



COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 9

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

APRIL 9, 2024 MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING

HELEN MARSHALL CULTURAL CENTER, 120-55 QUEENS BOULEVARD, KEW GARDENS, NY 11424

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

ABSENCES AS OF APRIL 2024-MARCH 2025

2nd # Represents Absences as of January-December 2024 (Borough President's Attendance)

Inderpaul Ahluwalia	(0)(0)	Joan DeCamp	(0)(0)	Regina Santoro	(0)(0)
Sherry Algreto	(0)(0)	Warlito DeLeon	(0)(0)	Himmat Singh	(0)(0)
Faiuze Ali	(0)(0)	Stephen Forte	(0)(0)	Matthew Singh	(0)(1)
Dulal Bhattacharjee	(0)(1)	Sylvia Hack	(0)(0)	Raghibir Singh	(0)(1)
Kirpal Billing	(0)(0)	Joseph Iaboni	(1)(1)	Victor Starsky	(0)(1)
Visnoonand Bisram	(0)(0)	Carmela Isabella	(0)(0)	J. Richard Smith	(0)(0)
Zoila Bofill	(0)(0)	Nina Kulkarni	(0)(0)	Alexandria Sumpter-Delves	(0)(0)
John Carter	(0)(0)	Kevin O'Leary	(0)(0)	Esta-Joy Sydel	(0)(0)
Swapn Chakraborty	(0)(0)	Rabbi Daniel Pollack	(0)(0)	Andrew Taranto	(0)(0)
Rick Chetram	(0)(0)	Cristal Rivera	(0)(0)	Seth Welins	(0)(0)
Daniel Chu	(0)(0)	Jonathan Rodriguez	(0)(0)	Stacey Yearwood	(0)(0)
Andrea Crawford	(0)(0)	Mohamed Safie	(0)(1)		

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Juan Batista II	(1)(1)	Albert Gamarra	(1)(1)	Tiffanie Placeres	(1)(1)
Kamal Bhuiyan	(1)(2)	Daniel Grieve	(1)(1)	Sassy Ramoutar	(1)(1)
Ruben Cruz	(1)(2)	Alicia Hassin	(1)(1)	Jarnail Singh	(1)(1)
Marilyn Custodio	(1)(1)	Reaz Khan	(1)(2)	Mohinder Singh	(1)(3)
Stephen Esposito	(1)(1)	Christian Orellana	(1)(1)	Marie Turley	(1)(3)

ALSO PRESENT

James McClelland, District Manager
Irina Barayeva, Community Associate

LEGISLATORS/REPRESENTATIVES, CITY AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

Speaker Adrienne Adams, NYC Council
Senator Leroy Comrie
Council Member Lynn Schulman
Assembly Member David Weprin
Justice Cassandra Johnson, Supreme Court
Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz
Ariella Davidov, Rep. Queens Borough President Donovan Richards
Linda Fogal, Rep. Council Member Joan Ariola
Jared Hunter, Rep. Congress Member Gregory Meeks
Ann Marie Costella, Rep. Senator Joe Addabbo
Anthony Lemma, Rep. Assembly Member David Weprin
Carlos Plaza, Rep. Assembly Member Jenifer Rajkumar

Daiquan Llewellyn, Rep. Senator Leroy Comrie
Kevin Wisniewski, Rep. Assembly Member Hevesi
Jonathan Betancourt, Rep. Congress Member Nidia Velazquez
Rokeya Akhtar, Rep. Queens District Attorney Melida Katz
Ty Hankerson, Rep. Speaker Adrienne Adams, NYC Council
Deputy Inspector Jeremy Kivlin, Commanding Officer, 102nd Pct.
PO Nick Salamone, 102nd Pct.

1. A moment of silence was taken for fallen NYPD Officer Jonathan E. Diller and for Officer Mayo's child.

2. OPENING OF MEETING AND READING OF MINUTES

Chair Algreto asked if there were any corrections/additions to March 12th, 2024 meeting minutes and motions.

She noted that John Carter was not in agreement regarding the Chairperson's vote.

Warlito DeLeon motioned to accept the minutes as amended. Andrea Crawford seconded the motion.

Motion # 1: To adopt minutes as amended

Vote # 1: 24 in favor, 1 opposed and 10 abstentions

3. CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS & EXEC. REPORT—Sherry Algreto DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT- James McClelland

Chair Algreto congratulated the new board members on their appointment and asked them to introduce themselves.

