



# COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 9

Queens Borough Hall  
120-55 Queens Boulevard, Room 310-A  
Kew Gardens, NY 11424

(718) 286-2686  
Fax (718) 286-2685

Email: [qn09@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:qn09@cb.nyc.gov)

Website: [www.nyc.gov/queenscb9](http://www.nyc.gov/queenscb9)

Facebook: [@communityboard9](https://www.facebook.com/communityboard9)

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

## MARCH 11, 2025, MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING QUEENS BOROUGH HALL, ROOM 200, 120-55 QUEENS BOULEVARD, KEW GARDENS, NY 11424

### BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

ABSENCES AS OF APRIL 2024-MARCH 2025

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

Inderpaul Ahluwalia	(1)(1)	Joan DeCamp	(0)(0)	Cristal Rivera	(3)(3)
Sherry Algreto	(0)(0)	Stephen Esposito	(2)(2)	Jonathan Rodriguez	(4)(4)
Faiuze Ali	(2)(2)	Stephen Forte	(2)(2)	Regina Santoro	(1)(1)
Kirpal Billing	(2)(2)	Albert Gamarra	(1)(1)	Jarnail Singh	(4)(4)
Visnoonand Bisram	(2)(2)	Daniel Grieve	(1)(1)	Matthew Singh	(5)(6)
Zoila Bofill	(0)(0)	Sylvia Hack	(0)(0)	Mohinder Singh	(4)(7)
John Carter	(2)(2)	Alicia Hassin	(2)(2)	Raghibir Singh	(2)(3)
Swapan Chakraborty	(0)(0)	Joseph Iaboni	(1)(2)	J. Richard Smith	(2)(2)
Rick Chetram	(1)(1)	Carmela Isabella	(2)(2)	Andrew Taranto	(2)(2)
Daniel Chu	(1)(1)	Nina Kulkarni	(4)(4)	Seth Welins	(0)(0)
Andrea Crawford	(3)(3)	Kevin O'Leary	(0)(0)	Stacey Yearwood	(0)(0)
Ruben Cruz	(2)(3)	Rabbi Daniel Pollack	(2)(3)		
Marilyn Custodio	(2)(2)	Sassy Ramoutar	(7)(8)		

### BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Dulal Bhattacharjee	(1)(2)	Mohamed Safie	(9)(10)	Esta-Joy Sydel	(4)(4)
Warlito DeLeon	(2)(2)	Himmat Singh	(3)(3)		

### ALSO PRESENT

James McClelland, District Manager  
Irina Barayeva, Community Associate

### LEGISLATORS/REPRESENTATIVES, CITY AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

Kevin McAleer, Rep. Council Member Lynn Schulman  
Rokeya Akhtar, Rep. Queens District Attorney Melida Katz  
Anthony Lemma, Rep. Assembly Member David Weprin  
Michael Carlier, Rep. Queens Borough President Donovan Richards  
Anna Sargeant, Rep. Assembly Member Jenifer Rajkumar  
Ann Marie Costella, Rep. Senator Joe Addabbo  
Nathaniel Hezekiah, Rep. Congress Member Gregory Meeks  
Linda Fogal, Rep. Council Member Joan Ariola  
Daquin Llewellyn, Rep. Senator Leroy Comrie  
Johnathan Betancourt, Rep. Congress Member Nydia Velazquez

## **1. 102<sup>nd</sup> Precinct Briefing**

Captain Maldonado, the new commanding officer of the 102<sup>nd</sup> Pct., addressed the board.

She stated that crime has decreased by 37% over the last 28 days.

Numerous summonses were issued on Park Lane South corridor since it was reported on at the February meeting.

A formal request was sent to the DOT to synchronize the traffic light on Abingdon Road with the next traffic light.

Question and answer period followed.

## **2. Opening of Meeting and Reading of Minutes**

Chair Algreto asked if there were any corrections/additions to February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025, minutes and motions. There were none. Steven Esposito motioned to accept the minutes as presented. Andrea Crawford seconded the motion.

**Motion # 1:** To adopt minutes as presented

**Vote # 1:** 32 in favor and 5 abstentions

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

Chair Algreto recognized Mr. Michael Carlier, Director of Queens Community Boards. She also provided a brief recap of the issues discussed at the Borough Board meeting.

