



COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 9

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

FEBRUARY 15, 2024 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)	Joan DeCamp	(0)(0)	Cristal Rivera	(3)(0)
Sherry Algreto	(0)(0)	Warlito DeLeon	(0)(0)	Regina Santoro	(1)(0)
Faiuze Ali	(0)(0)	Stephen Esposito	(2)(0)	Jarnail Singh	(3)(0)
Juan Batista II	(1)(0)	Stephen Forte	(0)(0)	Matthew Singh	(7)(1)
Dulal Bhattacharjee	(1)(0)	Albert Gamarra	(0)(0)	Raghbir Singh	(1)(0)
Kirpal Billing	(0)(0)	Daniel Grieve	(0)(0)	Victor Starsky	(1)(0)
Zoila Bofill	(1)(0)	Sylvia Hack	(0)(0)	J. Richard Smith	(0)(0)
John Carter	(0)(0)	Daniel Coffaro Hill	(3)(0)	Esta-Joy Sydell	(1)(0)
Daniel Chu	(2)(0)	Joseph Iaboni	(1)(1)	Andrew Taranto	(1)(0)
Andrea Crawford	(2)(0)	Carmela Isabella	(2)(0)	Seth Welins	(1)(0)
Ruben Cruz	(0)(0)	Nina Kulkarni	(0)(0)		
Marilyn Custodio	(1)(0)	Kevin O'Leary	(0)(0)		

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Marla Abarca	(8)(2)	Tiffanie Placeres	(3)(1)	Mohinder Singh	(5)(2)
Dilraj Batchu	(3)(1)	Rabbi Daniel Pollack	(4)(1)	Alexandria Sumpter-Delves	(2)(1)
Kamal Bhuiyan	(3)(1)	Sassy Ramoutar	(6)(1)	Marie Turley	(6)(2)
Sandra Datnarain	(4)(2)	Bernard Robert	(7)(2)		
Reaz Khan	(3)(1)	Mohamed Safie	(3)(1)		

ALSO PRESENT

James McClelland, District Manager
 Irina Barayeva, Community Associate

LEGISLATORS/REPRESENTATIVES, CITY AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

Council Member Lynn Schulman
 Assembly Member Jenifer Rajkumar, Viola Isufaj, Rep. Assembly Member Jenifer Rajkumar
 Senator Joe Addabbo, Raimondo Graziano, Rep. Senator Joe Addabbo
 Sara Castelli, Rep. Council Member Lynn Schulman
 Norris Johns, Public Advocate Jumaane Williams
 Ariella Davidov, Rep. Queens Borough President Donovan Richards
 Daiquan Llewellyn, Rep. Senator Leroy Comrie
 Nathaniel Hezekiah III, Rep. Congress Member Gregory Meeks
 Jonathan Betancourt, Rep. Congress Member Nidia Velazquez
 Sookranie Dhanpat, Rep. Mayor Eric Adams, CAU
 Linda Fogal, Rep. Council Member Joan Ariola
 Capt. Maldonado, Commanding Officer, 102nd Pct.
 Deputy Inspector Jeromy Kivlin. 102nd Pct.

1. OPENING OF MEETING AND READING OF MINUTES

Chair Algreto asked if there were any corrections/additions to December 19th, 2023 meeting minutes and motions. There were none. Stephen Esposito motioned to accept the minutes as presented, Andrea Crawford seconded the motion.

Motion #1: To accept December 19th, 2023 meeting minutes and motions as presented

Vote #1: 29 in favor, 4 abstentions and 1 not present

Chair Algreto asked if there were any corrections/additions to January 9th, 2024 meeting minutes. There were none. Stephen Esposito motioned to accept the minutes as presented, Esta-Joy Sydell seconded the motion.

Motion #2: To accept January 9th, 2024 meeting minutes as presented

Vote #2: 31 in favor, 2 abstentions and 1 not present

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

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

- Voted to adopt FY2025 Budget. A copy of the presentation is available upon request.
- A suggestion was made to increase funding for Community Boards as there has been no increase over five years.
- More funding is needed for the Summer Youth Employment Program.
- There was an increase in NYPD funding.

