



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

MAY 12, 2026, 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 2026-MARCH 2027

2nd # Represents Absences as of January-December 2026 (Borough President's Attendance Policy)

Sherry Algreto	(0)(1)	Jennifer Guzman	(0)(0)	Himmat Singh	(0)(1)
Kirpal Billing	(1)(3)	Sylvia Hack	(0)(0)	Matthew Singh	(1)(3)
Maria Caba Marmol	(0)(0)	Alicia Hassin	(0)(2)	Mohinder Singh	(0)(5)
John Carter	(0)(2)	Joseph Iaboni	(0)(0)	Raghbir Singh	(0)(1)
Rick Chetram	(0)(1)	Carmela Isabella	(0)(2)	J. Richard Smith	(0)(1)
Daniel Chu	(0)(1)	Carina Nieves	(0)(0)	Esta-Joy Sydel	(0)(1)
Rev. Ruben Cruz	(0)(2)	Fahlovi Noman	(0)(4)	Andrew Taranto	(0)(0)
Marilyn Custodio	(0)(2)	Kevin O'Leary	(0)(0)	Harpreet Toor	(1)(4)
Joan DeCamp	(0)(1)	Ijaaz Rahim	(0)(2)	Alyssa Velez	(0)(2)
Warlito DeLeon	(1)(3)	Cristal Rivera	(0)(1)	Keith Villanueva	(0)(1)
Stephen Forte	(0)(2)	Brent Robles	(0)(0)	Seth Welins	(0)(0)
Albert Gamarra	(0)(2)	Philip Ross	(0)(1)	Stacey Yearwood	(1)(1)
Daniel Grieve	(0)(0)	Regina Santoro	(1)(2)		

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Inderpaul Ahluwalia	(1)(1)	Swapn Chakraborty	(1)(4)	Adam Maraj	(1)(1)
Faiuze Ali	(1)(4)	Andrea Crawford	(1)(5)	Rabbi Daniel Pollack	(2)(5)
Dulal Bhattacharjee	(2)(4)	Stephen Esposito	(2)(5)	Jarnail Singh	(2)(4)
Zoila Bofill	(1)(2)	Vanessa Fuentes	(2)(4)	Rebecca Tull	(2)(2)

STAFF PRESENT

Irina Barayeva, Community Coordinator

James McClelland, District Manager

LEGISLATORS/REPRESENTATIVES, CITY AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

Michael Carlier, Rep. Queens Borough President Donovan Richards

Frederice Latchman, Rep. Senator Leroy Comrie

Rohene Gocool, Rep. Assembly Member Jenifer Rajkumar

Ann Marie Costella, Rep. Senator Joe Addabbo

Anthony Lemma, Rep. Assembly Member David Weprin

Marlon Pabcioz, Jr., Rep. Queens District Attorney Melida Katz

Max Rose, Rep. Congress Member Gregory Meeks

Jonathan Betancourt, Rep. Congress Member Nidia Velazquez

Deputy Inspector Maldonado, NYPD/102nd Pct.

Sgt. Saun, NYPD/102nd Pct.

James Mongeluzo, Rep. NYC Comptroller Mark Levine

Chair Algreto opened the meeting by congratulating Deputy Inspector Pratima Maldonado on her promotion, stating that this achievement reflects years of professionalism, dedication, and leadership. Deputy Inspector Maldonado made history as the first Sikh female Captain in the New York City Police Department. She now continues to break barriers as the first female Sikh Deputy Inspector in the department and the highest-ranking Sikh woman in the NYPD.

1. 102nd Precinct Briefing

Deputy Inspector Maldonado thanked the board for its recognition and expressed appreciation for the community's support, stating that it means a great deal to know the community values her work. She noted that her efforts come "from the bottom of her heart" and described the community as family to her, adding that her mother and family still live in the area.

Regarding crime concerns, Deputy Inspector Maldonado reported an increase in moped-related incidents. She stated that officers are stopping individuals operating mopeds without helmets, carrying multiple riders, or committing other violations. She also noted that the precinct is confiscating unregistered mopeds and emphasized that the department is aware of the issue and actively addressing it.

A question-and-answer period followed.

2. Opening of Meeting & Reading of Minutes

Chair Algreto asked if there were any corrections/additions to the April 14th, 2026, meeting minutes. There were none.

