

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

Website: www.nyc.gov/queenscb9

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

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

JANUARY 13, 2026, 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)	Stephen Forte	(1)(1)	Himmat Singh	(0)(0)
Sherry Algreto	(1)(1)	Albert Gamarra	(2)(2)	Jarnail Singh	(2)(2)
Dulal Bhattacharjee	(1)(1)	Daniel Grieve	(0)(0)	Matthew Singh	(2)(2)
Kirpal Billing	(1)(1)	Sylvia Hack	(0)(0)	Mohinder Singh	(4)(4)
Zoila Bofill	(1)(1)	Alicia Hassin	(2)(2)	Raghbir Singh	(0)(0)
Rick Chetram	(1)(1)	Joseph Iaboni	(0)(0)	J. Richard Smith	(1)(1)
Daniel Chu	(1)(1)	Carmela Isabella	(2)(2)	Andrew Taranto	(0)(0)
Andrea Crawford	(3)(3)	Fahlovi Noman	(3)(3)	Harpreet Toor	(2)(2)
Rev. Ruben Cruz	(2)(2)	Kevin O'Leary	(0)(0)	Alyssa Velez	(2)(2)
Marilyn Custodio	(2)(2)	Rabbi Daniel Pollack	(3)(3)	Keith Villanueva	(0)(0)
Joan DeCamp	(1)(1)	Ijaaz Rahim	(1)(1)	Seth Welins	(0)(0)
Hilary Dvorkin	(2)(2)	Cristal Rivera	(1)(1)	Stacey Yearwood	(0)(0)
Stephen Esposito	(3)(3)	Regina Santoro	(1)(1)		

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Faiuze Ali	(3)(3)	John Carter	(2)(2)	Vanessa Fuentes	(1)(1)
Visnoonand Bisram	(3)(3)	Swapan Chakraborty	(3)(3)	Philip Ross	(1)(1)
Maricela Cano	(2)(2)	Warlito DeLeon	(2)(2)	Esta-Joy Sydell	(1)(1)

ALSO PRESENT

James McClelland, District Manager
Irina Barayeva, Community Coordinator

LEGISLATORS/REPRESENTATIVES, CITY AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

Max Leonardo, Rep. Council Member Lynn Schulman
Ann Marie Costella, Rep. Senator Joe Addabbo
Anthony Lemma, Rep. Assembly Member Davis Weprin
Vanessa DiNando, Rep. Assembly Member Davis Weprin
Melissa Thomas, Rep. Council Member Joan Ariola
Rokeya Akhtar, Rep. Queens District Attorney Melida Katz
PO Dimazo, 102nd Pct.
Capt., Galane, 102nd Pct.
Max Rose, Rep. Congress Member Gregory Meeks
Clare Collins, Rep. Queens Borough President Donovan Richards
Carlos Plaza, Rep. Assembly Member Jenifer Rajkumar
Frederice Latchman, Rep. Senator Comrie
Jonathan Bethancourt, Rep. Congress Member Nydia Velazquez

1. Opening of Meeting & Reading of Minutes

Chair Algreto asked if there were any corrections/additions to the December 9th, 2025, meeting minutes. There were none.

Steven Esposito motioned to accept the minutes as presented. Alyssa Velez seconded the motion.

Motion # 1: To adopt minutes as presented

Vote # 1: 26 in favor and 12 abstentions

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

Chair Algreto expressed her gratitude to everyone for the phone calls, messages, flowers, and support following the passing of her mother.

The Chair asked to take a moment of silence in honor of the teenager who lost his life in an incident on Jamaica Avenue and 78th Street in Woodhaven.

Chairperson acknowledged CB9's Health and Education committee Chairs stating that they were very instrumental in working with her, DM McClelland and several other board members for the recent Toy Drive. Over 500 toys were collected and donated to children at Jamaica Hospital.

Chair Algreto also addressed the topic of term limits stating that the additional two years were granted to certain board members. DM McClelland explained that the purpose of this adjustment was to stagger appointments so that the board does not lose many members at the same time. Members appointed in odd-numbered years were granted additional time, with the first round of term limits ending in 2027.

