



# 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 13, 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 2025-MARCH 2026

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

Inderpaul Ahluwalia	(0)(0)	Stephen Forte	(0)(0)	Philip Ross	(0)(0)
Sherry Algreto	(0)(0)	Vanessa Fuentes	(0)(0)	Himmat Singh	(0)(0)
Dulal Bhattacharjee	(0)(0)	Albert Gamarra	(0)(0)	Jarnail Singh	(1)(1)
Kirpal Billing	(0)(0)	Daniel Grieve	(0)(0)	Matthew Singh	(0)(0)
Zoila Bofill	(0)(0)	Sylvia Hack	(0)(0)	Mohinder Singh	(0)(0)
Maricela Cano	(0)(0)	Alicia Hassin	(0)(0)	Raghibir Singh	(0)(0)
John Carter	(0)(0)	Joseph Iaboni	(0)(0)	J. Richard Smith	(0)(0)
Rick Chetram	(0)(0)	Carmela Isabella	(0)(0)	Esta-Joy Sydel	(0)(0)
Daniel Chu	(0)(0)	Kevin O'Leary	(0)(0)	Andrew Taranto	(0)(0)
Joan DeCamp	(0)(0)	Rabbi Daniel Pollack	(0)(0)	Harpreet Toor	(0)(0)
Warlito DeLeon	(0)(0)	Ijazz Rahim	(1)(1)	Alyssa Velez	(1)(1)
Hilary Dvorkin	(1)(1)	Cristal Rivera	(0)(0)	Keith Villanueva	(0)(0)
Stephen Esposito	(1)(1)	Jonathan Rodriguez	(0)(0)	Stacey Yearwood	(0)(0)

### BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Faiuze Ali	(1)(1)	Andrea Crawford	(1)(1)	Fahovi Noman	(2)(2)
Visnoonand Bisram	(1)(1)	Rev. Ruben Cruz	(1)(1)	Regina Santoro	(2)(2)
Swapan Chakraborty	(1)(1)	Marilyn Custodio	(1)(1)	Seth Welins	(1)(1)

### ALSO PRESENT

James McClelland, District Manager  
Irina Barayeva, Community Associate

### LEGISLATORS/REPRESENTATIVES, CITY AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

Council Member Lynn Schulman  
Seth Urbinder, Rep. Council Member Lynn Schulman  
Max Leonardo, Rep. Council Member Lynn Schulman  
Ann Marie Costella, Rep. Senator Joe Addabbo  
Max Rose, Rep. Congress Member Gregory Meeks  
Anna Sargeant, Rep. Assembly Member Jenifer Rajkumar  
Shubhra Datta, Rep. Queens Borough President Donovan Richards  
Daquin Llewellyn, Rep. Senator Leroy Comrie  
Kaz Daughtry, Deputy Mayor

Sgt. Carpio, 102<sup>nd</sup> Precinct  
P.O. Adelman, 102<sup>nd</sup> Precinct  
P.O. Salamone, 102<sup>nd</sup> Precinct  
P.O. Singh, 102<sup>nd</sup> Precinct

## 1. Opening of Meeting and Reading of Minutes

Chair Algreto asked if there were any corrections/additions to April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025, minutes and motions. There were none. Sylvia Hack motioned to accept the minutes as presented. J. Richard Smith seconded the motion.

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

**Vote # 1:** 34 in favor and 5 abstentions

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

Chair Algreto recognized **Council Member Lynn Schulman** who addressed the board and spoke about the following:

“The results of participatory budgeting this week: for the second year in a row, all the winning projects are in Richmond Hill. This is largely thanks to the strong participation of local schools. I want to especially thank Sherry, who has done an incredible job gathering votes. As you know, there are many needs in this part of the district, so this support really makes a difference.

The winning proposals are:

- A gym renovation at Richmond Hill High School.
- Renovation of the auditorium for the High School of Construction Trades, Engineering and Architecture.
- A new hydroponic lab at PS 66.

The city budget: the mayor unveiled his executive budget, some key services—such as libraries—were baselined. However, the City Council is advocating for additional funding.

Executive budget hearings are happening this month. As Chair of the Health Committee, I'll be holding our hearing on May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10 a.m. If anyone is interested, you're welcome to watch it online or attend in person and testify. We're aiming to increase funding in critical areas.

