth Welins suggested sending an audit request for the Richmond Hill Branch Library renovation project to the City Comptroller.

#### **9. LAND USE & HOUSING COMMITTEE REPORT – Sylvia Hack & Andrea Crawford, Co-Chairs**

Sylvia Hack stated that on Thursday the committee will be meeting with the Department of City Planning members via Zoom to discuss the ULURP rezoning process for a single plot of land (spot zoning) in Kew Gardens.

#### **10. HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT – Carmela Isabella, Chair, *not present to give a report.***

#### **11. TRANSPORTATION & TRAFFIC COMMITTEE REPORT – Faiuze Ali, Chair**

- Spoke about eight proposed sites in CB9 to be utilized for the Car Share Pilot Program.
- Gave an update detail on the Van Wyck Expressway Bridges Rehabilitation Project.
- Stated that public hearings for MTA's proposed fare hike are scheduled for June 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

The next Transportation and Traffic Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of June via Zoom.

#### **12. ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT – Matthew Singh & Sassy Ramoutar, Co-Chairs, *not present to give a report.***

#### **13. PARKS, RECREATION & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT – J. Richard Smith, Chair**

The public bathrooms in the tennis court (89-20 Park Lane South) area will be closed for two weeks starting July 1<sup>st</sup> for maintenance.

Committee Chair Smith encouraged all to submit their recommendations for Maurice Fitzgerald Park Playground Reconstruction Project.

**14. BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT – Kirpal Billing, Chair**

Mr. Billing stated that the salary increases for office staff went through and will be reflected on their next paychecks.

He read the itemized spending report for FY 2023 stating that an improved budget planning and expenditure will be implemented in FY 2024.

**15. BY-LAW COMMITTEE REPORT – FAIUZE ALI, CHAIR**

Committee Chair Ali reported on the virtual meeting with QBP Counsel Allan Swisher where the board members were familiarized with established board protocols, general functionality, the board’s chairperson, and district manager’s roles, etc.

He encouraged all to refer to CB9 By Laws and The City Charter for any other board related questions.

**16. OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

Rabbi Daniel Pollack thanked DM McClelland and Seth Urbinder from CM Schulman’s office for their help in postponing DOT project during the latest Jewish holiday.

Joe laboni wished all a Happy Flag Day.

Kevin O’Leary thanked DM McClelland, Board 6 DM Galluccio, Al Silvestri, and his DOT crew for making safety improvements to the intersection of Metropolitan Ave and Union Turnpike.

**17. PUBLIC FORUM** *No speakers.*

Andrea Crawford made a motion to adjourn; Joe laboni seconded it.

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson at 9:15 PM.