



COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 9

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

JUNE 10, 2025, 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 2025-MARCH 2026

2nd # Represents Absences as of January-December 2025 (Borough President's Attendance)

Inderpaul Ahluwalia	(0)(0)	Warlito DeLeon	(0)(0)	Philip Ross	(0)(0)
Sherry Algreto	(0)(0)	Hilary Dvorkin	(1)(1)	Regina Santoro	(2)(2)
Dulal Bhattacharjee	(0)(0)	Stephen Esposito	(1)(1)	Himmat Singh	(0)(0)
Kirpal Billing	(0)(0)	Stephen Forte	(0)(0)	Jarnail Singh	(1)(1)
Visnoonand Bisram	(1)(1)	Vanessa Fuentes	(0)(0)	Matthew Singh	(0)(0)
Zoila Bofill	(0)(0)	Albert Gamarra	(0)(0)	Raghibir Singh	(0)(0)
Maricela Cano	(0)(0)	Daniel Grieve	(0)(0)	J. Richard Smith	(0)(0)
John Carter	(0)(0)	Sylvia Hack	(0)(0)	Esta-Joy Sydel	(0)(0)
Swapan Chakraborty	(1)(1)	Joseph Iaboni	(0)(0)	Andrew Taranto	(0)(0)
Rick Chetram	(0)(0)	Kevin O'Leary	(0)(0)	Alyssa Velez	(1)(1)
Daniel Chu	(0)(0)	Rabbi Daniel Pollack	(0)(0)	Keith Villanueva	(0)(0)
Rev. Ruben Cruz	(1)(1)	Ijazz Rahim	(1)(1)	Seth Welins	(1)(1)
Marilyn Custodio	(1)(1)	Cristal Rivera	(0)(0)	Stacey Yearwood	(0)(0)
Joan DeCamp	(0)(0)	Jonathan Rodriguez	(0)(0)		

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Faiuze Ali	(2)(2)	Carmela Isabella	(1)(1)	Harpreet Toor	(1)(1)
Andrea Crawford	(2)(2)	Fahovi Noman	(3)(3)		
Alicia Hassin	(1)(1)	Mohinder Singh	(1)(1)		

ALSO PRESENT

James McClelland, District Manager
Irina Barayeva, Community Associate

LEGISLATORS/REPRESENTATIVES, CITY AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

Council Member Lynn Schulman
Council Member Joan Ariola
Chris Carlin, Rep. Council Member Lynn Schulman
Ann Marie Costella, Rep. Senator Joe Addabbo
Nathaniel Hezekiah, Rep. Congress Member Gregory Meeks
Anna Sargeant, Rep. Assembly Member Jenifer Rajkumar
Clare Collins, Rep. Queens Borough President Donovan Richards
Rokeya Akhter, Rep. Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz

Capt. Maldonado, CO 102nd Precinct
Ehtashan Khan, XO 102nd Precinct
P.O. Adelman, 102nd Precinct

District Manager McClelland presented Ms. Linda Fogal - a former board member and representative of Council Member Joann Ariola - with the CB 9 Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of her retirement.

1. Opening of Meeting and Reading of Minutes

Chair Algreto asked if there were any corrections/additions to May 13th, 2025, minutes and motions. There were none. Stephen Esposito motioned to accept the minutes as presented. Regina Santoro seconded the motion.

Motion # 1: To adopt minutes as presented

Vote # 1: 35 in favor and 6 abstentions

2. Chairperson's Remarks & Exec. Report–Sherry Algreto, District Manager's Report–James McClelland

Mr. McClelland wished a happy birthday to Inderpaul Ahluwalia, Visnoonand Bisram, Joan DeCamp, Alicia Hassin, Joe Iaboni and Kevin O'Leary.

He stated that the budget consultations with the city agencies are over. They'll be moving into the phase of formulating questions for each agency—there are approximately 14 in total. This process will likely take place sometime in September or October. DM McClelland will keep the board members updated as they get closer to that stage.

The office will continue to operate throughout the summer. If there are any issues or need for assistance, these should be forwarded to the office staff and the District Manager.