New Community Board Members

- Jonathan Rodriguez of Woodhaven
- Stacey Yearwood of Richmond Hill is pleased to join the Board
- Himmat Singh of Richmond Hill is also pleased to join the Board
- Visnoonand Bisram of Woodhaven
- Rick Chetram of Richmond Hill

DM McClelland wished Happy Birthday to Swapan Chakraborty, Ruben Cruz, Andrea Crawford, Tiffanie Placeres and Stacey Yearwood. He welcomed the new board members stating that he is looking forward to working with them.

Mr. McClelland made an announcement regarding significant improvements to the Jamaica/Van Syck E Subway Station Triangle: new lighting and the removal of the old park benches has resolved some of the safety issues. He stated that DOT is developing a capital plan that will make further improvements.

The District Manager stated that he received numerous requests to reopen Freedom Drive in Forest Park. Council Member Joan Ariola will assist in reopening that street segment.

DM McClelland congratulated Ms. Sylvia Hack on fifty years of service and thanked her for her knowledge, leadership, but most of all, her friendship.

4. Recognition & Honoring Ms. Sylvia Hack for her 50 Years of Service to CB9

Andrea Crawford read Sylvia Hack's biography:

"Sylvia Hack is a remarkable soul whose life radiates with compassion, dedication, and a profound commitment to public service. For an inspiring 50 years, she has stood as a pillar of strength in Queens, fearlessly fighting for justice and tirelessly contributing to grassroots community organizations."

Sylvia was part of an all-women group that played a pivotal role in founding what is now The Metropolitan College of New York. She envisioned educational institutions that go beyond conventional norms, fostering knowledge, growth, and innovation. Her influence extends beyond academia, as Sylvia inspired her children to embrace public service, creating a multi-generational legacy of community betterment. Her impact on education, community service, and family is a testament to the transformative power of one individual's dedication to making the world a better place.

Her talents extended beyond academia and public service, with appearances in the original movie "A Miracle on 34th St" as an extra and numerous Broadway shows and radio shows, showcasing her versatile and creative spirit and contributing to the vast, cultural tapestry of our city.

A resident of Kew Gardens for six decades, Sylvia is an integral part of the community, contributing to its cultural richness. As a founding member of the Kew Gardens Improvement Association (KGIA), she continues to shape the community landscape, reflecting her commitment to her beloved Kew Gardens.

An avid traveler, fluent in French and a lover of French cuisine, Sylvia carries a piece of France in her heart, a testament to her rich and diverse experiences. Her yearly sojourns to the Adirondacks for over 50 years and her daily walks to Forest Hills underscore her love for nature and an active, vibrant lifestyle.

Married for over 60 years, Sylvia has created a strong family foundation with three sons and two granddaughters. A great cook, she adds flavor and warmth to her home, and her daily tap dancing in the kitchen and beautiful singing echoes the joy she finds in life.

Sylvia started at KGIA the Lefferts Bridge Beautification Project which is continued every year. She also started the KG Council for the Arts.

Sylvia was appointed to Community Board 9 on April 1st 1974. There were no office staff and sometimes they met at each other's apartments and other public spaces. When she started, cable television was just introduced in NYC and three boards were involved in creating committees for it. One of the Boards was Community Board 9 and Sylvia got to Chair what was known as Joint Cable Committee of Queens. Out of those committees, a discussion to have a cable company that reported just local news started and that came into fruition in what is now called NY1. She is currently the backbone and driving force on the Land Use Committee and nothing gets past her. She holds power accountable in keeping quality of life in the neighborhoods she represents. She is the embodiment of selfless service on Community Board 9 and is very respected by her fellow colleagues. If Sylvia sees something wrong that will affect her community in a negative way, she will be at it right away. Sylvia served as Chair of Community Board 9, 1991/93/94/95/96/98/99/2000.

A true role model, Sylvia not only continues to dedicate her life to community service. Her unwavering dedication to doing the right thing sets a powerful example for others, creates an enduring legacy of kindness, selflessness and has led to numerous achievements, all in the hopes of bettering her community and the world around her."

Council Speaker Adrienne Adams, Council Member Lynn Schulman, Assembly Member David Weprin, State Senator Leroy Comrie, Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz, and several elected officials' representatives awarded commendations to Ms. Sylvia Hack.

Ms. Hack thanked officials and the board for the honors and spoke of the importance of community service.