One reason the budget process hasn't progressed further is because the state budget was only recently passed, and our finance team is still assessing its impact on the city budget. Additionally, we're monitoring the potential for federal funding cuts. For example, the federal government has already withdrawn \$100 million from the NYC Department of Health. That's why, during the executive budget hearings, we're asking agencies: What are your expectations regarding funding reductions, and how do you plan to respond.

I have a special presentation tonight. In honor of Women's History Month this past March, we held a “Women of Distinction” contest and invited community nominations. I'm thrilled to recognize our honorees this evening.

The honorees are Crystal Rivera and Sherry Algreto.”

The Council member answered board members questions.

**Phyllis Inzirillo, Rep. Council Member Joan Ariola** addressed the board and spoke on the following: National Law Enforcement Week - The Council Member and staff extends its gratitude to the 102<sup>nd</sup> Precinct and the NYPD for their continued service to our communities. Today, breakfast and lunch were delivered to

the 102<sup>nd</sup> Precinct, as well as to PAPA, a peer organization that provides officers with support and access to services they may need.

Composting - fines for mandatory composting have been suspended for residential homes, and the Council Member has introduced legislation to make the program voluntary. Her concern is that residents were required to purchase garbage bins before the composting program was fully implemented — bins which may now remain largely unused, as 80% of household waste would be composted.

Regarding garbage bins, new legislation was passed to make regular trash bins **free for all residents**. Households eligible for STAR or Enhanced STAR will be provided with one free bin. We're currently waiting for details on how the city plans to roll out this program. If you've already purchased a bin, you will be eligible for reimbursement for one standard trash bin. Note that recycling and compost bins were not mandatory.

Constituents who choose to compost can use any bin that is 55 gallons or smaller, if it is clearly labeled **compost** so that DSNY can identify it properly.

The bin reimbursement program is expected to begin around August, and we're still waiting for guidance from the Mayor's Office and DSNY regarding the reimbursement process.

There is an ongoing issue of illegal street vending on Jamaica Avenue. The Council Member has been in discussions with both the DSNY and NYPD and has introduced legislation to better define vendor legality. Some vendors may have licenses, but they're operating illegally within 20 feet of storefronts, which is not permitted.

The Council Member attended DSNY's meeting yesterday and raised two key concerns: street vending and median/lot cleaning. Last year, medians were severely overgrown before being addressed. While we fund extra cleanup services through organizations like CEO and ACE—which employ formerly incarcerated individuals — the DSNY has the necessary heavy equipment to handle larger jobs. We met with the Commissioner to emphasize the need for these services to be restored and fully funded.

The Council Member is also actively working on the FDNY budget. As Chair of the Committee on Fire and Emergency Management, she has requested an additional \$1 billion in funding. Many fire department vehicles are no longer roadworthy, and essential gear needs to be replaced to ensure both firefighters and public safety. We are also grateful to the Queens Borough President, who recently allocated \$3.5M for critical FDNY vehicle needs.

The office continues to receive multiple daily complaints about the road conditions on Forest Park Drive. The Council Member provided DOT with the necessary funds to repave the stretch from Park Lane South to Myrtle Avenue this fiscal year, with plans to address the remainder in the next cycle. DOT will transfer the funds to the Parks Department, and paving will take place during the upcoming season.

The next Tax Lien sale is on May 20. If you have unpaid property taxes, water/sewer bills, or other charges, your property may be included in the sale. This does not mean foreclosure, but your debt can be sold to a third party, which could eventually lead to foreclosure if unresolved. If you've received a letter and are unsure what it means, contact our office—we can confidentially check your address and help you work with the Department of Finance.

Regarding Smoke Shops - we're constantly adding illegal shops to the Sheriff's closure list. The process requires multiple visits and undercover investigations, so while it may take a few months, the shops are eventually shut down. Constituents' reports help to build those cases.

With regards to cannabis dispensaries, the Council Member understands community concerns and has introduced legislation to restrict operating hours to any 10-hour window between 9:30 a.m. and 9:30 p.m. This has bipartisan support and reflects a practical, balanced approach.

