



COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 9

Queens Borough Hall
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Kew Gardens, NY 11424

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

SEPTEMBER 12, 2023 MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING
QUEENS BOROUGH HALL 120-55 QUEENS BLVD. 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) | Sandra Datnarain | (1)(1) | Nina Kulkarni | (0)(0) |
| Sherry Algreto | (0)(0) | Joan DeCamp | (0)(0) | Kevin O'Leary | (0)(0) |
| Faiuze Ali | (0)(0) | Warlito DeLeon | (0)(0) | Rabbi Daniel Pollack | (2)(2) |
| Juan Batista II | (0)(0) | Stephen Esposito | (1)(2) | Cristal Rivera | (3)(3) |
| Dilraj Batchu | (1)(1) | Stephen Forte | (0)(0) | Mohamed Safie | (2)(4) |
| Dulal Bhattacharjee | (0)(0) | Albert Gamarra | (0)(0) | Jarnail Singh | (1)(2) |
| Kirpal Billing | (0)(1) | Daniel Grieve | (0)(1) | J. Richard Smith | (0)(0) |
| Zoila Bofill | (0)(0) | Sylvia Hack | (0)(0) | Esta-Joy Sydel | (1)(1) |
| John Carter | (0)(0) | Daniel Coffaro Hill | (2)(4) | Andrew Taranto | (0)(0) |
| Daniel Chu | (2)(3) | Joseph Iaboni | (0)(0) | Marie Turley | (2)(2) |
| Ruben Cruz | (0)(0) | Carmela Isabella | (1)(1) | Seth Welins | (0)(0) |
| Marilyn Custodio | (0)(0) | Reaz Khan | (2)(3) | | |

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|--------|----------------|--------|---------------------------|--------|
| Marla Abarca | (4)(4) | Sassy Ramoutar | (3)(5) | Raghibir Singh | (1)(3) |
| Kamal Bhuiyan | (2)(3) | Bernard Robert | (4)(4) | Victor Starsky | (1)(1) |
| Andrea Crawford | (2)(3) | Maharani Singh | (2)(3) | Alexandria Sumpter-Delves | (1)(2) |
| Tiffanie Placeres | (1)(1) | Mohinder Singh | (2)(3) | | |
| Regina Santoro | (1)(1) | Matthew Singh | (4)(5) | | |

*ABSENT FOR 2 OR MORE VOTES

ALSO PRESENT

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

LEGISLATORS/REPRESENTATIVES, CITY AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

Council Members Lynn Schulman
 Seth Urbinder and Chris Carlon, 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, 102nd Pct.
 Jared Hunter, Rep. Congress Member Gregory Meeks

Chair Algreto asked all to stand for a minute of silence to commemorate the memory of late Sherman Kane, former board member, who served on the board from 2007.

The board took a minute of silence to remember the victims of the September 11th attack.

1. OPENING OF MEETING & READING OF MINUTES

Chair Algreto asked if there were any corrections/additions to June 13th, 2023 meeting minutes and motions. There were none. Albert Gamarra made a motion to accept the minutes, Joan DeCamp seconded the motion.

Motion # 1: To adopt minutes as presented

Vote # 1: 28 in favor and 7 abstentions

2. GREETINGS FROM LEGISLATIVE OFFICIALS

Council Member Lynn Schulman – gave an update on the concerns submitted to her office before the September Meeting. Council member reported on the following:

- Budget allocation for programs and services in her district for FY24.
- Legislation that passed in August to hold landlords accountable for renting out their storefronts to illegal unlicensed cannabis shops.
- Shared her opposition to a federal monitoring at Rikers Island.
- Invited all to Murray and Carol Berger Street Co-Naming Ceremony on October 21st.
- Thanked Chair Algreto for attending all the events sponsored by the Council Member.

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

Chair Algreto gave a brief recap of the events that she attended during the summer and encouraged the board members to participate more.

DM McClelland reported on the following:

- DM McClelland wished Happy Birthday to Sandra Datnarain, Warlito Deleon, Bernard Robert, Maharani Singh, Esta-Joy Sydell, and Marie Turley.
- Agency budget consultations start tomorrow. An email will be sent requesting board members to submit Capital/Expense project ideas for the next fiscal year. Local civic groups and schools will also be contacted for their suggestions. The deadline for submission is November 17th.
- Agency budget cuts are expected to take place. Hoping that community boards will be immune to it as their budgets are very small.

