



# COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 9

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Kenichi Wilson, Chairperson \* James S. McClelland, District Manager \* Sharon Lee, Acting Borough President

## NOVEMBER 10, 2020 MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR TELECONFERENCE VIRTUAL MEETING

### BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

ABSENCES AS OF APRIL 2020-MARCH 2021

2<sup>nd</sup> # Represents Absences as of January-December 2020(Borough President's Attendance)

Inderpaul Ahluwalia	(1)(1)	Sandra Datnarain	(0)(0)	Rabbi Daniel Pollack	(0)(1)
Sherry Algreto	(0)(1)	Joan DeCamp	(0)(0)	Cristal Rivera	(2)(4)
Faiuze Ali	(1)(1)	Jan Fenster	(1)(1)	Mohamed Safie	(3)(5)
Dilraj Batchu	(1)(1)	Laraine Fletcher	(1)(1)	Regina Santoro	(0)(0)
Julio Batista	(0)(0)	Linda Fogal	(0)(0)	Jarnail Singh	(2)(2)
Dulal Bhattacharjee	(0)(0)	Daniel Grieve	(0)(0)	Raghibir Singh	(1)(2)
Zoila Bofill	(1)(1)	Sylvia Hack	(0)(0)	Sursattie Singh	(0)(0)
Latchman Budhai	(1)(2)	Joseph Iaboni	(0)(0)	J. Richard Smith	(0)(0)
John Carter	(0)(0)	Sherman Kane	(0)(0)	Alexandria Sumpter-Delves	(0)(0)
Daniel Chu	(0)(0)	Lisa Komninos	(2)(2)	Marie Turley	(2)(2)
Andrea Crawford	(0)(0)	Kevin O'Leary	(0)(0)	Seth Welins	(0)(0)
Marilyn Custodio	(0)(0)	Raquel Olivares	(1)(1)	Kenichi Wilson	(0)(0)

### BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Kamal Bhuiyan	(3)(3)	Kemanad Kishore	(2)(2)	Mohinder Singh	(3)(3)
Nick Comaianni	(6)(6)	Maharani Singh	(2)(2)		
Stephen Esposito	(2)(2)	Matthew Singh	(4)(3)		

### ALSO PRESENT

James S. McClelland, District Manager

Irina Barayeva, Community Associate

### LEGISLATORS/REPRESENTATIVES, CITY AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

Kate Mooney, Rep. Council Member Adrienne Adams  
 Amparito Rosero, Rep. Acting Borough President Sharon Lee  
 Daniel Kurzyna, Rep. Council Member Bob Holden  
 James Mongeluzo, Rep. Comptroller Scott Stringer  
 Joy Resor, Department of City Planning  
 Capt. Antonio Fidacaro, 102<sup>nd</sup> Pct.  
 Jenifer Rajkumar, Assembly Member-Elect  
 Michael Cohen, Rep. Council Member Karen Koslowitz  
 Muhammad Rahman, DA Melinda Katz

**1. PUBLIC HEARING**

***Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider Licenses, Letters of Intent Received***

**a. On Premises Liquor License Application – New**

Four Brothers USA Inc.  
D/b/a Tandoori Hut  
119-08 94<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Richmond Hill, NY 11419 *No speakers*

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

Brisas Del Mar Sea Food Market II, Corp.  
75-15 Jamaica Ave  
Woodhaven, NY 11421 *No speakers*

**c. On Premises Beer & Cider License Application – New**

Little Town Coffee Shop Inc.  
90-17 130<sup>th</sup> Street  
Richmond Hill, NY 11418 *No speakers*

**d. On Premises Liquor License Application – Renewal**

Ross Code Lounge Corp.  
D/b/a Ross Code Lounge  
117-15 101<sup>st</sup> Ave  
Richmond Hill, NY 11419 *No speakers*

La Negra Restaurant Corp.  
D/b/a La Cocina De Alex Café Bar & Lounge  
102-03 Jamaica Ave  
Richmond Hill, NY 11418 *No speakers*