Rev. Ruben Cruz motioned to accept the minutes as presented. EJ Sydell seconded the motion.

Motion # 1: To accept minutes as presented

Vote # 1: 32 in favor and 6 abstentions

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

The Chairperson reviewed procedural guidelines received from the Borough President's Office, noting that they intend to support orderly meetings and ensure fair participation. The Chairperson emphasized that abstentions should be limited and include a stated reason when possible.

She read the reminders that state that the Chairperson serves as the official spokesperson for the board, members should not represent the board to the media, and staff direction is handled through the District Manager.

Members were also reminded to follow proper speaking protocol, avoid personal or inflammatory remarks, disclose conflicts of interest, and show respect during presentations. The Chairperson requested that the public also maintain decorum during meetings.

Chair Algreto reported on the May 4th Borough Board meeting, where Resorts World Casino presented updates on its gaming license expansion, staffing increases, and community funding initiatives supporting local nonprofits.

DM McClelland provided an update on the proposed shelter project, noting that the public hearing scheduled for June 4th was postponed at the request of the Department of Homeless Services and the Department of Social Services, citing the need for additional preparation time. The hearing has been rescheduled for September.

The Chairperson stated that significant planning had already been completed for the June 4th hearing, including securing a venue at the Helen Marshall Cultural Center, coordinating logistics, inviting community stakeholders, and organizing transportation and accommodation for attendees.

The Chairperson expressed concern over the postponement and indicated that community engagement efforts will continue. A rally is being considered for June 11, pending confirmation of elected officials' availability, to provide a forum for community input.

DM McClelland reported that there is a strong community opposition to the proposed location, primarily related to site concerns. He also stated that, at this time, no additional official information regarding the project has been provided, and that key details were expected to be addressed at the public hearing.

Mr. McClelland stated that the NYC Department of Homeless Services had issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the proposed site, indicating that project planning details are established at the agency level. He expressed concern regarding delays in communication and reiterated that the board would not support unnecessary postponements in the process.

The District Manager then addressed recent incidents of antisemitic graffiti reported in multiple locations, including Forest Park, as well as incidents in Rego Park and Forest Hills. The Chairperson noted that similar incidents have been reported in nearby areas and stated that such acts may be treated as hate crimes. No arrests have been made to date; residents are encouraged to report any additional incidents to the community board to assist in tracking and coordination with relevant authorities. He emphasized that hate has no place in the community.

DM McClelland also provided an update on budget matters, noting the commencement of preliminary budget consultation preparations for the 2028 cycle with city agencies. He stated that the executive budget had recently been released, while the state budget was delayed beyond its April 1st deadline, and that the board is awaiting finalized figures.

4. Merit Increase for Office Staff

Cristal Rivera made a motion in favor of the staff's 4.5% merit increase; Joe laboni seconded it.

Motion # 2: To support the staff's merit increase

Vote # 2: Unanimous

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

- Street Co-Naming – New Haven Ministries Way, 101 Avenue and 130th Street – Northeast Corner

Pastor Matthew Singh thanked the board for considering the co-naming and supporting New Haven Ministry. He stated that he has been involved with the community since 2015 and has lived in Richmond Hill for approximately 45 years.

Mr. Singh noted that New Haven Ministry has served the community for 30 years and described the organization as an important pillar of the neighborhood. The ministry's services and programs include feeding the homeless, food distribution, back-to-school backpack giveaways, a senior center, a food pantry, free music classes for children, and hosting town hall meetings and community gatherings.

Harpreet Singh made a motion to support the co-naming; Regina Santoro seconded it.

Motion # 3: To support the co-naming of the Northeast Corner of 101st Avenue and 130th Street to New Haven Ministries Way

Vote # 3: 37 in favor and 1 abstention

Mr. Forte also stated that the committee has been working with Sherry and James to develop a clear and consistent set of standards for street co-naming and the requirements that will apply going forward. Street co-naming has become increasingly prevalent, and while some proposals may have stronger justifications than others, the goal is to ensure a uniform standard for evaluating all applications. Applicants will be required to meet these standards as part of the submission process.

The standards are still under development and are not yet finalized. Once completed, they will be presented to the Board for review and approval, likely in the fall.