Ms. Algreto stated that she sought clarification from the Borough President's office and was informed that this approach has been agreed upon across all five boroughs. The intent is to preserve continuity and institutional knowledge. While this has understandably caused some concern, the decision was based solely on appointment dates and not on individuals.

DM McClelland extended birthday wishes to Maricela Cano, Stephen Esposito, Crystal Rivera, and Irina Barayeva.

It was announced that Community Board member applications are due by February 13. A list of board members required to reapply - generally those appointed in an odd-numbered year—will be confirmed with the Borough President's office and shared directly with affected members.

The District Manager also reported that on February 2, he will testify before the City Council and the Borough President's office regarding the Community Board's Capital and Expense Priorities approved in November. This annual testimony is a key opportunity to advance funding for Board projects. Additionally, he and the Chair will be scheduling meetings with elected officials to advocate for support of the Board's capital priorities.

The next District Service Cabinet meeting is scheduled for January 18.

3. Public Forum

Tanjot Kaur, Richmond Hill Resident, expressed his honor in representing the community and emphasized that America's strength lies in diversity, opportunity, and freedom. Mr. Kaur underscored the importance of protecting places of worship and noted that New York State's Alcoholic Beverage Control Law appropriately restricts liquor stores within 200 feet of religious institutions to preserve safety and dignity. He raised concerns about disruptive businesses continuing to operate near houses of worship, creating safety issues and undermining community values. The speaker clarified that the goal is not to eliminate businesses, but to ensure fair enforcement of existing laws and meaningful protection of sacred spaces.

Amritpal Singh, Richmond Hill Resident, petitioned regarding businesses operating directly in front of Sikh places of worship, emphasizing that gurdwaras are sacred spaces serving children, elders, and families. Gurdwara Baba Makhan and the Gurdwara Sikh Cultural Society were noted for their significant community contributions. The request focused on thoughtful zoning to prevent incompatible businesses, such as liquor stores, cannabis shops, and certain

storefronts, from operating near the gurdwaras. It was clarified that this request is not discriminatory, but about compatibility, safety, and respect. The speaker asked for consistent enforcement or implementation of protections for places of worship, like existing rules for churches, and urged the City to review the situation and take appropriate action.

Sol McCants III, Richmond Hill Resident, spoke regarding various issues (testimony submitted).

Andrew Smith, Richmond Hill Resident, provided an update on the reopening of Freedom Drive. Stated that pedestrians were largely unaware the road had reopened, resulting in unsafe crossings and several near misses, with no crosswalks or pedestrian warning signage in place. Observations included speeding, joyriding, and a lack of police presence. Concerns were also raised about a broken traffic signal at Freedom Drive and Park Lane South - previously noted by the PS 66 principal - ongoing illegal dumping, and continued traffic congestion on Myrtle Avenue and Park Lane South during rush hour. Video documentation was shared, and clarification was requested from the NYPD, Parks Department, and elected officials on how these safety issues will be addressed.

Jennifer Lambert, Woodhaven Mural Project, thanked the Board and community members for their support. She acknowledged supporters of the Woodhaven Mural Project, noting that the initiative recently marked its one-year anniversary and remains a community-driven effort. The project was recognized as one of the top 10 Queens Chronicles Stories of South Queens, reflecting its impact on community engagement. She emphasized unity among Queens residents and encouraged continued civic education and youth engagement. Ms. Lambert announced an upcoming fundraiser at Maple Grove Cemetery on Saturday, March 14, 3-6 PM.

Paul Capocasale, Woodhaven Resident, addressed future planning for Richmond Hill, raising concerns about Freedom Drive. While supportive of reopening the roadway, he emphasized it is currently unsafe and requires proper safety measures, including consideration of traffic calming such as speed bumps.

He also requested clarification on the current process for addressing encampments, noting a recent report of sidewalk obstructions and asking about response timelines and planned actions, while emphasizing the need to both assist individuals and keep public spaces accessible.