Chair Algreto congratulated all the graduating classes of 2025 including her daughter, who graduated high school and received a plaque for her work on the mock trial team.

She also spoke about the recent Autism and Developmental Disability Walk and thanked all the board members who showed up and participated. Chair Algreto thanked Senator Addabbo, Council Member Schulman, Assembly Member Weprin and Congress Member Velazquez for their participation and support.

Chair Algreto requested the board give authority to the Public Safety and Consumer Affairs Committee to process and approve the liquor license renewal applications during summer months.

Motion # 2: To authorize the Public Safety & Consumer Affairs Committee to review and approve liquor license renewal applications during the summer months.

Vote # 2: 40 in favor and 1 opposed

Chair Algreto congratulated District Manager McClelland and Irina Barayeva on receiving a 10% salary increase.

She also noted that, with this raise, Ms. Barayeva is now eligible for a title promotion to Community Coordinator.

Stephen Esposito made a motion to give Irina Barayeva a title promotion to Community Coordinator. Joan DeCamp seconded the motion.

Motion # 3: To promote Irina Barayeva to the position of Community Coordinator

Vote # 3: Unanimous

Chair Algreto wished all a safe, happy, and restful summer.

Council Member Lynn Schulman

CM Schulman Stated that she will be passing along relevant information regarding the Mayor's Charter Revision Commission. There is a proposal currently being developed by the Charter Revision Commission, formed by the mayor, that would shift land use authority (often referred to as ULURP) away from community boards and City Council members and concentrate it in the mayor's office. If enacted, this would give the mayor direct influence over decisions currently made at the community and Council levels.

Conical Member Schulman also stated that she will be providing more information on the new legislation introduced by her colleague to establish term limits for District Managers across all Community Boards.

Question and answer period followed.

Council Member Joan Ariola addressed the board and spoke on the following:

Governance and Term Limits

- Echoed Council Member Schulman's criticism of term limits for district managers and community board members. Called term limits on these positions "egregious," noting how hard it is to recruit people to serve.

Public Safety & Quality of Life

- Thanked Captain Maldonado and her team for their quick response to:
 - Derelict vehicle complaints
 - Illegal street vendors, particularly on Jamaica Avenue
- Mentioned collaboration with Chief McIntosh and appreciation for former Chief Williams.

Freedom Drive Incident

- Addressed the incident near Victory Field.
- Praised DA and NYPD for a quick arrest.
- Urged for the Freedom Drive to be re-opened and regularly patrolled.

Cannabis Shops Regulation

- Noted a rise in both legal and illegal cannabis shops.
- Asked the public to report illegal ones; her office collaborates with NYPD and sheriff.
- Introduced legislation to restrict legal cannabis shop hours to 9:30 AM – 9:30 PM to reduce disturbances.

Subway Safety

- Supported Assemblymember Williams' bill requiring fire extinguishers on subway cars after a woman was burned in a horrific incident.
- Highlighted the lack of station attendants and security as a safety concern.

Police Department Support

- Addressed recruitment crisis in NYPD — only 1,000 cadets in a class that used to have 5,000.
- Proposed incentive bonuses for joining and staying in NYPD, similar to bonuses for lifeguards and other city employees.
- Announced 1,000 new NYPD vehicles through Public Safety Committee and Commissioner Jessica Tisch.

Illegal Vehicles

- Supports bills by Assemblymember Rajkumar and Councilmember Holden:
 - Require licensing and insurance for mopeds and scooters.
 - Introduced a city bill to ban ATVs, calling them unsafe and inappropriate for city roads.

3. Public Forum

David Kupferberg, NYC Resident – spoke about MTA’s Queens Bus Network Redesign Phase 1 and Phase 2 Implementation (testimony submitted).

Sol McCants, Richmond Hill Resident – spoke about illegal immigration, bail reform, etc., (testimony submitted).

4. 102nd Precinct Briefing

All-Out Program

- Last year, 30 officers were pulled from the precinct to patrol the beaches during summer.
- Awaiting updated numbers this year.