In support of Assemblymember Williams' bill, the Council Member introduced local legislation requiring fire extinguishers in all MTA stations. Currently, none exist—posing a serious safety risk, as seen in the recent tragic incident where a woman was set on fire. While there were initial concerns about extinguishers being misused, the bill includes a security measure: removing a fire extinguisher would trigger an alarm to alert MTA staff.

**Kaz Daugherty, Deputy Mayor for Public Safety**, spoke about the following:

"I heard some questions earlier regarding corrections and the issue of Federal Receivership. The Department of Correction reports directly to me. As for the recent judicial order, we're still reviewing it carefully. It's important to note that many of the issues being addressed predate this administration by nearly a decade. We'll be releasing an official response tomorrow.

On the topic of smoke shops, I want to touch on the role of the Sheriff's Office. I believe Assembly Member Jennifer Rajkumar introduced the Smoke Out Act, which empowered the Sheriff's Office, alongside the NYPD, to shut down illegal smoke shops. So far, we've conducted over 17,000 inspections and closed more than 3,000 shops — possibly closer to 4,000. We're nearing the one-year mark since many of these closures, which means some of those shops are eligible to reopen.

If these shops reopen and continue to sell illegal cannabis or unlicensed products, we will shut them down again — and they'll remain closed for another year.

I've visited some of the areas where shops were closed, including Times Square. Out of 14 shops there, only one remains. The rest have been replaced by legitimate businesses—like Carvel and Dunkin' Donuts. That shows you how serious we are about reclaiming our neighborhoods.

Regarding the issue of retail theft, specifically of people walking into stores and stealing products without consequence, we're testing new technology that alerts store staff when known repeat offenders enter. It's not fair for honest customers to have to wait for staff to unlock everyday items like toothpaste and deodorant. I visited a store on Northern Boulevard where every aisle had locked cases. At the front of the store, near the register, half the products had to be stored there because of theft. This is not sustainable.

Thankfully, the Queens District Attorney has been a phenomenal partner and is aggressively prosecuting repeat offenders. We'd like to see more consistent action from other districts as well.

We're also rolling out a new technology called FUSUS. It allows precinct officers and detectives to view real-time security footage from participating stores. We've piloted it in a few locations, and so far, it's been highly effective.

As Deputy Mayor for Public Safety, it's my responsibility to ensure that every agency is delivering the services New Yorkers deserve. No one should be waiting 45 minutes for a 911 response. I don't want to hear that precincts are understaffed—that's not an excuse. When someone calls 911, they should get help immediately.

On staffing, we currently have over 21 vacancies across our public safety agencies. That's why I'm hosting public safety hiring events—our next one will be in Bayside. If you have children in high school or college, let them know there are opportunities in the Parks Department, FDNY, and more. There are plenty of jobs available that young people can take advantage of—some paying \$17 an hour."

Question and answer period followed.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair, Andrew Taranto, reported on behalf of Chair Algreto stating the following:

At the Borough Board meeting on May 5<sup>th</sup> at Borough Hall, one of the main presentations was from Borough

Commissioner Nicole Garcia of DOT, who spoke about the Dining Out NYC program. This is the city's permanent outdoor dining initiative now managed by DOT.

Commissioner Garcia reviewed the key requirements for applicants like frontage, clearance, materials, and more. Visit [diningoutnyc.info](http://diningoutnyc.info) for all details.

As of May 13<sup>th</sup>, CB9 had no applicants under the new outdoor dining rules.

There was also a presentation from FDNY on lithium-ion battery safety. It was a good reminder: if you've got a lithium-ion battery at home, it should not be charging while you're away as this is incredibly dangerous.