Additionally, Mr. Capocasale raised concerns about the lack of safe outdoor spaces for children, questioning why the Richmond Hill High School yard remains closed to the community and stressing the importance of opening public schoolyards for neighborhood use.

Fr. Matthew Sanfilippo, Kew Gardens Resident, introduced himself as the priest in charge of the Church of the Resurrection of Kew Gardens and All Saints Episcopal Church in Woodhaven. He invited all to join them for worship on Sundays.

Miguel Gutierrez, Woodhaven Resident, shared his perspective on Freedom Drive, noting that he initially opposed its closure during COVID due to commuting concerns. Over time, he recognized the positive impact of the closure on the neighborhood, appreciating the safety and community use of the parkway. Expressed surprise and concern about its recent reopening, stating that commuter inconvenience cited in a letter to the Department of Parks does not reflect his experience. He strongly recommended that Freedom Drive remain closed to vehicles.

Priya Ananthansnan, Boys & Girls Club of Metro Queens, spoke about the club and their mission to inspire and enable all young people to reach their full potential as caring, productive, and responsible citizens. The Boys & Girls Club of Metro Queens offers the following programs: Power Hour homework help, Health & Life Skills, Sports & Fitness classes, and Character & Leadership projects.

4. 102nd Precinct – Captain Evan Galane

Reported on crime stats from last year stating that there were reductions in every major crime category except one. That exception is Grand Larceny auto, which was discussed at the last meeting. Vehicles continue to be stolen at a high rate, particularly vehicles like Honda CR-Vs and similar models. Thieves either steal the entire vehicle or remove the sensor itself. This type of crime is very difficult to catch because the perpetrators are highly organized. They scope out blocks ahead of time, identify vehicles, wait until the area is clear, and then strike quickly.

Many of these thefts involve key fob signal boosting. To protect themselves, the car owners should keep the keys as far away from their vehicles as possible. He strongly recommended using Faraday bags or boxes, which block the

signal from the key fob. Once the key is inside one of these devices, the signal cannot be boosted.

Capt. Galane also stated that one of the most frustrating situations they encounter is when vehicles are left running. He urged all to never leave their vehicles running with the key inside, under any circumstances.

Capt. thanked Chair Algreto for speaking about the tragic and senseless loss of the young boy last week. He stated that the officers were already in the area and arrived at the scene within two minutes. Unfortunately, the injuries were severe, and it was a heartbreaking situation. The officers are aware of issues occurring around school dismissal times. They will be increasing police presence in those areas and encouraging students to disperse and head home promptly, to prevent further incidents.

Question and answer period followed.

5. Economic & Community Development Committee Report – Rich Chetram, Chair

Reported on several development projects in Queens that may positively impact the neighborhood, particularly due to proximity to JFK and LaGuardia Airports and the associated employment opportunities.

He highlighted the JFK Redevelopment Project, a \$20 million initiative expected to generate jobs and host job fairs. Mr. Chetram also noted the Resorts World development - a \$5 million investment that includes a planned 70,000-square-foot arena, expanded employment opportunities, and an existing career center on Sutphin Boulevard with weekly outreach on Archer Avenue. The upcoming Metropolitan Park project was also mentioned.

Additional information on job openings and job fairs will be shared with the Chair for distribution as it becomes available.

6. Education & Youth Services Committee Report – Cristal Rivera, Chair

Chair Algreto gave an update on Richmond Hill Library Renovation Project: At the Borough Board meeting, the Richmond Hill Library team, including Mr. Walcott and staff, presented an update. Concerns were raised regarding community disappointment, the lack of a safe and suitable swing space, and insufficient responses on safety and security for the proposed double trailer on Babbage Street. The community reiterated its demand for a proper swing space and regular communication updates every three months, as previously promised.

Presenters stated that the Richmond Hill Library project is expected to go out to bid this year, with groundbreaking anticipated next summer and completion projected for fall 2029–2030. This timeline was presented as a firm commitment.

An update on the Woodhaven Library indicated construction may begin around the same time next year, with a projected completion in 2029; however, these dates were noted as not yet firm.

