



COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 9

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

NOVEMBER 14, 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

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

Inderpaul Ahluwalia	(0)(0)	Warlito DeLeon	(0)(0)	Bernard Robert	(5)(5)
Sherry Algreto	(0)(0)	Stephen Forte	(0)(0)	Mohamed Safie	(2)(4)
Faiuze Ali	(0)(0)	Albert Gamarra	(0)(0)	Regina Santoro	(1)(1)
Juan Batista II	(1)(1)	Daniel Grieve	(0)(1)	Mohinder Singh	(2)(3)
Kamal Bhuiyan	(2)(3)	Sylvia Hack	(0)(0)	Raghibir Singh	(1)(3)
Kirpal Billing	(0)(1)	Daniel Coffaro Hill	(3)(5)	Victor Starsky	(1)(1)
Zoila Bofill	(1)(1)	Joseph Iaboni	(0)(0)	J. Richard Smith	(0)(0)
John Carter	(0)(0)	Reaz Khan	(2)(3)	Alexandria Sumpter-Delves	(1)(2)
Daniel Chu	(2)(3)	Nina Kulkarni	(0)(0)	Esta-Joy Sydel	(1)(1)
Andrea Crawford	(2)(3)	Kevin O'Leary	(0)(0)	Andrew Taranto	(1)(1)
Ruben Cruz	(0)(0)	Rabbi Daniel Pollack	(3)(3)	Seth Welins	(1)(1)
Joan DeCamp	(0)(0)	Cristal Rivera	(3)(3)		

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Marla Abarca	(6)(6)	Sandra Datnarain	(2)(2)	Sassy Ramoutar	(5)(7)
Dilraj Batchu	(2)(2)	Stephen Esposito	(2)(3)	Jarnail Singh	(3)(4)
Dulal Bhattacharjee	(1)(1)	Carmela Isabella	(2)(2)	Matthew Singh	(5)(6)
Marilyn Custodio	(1)(1)	Tiffanie Placeres	(2)(2)	Marie Turley	(4)(4)

ALSO PRESENT

Irina Barayeva, Community Associate

LEGISLATORS/REPRESENTATIVES, CITY AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

Ariella Davidov, Rep. Queens Borough President Donovan Richards
Chris Carlon, Rep. Council Member Lynn Schulman
Max Leonardo, Council Member Lynn Schulman
Linda Fogal, Rep. Council Member Joan Ariola
Kevin Morris, Rep. Mayor Eric Adams
Nathaniel Hezekiah III, Rep. Congress Member Gregory Meeks
Gianna Valente, Rep. Assembly Members Andrew Hevesi
Ann Marie Costella, Rep. Senator Joe Addabbo
Norris Johns, Rep. Public Advocate Jumaane Williams
James Mongeluzo, Rep. NYC Comptroller Brad Lander
Jonathan Betancourt, Rep. Congress Member Velazquez
Capt. Jeremy Kivlin, Commanding Officer, 102nd Pct.

Chair Algreto shared condolences on behalf of fellow board members to District Manager James McClelland on the passing of his mother.

Chair Algreto asked all to take a moment of silence for the death of Krystyna Naprawa, a school crossing guard fatally struck by a driver in October while on duty, and for Jasmer Singh, a man of Sikh faith who was killed in a road rage incident.

1. OPENING OF MEETING & READING OF MINUTES

Chair Algreto asked if there were any corrections/additions to October 10th, 2023 meeting minutes and motions. There were none. J. Richard Smith made a motion to accept the minutes; Sylvia Hack seconded the motion.

Motion # 1: To adopt minutes as presented

Vote # 1: 28 in favor and 7 abstentions

2. GREETINGS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS none present

3. CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS & EXEC. REPORT—Sherry Algreto

Chair Algreto reported on the items that were discussed at the Borough Board meeting.

➤ **FY2025 CB9 Capital & Expense Budget**

Motion # 2: To accept CB9 FY2025 Capital & Expense Budget

Vote # 2: Unanimous

4. PUBLIC FORUM

Professor James Vacca, Queens College, stated that as a former Council member and a former member of the Bronx community board, he understands the importance of these meetings and thanked the board members for their hard work and commitment.