Crime Overview

- Overall crime trends: last month has been positive with lower crime rates. Primary concern: Property crimes, especially Grand Larceny Auto (GLA).
 - Thieves use technology to open and start cars using reprogrammed key fobs.
 - Officers face challenges: if a car opens and starts without visible damage, it’s hard to justify a stop.
 - Tips for residents:
 - Use Air Tags in cars.
 - Don’t leave key fobs near the front door.
 - Use steering wheel locks (V-locks).

Victory Field Incident

- Referring to: Attack on an 11-year-old girl. The father intervened, and the arrest was made quickly. The offender had no serious criminal or mental health history, making it difficult to predict.

Freedom Drive Access

- NYPD supports opening Freedom Drive:
 - It would allow better patrol access.
 - Civilians could also report or intervene more quickly.

- Historical traffic data shows very few accidents, indicating it is not a traffic hazard.

Leadership Introduction

- New Executive Officer of the 102nd Precinct: Captain Ehtashan Khan.
 - Background in narcotics and SWAT.
 - Focused on logistics and “fixing problems” in the precinct.

Question and answer period followed.

5. Guest Speaker – NYC OEM Pre-Heat Season Presentation – *Milagros Savoca, CERT Volunteer*

Presentation highlights:

What to Do Before Extreme Heat

Know the Signs of Heat Illness:

Heat stroke occurs when the body's temperature rises quickly, which can lead to death. Call 911 or go to an emergency room if you or someone you know has the following symptoms:

- Hot, dry skin
- Confusion, hallucinations, and disorientation
- Loss of consciousness or being unresponsive
- Nausea or vomiting
- Trouble breathing
- Fast, strong pulse
- Weaknesses
- Dizziness

People suffering from heat exhaustion need to get to a cool place, remove extra clothes and drink lots of water. Symptoms to look for:

- Heavy sweating
- Cold, clammy skin
- Muscle cramps
- Lightheadedness or feeling faint
- Headache
- Decreased energy
- Loss of appetite or nausea

Understand Your Risk and Make A Plan

- Talk with your doctor about your risk to extreme heat.
- Air conditioning is the best way to stay safe during extreme heat.
- If you do not have air conditioning, plan to visit a family, friend, or neighbor's home or find a free public place such as a coffee shop, mall, or public atrium you can spend time in during the day that has air conditioning.
- Extreme heat can cause power outages. Plan for what you need to do if your power goes out at our Utility Disruptions page. Have supplies on hand. Notify your utility provider immediately.
- Ask your utility company whether your medical equipment qualifies you to be listed as a life-sustaining equipment customer (LSE). For those who rely on electric-powered medical equipment at home (e.g., respirators, dialysis machines, apnea monitors), please register with your utility provider so you can be contacted in the event of an emergency.

6. Land Use & Housing Committee Report – Sylvia Hack & Andrew Taranto, Co-Chairs

The Land Use Committee met via Zoom on Wednesday, June 4 and discussed a new affordable housing development planned for 129-19 Metropolitan Avenue. The proposal is for an eight-story, mixed-use affordable housing project. It is being developed under a new City of Yes provision called the **Universal Affordability Preference**, which allows a 20% density bonus for certain affordable housing projects. While the committee and the board do not have a formal role in reviewing this application, we were advised of it by the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD). This is the first project submitted under this new provision.

Additionally, as Council Member Shulman mentioned, the Mayor's Office - through the Charter Revision Commission - is proposing changes that would limit the ability of community boards and Council Members to weigh in on new applications. Co-chairs Hack and Taranto are monitoring this closely. A meeting is scheduled with the City Council Land Use Division.

Presentation by David Tannis, Resort World Casino

Workforce Housing Investment:

Resource World NYC recently announced a major investment in 50,000 workforce housing units across New York City. This initiative is in partnership with labor organizations, aiming to support union workers. The project represents the largest private investment in workforce housing in NYC history, with an estimated total of \$500 million over several years.

Casino Licensing Update:

Mr. Tannis reminded the board about the ongoing process for downstate casino licenses. The submission deadline for casino license applications is June 27. Following submissions, an advisory committee will be established to review applications. License award announcements are expected by December 2025. He emphasized that, barring delays, the process is moving toward completion.