Questions were also raised regarding funding allocations (\$18M for Richmond Hill and \$24M for Woodhaven), though no clear confirmation was provided on whether funds are sufficient or fully secured. Despite ongoing concerns, there is cautious optimism that the projects will now move forward.

Seth Welins shared remarks commending Sherry for her strong and effective advocacy on behalf of the community. He noted that while the setting could be intimidating, Sherry was polite, respectful, and very direct, leaving a clear impression that the community has been disrespected throughout the Richmond Hill Library project's prolonged timeline. Mr. Welins highlighted that the project has been delayed for over 10 years, with costs escalating from approximately \$5 million to over \$15–18 million, and that construction is now projected to be delayed by an additional year and a half. He expressed cautious optimism that the project will finally move forward but raised concern about the lack of transparency and information regarding the Woodhaven Library renovation. He emphasized that both libraries being closed simultaneously was not the original plan and created serious logistical challenges for the community. Seth thanked Sherry for her leadership and advocacy.

Committee Chair Rivera reported on the following:

The Committee met on December 17. Its ongoing goal has been to align closely with educational organizations in the district to better understand and support local education priorities. In recent months, committee members attended

Districts 27 and 28 Community Education Council (CEC) meetings, the Queens Borough President's Parent Advisory Council meeting, and conducted school visits to PS 56, Richmond Hill High School, and PS 62. During these visits, schools shared needs for additional resources, including gymnasiums and rooftop farms.

The Queens Borough President's Parent Advisory Council reviewed Reso A funding, which is currently open and will close in February. The committee will share this information with Community Boards and distribute it to school principals to help schools access additional funding opportunities. The Education Committee continues to welcome non-board and non-committee members, including the Vice President of the District 27 CEC, whose participation has contributed to productive discussions on education policy, CEC operations, and School Based Allocation (SBA) priorities in the district.

Through school visits, several principals expressed interest in presenting at future committee meetings and potentially joining as non-board committee members to strengthen discussion and collaboration. Updates were also shared regarding the proposed school at the former Ruby's site on Jamaica Avenue, which was confirmed to be moving forward as an elementary school with a District 75 program planned for the second floor. While no detailed timeline was provided, the superintendent committed to returning with additional information. Community interest in a middle school was acknowledged, and DOE representatives indicated they would continue proactively searching for suitable sites.

7. Transportation & Traffic Committee Updates – Stephen Forte, Chair, stated that the Transportation Committee met a couple of weeks ago, and there were two items of note:

- First is universal daylighting, which involves removing approximately two parking spaces at each corner of an intersection - about 16 spaces per typical intersection. While it was initially proposed for select locations, DOT is now considering citywide implementation. You can already see examples in neighborhoods such as Forest Hills, where corners are marked by large wooden boxes, sometimes brightly painted.

DOT claims this measure improves visibility for drivers and pedestrians and reduces accidents. However, DOT's own studies indicate that daylighting has not resulted in a measurable reduction in crashes. He encouraged everyone to stay alert if this is proposed in their neighborhood and to notify the board so it can be monitored and addressed as needed.

- The second issue discussed was the ongoing damage and conditions beneath the Long Island Railroad Viaduct at Babbage and Bessemer Streets. It has been a magnet for illegal dumping, prostitution, and drug activity. Community Board 9 initially attempted to take the lead in addressing this issue but ultimately stepped back due to jurisdictional complications. This is fundamentally an MTA responsibility.

There is now a nonprofit organization formed specifically to address conditions at this site, working with the assistance of Senator Joe Addabbo's office. If circumstances change and the Committee's involvement becomes necessary, they are prepared to re-engage at that time.

8. Land Use & Housing Committee-Sylvia Hack & Andrew Taranto, Co-Chairs

The Land Use Committee met in December. Currently, there are no active land use applications before the Board. However, four notices for UAP projects were received, which are new City of Yes projects, two located in Kew Gardens and two in Richmond Hill. Mr. Taranto acknowledged James for doing an excellent job tracking these applications.

Although the Board does not have an advisory role in these matters, the Committee is working to establish a process to meet with applicants, so the Board has an opportunity to raise any concerns and stay informed.