Casabe Bar & Grill Inc.  
D/b/a La Barrica Bar & Grill  
79-17 Atlantic Ave  
Woodhaven, NY 11421 *No speakers*

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

Tipsy's Bar & Lounge Inc.  
106-07 Jamaica Ave  
Richmond Hill, NY 11418 *No speakers*

f. **Method of Operation Change Application**

Ross Code Lounge Corp.  
D/b/a Ross Code Lounge  
117-15 101<sup>st</sup> Ave  
Richmond Hill, NY 11419 *No speakers*

3 In 1 Deli Grocery Inc.  
131-11 Jamaica Ave  
Richmond Hill, NY 11418 *No speakers*

2. **REPORTS FROM LEGISLATIVE OFFICIALS**

Kate Mooney, Rep. Council Member Adrienne Adams spoke regarding the following:

“Today was the funeral of the great Queens leader Archie Spigner. May he rest in peace.

**VETERANS DAY:** We express our Gratitude to all past and current Veterans. The CM will be attending an event at American Legion Hall on Linden Blvd. Our office is working on a new project to house veterans and save homes in financial difficulties through home-sharing. Details to come.

**CENSUS:** Sincere thanks to all who pulled out the Census. We really increased participation and are very appreciative. Will be hosting a Zoom thank you. If you feel deserving of recognition for your efforts, please reach out to me.

**LEGAL SERVICES:** In October we hosted a NYLAG virtual clinic. If you need legal services, please reach out to us, we have many non-profits to call upon.

**SANITATION:** Ty Hankerson in our office is spearheading a D28 Task Force to reduce litter, improve DSNY services and proliferate community clean up opportunities. We are happy to have a few Richmond Hill members, contact me if you want to be part of the effort.

Our partner ACE will begin clean ups of repetitive illegal dumping sites. If you know of a location in our District that is a reoccurring problem, please forward them to us.

NYCH2O will be hosting a clean-up at Baisley Pond Park with rafts to actually clean the pond on Saturday Nov 14. If you are interested, register online. See Flyer.

**LEGISLATION:** CM Adams Resolution calling upon the State Legislature to pass, and the Governor to sign, S.8921, which relates to postponing the New York City 2020 tax lien sale until one year after the COVID-19 state of emergency, has been lifted. Achieved.

CM is also a co-sponsor of the proposed bill One Fair Wage: to increase servers/waiters minimum wage and keep tips.

**PANDEMIC:** Our District Office received a big quantity of masks, so the Community Board or any religious institutions are interested, please let me know

**RAPID TESTING:** We are working with the Mayor’s Office and HHC on a few rapid testing sites in OP, RH and SOP. One has just opened on Lefferts next to the Queens Public Library at Liberty. Details to follow.

**FOOD DISTRIBUTION:** Joining forces with UA3, CM Adams office was able to distribute boxes of food to local non-profits on 7 occasions in October for a total of 4,000 boxes or 120,000 lbs. of food. There is a pause in the program currently, but we are hoping to continue and expand services.

Council Member sends her best wishes and a HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Fri 10/23 Punjab Avenue 101 and Lefferts – it was a great honor to bring this to the community, a vibrant part of Queens.
- On October 28 we had a meeting with Breaking Ground, update on their services to the homeless. Provided them with masks and hand sanitizer.
- Friday 11/6 CM was live on FB with Queens Chamber of Commerce re small businesses.
- Friday 11/13 I will be attending the Grand Opening of G.L.I.T.S. Inc. grassroots, Fiscally- Sponsored Organization that has obtained the opportunity of providing sustainable housing and a leadership academy. For the first time in New York City, a Black Trans Woman has not only purchased this type of property but is creating sustainability for the TLGBQIA community that will last for generations. Location at 90-06 Park Lane South.

**SCHOOLS:** We know the DOE has obtained 100,000 computers for students and we have contacted them on behalf of RHHS, and several of our other schools. No reply from anyone thus far.