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

Committee Chair Rivera provided a brief recap of the committee's last meeting. The committee was joined by Kat Zapata, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs and Education for the Borough President's Office, who delivered an

update on behalf of the Borough President and responded to questions from board members. Her participation helped facilitate a detailed and informative discussion on several ongoing issues of interest to the committee.

The committee also welcomed Rob Kearns, Vice President of CEC District 27, who is expected to continue serving this year as a non-board member committee participant. He provided additional updates and engaged in discussion on several previously introduced resolutions, including matters related to PS 99Q, the need for a new middle school, and concerns involving Catholic schools.

Additional topics discussed included the proposed shelter in the area and the 'Ruby School' site. The committee focused on the ongoing need for a middle school in the surrounding area, as well as the potential impact that the development of an additional elementary school could have on nearby schools.

Ms. Rivera said that the first item on the current agenda was introduced as an informational item not requiring a vote. It concerns eligibility requirements for student OMNY cards. This issue was originally raised prior to her Chair's tenure, around December 2024. The proposal reflects Community Board 9's support for expanding OMNY card eligibility to students who live beyond the designated walking distance from their schools, as well as including CUNY students. It was noted that, given current cost-of-living challenges, improved transit access for students remains an important priority.

The issue has also been raised at the City Council level, and the committee agreed it is appropriate to resend the proposal to state elected officials for renewed consideration.

- *Resolution request to change the last day on school calendar 2026-2027 from Monday, June 28th to Friday, June 25th.*

The first resolution under consideration concerns the final day of the upcoming 2026–2027 school year. It was noted that the Department of Education has released the school calendar for the next academic year, which indicates that schools will not begin until September 10th, and that the current scheduled last day of school is June 28th, 2027, which falls on a Monday.

The committee reviewed feedback received from teachers and community members expressing concern about the appropriateness of ending the school year on a Monday, particularly given that it extends instruction into the following week. In response, many stakeholders have suggested that the school year instead concludes on Friday, June 25th, 2027.

Additionally, it was noted that Summer Rising programming is scheduled to begin during the same week of June 28th. As a result, students participating in these programs would have little to no break between the end of the academic year and the start of summer programming. Concerns were also raised regarding staff involved in both the school year and summer programming, who would similarly have minimal transition time.

Based on these considerations, the committee is advancing a resolution requesting that the last day of the 2026–2027 school year be moved to Friday, June 25th, 2027.

Joe Iaboni made a motion to support the co-naming; Rick Chetram seconded it.

Motion # 4: To support the Resolution requesting that the last day of the 2026–2027 school year be moved to Friday, June 25th, 2027

Vote # 4: 37 in favor and 1 abstention

- *Resolution requesting that the proposed homeless shelter at 118-10 Jamaica Avenue be reconsidered due to the construction of a K-5/D75 school at 120-08 Jamaica Avenue*

This resolution also highlights the high concentration of elementary schools located within close proximity to the proposed shelter site, including PS 51Q, PS 56Q, PS 54Q, PS 161Q, and Holy Child Jesus Catholic Academy, all of which are within approximately two to three blocks.

The committee expressed concern regarding the impact of a proposed shelter housing 127 single men located so close to an area with a large population of young students, including children with special needs, who will be attending the new District 75 school. Concerns were also raised about the significant number of school buses and

daily student activity in the area.

Brent Robles made a motion to support the resolution; Regina Santoro seconded it.

Motion # 5: To support the resolution requesting that the proposed homeless shelter at 118-10 Jamaica Avenue be reconsidered due to the construction of a K-5/D75 school at 120-08 Jamaica Avenue

Vote # 5: 36 in favor and 2 abstentions

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

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

Royal India Palace LLC
118-02-12 Atlantic Avenue
Richmond Hill, NY 11419

No speakers

Motion # 6: Not to oppose the new On Premises Wine, Beer & Cider License Application

Vote # 6: 36 in favor and 2 abstentions

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

Flor A. Garcia, D/b/a El Rinconcito de Nagua
76-20 Jamaica Avenue
Woodhaven, NY 11421

No speakers

Caleta 111 Bar Inc., D/b/a Caleta 111 Cevicheria
111-25 Jamaica Avenue
Richmond Hill, NY 11418

No speakers

Richi Rich Palace Inc.
110-19 Atlantic Avenue
Richmond Hill, NY 11418

No speakers

c. On Premises Beer & Cider License Application – Renewal

Nomi Deli & Grocery Inc.
119-14 Jamaica Avenue
Richmond Hill, NY 11418

No speakers

d. Class Change Application

La Gran Esquina Restaurant Corp., D/b/a La Dulce Bakery
106-06 Jamaica Avenue
Richmond Hill, NY 11418

Mr. Fernandez addressed the board stating that the requested change is being sought in response to increased customer demand. Several nearby bars and establishments in the area have recently closed, resulting in an increase in patrons visiting the restaurant and requesting cocktails and mixed drinks. He indicated that obtaining a full liquor license would allow the business to better accommodate its customers by expanding its beverage service offerings.