#### **District Manager James McClelland's report:**

- He wished happy birthday to Zoila Bofill, Regina Santoro, and Seth Welins.
- Stated that he attended the annual Kew Gardens Civic Association meeting where many local issues were discussed.
- Thanked Senator Addabbo for coordinating a meeting with various city agencies (NYPD, DSNY, DSS, DHS) to address homelessness in the district.
- Regarding the Austin Street underpass: thanked Council Member Schulman for facilitating graffiti removal, and to DSNY for the cleanup. However, a homeless individual with personal belongings remains at the site.
- A boat and trailer were finally removed from 89<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 123<sup>rd</sup> Street. Thanked NYPD and DSNY for their assistance.
- Conducted a site visit with Senator Addabbo's office and DOT to review signage, traffic-calming measures on Babbage and Bessemer, and the pedestrian ramp project.
- Began a meeting with fellow District Managers to prepare for FY 2027 budget consultations with city agencies.
- The next District Service Cabinet Meeting is scheduled for May 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **3. Public Forum**

#### Mike Patino, Woodhaven Resident

Mr. Patino stated that a new neighbor moved into the neighborhood. Since then, they've been hosting large, unsolicited parties that are publicly promoted on Facebook to a group of around 700 people. These events include volleyball tournaments and loud parties where attendees often become intoxicated and behave violently.

The entire community is extremely upset and concerned. The address of the house is **80-14 90<sup>th</sup> Road**. Events have been taking place every Saturday for the past month, starting around 1 p.m. and continuing until 11 p.m. The entire neighborhood is suffering, and we need help.

### **4. 102<sup>nd</sup> Precinct Briefing**

Sgt. Carpio, the NCO Sergeant of the 102<sup>nd</sup> Precinct, addressed the board:

- As we approach the summer, we typically see an increase in quality-of-life complaints like illegal

parking, loud music, public drinking, and activity along Jamaica Avenue and other major corridors.

The good news is we already have a lot of chronic 311 complaints logged from past years, which helps us proactively target hotspots. 311 continues to be an important tool, but if you ever call and feel your issue wasn't addressed properly you can always contact the 102<sup>nd</sup> Precinct directly.

- **Crime Update:** for the current 28-day period, we've seen a slight uptick in Grand Larceny Auto (GLA), which includes thefts of tires and rims. You may have seen news coverage about a major arrest in the 106th Precinct involving stolen Hondas. That was a citywide investigation that also affected our precinct and others across the borough. While I can't confirm if the GLAs in our precinct are directly related to that ring, it's clear that this issue has been widespread.
- **Quality-of-Life Issues & Smoke Shops:** there's also an increase in smoke shop-related complaints. If you see a bodega that's suddenly operating like a smoke shop, especially without signage, please notify the Precinct. We're monitoring these businesses actively. Community Affairs, Crime Prevention, and NCOs are all conducting surveys and inspections in each sector. Sometimes we also run underage operations with auxiliary officers to check for illegal sales.
- **Jamaica Avenue Deployment:** the officer availability decreases in summer, but we do have active foot patrols deployed on Jamaica Avenue, especially around 85<sup>th</sup> Street and other high-crime areas. These are areas with historically higher crime rates, and we are assigning officers from the FTO (Field Training Officer) program there as well.
- **NCO Team & Community Coordination:** If you live in the 102<sup>nd</sup> Pct., you should have contact information for your assigned NCO. We are divided into four sectors: Adam, Boyd, Charles, and David.

Your NCOs are your go-to contacts for:

- Abandoned vehicles
- Illegal garages
- ATVs and dirt bikes stored on property

These are hot topics, especially with ride-outs. We're monitoring garages like the one at 82-10 Atlantic Avenue, where we've seen setups. NCOs have been monitoring in real time.

Social media for event planning are also monitored. If you come across event promotions or concerning posts, send them to the precinct. You can email, call, or speak to the NCO directly.

Question and answer period followed.

## **5. MTA's Queens Bus Network Redesign Implementation Presentation- *Cate Contino, Director, Government & Community Relations & Ryan Wilkenson, Planner, Queens Bus Network Redesign***

### Queens Bus Network Redesign – Project Overview

We're overhauling the entire Queens bus system — every route, stop, and schedule — to better reflect how people live and travel today. This is a response to shifting population patterns, job locations, and declining ridership and reliability. Our goal is to make the bus service faster, more reliable and useful for current riders and to attract new ones.

This is the result of a six-year planning process that included multiple drafts, over 250 public outreach events, and nearly 20,000 public comments. After the plan was approved by the MTA Board in January, we entered the implementation phase, which is happening this summer in two parts:

- Phase 1: June 29 – Two-thirds of the new routes roll out, including the Q54, Q55, Q112, and express route QM21.
- Phase 2: August 31 – Remaining changes take effect, including the rest of the local routes like the Q7–Q11, Q24, Q37, Q52, Q56, Q60, and the new Q80 (Q10 Limited), as well as QM15 and QM18 express changes.

