



COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 9

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

MAY 14, 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 2024-MARCH 2025

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

Inderpaul Ahluwalia	(0)(0)	Marilyn Custodio	(1)(1)	Rabbi Daniel Pollack	(0)(1)
Sherry Algreto	(0)(0)	Joan DeCamp	(0)(0)	Jonathan Rodriguez	(0)(0)
Faiuze Ali	(0)(0)	Warlito DeLeon	(0)(0)	Himmat Singh	(0)(0)
Kamal Bhuiyan	(1)(3)	Stephen Esposito	(1)(1)	Matthew Singh	(0)(1)
Dulal Bhattacharjee	(0)(1)	Stephen Forte	(0)(0)	Victor Starsky	(0)(1)
Kirpal Billing	(0)(0)	Albert Gamarra	(1)(1)	J. Richard Smith	(0)(0)
Visnoonand Bisram	(0)(0)	Daniel Grieve	(1)(1)	Alexandria Sumpter-Delves	(0)(0)
Zoila Bofill	(0)(0)	Sylvia Hack	(0)(0)	Esta-Joy Sydel	(0)(0)
John Carter	(0)(0)	Alicia Hassin	(1)(1)	Andrew Taranto	(0)(0)
Swapn Chakraborty	(0)(0)	Joseph Iaboni	(0)(1)	Seth Welins	(0)(0)
Rick Chetram	(0)(0)	Carmela Isabella	(0)(0)	Stacey Yearwood	(0)(0)
Daniel Chu	(0)(0)	Nina Kulkarni	(0)(0)		
Andrea Crawford	(0)(0)	Kevin O'Leary	(0)(0)		

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Juan Batista II	(2)(2)	Sassy Ramoutar	(2)(3)	Mohinder Singh	(2)(5)
Ruben Cruz	(2)(3)	Cristal Rivera	(1)(1)	Marie Turley	(2)(4)
Reaz Khan	(2)(4)	Mohamed Safie	(1)(2)	Raghibir Singh	(0)(1)
Christian Orellana	(2)(2)	Regina Santoro	(1)(1)		
Tiffanie Placeres	(2)(3)	Jarnail Singh	(2)(2)		

ALSO PRESENT

James McClelland, District Manager
Irina Barayeva, Community Associate

LEGISLATORS/REPRESENTATIVES, CITY AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

Ariella Davidov, Rep. Queens Borough President Donovan Richards
Linda Fogal, Rep. Council Member Joan Ariola
Ann Marie Costella, Rep. Senator Joe Addabbo
Daiquan Llewellyn, Rep. Senator Leroy Comrie
Max Leonardo, Rep. Council Member Lynn Schulman
Jonathan Betancourt, Rep. Congress Member Nidia Velazquez
Rokeya Akhtar, Rep. Queens District Attorney Melida Katz
Deputy Inspector Jeremy Kivlin, Commanding Officer, 102nd Pct.
PO Nick Salamone, 102nd Pct.

1. NYPD 102nd Pct. Briefing

Deputy Inspector Jeremy Kivlin, 102nd Pct. Commanding Officer, stated that crime is down 2.5% year to date in the Community Board 9 area:

- There is a spike in grand larceny auto.
- Quadruple shooting incident occurred two weeks ago at the catering hall on 108th Street and Atlantic Ave. The 102nd Pct. is very close to making several arrests of the perpetrators involved in the shooting.
- Ten illegal smoke shops in the CB9 area have been closed and twenty other locations are submitted for closing because the 102nd Pct. has been working closely with the Sheriff's office.

Question and answer period followed.

Chair Algreto wished Happy 7th Birthday to DI Kivlin's daughter. She also thanked the Deputy Inspector for securing several Police Officers for the Autism Awareness Walk on May 4th.

2. OPENING OF MEETING AND READING OF MINUTES

Chair Algreto asked if there were any corrections/additions to April 9th, 2024 meeting minutes and motions. There were none. Andrea Crawford motioned to accept the minutes as presented. Joe Iaboni seconded the motion.