Committee Chair Gamarra stated that the State Liquor Authority provides guidelines regarding class change applications, including the requirement that a full liquor license generally cannot be approved if there are already three licensed establishments within a 500-foot radius of the proposed location.

In this case, there are already three establishments operating within the 500-foot area surrounding the location. Therefore, in accordance with SLA guidelines and committee protocol, **the recommendation of the committee is to oppose the class change application.**

e. Alteration Application

Peter 's Grill & Bar Corp.
75-11 Rockaway Boulevard
Woodhaven, NY 11421

No speakers

f. Method of Operation Change Application

Mita Leo's Fine Ecuatorian Food Restaurant & Bar Corp.
104-19 Jamaca Avenue
Richmond Hill, NY 11418

No speakers

g. TLC Base License Renewal

BSZ Luxury Black Car Inc.
80-06 101st Avenue
Ozone Park, NY 11416
Base # B03308

No speakers

Cityline Car Service Inc.
80-06 101st Avenue
Ozone Park, NY 11416
Base # B01553

No speakers

The appropriate letters regarding the above applications will be forwarded to the New York State Liquor Authority and the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission.

The next Public Safety & Consumer Affairs Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 26th, 2026.

8. Elected Officials' Liaisons Briefing

Michael Carlier, Rep. Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, announced a series of upcoming community events across Queens focused on youth services, cultural heritage, and civic commemorations. He encouraged all to attend, with full details and RSVPs available online:

- Youth Resource & Preparedness Fair – May 16, Cambria Heights (youth programs, nonprofits, services) at High School for Law Enforcement and Public Safety
- Jewish American Heritage Celebration – May 18, 12-2 PM, Queens Borough Hall Atrium
- Asian Flag Day Celebration – May 19, 6 PM, Queens Borough Hall Atrium
- Memorial Day Observance Ceremony – May 20, 12 PM, Queens Borough Hall
- Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Celebration – May 28, 6 PM, Queens Borough Hall

Frederice Latchman, Rep. Senator Leroy Comrie, reported that the Senator is continuing work on the State budget and advancing legislation, including bills addressing deed theft eviction protections (S10293) and electric scooter platform safety requirements (S10239). She also shared updates on upcoming community events and encouraged residents to submit ideas for future community events.

Rohenee Gocool, Rep. Assembly Member Jenifer Rajkumar, reported on the Assembly Member's latest legislative efforts. One of the important proposals is the Fee Relief Act, which aims to stop runaway interest on fines. This bill would cap interest rates at the rate of inflation, helping put money back in people's pockets.

Assembly Member Rajkumar has also introduced a package of six ethics reform bills to help ensure government acts in the public's best interest. These bills would crack down on no-bid contracts, conflicts of interest, and large donations, while also requiring greater disclosure from lobbyists.

She also continues to champion two major quality-of-life proposals: Priscilla's Law, which seeks to address reckless e-bike use by requiring license plates, and Penny's Law, which would protect pets by establishing the crime of allowing a dog to attack cats or dogs.

Ann Marie Costella, Rep. Senator Joe Addabbo, reported on two bills introduced by the Senator in response to constituent concerns regarding quality of life and public safety. The first bill, S.10104, would expand the list of bail-eligible offenses to include crimes involving physical harm or danger to others, allowing individuals charged with such offenses to be held on bail.

The second bill, S.10059-A, known as Brendan's Law, addresses illegal street takeovers, motor vehicle speed contests, races, and sideshows. The legislation was originally introduced by a Republican legislator, but Senator Addabbo assumed sponsorship to improve its chances of passage.