District Manager McClelland's report:

- Wished happy birthday to Chair Algreto, Sylvia Hack, Sassy Ramoutar, Himmat Singh and J.R. Smith.
- With the warm weather approaching, outreach effort for the homeless are being planned in coordination with the Department of Homeless Services, the Department of Social Services and Breaking Ground.
- He thanked PS 99 Principal for helping to resolve the issue of the security light that was affecting residents across the street.
- The next District Cabinet meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup>.

## **4. Election of Officers**

Mr. Michael Carlier, Director of Queens Community Boards, oversaw the elections.

By Law Committee Chair Forte explained the election procedures and accepted nominations for the Chair.

Seth Welins nominated Sherry Algreto; Kevin O'Leary seconded it.

Sherry Algreto ran unopposed.

Vote: 34 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstention and 1 not present.

Sherry Algreto is re-elected Chairperson.

Andrea Crawford nominated Andrew Taranto for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair, J. Richard Smith seconded it.

Visnoonand Bisram nominated Faiuze Ali for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair; Ruben Cruz seconded it.

Vote: 28 for Andrew Taranto and 9 for Faiuze Ali.

Andrew Taranto is elected 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairperson.

Seth Welins nominated Alexandria Sumpter-Delves for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair; Albert Gamarra seconded it.

Regina Santoro nominated Cristal Rivera for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair; Andrea Crawford seconded it.

Cristal Rivera ran unopposed. Vote – unanimous.

Cristal Rivera is elected 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairperson.

Sylia Hack nominated John Carter for Treasurer; he declined the nomination.

Chair Algreto nominated Kirpal Billing for Treasurer, Ragbir Singh seconded it.

Kirpal Billing ran unopposed. Vote – unanimous.

Kirpal Billing is re-elected Treasurer.

Mr. Michael Carlier, Director of Queens Community Boards, congratulated the newly appointed officers and answered board members' questions.

## **5. Public Forum**

Karen Espinosa, Queens Resident, congratulated Chair Algreto on her re-election and wished her all the best.

Sol McCants III, Richmond Hill Resident, talked about the inefficiency of the education system in NYC (testimony submitted).

## **6. Education & Youth Committee Report – Seth Welins, Chair, reported on the following:**

- The meeting with DDC and QPL which took place on February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025: Richmond Hil branch library is scheduled to start construction during the first quarter of 2026. The cost is now \$18 million. The original cost in 2016 was \$5 million.  
No swing space will be offered during the 3-year closure. QPL will provide 1 double-size trailer. QPL will investigate the possibility of 2 double-sized trailers.  
Woodhaven Library Renovation: There was a renovation a few years ago. The library is now slated for a major renovation that will cost \$26 million. This project includes a swing space. As of this date, no timeline for the start of construction was offered.
- There is great concern about the effects of a 50% reduction in DOE personnel on our title one schools and students. A serious loss of funding is anticipated, especially for students with special needs.
- According to 2021 IRS 990 tax forms, Success Academy charter schools have received tens of millions of dollars in contributions. Management was paid nearly \$64 million. \$5.7 million was spent on promotion and advertising; \$13.6 million was spent on technology. Charter schools are considered public schools that receive the same funding as traditional public schools but are privately managed and largely not required to follow many regulations of the State schools.

Rokeya Akhtar, Rep. Queens DA Melinda Katz, spoke about scams and financial exploitations targeting senior citizens.

She stated that if someone has been a victim of this scam, they can contact Queens DA's Elder Fraud Unit at 718-286-6578.

Anthony Lemma, Rep. Assembly Member David Weprin, stated that AM Weprin was able to secure an \$8M donation for Jamaica Hospital's Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

He also spoke about funding for the Public and Charter schools in the city.

Kevin McAleer, Rep. Council Member Lynn Schulman, invited all to participate in Local Law 97 Info Session on Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-7 PM via Zoom.

He also encouraged all to get involved in this year's Participatory Budgeting Process.

#### **7. Economic & Community Development Committee Report – Matthew Singh, Chair**

Mr. Singh stated that at the last committee meeting they discussed the state of the business community since January. There has been some anxiety regarding employees, so they created a document outlining immigrant constitutional rights, which they have been circulating.