The Committee has also been in contact with local civic associations. While these applications are not publicly available and notices are only sent to the Board, they believe civic associations deserve to be informed when projects are proposed in their neighborhoods.

Lastly, the jail design process is ongoing. There have been no updates since the last report, but the Committee will continue to monitor developments closely and expect this to remain a major issue throughout 2026.

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

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

Chef Toribio # 3 Restaurant Corp.
74-26 Jamaica Avenue
Woodhaven, NY 11421

No Speakers

Motion # 2: Not to oppose new on premises wine, beer and cider license application

Vote # 2: Unanimous

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

Arber Alban Corp., d/b/a La Rondine Pizza & Restaurant
120-38 Queens Boulevard
Kew Gardens, NY 11415

No speakers

Duran Perez Restaurant Corp.
96-10 Jamaica Avenue
Woodhaven, NY 11421

No speakers

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

The next Public Safety & Consumer Affairs Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 27th, 2026.

Mr. Gamarra gave a summary of the meeting with State Liquor Authority (SLA):

“Earlier this month, a meeting was held with the State Liquor Authority (SLA) attended by me, Sherry, and James to discuss concerns regarding the handling of license renewals and new vendor applications. Key points from the discussion:

- Lack of consideration for complaints
 - The SLA informed us that complaints submitted to the NYPD, including 311 or 911 reports, are not considered in their licensing decisions.
 - Opposition letters from Community Boards also carry no weight in SLA deliberations.
 - Instead, the SLA requires complaints to be submitted through a separate portal, and they conduct their own independent investigations.
- Portal access and follow-up
 - SLA promised over a month ago to provide portal access information, but this has not yet been shared.
- Challenges with SLA process
 - The SLA has only five inspectors for all five boroughs, making it extremely difficult for them to conduct thorough investigations.
 - Past instances were cited where establishments with serious adverse incidents, including homicides documented by NYPD, still received license renewals despite Community Board opposition and NYPD reports.
- Next steps
 - The board plans to continue discussions with the SLA to address these process issues.
 - Coordination with local elected officials (Senator Joseph Addabbo) is being considered to advocate for reform and ensure NYPD data and Community Board input are properly accounted for in licensing decisions.

In summary, the current SLA process does not align with Community Board guidance or NYPD findings, creating significant gaps in accountability. Efforts are underway to engage the SLA and Elected officials to rectify this process

DM McClelland stated that despite the Board voting unanimously against the issuing of All Night New Year’s Eve permits, based upon the NYPD who loses a lot of resources to Times Square and the parties, SLA granted 10 all-night permits.”

10. Cannabis Committee Report – Regina Santoro, Chair

Krish Diya Corp., d/b/a Cosmic Kush
111-14 101st Avenue
Richmond Hill, NY 11419

Motion # 3: To oppose the Cannabis Retail Dispensary Premises Application due to proximity to the mosque

Vote # 3: Unanimous

11. Old/New Business

Cristal Rivera spoke about ongoing illegal dumping and operational concerns on Freedom Drive, noting that the area requires continued oversight. She recommended collaboration among the Parks Committee, Forest Park Trust, and FDNY to ensure safety, accessibility, and effective emergency response.

Mohinder Singh spoke regarding the ways to prevent incompatible businesses, such as liquor stores, cannabis shops, and certain storefronts, from operating near the gurdwaras.

Chair Algreto acknowledged the legislative representatives who gave their updates.

Ann Marie Costella, Rep. Senator Joe Addabbo, stated that the Senator serves on the Veterans, Homeland Security, and Military Affairs Committee, and he recently had several bills signed into law by the Governor. These laws expand property tax relief for veterans with 100% service-connected disabilities and provide additional support for veterans' organizations. Specifically, the legislation expands the alternative veterans' exemption under the Real Property Tax Law by authorizing counties, cities, towns, villages, and school districts to grant a full real property tax exemption to veterans who are 100% service-disabled.

Anthony Lemma, Rep. Assembly Member David Weprin

Stated that the assembly member is strongly opposed to the proposed cannabis shop opening near the mosque. They have been working very closely with Sherry, and letters are being drafted as we speak to formally express our opposition on behalf of the district.