Anthony Lemma, Rep. Assembly Member David Weprin:

- Commended the board for its education-related resolutions, particularly regarding concerns over the 2026–2027 school calendar. He noted that, with schools not scheduled to open until September 10th, many constituents believe the calendar could be adjusted to allow for an earlier start and earlier conclusion to the school year. Mr. Lemma thanked the board for taking action on the issue.
- Addressed the proposed homeless shelter project, noting that Assemblyman David Weprin signed onto a letter opposing the proposed location due to concerns about nearby schools and ongoing development in the area.
- Also commented positively on Community Board 9's recent restaurant night at the Austin Ale House, describing it as a successful community event and an enjoyable opportunity for residents and board members to come together.

Marlon Pabcioz, Jr., Rep. Queens District Attorney Melida Katz, extended greetings on behalf of QDA Katz and provided updates on recent work by the District Attorney's Office.

- Reported on the conviction and sentencing of Guy Rivera in connection with the fatal shooting of Police Officer Jonathan Diller. Rivera was sentenced to 115 years to life in prison after being found guilty of aggravated manslaughter, attempted murder, and weapons charges related to the incident.
- Also highlighted a cryptocurrency investment fraud case in which the District Attorney's Office secured \$2.5M in restitution for 13 victims of a "pig butchering" scam. A defendant pleaded guilty to grand larceny, received a jail sentence, and agreed to forfeit luxury assets to support victim compensation.
- Provided an update on ongoing scooter enforcement operations, noting that approximately 1,500 illegal scooters have been removed from the streets since the initiative began.

Max Rose, Rep. Congress Member Gregory Meeks, provided two updates from Washington, D.C.: Representative Gregory Meeks, along with Representatives Adam Smith and Jim Himes, issued a joint statement regarding the 60-day mark of President Trump's war in Iran, calling on Congress to vote on ending the conflict pursuant to the War Powers Resolution. The statement also criticized the administration's handling of the war and its economic impacts.

Additionally, Representative Meeks condemned the Trump administration's use of emergency authorities to bypass congressional review of arms sales.

Jonathan Betancourt, Rep. Congress Member Nidia Velazquez, reported on a recent event where a check for \$850,000 was presented to the NYC DOT to support Phase 2 of the Woodhaven Boulevard Select Bus Service project. The funding will advance safety and infrastructure improvements along the corridor from Union Turnpike to 107th Avenue, including bus pads, medians, pedestrian refuges, curb extensions, and other streetscape enhancements. The project was described as a safety and accessibility initiative, with DOT indicating it will not remove traffic lanes or eliminate parking and may result in a slight increase in parking availability. It was also noted that QBP Richards has committed an additional \$1M in funding to support the project's advancement.

9. Public Forum

Sol McCants, Richmond Hill Resident, emphasized protection of constitutional rights and argued that public meetings should allow space for disagreement and debate. He also raised broader concerns about civic engagement and recommend several historical/critical texts for discussion, citing them as examples of governance failures and accountability.

Andrew Smith, Richmond Hill Resident, recommended recording and posting community board meetings online (such as on YouTube or Instagram) to improve transparency, accessibility, and public engagement, noting that

several other Queens community boards already do so successfully. He also raised concerns about poor road conditions along the Q52 Select Bus Service route, particularly to and from the Rockaways, and called for repaving and infrastructure improvements.

10. Old/New Business

Chair Algreto spoke about the growth of the community autism awareness walk developed with Senator Addabbo Jr., to connect families with developmental disability resources and support services. The event has expanded significantly through volunteer and community support, with emphasis on increasing awareness of respite care, self-direction programs, caregiver support, transportation, and employment services for individuals with autism and developmental disabilities.

Carina Nieves spoke about a recent workshop educating parents about services available through the NYS Office for People With Developmental Disabilities and emphasized the need for greater community outreach so more families can access developmental disability resources. She encouraged board members to share information through schools, neighborhoods, and faith communities.

Alyssa Velez asked about the proposed QueensLink project, noting that Queens Community Boards 2 and 14 have expressed their support. Transportation Committee Chair Forte stated that the committee will dedicate a special meeting about this issue.

Andrew Taranto reminded board members that the next Land Use Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 3 at noon via Zoom and will include a presentation from the consultant team on the final design of the Queens borough-based jail. Members are encouraged to attend due to the significance of the issue for the community.

Brandon Robles motioned to adjourn the meeting. Kevin O'Leary seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson at 9:08 PM.