7. Parks, Recreation & Environment Committee Report – Stacey Yearwood, Chair

The Committee met via Zoom on Wednesday, May 21st via Zoom.

1. Queens DEP Commissioner Alfonso Lopez gave Flood 101 Presentation.
 - Major takeaway: Sewers are the first line of defense against flooding.
 - Residents are encouraged to file 311 complaints for DEP-related issues such as clogged catch basins or flooding.
 - For unresolved issues, follow-up can be made by emailing queensdep@nyc.gov.
2. Forest Park Safety Discussion:
 - In response to the recent abduction and assault of an 11-year-old in Forest Park, the committee discussed reopening Freedom Drive and holding a joint press conference with the Public Safety Committee and Council Member Arreola's office.
 - Councilmember Areola's team is expected to discuss the issue further with the Department of Transportation (DOT).
 - The committee will act based on the outcome of those discussions.
3. Curbside Composting Program:
 - A letter was circulated encouraging voluntary participation in the curbside composting program in its current form.
 - The CC to the DSNY Commissioner was accidentally omitted from the submission.
 - Feedback from board members is welcome.

- New Parks Commissioner: Iris Rodriguez-Rosa has been appointed as the new NYC Parks Commissioner; she is a Queens native.
- The committee looks forward to collaborating with her.
- Committee Chair expressed sincere appreciation to Board members, especially those offering support and insights on Parks-related matters.
- Special thanks were extended to former Chairs J. Richard Smith and Regina Santoro, and District Manager James McClellan for their mentorship during the leadership transition.
- Wished all fathers and father figures a Happy Father's Day.
- As there is no July meeting, members were encouraged to enjoy National Parks and Recreation Month with their families and friends.

8. Transportation & Traffic Committee Report – Stephen Forte, Chair

MTA F & M Train Service Changes :

- The committee Chair attended an MTA presentation on upcoming F and M train service adjustments.
- The presentation has not yet been received from the MTA; it will be shared with the Board once available.
- Key points discussed:
 - F and M trains will be rerouted from Queens Plaza to Lower Manhattan.
 - The changes involve bypassing certain local stations, using alternative tracks to improve efficiency, especially during rush hours and weekends.
 - Some stations will see slightly faster service (about 1 minute faster) while others may experience delays of about 1 minute.
- Public Outreach:
 - The MTA plans outreach this fall, including flyers, announcements, and on-site personnel at affected stations.
 - Implementation is scheduled for late 2025.

Letters for Board Review and Vote:

Letter #1: Support for Council Legislation Intro 606 (Priscilla's Law)

- Council Member Bob Holden requested support for Intro 606, which proposes registration and licensing for e-bikes and scooters.
- The Board voted to support the bill with modifications:
 - Require both insurance and operator licensing.
 - Mandate safety features such as lights, reflective vests, and helmets.
 - Include penalties like those applied to motor vehicles, including DUI laws.

Motion # 4: To send a letter of support for Council Legislation Intro 606 (Priscilla's Law)

Vote # 4: 39 in favor and 1 opposed

Letter #2: Opposition to Queens Bus Network Redesign Bus Stop elimination.

- The Board expressed strong opposition to the planned bus stop eliminations under the MTA's Queens Bus Network Redesign:

- Distance between stops would increase by 25% to 30% - from 800 feet to 1,150 feet.
- Concerns raised for vulnerable populations: seniors, people with disabilities, parents with young children, and others with limited mobility.
- The letter urges reconsideration of stop removals and prioritization of riders' needs over operational efficiencies.

Motion # 5: To send a letter opposing bus stops elimination

Vote # 5: 36 in favor and 4 opposed

Letter #3: Opposition to Commercial Electric Scooter Service

- The Board raised concerns about electric scooter programs:
 - Safety risks for both riders and pedestrians.
 - Scooters are frequently left blocking sidewalks, driveways, and lawns.