Melissa Thomas, Rep. Council Member Joan Ariola

- The office is planning many events for winter and spring.
- The Ozone Park office was closed due to ongoing issues with the landlord. In the meantime, constituents can continue to reach out at 718-733-883 or by email at district32@council.nyc.gov. They are currently operating out of our Rockaways office, located on 114th Street and Beach Channel Drive.
- The mobile office hours are currently held at local libraries throughout Glendale, Woodhaven, Ozone Park, and Howard Beach. The Woodhaven Library hours are Tuesdays from 1:00 to 4:00 PM and the Ozone Park Library on Fridays from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.
- The office will be hosting three events with the Department of Finance regarding property tax exemptions. Flyers are available on the table at the back.
- Freedom Drive is now open. The office is working with the 102nd Precinct to install an electronic sign to alert pedestrians and parkgoers that the roadway has reopened.
- The Council Member was in real-time contact with the 102nd Precinct regarding the recent stabbing of a 17-year-old individual.
- Last month, CM Ariola passed legislation to help keep the first responders safe. The New York City Fire Department will be required to provide PFAS-free bunker gear to firefighters by 2028. Additionally, the Council Member passed legislation in conjunction with Public Advocate Jumaane Williams requiring the Department of Transportation to clear catch basins within eight days of inspection and to maintain a public record tracking each catch basin throughout the year.

Rokeya Akhtar, Rep. Queens District Attorney Melida Katz

- Reported on the recent press conference with Governor Hochul regarding the Home Depot retail theft scheme. This investigation involved 13 individuals who stole approximately \$2.2 million worth of merchandise from Home Depot stores across nine states and 319 separate locations. The investigation

lasted over a year and was conducted in coordination with the Queens District Attorney's Office, the Governor's Office, and law enforcement partners. The ringleader of the operation was a Queens resident. The stolen items included digital cameras, towels, insulation kits, buckets of reflective roof coating, air conditioning units, power tools, and smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. As a result of this coordinated effort, all 13 individuals have been arrested and are currently facing charges.

- Highlighted a major drug bust on Roosevelt Avenue, which was the result of a long-term investigation. Law enforcement recovered significant quantities of fentanyl, cocaine, oxycodone, and other narcotics, along with approximately \$30,000 in cash and nine handguns. This operation underscores their commitment to prioritizing the safety of families and residents in the Roosevelt Avenue corridor. The DA's office remains committed to dismantling drug trafficking organizations and illegal operations law by law and street by street to keep Queens communities safe.

Max Rose, Rep. Congress Member Gregory Meeks

Relayed the message from Washington, D.C.: Representative Meeks has announced the passage of the Commerce, Justice, Science, Energy, Water, and Interior–Environment funding package. This legislation advances key Democratic priorities and represents a significant improvement over the original Republican proposal by better addressing the needs of the American people.

The bill tackles affordability challenges such as rising utility costs, strengthens clean energy initiatives and environmental protections, and invests in critical public safety grants. It also includes \$4.1 million to support important local community projects in New York's 5th Congressional District.

Additionally, Mr. Rose shared an update from the IRS. The IRS Free File program has begun accepting individual tax returns, giving eligible taxpayers an early opportunity to prepare and file their federal returns ahead of the official start of the 2026 tax filing season later this month.

Clare Collins, Rep. Queens Borough President Donovan Richards

- The office will be hosting a virtual Housing Connect webinar on finding affordable housing on Tuesday, January 20th at 6:00 PM via Zoom. The Zoom link will be available on our website at queensbp.nyc.gov.
- On Monday, February 23rd at 5:00 PM the office will be hosting their Lunar New Year celebration at Queens Borough Hall.
- On Wednesday, February 25th at 5:30 PM, QBP will host a Black History Month celebration at Queens Borough Hall. During this event, BP Richards will announce the winning students of the annual African American Scholarship, which launched in December. Constituents can RSVP for all these events through our website.
- Community Board applications – those who are interested in applying as a new member can complete applications online. Those who are currently serving on board and are unsure whether they need to reapply, the BP's office will be sending a list to the Community Board office to clarify who must do so. Community Board terms are two years, so the members who did not reapply last year should plan to reapply this year. The application deadline is February 13, 2026. New applicants are required to complete a 10-minute interview. After submitting an online application, please check the email for a link to schedule a phone interview. Returning members who are reapplying do not need to complete an interview.