Motion # 1: To adopt minutes as presented

Vote # 1: 30 in favor, 1 opposed and 6 abstentions

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

Chair Algreto thanked those board members who attended and helped during the Autism Awareness Walk. She expressed her gratitude to Senator Addabbo for co-sponsoring the event.

Chair Algreto reported on the Cannabis Dispensary Retail Application for Budega Queens Club, located at 130-04 Atlantic Ave. She stated that the applicant did receive a license to operate despite the fact that the board sent a letter of opposition.

Ms. Algreto gave a brief report on the events she attended stating that CB9 will be sponsoring many upcoming school events.

DM McClelland wished Happy Birthday to Zoila Bofill, Riaz Khan, Regina Santoro and Seth Welins. He reported on the following:

- Queens DMs met with SLA and OCM representatives at the last Borough Board meeting.
- Attended the annual Kew Gardens Civic Association meeting where he saw everyone in person and discussed issues.
- Started meeting with fellow DMs to prepare for FY 2026 budget consultations with city agencies.
- The District Service Cabinet Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 16th.

4. PUBLIC FORUM

Sol McCants III, Richmond Hill Resident, spoke about Work Shops and Business Opportunities government Program and how it can improve the community.

5. Guest Speaker

➤ Con Edison Small-Medium Business Program, Elissa Knight, Deputy Program Manager

Ms. Knight presented The Neighborhood Small Business & Nonprofit Energy Efficiency Program and spoke about energy rebates that are fit for Queens.

She explained the ways to get additional energy incentives through the Neighborhood Program on top of the

incentives from Con Edison's core energy efficiency programs.

Question and answer period followed.

Chair Algreto introduced the new Community Board 9 Chairs and Co-Chairs to the board.

6. Health & Social Services Committee Report – Carmela Isabella, Chair

Ms. Isabella reported on the Queens Breaking Ground Drop In Center expansion project at 102nd Street & Atlantic Avenue in Ozone Park. Currently, there are up to 16 clients per day that are being seen at the site. The case managers are helping unhoused people to get nutritious meals and other benefits. They are working with them towards accessing permanent housing.

After project completion (end of June), the capacity of the center will be 75 clients per day.

Ms. Isabella answered the board members' questions.

7. Transportation & Traffic Committee Report – Faiuze Ali, Chair

Mr. Ali reported on the following items that were discussed at the committee meeting:

- The Committee will compose a letter of recommendations regarding the Queens Bus Redesign Project.
- Congestion Pricing implementation is scheduled to go into effect soon. The committee is against it. The board will take a vote at the next meeting.

8. By-Law Committee Briefing – Stephen Forte, Chair

"The first meeting of the By-Laws committee was held on Monday, April 22nd. The plans for the committee were presented for future research and discussion.

When each of us was inducted onto this board, we received, among other things, a copy of the by-laws by which we operate. This was also re-sent to each member. The current by-laws were adopted on January 10, 2017. Since then, as you all know, our world has undergone some serious changes. COVID forced us to make do without the personal, physical contact that we previously enjoyed. Term limits for board members came into being as well as the Borough President having more control of who sits on the various community boards. Situations arose which hinted that the by-laws needed to be re-evaluated. For these reasons, and others, this committee has been tasked with the job of making sure that our by-laws are up-to-date and that all board members have a clear understanding of their duties and responsibilities.

Basic responsibilities and requirements for all board members:

- Read and understand the bylaws. If you have misplaced your copy, please notify the office and they will send you another.
- For all meetings, both board and committee, you will not be considered present unless you attend the full meeting (Article IV).
- All votes must be in person by you, not by your appointed proxy.
- You are not permitted to speak for or on behalf of the board unless first authorized to do so by the Chairperson. This includes mentioning that you are on the board when speaking publicly.

General Operating Items:

- The Chairperson will create the agenda for board meetings.
- No one shall approach any outside agencies or organizations for board business without prior approval from the Chairperson. This is important for several reasons. With over 50 board members, everyone cannot operate autonomously. If they do, it will create conflicts and overlaps and make the board appear unorganized. Our board should always appear to be working as a team. All requests for such contact must go through the Chairperson, whose decision is final.