DM McClelland wished happy birthday to Faiuze Ali, Kirpal Billing, Stephen Forte, Rabbi Daniel Pollack, and Andrew Taranto.

Emails were sent to Board Members who are up for re-appointment as the deadline for Community Board Applications submission is Thursday, February 16th.

At the Queens Budget Hearings the DM emphasized the need for the elected officials to fight for funding for critical city services and highlighted many of CB9's expense priorities. DM McClelland and the Chair are planning to meet with each of CB9's Council Members to discuss Capital & Expense Budget priorities.

Working with the 102nd Precinct and DSNY, the DM was able to remove seventeen derelict vehicles from 89th Avenue near 127th Street. Additionally, an abandoned camper was removed from 116th Street which was parked in the same spot for over two years.

On February 28th, the DM will be participating in the BP's "Borough Hall on Your Block" event where the Borough President, staff and various agencies will be participating. The DM will bring up the following issues: homeless people in need of services, drug use, cleanliness and lighting issues at the Van Wyck, Jamaica, and Metropolitan Avenues Triangle (outside the MTA station) and the surge in the rat population.

3. PUBLIC HEARING

- **Gaming Facility Text Amendment** – no speakers
- **Woodhaven BID – "Wonderful Woodhaven Street Festival" October 6, 2024** – no speakers
- **Request for DOT Feasibility Study for:**
 - **Conversion of 85th Avenue to a one way eastbound from 102nd St to 110th St**
 - **Conversion of 86th Avenue to a one way westbound from 115th St to 102nd St**
 - **Conversion of 86th Avenue to a one way westbound from Woodhaven Blvd to 96th Street**

Kate Mooney, Jean Kearns, Patrick Kearns, John Lemma, John Pickle, Sol McCants, Richmond Hill Residents, spoke against the request for a DOT feasibility study for the above-mentioned conversions as, in their opinion, it would inevitably impact the environment in a negative way, would significantly increase number of car crashes, and for many other reasons.

Discussion ensued.

Joan DeCamp made a motion to vote against the conversions; Stephen Esposito seconded it.

Motion # 3: To oppose conversion of 85th Avenue to a one-way eastbound from 102nd Street to 110th Street, conversion of 86th Avenue to a one-way westbound from 115th Street to 102nd Street, conversion of 86th Avenue to a one-way westbound from Woodhaven Blvd. to 96th Street

Vote # 3: 26 in favor, 3 opposed, 4 abstentions and 1 not present

4. **Council Member Lynn Schulman** gave a presentation on Intro 1001-B that will prohibit owners of commercial premises from knowingly leasing a commercial premises to, or otherwise allowing the use of such premises by, unlicensed sellers of cigarettes, electronic cigarettes, tobacco products, or illicit cannabis.

Question and answer period followed.

5. **NYPD 102nd Pct. Briefing**

Deputy Inspector Kivlin addressed the board and reported on stats. He stated that crime is down 7.5% year to date.

There was an uptick in robberies for the last 28 days in the northern part of Ozone Park.

Deputy Inspector Kivlin, along with Commanding Officer Capt. Maldonado, will be helping the 103rd Pct. in removal of illegal scooters and mopeds off the streets.

Question and answer period followed.

6. **PUBLIC FORUM**

Raphael Schweizer, Bronx Resident, spoke about preservation of comic book shops in the city.

7. **Transportation & Traffic Committee Report – Faiuze Ali, Chair** reported the following:

- Queens Bus Redesign presentation. Feedback was requested from the bus riders.
- The citywide initiative, called Daylighting Intersections. Daylighting is a process of removing the parking spots closest to an intersection to increase visibility. The committee will send a letter to the Mayor stating that even though CB9 endorses the idea of public safety, removing that many spots is not good for mom-and-pop shops and local neighborhoods.
- Electric School Buses program - New York State's fiscal year 2022-2023 budget established a nation-leading commitment for all new school buses purchased to be zero emission by 2027 and all school buses in operation to be electric by 2035.