Carlos Plaza, Rep. Assembly Member Jenifer Rajkumar, reported on the following:

“In the 38th District, we have been actively supporting families impacted by the Greenville fire. Our office organized a supply drive to provide essential items and assistance to families in crisis. I want to sincerely thank everyone for their generosity and support—your kindness truly makes a difference.

We are also closely monitoring the situation with the NYPD 102nd Precinct following the tragic stabbing on 76th St.

In December, Assembly Member Rajkumar signed two major bills into law. The first addresses adjacent property access issues. Many homeowners experience delays or disputes when repair or construction work requires temporary access to a neighboring property, sometimes resulting in prolonged sidewalk closures or stalled repairs. This new law establishes a clear framework to resolve these access issues more quickly, allowing necessary work to move forward and minimizing prolonged disruptions.

The second bill is a groundbreaking cybersecurity law designed to protect New Yorkers from cyberattacks and foreign espionage. This legislation bans high-risk technology that could be used to launch cyberattacks, steal sensitive data, or spy on government systems.

AM Rajkumar is working to pass the SAFE Plate Act to address reckless driving by strengthening license plate enforcement; Penny's Law to better protect pets by holding dog owners accountable for attacks; and the Ghostbuster Act, which would empower the NYPD to remove and tow ghost cars from our streets."

Frederice Latchman, Rep. Senator Comrie

Spoke regarding the recent passage of the Affordability, Integrity, and Fair Business Practices Act, which the Senator sponsored. This legislation strengthens consumer and worker protections by giving the NYS Attorney General expanded authority to address unfair and deceptive business practices. The bill was signed into law on December 20th and is now fully active. This legislation is a meaningful step forward in combating fraud, protecting consumers, and ensuring fair treatment in the marketplace, and the office is proud of the Senator's leadership on this issue.

Max Leonarde, Rep. council Member Lynn Schulman stated that the Councilwoman wishes everyone a happy New Year. She is currently determining her committee assignments, which will be finalized this upcoming Thursday as the new legislative session begins.

Jonathan Bethancourt, Rep. Congress Member Nydia Velazquez stated the following:

"The Congress Member has announced her retirement. This will be her final term, and she will be leaving office in December 2026.

Legislative updates: First, the Affordable Care Act subsidies recently expired, which was a major point of contention and contributed to last month's government shutdown. Earlier this week, House Democrats passed legislation to extend the ACA premium tax credits for an additional three years. This bill received bipartisan support, with 17 Republican members joining House Democrats in voting for its passage.

The legislation now moves to the Senate, where we hope it will be reauthorized and sent to the President's desk for signature. This action is critically important, as we are already seeing health insurance premium increases of 75 to 100 percent in parts of our district. We need swift action to prevent further increases and protect families' access to affordable healthcare.

Through provisions in the Housing for the 21st Century Act, she is advocating for housing cooperatives to be formally recognized as eligible entities for federal housing programs and funding. This would help close key gaps in affordable, stable, and safe housing for working families, long-term residents, and especially seniors living in co-ops.

Additionally, the Congresswoman remains deeply concerned about the growing number of international conflicts that the current administration is becoming involved in at a time when families are struggling with rising costs of living. She strongly opposes policies that prioritize military escalation over diplomacy, particularly when such actions risk drawing the country into prolonged and costly conflicts without clear objectives or accountability.

Once again, we are facing the possibility of another government shutdown. Congress must pass a budget by January 31st to avoid another lapse in funding."

12. PUBLIC FORUM *no speakers*

Chair Algreto thanked the Maraj family for providing refreshments for tonight's social gathering.

Stephen Esposito made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Andrea Crawford seconded it.

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