Bill Knight, 95th Avenue Block Association, encouraged all board members not to approve the Liquor License Renewal Application for Blend Restaurant & Lounge.

Anas Ahmed, Richmond Hill Resident, offered his legal assistance in immigration workshops.

Sam Esposito, OPRBA, stated that after 20 years of being vacant, a building on 86th Street was sold to Nissan.

Invited all to OPRBA Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 2nd.

Mr. Esposito spoke on behalf of the owner of BENR Office Group LLC, 78-16 Atlantic Avenue, stating that he is willing to work with the community.

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

➤ ***A Brief Summary and Response to Mayor Adams's City of Yes – Housing Opportunity – Draft Scope of Work, Case Study, Kew Gardens, NY – Paul Graziano, Principal, Associated Cultural Resource Consultants (Land Use, Planning, Zoning and Historic Preservation Expert/Advocate)***

Paul Graziano who has long been a dedicated and extraordinarily knowledgeable zoning expert gave a presentation on how the City of Yes Mayoral proposal would devastate communities like Kew Gardens as well as all low density and mid-density communities throughout the city. The proposal affects important issues other than zoning, such as allowing manufacturing in residential areas, and allowing businesses in residential apartments and houses. Moreover, there would be uses allowed in areas in which they are not now permitted. This proposal would have far-reaching effects on many areas of our daily lives and the quality of our communities and neighborhoods.

The presentation was videotaped at our Tuesday, November 14 meeting, and we plan to put a link on our site that we hope everyone can watch, thus understanding for themselves what this far-reaching Mayoral proposal could do in nearly every area of our city, not just Queens community board 9.

Chair Algreto made an announcement regarding the resignation of a former board member, Ms. Maharani Singh, and wished her well in all her new beginnings.

6. EDUCATION & YOUTH SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT, Alexandra Sumpter-Delves & Seth Welins, Co-Chairs

- There is a new Principle in Richmond Hill High School, Mr. Tarek Alamarie.
- The Committee has initiated a Toy Donation Drive. Donations will be accepted from November 1st through December 8th. Locations are listed on the flyer. A Toy Giveaway will commence on December 16th at MS 210.
- Gave an update on the new elementary school site proposal on Jamaica Ave and 120th Street.
- The next committee meeting will take place on Monday, November 27th via Zoom.

Max Leonardo, Rep. Council Member, introduced himself as the new community liaison to the Council Member.

Linda Fogal, Rep. Council Member Joan Ariola made an announcement regarding Feast Giveaway Event, sponsored by the Council Member, which will take place on Wednesday, November 22, 2023, 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM.

Nathaniel Hezekiah III, Rep. Congress Member Gregory Meeks:

- More than 71 million Americans will see a 3.2% increase in their Social Security benefits next year.
- The Medicare Open Enrollment is currently ongoing until December 7th.
- Tax deduction items are listed at the following website: www.energy.gov/save.

7. Parks, Recreation & Environment Committee Report – J. Richard Smith, Chair

Mr. Smith invited all to attend the Zoom committee meeting tomorrow where Department of Parks representatives will give a presentation regarding Equity Park Design Review.

Ariella Davidov, Rep. Borough President Donovan Richards, spoke about upcoming events sponsored by Borough President Richards.

Kevin Morris, Rep. Mayor Eric Adams, reported on various issues that are being addressed by Mayor Adams administration.

Giana Valente, Rep. Assembly Member Andrew Hevesi, spoke about events sponsored by the Assembly Member.

Ann Marie Costella, Rep. Senator Joe Addabbo, reported on Senator's bills that were signed into law by the Governor.

8. MONTHLY UPDATE NYPD 102nd Pct. Report

Capt. Jeremy Kivlin, the 102nd Precinct's Commanding Officer, spoke about the school crossing guard, who was struck and killed by a passing truck while on duty at the intersection of Woodhaven Boulevard and Atlantic Avenue.

Announced the stats stating that crime is down 6% for the last 28 days and is down 3% year to date.