- If you are making a request through the district manager, please copy the Chair. It is his/her job to ensure that no conflicts exist and that such actions are not in conflict with the city charter.
- These are just a few of the many things the committee will be exploring. We will attempt to modify wording that may be ambiguous or confusing to reduce any possible misinterpretation. If you see something in the by-laws that seems confusing or that you feel needs attention, please let the committee know via e-mail through the Chairperson.
- During meetings, protocol will be observed according to the current version of Robert's Rules of Order. For example, if you want to speak, you must raise your hand and be recognized by the Chair.
- At ZOOM meetings, you must show yourself, not a still photo or background or just a name. If there is some legitimate reason why you cannot do this, please contact the Chair in advance of the meeting and she will decide concerning your participation method.
- We will also be looking at the by-laws from other community boards to see if they have provisions which might benefit our board.

Any items of importance concerning the by-laws will be communicated to you at future meetings."

9. Budget & Finance Committee Overall Financial Update – Kirpal Billing, Chair

Mr. Billing gave an overall update on the office's spending and current budget balance. He also stated that CB9 will be co-sponsoring many upcoming events in public schools and the National Night Against Crime annual event.

Mr. Billing asked the board members for their contributions to the Good and Welfare fund.

Chair Algreto recognized legislative representatives and asked them for quick updates.

10. Public Safety & Consumer Affairs Committee Report/Public Hearing (Letters of Intent Received) Albert Gamarra, Chair

a. On Premises Liquor License Application – New

La Nueva Barrica Corp.
79-17 Atlantic Avenue
Woodhaven, NY 11421 *No speakers*

Motion # 2: To oppose the new on premises liquor license application
Vote # 2: 34 in favor and 2 opposed

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

Deja Brew Café Inc.
102-10 Jamaica Avenue
Richmond Hill, NY 11418

Heather Rodriguez spoke on behalf of the applicant.

Motion # 3: Not to oppose the new on premises wine, beer & cider license application
Vote # 3: 33 in favor, 2 opposed and 2 abstentions

Ricos Nachos Inc., d/b/a Fabian Lopez Garcia
91-81 111th Street
Richmond Hill, NY 11419

This application has been withdrawn.

c. On Premises Liquor License Application – Renewal

Overtime Bar & Lounge, d/b/a C Bar & Lounge
87-22 Lefferts Boulevard
Richmond Hill, NY 11418

d. Corporate Change

Restaurant De Marina Inc., d/b/a La Cabana Restaurant & Bar
102-24 Jamaica Avenue
Richmond Hill, NY 11418

The next Public Safety & Consumer Affairs Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 28th, 2024 at 6:30 PM.

11. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Faiuze Ali raised the issue of the increasing number of illegal vendors popping up in the streets and the ways of enforcement.

Joan DeCamp stated that a copy of CB9's By Laws can be obtained from CB9 website.

John Carter spoke about the newspaper article on Rikers Island.

Matthew Singh reminded all about the Small Business Resource Fair taking place on Thursday, May 16th, 12:30 – 2:30 PM at the Helen Marshall Cultural Center.

Victor Starsky spoke against the City of Yes Housing Opportunity initiative.

Chair Algreto announced CB9's Public Hearing on the City of Yes Housing Opportunity initiative taking place on Wednesday, May 22nd.

Carmela Isabella invited all to the Forest Park Carousel's 100th Anniversary Party on Saturday, June 16th.

12. PUBLIC FORUM

No speakers

13. Executive Session – Staff Raises

Joe Iaboni made a motion to go into the executive session, Andrea Crawford seconded it.

Motion # 4: To approve the 8.5% merit increase to DM James McClelland
Vote # 4: Unanimous

Motion # 5: To approve the 8.5% merit increase to Irina Barayeva
Vote # 5: Unanimous

Motion # 6: To approve the full-time position for Leela Venketachalam
Vote # 6: Unanimous

Andrea Crawford made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Inderpaul Ahluwalia seconded it.

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson at 9:18 PM.