Key changes include:

- A new all-day frequent network, providing buses every 10 minutes or better to 124,000 more residents.
- Nearly 70,000 more people will live within walking distance of the overnight bus service.
- Hundreds of bus stop changes to speed up trips and improve connections.
- Introduction of new and renamed routes, including Rush Routes, which combine local and limited-stop service to get riders to subways more quickly.

The MTA is coordinating closely with NYC DOT to update bus stop signage. Even if new signs appear early, riders should follow current service until the official change dates.

Resources to Learn More:

- Route Lookup Tool on the MTA website to see what's changing for each route.
- Future Trip Planner (at [futuretrips.mta.info](https://futuretrips.mta.info)) to preview how your trip will look after August 31.
- MTA app and BusTime remain the best sources for real-time info between phases.

This is a major step forward for bus riders in Queens, and we're excited to deliver it this summer.

Question and answer period followed.

## **6. Economic & Community Development Committee Report – Rick Chetram, Chair**

Mr. Chetram thanked the board members for supporting CB9's recent Restaurant Night at Spolini's on Metropolitan Avenue, which was a great success. The owner shared with the board that it was the most customers he's had in one seating since the COVID pandemic.

Mr. Chetram thanked Chair Algreto for kicking off this initiative.

The Economic and Community Development Committee will continue organizing these gatherings moving forward. If anyone has suggestions for the next outing, please contact a member of the committee.

A special thank-you to Senator Comrie—not only for joining the board and sharing a meal, but also for presenting certificates to Spolini's in recognition of their service.

The board had held events in Kew Gardens and Richmond Hill. If anyone has any ideas for what neighborhood should be highlighted next, please let the board know.

Attended a meeting of the Richmond Hill Emergency Association on April 28. Mr. Rohan Narayan, the organizer for CHAYA, a housing and economic development organization, was also present. CHAYA successfully secured funding for local merchants, primarily in Community District 10. However, this round of funding did not include businesses north of Liberty Avenue, which affects CB9.

Council Member Lynn Schulman should be included in future meetings, so that businesses in the CB9 district are not left out again. James and the Chair will be working with the Committee to ensure her office is involved moving forward. Our committee can do a walk-through of the area to assess the economic hardships faced by businesses. Using this information, a stronger case can be made to CHAYA to provide support.

The committee Chair plans to involve the Queens Chamber of Commerce and SBS in this outreach effort to ensure businesses receive the help they need.

## **7. Education & Youth Services Committee Report – Cristal Rivera & Jonathan Rodriguez, Co-Chairs**

Cristal Rivera stated that at the committee meeting on April 14<sup>th</sup> Richmond Hill Library issues were discussed, specifically, the ongoing delays, the project timeline, and the long-standing concerns surrounding it. The committee had a thorough conversation about the historical challenges this project has faced.

She thanked Mr. James Mongeluso from the Comptroller's Office for joining the meeting. He followed up with a great deal of helpful information. Notably, \$18,147,000 has been allocated for the project, but none of that funding has been spent to date. This funding remains available through 2029.

Under DM McClelland's leadership, the Committee has decided to organize a rally at the library to raise awareness. Many in the community, including key stakeholders, are still unaware of what's going on. The rally aims to build momentum, highlight the urgency of the situation, and demand answers.

The date for the rally is still to be determined, but the committee is targeting sometime in June. More information will be shared soon, and the committee members look forward to CB9's support in rallying the community.

Lastly, Committee Chair Rivera extended her sincere thanks to Council Member Shulman for her support of participatory budgeting. The winning projects this cycle were all school-related—and all in Richmond Hill. They are grateful for this significant investment in the students.

Jonathan Rodriguez stated that the Autism Walk will be held on May 31<sup>st</sup>. The flyers will be distributed to local schools to encourage them to join.

Starting this summer and continuing into the fall, the Committee will be working closely with PTAs and parent liaisons at the local schools. The goal is to better understand what's happening on the ground and explore how Community Board 9 can support and partner with the schools in meaningful ways.