Captain Kivlin also acknowledged the two deaths in his remarks calling the last few months troubling for the precinct. He stated that there is no place for crimes against people of Sikh faith or any culture within 102nd Pct. He stated that he will make it a point to make sure that these people are brought to justice.

Capt. Kivlin asked residents to practice caution with their belongings, especially vehicles since there's been an increase in auto thefts. He recommended purchasing steering wheel locks as well as not leaving car keys near the front of their homes.

Question and answer period followed.

9. Public Safety & Consumer Affairs Committee Report – Rabbi Daniel Pollack, Chair

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

BENR Office Group LLC, D/b/a Benrooftop
78-16 Atlantic Avenue (2nd Floor & Rooftop)
Ozone Park, NY 11416

Motion # 3: To oppose new On-Premises Wine, Beer & Cider License Application

Vote # 3: Unanimous

Blend Restaurant & Lounge
127-07 94th Avenue
Richmond Hill, NY 11419

Motion # 4: To request a liquor license revocation

Vote # 4: Unanimous

The Best Seafood & BBQ Chicken Corp., D/b/a El Anzuelo Fino
98-01 Jamaica Avenue
Woodhaven, NY 11421

Motion # 5: To oppose the renewal of On-Premises Wine, Beer & Cider License Application

Vote # 5: Unanimous

The next Public Safety and Consumer Affairs Committee meeting is on Tuesday, November 28th.

10. Cannabis Licenses – Discussion & Recommendations From CB9

AAR CANN LLC
120-34 Queens Boulevard
Kew Gardens, NY 11415

Mazal CANN LLC
110-04 Jamaica Avenue
Richmond Hill, NY 11418

Budega Queens Club
130-4 Jamaica Avenue
Richmond Hill, NY 11418

Chair Algreto brought the positioning of these proposed sites into question based on their proximity to schools.

She stated that the board will ask for the Office of Cannabis Management to send a list of what qualifies a cannabis dispensary site.

11. Budget & Finance Committee Report – Kirpal Billing, Chair

Mr. Billing gave a brief report on the Board's expenditures for the past few weeks.

Norris Johns, Rep. Public Advocate Jumaane Williams reported on the events sponsored by the Public Advocate.

James Mongeluzo, Rep. NYC Comptroller Brad Lander:

- The Comptroller's Office has banned Charan Electrical Company for stealing hundreds of thousand dollars from the city.
- 2023 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report was released.

- The office asked for the renewal of the Reckless Driver Accountability Act designed to target the city's worst offenders (measured by red-light and school speed zone camera violations) with escalating consequences, starting with a course specifically developed to change driver behavior followed by vehicle impoundment for those who fail to comply.
- The Fair Share Report was released and is available online.

Seth Welins asked for an update on the Richmond Hill Branch Library renovation project.

Jonathan Betancourt, Rep. Congress Member Velazquez stated that the Congress Member sent a letter of recommendation to DOT Commissioner to manage the traffic flow and reduce future accidents at the intersection of Woodhaven Boulevard & Atlantic Avenue after the fatality that occurred.

He also made an announcement of the upcoming events.

12. PUBLIC FORUM

Bruce Feinstein, Richmond Hill Resident, voiced his concerns on the placement of proposed cannabis shops.

Andrea Kelly, Richmond Hill Resident, spoke against the placement of proposed smoke shops.

13. Old/New Business

Chair Algreto invited all seniors to the Caribbean Cabana Restaurant, located at 116-02 Jamaica Avenue, for free Thanksgiving Lunch.

She also stated that the CB9 Transportation & Traffic Committee meeting will take place on Monday, November 20th via Zoom.

Ruben Cruze spoke about an updated letter regarding the issue of cannabis licensing in our community that he recently forwarded to the office.

Regina Santoro spoke about a possible homeless shelter being built at the former Bingo Hall facility on Hillside Avenue and 117th Street.

EJ Sydell spoke about an article regarding cannabis shops. She also spoke about holiday window decorations in Kew Gardens.

Inderpaul Ahluwalia spoke about changing the laws in the court system regarding landlords' signing leases for cannabis shops.

Andrea Crawford made a motion to adjourn; Julio Batista II seconded it.

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson at 9:27 PM.