4. PUBLIC FORUM

Carmela Isabella, Woodhaven Resident made an announcement regarding various upcoming events in Woodhaven.

Shida Khan, Richmond Hill Resident, expressed her concerns regarding traffic congestion created by loading/unloading trucks and double parking in both directions on 101st Avenue in Richmond Hill.

5. MONTHLY UPDATE NYPD 102nd Pct. Report

Capt. Jeremy Kivlin, the 102nd Precinct's Commanding Officer, stated that crime is down 3.5% for the last 28 days and is down 45% year to date. There is a minor increase in grand larceny of autos and a significant decrease in shootings and robberies in 102nd Pct.

Capt. Kivlin answered questions submitted to him by the board members:

- The 102nd Pct. has seized the most e-bikes and gas scooters for the year.

- Red light camera request for Abingdon Rd and Park Lane South – the area does not meet the criteria for camera installation currently. Sector C, which is the most of Kew Gardens area, there were 537 moving violations summonses issued vs 302 last year. There is a decrease in the number of collisions in Kew Gardens.
- The officers successfully closed 5 (five) smoke shops along Jamaica Avenue over the past two months. Three more shops are pending permanent closure. Captain warned that some shops that are closed after being caught illegally selling marijuana wind up opening in other parts of the borough.

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

Sylvia Hack thanked Council Member Lynn Schulman for convincing the applicant of 190 83rd Avenue to withdraw the rezoning application.

Ms. Hack gave a brief update on the Borough Based Jails project.

7. PUBLIC SAFETY & CONSUMER AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT – Rabbi D. Pollack, Co-Chair

a. On Premises Liquor License Application – New

Los Pollos Locos Inc.
D/b/a Los Pollos Locos Bar & Grill
97-12 101st Ave
Ozone Park, NY 11416

Mr. Hernandez, the applicant’s representative, addressed the board stating that he is here to answer questions.

Motion # 2: Not to oppose new On-Premises Liquor License Application
Vote # 2: Unanimous

Elias Bar & Lounge Corp.
105-06 Jamaica Avenue
Richmond Hill, NY 11418

Mr. Yonkell, representing the establishment, introduced the new owner of Elias Bar & Lounge.

Motion # 3: Not to oppose new On-Premises Liquor License Application
Vote # 3: Unanimous

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

Tikka Indian Grill Kew Gardens
119-30 Metropolitan Avenue
Kew Gardens, NY 11415

Motion # 4: Not to oppose new On-Premises Wine, Beer & Cider License Application
Vote # 4: Unanimous

La Reyna De Tehuacan Corp.
D/b/a La Reyna De Tehuacan
112-11 Jamaica Avenue
Richmond Hill, NY 11418

Motion # 5: Not to oppose new On-Premises Wine, Beer & Cider License Application
Vote # 5: 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

Caribbean Cabana Restaurant & Lounge Inc.
D/b/a Kaieteur Cabana Restaurant & Lounge
116-02/04/06 Jamaica Avenue
Richmond Hill, NY 11418

CW Group Inc.,
D/b/a Crazy Willy's
117-10 Jamaica Avenue
Richmond Hill, NY 11418

KDR Restaurant Inc.
D/b/a Kaieteur Restaurant & Sports Bar
87-12 Lefferts Boulevard
Richmond Hill, NY 11418

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

Neir's Tavern Inc.
87-48 78th Street
Woodhaven, NY 11421

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

101-12 Restaurant Corp.
D/b/a Villa Russo
118-16 101st Avenue
Richmond Hill NY 11419

111 Atlas Restaurant Corp.
D/b/a Atlantic Diner
111-16 Atlantic Avenue
Richmond Hill, NY 11418

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

Don Pollos Son's Corp.
92-10 Jamaica Avenue
Woodhaven, NY 11421

Armando's Pollo Rico Restaurant Inc.
110-02 Jamaica Avenue
Richmond Hill, NY 11418