Anna Sargeant, Rep. Assembly Member Jenifer Rajkumar, stated the following:

- Assembly Member passed a bill that would help disabled veterans get employment.
- AM Rajkumar is hosting a rally in the city and in Albany to support a state bill that would regulate e-bikes while making drivers more accountable after collisions.

Michael Carlier, Rep. Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, introduced himself and congratulated the newly elected officers.

He also made announcements regarding upcoming events sponsored by QBP Richards.

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

Mr. Taranto stated that the committee will be participating in DDC's workshop for the design of a Queens-based jail facility. It will take place on Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at Helen Marshall Cultural Center. The board members are encouraged to email their questions to the board office.

Ann Marie Costella, Rep. Senator Joe Addabbo, stated that NYS Senate has passed Addabbo's bill-legislation that enhances transparency and consumer protection by requiring gas and electric corporations to notify customers at least forty-five days before any increase in service rates or charges.

Nathaniel Hezekiah, Rep. Congress Member Gregory Meeks, reported on the issue with the Post Office that he helped DM McClelland to resolve.

He also made the following announcement: beginning May 7, 2025, the US Department of Homeland Security will require all American Travelers to present a Real ID to board a domestic flight or enter military bases and certain federal facilities. To get a Real ID, applicants **must** apply in person at the DMV.

#### **9. Transportation & Traffic Committee Report – Faiuze Ale, Chair** reported on the following:

- Legalization of e-bikes, scooters and bicycles with electric assist
- Spacing of bus sheds
- Queens Bus Redesign Project update

Linda Fogal, Rep. Council Member Joan Ariola, reported on the following:

- The City Council passed Ariola's Int. 1126-A, a bill what would require the Department of Sanitation, or other administering agency as designated by the mayor, to distribute official NYC waste bins to owners of eligible buildings.
- A Night at The Opera event, sponsored by the Council Members, will take place on Thursday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM at Russo's on the Bay. Call 718-738-1038 to register for the event.

Daquin Llewellyn, Rep. Senator Leroy Comrie, spoke about the bills that the Senator is working on. He stated that the Senator is co-sponsoring a bill that will provide protection for students on campuses.

**10. 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**

O Grove Tavern Corp.  
88-09 Jamaica Avenue  
Woodhaven, NY 11421                      *No speakers*

**Motion # 2:** To oppose On Premises Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider License Application

**Vote # 2:** Unanimous

La Obeja Negra II Corp.  
115-15 Jamaica Avenue  
Richmond Hill, NY 11418                      *No speakers*

**Motion # 3:** To oppose On Premises Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider License Application

**Vote # 3:** Unanimous

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

Limnos Corp.  
81-74 Lefferts Boulevard  
Kew Gardens, NY 11415                      *No speakers*

**Motion # 4:** To support new On Premises Wine, Beer & Cider License application

**Vote # 4:** Unanimous

**c. On Premises Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider License Application - Renewal**

Karp Hill Inc., d/b/a Last Call  
81-72 Lefferts Boulevard  
Kew Gardens, NY 11415                      *No speakers*

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

9010 Atlantic Inc.  
90-10 Atlantic Avenue  
Ozone Park, NY 11416                      *No speakers*

**e. Method of Operation/Class Change Application**

8522 Jamaica Avenue Corp., d/b/a Pop's Restaurant  
85-22 Jamaica Avenue  
Woodhaven, NY 11421                      *No speakers*

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

The next Public Safety & Consumer Affairs Committee Zoom meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

#### **11. Old/New Business**

Chair Algreto stressed the importance of attending the committee meetings.

She asked the board to give Nina Kulkarni, a fellow board member, a round of applause for her service, as she did not reapply for membership.

Regina Santoro gave a brief recap on the Cannabis Committee meeting stating that they questioned the applicant who is applying to open a new dispensary at 82-66 Austin Street.

Comments from the public should be emailed to [qn09@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:qn09@cb.nyc.gov) within 30 days before the committee and the board takes a vote.

Rabbi Pollack gave clarifications on the changes that the DOE will be facing on a federal level.

Ruben Cruz asked the board members to recognize him as Reverend Cruz.

#### **12. PUBLIC FORUM**

*no speakers*

Andrea Crawford made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Rabbi Pollack seconded it.

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson at 9:31 PM.