➤ **Woodhaven BID – “Wonderful Woodhaven Street Festival” October 6, 2024**

Committee Chair Ali stated that an application was submitted to the Mayor's Street Activity Permit Office for the Woodhaven BID “Wonderful Woodhaven Street Festival” to be held on Sunday, October 6th, 2024

Motion # 4: To send a letter of support for the WBID October 6th, 2024 Street Fair

Vote # 4: Unanimous

Assembly Member Jenifer Rajkumar addressed the board and spoke about the events she sponsored and the legislations that she introduced.

She congratulated Stephen Forte on becoming the new Democratic District Leader.

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

- **Resolution to support an allocation of 1% of the NYC Annual Budget for Parks Funding**

Motion # 5: To send a letter to support an allocation of 1% of the NYC Annual Budget for Parks Funding

Vote # 5: 33 in favor and 1 abstention

- **Resolution in support of Equity Park Reconstruction Plan**

Motion # 6: To send a letter in support of Equity Park Reconstruction Plan

Vote # 6: 33 in favor and 1 abstention

Regina Santoro reported on the meeting with Queens Parks Commissioner regarding the lighting issue at Victory Field, stating that they are awaiting the FDNY inspection results of diesel generators.

9. Land Use & Housing Committee Report – Sylvia Hack & Andrea Crawford, Co-Chairs

- **Gaming Facility Text Amendment - *this modification would allow a gaming facility licensed by the State and developed through a new State defined siting process to be developed without regard to any potential conflict with the Zoning resolution.***

Motion # 7: To support the Committee's Resolution in Opposition to the Gaming Facility Text Amendment

Vote # 7: 30 in favor, 1 opposed and 3 abstentions

Senator Joe Addabbo Jr. addressed the board and spoke about the gaming facility text amendment, illegal smoke shops and his new public safety bill called Drug Driving Bill.

10. Public Safety & Consumer Affairs Committee Report/Public Hearing (Letters of Intent Received) – Rabbi Daniel Pollack, Chair

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

Ricky Businezz Inc.
133-02 101st Avenue
Richmond Hill, NY 11419 *no speakers*

Motion # 8: To oppose On Premises Wine, Beer & Cider Application due to failure to submit the required paperwork.

Vote # 8: Unanimous

b. On Premises Liquor License Application – Renewal

El Gran Canario II Restaurant Inc.
111-17 Jamaica Avenue
Richmond Hill, NY 11418 *no speakers*

The SLA had approved this renewal application without Community Board's input.

The next Public Safety & Consumer Affairs Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 27th.

11. Cannabis Licenses – Discussion & Recommendations From CB9

A & P Dispensary Corp.
81-37 Lefferts Boulevard
Kew Gardens, NY 11415

Motion # 9: To oppose Cannabis License Retail Dispensary Application

Vote # 9: 33 in favor and 1 abstention

12. GREETINGS & UPDATES FROM ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

Linda Fogal, Rep. Council Member Joan Ariola, announced the upcoming events sponsored by the Council Member. She also stated that Council Member Ariola opposes the Department of City Planning's City of Yes current draft proposal and believes that it will destroy the character of the neighborhoods as we know them.

Nathaniel Hezekiah III, Rep. Congress Member Gregory Meeks, made an announcement regarding upcoming events and read a list of drugs that are currently in negotiations with insurance companies to reduce the cost.

Ariella Davidov, Rep. Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, made an announcement regarding upcoming events. She also stated that the deadline for Community Board Applications is tomorrow.

Jonathan Betancourt, Rep. Congress Member Nidia Velazquez, made an announcement regarding the programs that are being funded by the Congress Member.

Sookranie Dhanpat, Rep. CAU Mayor's Office, introduced herself and congratulated Kevin Morris on the birth of a baby boy Kevin Morris Jr.

13. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Joan DeCamp stated that the Q37 bus line was proposed to 24-hour service and the route will be extended to JFK.

Kirpal Biling thanked the District Manager for arranging an operation that helped in clearing the streets around 120th Street and Atlantic Avenue from cars with illegal license plates.

He also spoke about some events sponsored by CB9 in 2023 and gave a quick review of how the monies from the budget were spent.

14. PUBLIC FORUM

Richard Dono, Richmond Hill Block Association, expressed his disappointment regarding how the board addressed the issue of street conversions in Richmond Hill.

J. Richard Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Carmela Isabella seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson at 9:40 PM.