Motion # 6: To send a letter of opposition to Commercial Electric Scooter Service

Vote # 6: 38 in favor and 2 opposed

Ann Marie Costella, Rep. Senator Joe Addabbo gave the following updates:

- The Senator has had several bills passed recently in the Senate, particularly focused on veterans.
- A bill establishing a real property tax exemption for veterans with serious medical disabilities.
- A legislation creating an alternative resolution program for veterans and service members charged with certain felonies, recognizing the impact of military-related trauma.

In addition, there's legislation related to law enforcement and first responders:

- Senator Addabbo and his colleagues secured key pension reforms for law enforcement and firefighters across the state.
- NYPD detectives, sergeants, and lieutenants will now have pension parity with officers, captains, and higher ranks.
- The Senate also delivered a 20-year retirement plan for Tier 3 NYPD officers—this was a top priority for the NYC PBA.

Clare Collins, Rep. Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, wished all a great summer.

Anna Sargeant, Rep. Assembly Member Jenifer Rajkumar, reported on a few updates :

This week, a bill was passed for equal pensions for equal work - specifically for traffic enforcement agents so they can now receive their pensions the same way NYPD officers do. This is a huge step forward for fairness.

Also, today in Albany, a rally will be held to support our bill known as the Penance Law, which would criminalize the reckless handling of dogs. Assembly Member's office is gaining a lot of co-sponsors, and it's very exciting to see growing momentum for this important legislation to help protect both pets and communities.

She wished everyone a Happy Pride and Happy Father's Day this summer. And while we all know how important it is to stay hydrated, she also reminded all—it's just as important to wear sunscreen.

Ms. Sargeant stated that it's been almost a year since she joined the Assemblywoman's staff. She looks forward to seeing everyone again in September.

Rokeya Akhter, Rep. Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz, reported on the following:

The DA's office works closely with the NYPD. So far in 2024, 1,029 illegal scooters were seized and just this year alone, over 100 of them were taken off the streets.

Eviction proceedings against 38 illegal smoke shops were initiated. Since July 2024, 275 shops have been padlocked in Queens by the Sheriff's Office and the NYPD joined Task Force.

Nathaniel Hezekiah, Rep. Congress Member Gregory Meeks

Stated that the flyers are available for upcoming events sponsored by Congress Member Meeks.

Thanked Chair Algreto and everyone who helped to organize last weekend's autism event. It was an incredible event.

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

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

13115 Singh Corp.
131-15 Jamaica Avenue
Richmond Hill, NY 11418 *No Speakers*

Motion # 7: Not to oppose the new On Premises Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider License Application
Vote # 7 : Unanimous

Embajada Restaurant Inc.
84-21 Jamaica Avenue
Woodhaven, NY 11421 *No Speakers*

Motion # 8: Not to oppose the new On Premises Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider License Application
Vote # 8: Unanimous

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

La Casa del Mariachi Corp.
116-03 Metropolitan Avenue
Richmond Hill, NY 11418 *No Speakers*

Serie 56 Sport Bar Inc.
94-10 Jamaica Avenue
Woodhaven, NY 11421 *No Speakers*

Tu Casa Restaurant Corp.
D/b/a Tu Casa
119-05 Metropolitan Avenue
Kew Gardens, NY 11415 *No Speakers*

RT Hospitality Group LLC
D/b/a Atlantis
93-10 Woodhaven Boulevard
Woodhaven, NY 11421 *No Speakers*

La Obeja Negra Corp.
105-05 Jamaica Avenue
Richmond Hill, NY 11418 *No Speakers*

c. TLC License Renewal Application

Four Ones Car Service
127-01 Metropolitan Avenue
Kew Gardens, NY 11415 *No speakers*

Letters of **no opposition** to the above renewal applications will be sent to the SLA and TLC.

The next Public Safety & Consumer Affairs Committee Zoom meeting is TBD.

10. Old/New Business

Kirpal Billing gave Budget and Expenses Report:

The Good and Welfare Fund, which is reserved specifically for expressing sympathy, condolences, or appreciation to members during important times, currently holds approximately \$750. Please note that no public money is used for this purpose; the fund is maintained entirely through member contributions.”

11. PUBLIC FORUM *no speakers*

Rabbi Pollack made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Joe laboni seconded it.

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