2020 Sabores Latinos Rest Bakery Corp.
124-04 Jamaica Avenue
Richmond Hill, NY 11418

e. On-Premises Beer & Cider License Application - Renewal

Forest Park Golf Course LLC
81-01 Park Lane South
Woodhaven, NY 11421

f. Class Change

Brisas Del Mar Sea Food Market II Corp.
76-15 Jamaica Avenue
Woodhaven, NY 11421

g. Change in Method of Operation

La Hueca Guayaca Corp.
88-09 Jamaica Avenue
Woodhaven, NY 11421

h. 30-Day Waiver Renewal Request

La Casa Del Mariachi Corp.
116-03 Metropolitan Avenue
Richmond Hill, NY 11418

The next Public Safety and Consumer Affairs Committee meeting is date is TBD.

John Carter asked for an update on the Blend Restaurant investigation.

8. RECOGNITION OF OFFICIALS' REPRESENTATIVES

Alisa Nadhifa, Rep. Department of City Planning introduced herself and shared her contact information with the board members.

Ms. Nadhifa gave a brief update on the Mayor's City of Yes Initiative.

Viola Isufaj, Rep. Assembly Member Jenifer Rajkumar gave a brief report regarding events sponsored by the Assembly Member.

She stated that Public Safety Town Hall will take place on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, 5-8 PM at the Woodhaven Manor, 96-01 Jamaica Avenue.

Ann Marie Costella, Rep. Senator Joe Addabbo stated that she brought flyers for upcoming events.

Ms. Costella read answers to the board's questions, submitted to the Senator prior to this meeting:

- Regarding Rikers Island, it is a city issue, and the Senator is not in support of closing Rikers Island, nor is he for opening new jails. We can improve the facilities we have while ensuring the safety of corrections officers and inmates. Budget cuts that the city is projecting will be steep due to the ongoing migrant crisis, which the federal government continues to not address.
- We have been in contact with the Sheriff's office and are constantly informing them of shops as we see them and as they are reported. Our office has designated our Deputy Chief of Staff to work full-time on this issue in contact with law enforcement. We passed legislative measures this year to assist in the closure of illegal shops and are meeting this week with New York City representatives to discuss this situation.
- As the Chair of the Senate Racing Waging and Gaming Commission, the Senator has been supportive of the safe expansion of gaming in our state, which addresses the priority issue of problem gambling and addiction. September is Problem Gambling Education Month, and the office is having a Zoom meeting tomorrow 7-8 PM.

- Gaming in our state provides thousands of credible local jobs and over \$3 billion in educational funding. With the need for additional funding for next year, Senator Addabbo will be looking to explore ways to increase revenue and addiction funding through the three downstate gaming licenses and i-gaming.

Daiquan Llewellyn, Rep. Senator Leroy Comrie gave a brief report regarding events sponsored by the Senator.

Regarding CB9's questions, he stated the following:

- The Senator is in favor of casinos in New York State.
- During the September 15th hearing the Office of Cannabis Management and the State will have a conversation regarding new protocols for handling these new licenses.
- Senator is relying on the Mayor's decision on the Borough Based Jails and Riker's Island.

Linda Fogal, Rep. Council Member Joann Ariola read answers to CB9 questions:

- As a result of the Biden administration's continued refusal to clamp down on illegal immigration at our border or provide much-needed financial aid to the city of New York, we are looking at the possibility of very severe budget cuts to a few city agencies - including the Department of Corrections. To hopefully avoid these cuts Council Member Ariola and her colleagues in the Council's Common-Sense Caucus are planning to meet with the Mayor and explore potential solutions. This crisis is something that needs to be resolved immediately, and it should not become yet another burden for the NYC taxpayer to bear.
- Council Member Ariola signed on a sponsor in Intro 1001, which would hold landlords accountable if stores on their property are selling illegal or unlicensed cannabis products. That law, which came into effect just last month, would first provide a warning to the landlords if such products are discovered. Second offenses would then see the landlord receive a fine, which will increase with each subsequent offense. The goal is to force landlords to be more discerning in who they are renting to, because as it stands now as soon as we shut one down another opens. Additionally, our office is part of a task force with the 102nd Pct., the Mayor's office, and the Sheriff's Department, which is seeking to identify and shut down any unlicensed dispensaries that may appear. Between the task force and the new pressure on landlords we are hoping to eliminate the issue of unlicensed cannabis retail in the city.
- Regarding the casinos, the Council Member believes that Resort World has more than checked all the boxes, and it should receive the license for table games. They already have significant plans to expand should that license come through – plans that include an expansion into the NYRA property as well as the development of affordable housing in the area. If it were up to the Council Members, and it is not, the three licenses would be given to Resorts World, Yonkers, and Times Square.