5. PUBLIC FORUM

Paul Sapienza, Former CB9 Member, shared information regarding WWII Astoria Memorial Plaque that features eighteen servicemen, erected by the Anawa Club Inc. in 1946. He stated that he is on a mission to research the history behind it and secure a permanent public site for the plaque in Astoria to educate new generations to never forget those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Judge Wendy Li congratulated Ms. Sylvia Hack on her 50 Years of service and thanked the board for all they do for their communities.

Aleena Knight, 95th Ave Block Association, thanked Sylvia Hack for her service and invited all to the Annual Spring Festival on Saturday, April 13th, sponsored by Friends of Smoky Park organization.

6. NYPD 102nd Pct. Briefing

Deputy Inspector Jeremy Kivlin, 102nd Pct. Commanding Officer, congratulated Ms. Sylvia Hack on her many years of Service. He read the crime stats in the Community Board 9 area:

- There is a spike in robberies, but many arrests have been made.
- Grand larceny numbers are down as well as shootings and shots fired.
- DI Kivlin expressed his condolences to the family of the fallen NYPD officer Diller.

Question and answer period followed.

Following DI Kivlin briefing Chair Algreto wished Happy Birthday to Andrea Crawford.

7. PARKS, RECREATION & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT, J. R. Smith, Chair

➤ Support Letter – Detective Brian P. Simonsen Field

Motion # 2: To support the renaming of Field 1 at Victory Field to Detective Brian P. Simonsen Field

Vote # 2: Unanimous

8. ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT – Matthew Singh, Co-Chair

Matthew Singh stated that the committee is working on organizing the Queens Community Board 9 Small Business Resource Fair that will take place on Thursday, May 16th, 2024, 12:30-2:30 PM at the Helen Marshall Cultural Center.

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

➤ Letter Requesting Restoration of Queens Public Library Funding

Motion # 3: To send a letter to Mayor Adams to restore all monetary cuts to the library budget

Vote # 3: Unanimous

10. Public Safety & Consumer Affairs Committee Report/Public Hearing (Letters of Intent Received) Sherry Algreto, CB9 Chair

a. On Premises Liquor License Application – New

Ben Catering Events
94-02 80th Street
Ozone Park, NY 11416

The applicant's representative stated that the venue will be open to private parties only and answered board members' questions.

Motion # 4: To oppose the new on premises liquor license application.

Vote # 4: 33 in favor and 2 opposed

b. On Premises Liquor License Application – Renewal

Atlantic Palace LLC, d/b/a Golden Terrace Banquet Hall
120-03 Atlantic Avenue
Richmond Hill, NY 11419

Caleta III Bar Inc.
111-25 Jamaica Avenue
Richmond Hill, NY 11418

On Premises Liquor License Application – Renewal (Cont'd)

El Rinconcito De Nagua
76-20 Jamaica Avenue
Woodhaven, NY 11421

C Bar & Restaurant
120-31 83rd Avenue
Kew Gardens, NY 11415

Golden Palace Hall Inc.
123-08 Jamaica Avenue
Richmond Hill, NY 11418

Majestic Marquis Corp., d/b/a Majestic Marquis
88-03 101st Avenue
Ozone Park, NY 11416

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

Vanessa Bar & Lounge Corp.
110-12 Jamaica Avenue
Richmond Hill, NY 11418

Letters of no opposition will be mailed by the office.

The next Public Safety & Consumer Affairs Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 23rd at the district office.

11. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Chair Algreto announced the Autism Walk, that CB9 will sponsor, on Saturday, May 4th (rain day- May 18th, 2024). She encouraged all to attend and support this important event.

Kirpal Billing invited all to attend the Sikh Day Parade that will take place on Saturday, April 27th along 5th Avenue between 23rd & 37th Streets.

Joan DeCamp invited the Board Members to Kew Gardens' Church of Resurrection 150th Anniversary on Saturday, April 27th, 2024.

Sherry Algreto stated that DM McClelland and she attended the MediSys Health Network Cancer Center Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Monday, April 8th, 2024.

12. PUBLIC FORUM

Sol McCants III, Richmond Hill Resident, spoke about various issues/concerns.

Jacqueline DeRosa, President of Casa De Adoracion, spoke about the House of Worship located at 87-25 78th Street in Woodhaven.

Andrea Crawford made a motion to adjourn the meeting; J. R. Smith seconded it.

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson at 9:10 PM.