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

Mr. Forte asked the board members to review the following three letters from the committee. A vote will be taken at the next general board meeting:

- Queens Bus Network Redesign – Bus Stop Consolidation: this letter concerns a recent presentation on the Queens Bus Network Redesign, specifically the removal of certain bus stops and the increased spacing between stops. Members are encouraged to contact the office as soon as possible if they believe any points have been omitted or if they have suggestions for improvements.
- Support for Council Member Bob Holden's E-Bike & Scooter Legislation (Intro 606 – Priscilla's Law): this letter expresses support for Intro 606, a City Council bill inspired by Priscilla's Law. This legislation would require registration and license plates for e-bikes and scooters. While the committee supports the bill, the draft letter proposes additional provisions, such as:
  - Licensing requirements for operators
  - Mandatory liability insurance to protect pedestrians in case of accidents
- Opposition to Unregulated Public Scooters (Blue/Green Scooters): the third letter addresses concerns over the appearance of blue or green rental scooters, which have started appearing at the periphery of CB9 district and in neighboring areas. Concerns include:
  - Safety risks to both riders and pedestrians
  - Property rights issues, as scooters are often left in inappropriate locations
  - General public nuisance and lack of regulation



Mr. Forte asked the board members to submit suggestions so they can be reviewed and potentially incorporated before the final vote.

If there are other transportation-related issues that the committee should consider, please reach out. The committee will work together with the community on these matters, and community input is vital.

Stephen Forte, Chair of By-Laws Committee, read procedural guidance to the board members (copy is available upon request).

**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**

Puerto Plata Fish Market, Inc.  
D/b/a Puerto Plata Seafood Restaurant & Billard  
75-16 Rockaway Boulevard  
Woodhaven, NY 11421

Arelia Tavares, representative and Rudy Liriano, restaurant owner, spoke about this establishment and answered board members' questions.

**Motion # 2:** To oppose the new On Premises Liquor License Application

**Vote # 2:** 9 in favor, 27 opposed, 2 abstentions and 1 not present

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

8260 Austin Street Corp.  
D/b/a Austin Steak & Ale House  
82-60 Austin Street  
Kew Gardens, NY 11415 *No speakers*

Chrome 101 Inc.  
96-03 101<sup>st</sup> Avenue  
Ozone Park, NY 11416 *No speakers*

Don Kew Inc.  
D/b/a The Hangar Bar & Grill  
119-11/13 Metropolitan Avenue  
Kew Gardens, NY 11415 *No speakers*

Geordies Joint, Inc.  
79-19 Jamaica Avenue  
Woodhaven, NY 11421 *No speakers*

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

M&F Restaurant Corp., d/b/a Spolini's  
116-25 Metropolitan Avenue  
Kew Gardens, NY 11418 *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, May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Ann Marie Costella, Rep. Senator Joe Addabbo

Stated that the Senate passed a landmark Bill supporting disabled veterans' access to affordable housing. The Homeland Security and Military Affairs Committee proudly announced the passage of Senate Bill S. 6274, a landmark piece of legislation co-sponsored by Senator Joseph Addabbo. This bill provides housing preferences for veterans with service-related disabilities under the Affordable Home Ownership Development Program.

Fittingly, the bill was passed on Korean War Veterans Day in Albany—a day set aside to honor the courage and sacrifice of our nation's heroes.

Senator Addabbo also extends warm wishes to all, offering a belated Happy Mother's Day and wishing everyone a safe and meaningful Memorial Day as we remember those who gave their lives in service to our country.

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

The office is deeply committed to quality-of-life issues. They are always working to stay connected to the community so they can understand the pulse of what matters to them.

The Assembly Member has been working on a piece of legislation called Penny's Law. It aims to hold dog owners accountable when their dogs attack other dogs, people, or cats. Right now, the laws are unclear about when it comes to the types of violent incidents that can occur and the varying levels of owner negligence. This bill seeks to establish a clear system of accountability and ensure that victims - both human and animal - can seek fair legal recourse. It's about safety, responsibility, and protecting the well-being of our families and our pets.

Shubhra Datta, Rep. Queens Borough President Donovan Richards

Stated that he posted flyers about upcoming events.