William Bo, Rep. Assembly Member Khaleel Anderson, stated that September is Senior Appreciation Month and announced upcoming events.

Anthony Lemma, Rep. Assembly Member David Weprin announced the Health Fair will take place on September 20th, 2023 at Hillcrest Jewish Center.

Rokeya Akhtar, Rep. Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz, had no comments on Riker's Island question from CB9. Since November, 2022 joined enforcement operations have resulted in the prosecution of 156 individuals for felony levels of misdemeanor charges in Queens County.

Nathaniel Hezekiah III, Rep. Congress Member Gregory Meeks stated that mailboxes are being replaced across the Country. He also stated that the Medicare Open Enrollment period begins October 15th.

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

Jonathan Betancourt, Rep. Congress Members Nydia Velasquez read the answers to board's questions, submitted to the Congress Member prior to this meeting:

- Smoke shops have not only been a hot topic of discussion here in Community Board 9, but all throughout the district. They have been popping up left and right in all areas of our district and it is of great concern to the CW. As you know, this issue falls under the jurisdiction of the state but as the Ranking Member of the Small Business Committee, CW does not condone unlicensed establishments that are bypassing consumer and small business regulations. It is not right, and it is not fair to the other small businesses in the area. She commends Councilmember Lynn Shulman for passing a bill that would fine property owners that rent commercial space to these unlicensed smoke shops.
- As we all know, under the law, Rikers Island must close by 2027. The Congresswoman has supported the closure of Rikers Island due to the inhumane conditions, security concerns, and the number of deaths that have occurred while in custody at Rikers Island.
This year alone, there have been 8 deaths so far with the most recent one occurring a couple of weeks ago. The federal monitor released a report in July that determined that conditions are getting progressively worse and many of the initiatives required by the plan to close Rikers are incomplete or have not been addressed. We understand the concerns. This is under the jurisdiction of the city and the Congresswoman will continue to monitor this.
- Casinos are under the umbrella of the State and the State approves them. Once we see an issue that would constitute Federal Legislation, we would be happy to discuss that.

9. EDUCATION & YOUTH SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT – Seth Welins, Co-Chair

Co-Chair Welins stated that the board has sent a follow up letter to the NYC Public Design Commission regarding the planned renovation of Richmond Hill Branch Library. There was no response received to this day. Mr. Welins suggested adding this issue to the yearly budget requests.

Seth Welins stated that Richmond Hill High School has a new principal, Mr. Tarek Alamarie.

10. PARKS, RECREATION & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT – J. Richard Smith, Chair

➤ *Resolution to Build a Pickleball Court at Park Lane South & 90th Street*

Motion # 6: To approve the Committee’s Resolution to Build a Pickleball Court on a portion of the tennis courts near Park Lane South & 90th Street

Vote # 6: 30 in favor and 5 opposed

11. BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT – Kirpal Billing, Chair

Mr. Billing stated that the 2023 Fiscal Year Budget was spent wisely on community outreach events and programs as well as a salary increase for the office staff. A copy of itemized FY23 spending report and Good & Welfare Fund is available upon request.

➤ *Treasure’s By-Annual Report of Overall Projected Budget – John Carter*

The FY24 Queens Community Board 9 budget is \$270,728.00.

12. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Chair Algreto reported on her new Business to Business initiative and thanked those board members who participated.

Kirpal Billing suggested changing the order of items on the agenda for next month.

Kevin O'Leary thanked 1st Vice Chair Ali for helping him to address the issue of crumbling curbs all over Kew Gardens. He also thanked Chair Algreto for her initiative to patronize local businesses.

Andrew Taranto asked for CB9's last year's Budget Priority List.

13. PUBLIC FORUM *No speakers.*

Stephen Esposito made a motion to adjourn; EJ Sydell seconded it.

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson at 9:22 PM.