Mentioned that Richmond Hill High School is celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In support of that milestone, the Borough President has committed \$2.25 million in capital projects for the school. That is a major investment for our district, and a lot of improvements will be coming soon.

## **10. Cannabis Committee Report – Stephen Forte, Committee Member**

### **On Premises Retail Dispensary – New**

Bay Bridge East  
95-31 Jamaica Avenue  
Woodhaven, NY 11421

Michael Daniels, business representative, gave a brief introduction and answered board members' questions.

**Motion # 3:** To oppose the new On Premises Retail Dispensary Application  
**Vote # 3:** 34 in favor, 3 opposed, 1 abstention and 1 not present

Anniery Holguin  
D/b/a Annie, Miguel, & Sons  
86-22 Jamaica Avenue  
Woodhaven, NY 11421

**Motion # 4:** To oppose the new On Premises Retail Dispensary Application  
**Vote # 4:** 38 in favor and 1 not present

## 11. Old/New Business

Kirpal Billing gave Budget and Expenses Report:

“Over the past two months, there has been no significant expenditure. The only exceptions are our sponsorship of several programs supporting the education system, including housing and other essential needs for students.

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.”

Daquin Llewellyn, Rep. Senator Leroy Comrie

Legislative Update: Senator has had 18 bills passed, with 4 already signed into law, which is a significant achievement for the district and community.

Two key bills worth highlighting:

Senate Bill S-4204 – This bill establishes a Community Advisory Committee for the Port Authority. The Port Authority has undertaken numerous projects that often move forward without sufficient community awareness or input. To address this, Senator Comrie’s legislation ensures that community members will have a seat at the table—participating directly in discussions and decisions related to future Port Authority projects. This is a critical step toward transparency and community engagement.

Senate Bill S-7230 – This bill is focused on supporting residents with utility affordability. It aims to require utility companies to offer lower payment agreements and to automatically apply reductions for those facing financial hardship—including individuals in escrow or dealing with other documented challenges. The bill pushes for stronger protections and relief mechanisms for households struggling with utility costs.

Max Rose, Rep. Congress Member Gregory Meeks

Social Security Identity Verification Update

The Social Security Administration has announced new identity proofing requirements to enhance the security of its services and protect sensitive personal information.

- Effective April 14, 2025, SSA implemented stronger identity verification procedures.
- These changes are particularly important for individuals applying for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), Medicare, or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) who are unable to use a personal My Social Security online account.
- Under the new policy, eligible individuals can now complete their claims entirely by phone, without needing to visit an office in person. This initiative is part of SSA’s broader effort to ensure more secure and accessible services for all Americans.

Congress Member Meeks' Action to Protect Medicaid and SNAP - Congressman has taken action to safeguard vital support programs by signing a discharge petition demanding an up-or-down vote in the House on the Hands-Off Medicaid and SNAP Act.

Jonathan Betancourt, Rep. Congress Member Nydia Velazquez

The Congress Member attended the Community Resource Fair at PS 97. During the visit, she shared serious concerns about the President's proposed budget, which includes sweeping cuts to essential federal agencies - including HUD, the SBA, and the Department of Education.

Most alarming is the proposed \$12 billion cut to the Department of Education, which includes a \$4.5 billion reduction in Title 1 funding. For context, PS 97 alone receives approximately \$315,000 in Title 1 support - funding now at risk. Rest assured, the Congresswoman will vote against any bill that threatens Medicaid, SNAP, Title 1, or other critical programs our community depends on.

After ongoing complaints and strong advocacy from the Woodhaven Residents' Block Association, the office submitted a formal request to USPS to replace the outdated collection time stickers on all public mailboxes in Woodhaven. Confirmation was received that the USPS will begin installation soon.

**12. PUBLIC FORUM** *no speakers*

**13. Executive Session**

Stephen Esposito made a motion to go into executive session. EJ Sydell seconded the motion.

**14. Vote on Stuff Merit Increases**

**Motion # 5:** To give a 10% increase to James McClelland and Irina Barayeva  
**Vote # 5:** 38 in favor and 1 not present

J. R. Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Kirpal Billing seconded it.

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson at 9:43 PM.