CM will be the main speaker at Junior Achievement New York Inspiring Tomorrows Virtual Summit in early December PS 161 in RH is a school site that has greatly benefited from this financial education program for youth.”

James Mongeluzo, Rep. Comptroller Scott Stringer, reported on the following:

- Comptroller Stringer’s Work and Family Survey will help to gather data on NYC residents at large.
- Comptroller’s Office New York by the Numbers weekly economic and fiscal outlook report was released.
- Renewing Call to Restart Lagging NYC Capital Program.
- All issues regarding rain gardens can be reported to [jmongel@comptroller.nyc.gov](mailto:jmongel@comptroller.nyc.gov) or called into 646-689-6509.

Amparito Rosero, Rep. Acting Borough President Sharon Lee

- Acting Borough President Sharon Lee will hold a Virtual Job Fair on Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2-3:30 PM. RSVP at [www.queensbp.org/rsvp](http://www.queensbp.org/rsvp).
- Acting BP Lee and DA Katz are hosting a virtual Diwali Celebration Event on Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 6-7 PM. RSVP at [www.queensbp.org/rsvp](http://www.queensbp.org/rsvp).
- Thanked all the Veterans for their service and sacrifice to keep our country safe and free.

Daniel Kurzyna, Rep. Council Member Bob Holden

- “We still receive calls regarding unemployment. Feel free to reach out and ask for Alicia who helped over 250 people to get the benefits that they deserve.
- There is a big issue with garbage throughout the city due to the slash in budget by the City Council for the Department of Sanitation. Council Member Holden had re-allocated money to fund additional basket collections. Wild Cat and ACE are doing everything from cleaning commercial strips to shoveling snow (when the time comes), cleaning out tree pits and removing graffiti. Our office has been organizing and hosting clean-up events throughout the district to help fill in the gaps that the city's budget has created. If interested, you can call or email our office, or follow the Council Member on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for more info.
- Together with Senator Joe Addabbo and Assembly Member Mike Miller, our office will be hosting an Electronic Waste Recycling Event on Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, from 10 AM to 2 PM at the Forest Park Band Shell.
- We are still hearing from many constituents who are waiting on the city to restore their sidewalks that were broken or uprooted during tropical storm Isaias. It is becoming a big issue as one city agency is passing the responsibility back to the other. Will be working on trying to get the Parks Department and DOT to work these things out and repair the sidewalks.
- Small businesses are being slammed with tickets for unjust violations. Please reach out to us as we can help to rectify these issues.
- We hope everyone is staying safe and healthy. Our office is still working remotely, with appointments available for in person meetings. Feel free to give our office a call at 718 366-3900, or email us at [District30@council.nyc.gov](mailto:District30@council.nyc.gov). If you

need any assistance, we are here to help. The staff has been working hard during this pandemic, ensuring that constituents still get the services they need during these troubling times

- The Council Member thanks all of you for your continued volunteerism, and appreciates the work you do, day in and day out, for the communities you serve. Please do not hesitate to reach out to our office for any assistance. "

Michael Cohen, Rep. Council Member Karen Koslowitz, stated that the Mayor's Office has assured Council Member Koslowitz that they will have something for us on the Umbrella Hotel by the end of the week. They were very cryptic and wouldn't expand beyond that.

### **3. PUBLIC FORUM**

Jenifer Rajkumar, Assembly Member-Elect, introduced herself stating that she is looking forward to helping her constituents after she is sworn in on January 6<sup>th</sup>. She can be reached by phone at 917-690-0891 or by email [jrk4ny@gmail.com](mailto:jrk4ny@gmail.com).

Josue Deras, Brisas del Mar Restaurant, spoke on behalf of the business owner stressing that they are trying their best to keep the business afloat during these difficult times by providing the best service possible.

Denise Hodge, Richmond Hill Resident, stated that being the owner of a corner property for over two decades, she has witnessed many accidents. In her opinion, the conversion of the 95<sup>th</sup> Ave from 110<sup>th</sup> to 111<sup>th</sup> St into a one-way street would help the situation. She also asked for barriers to be installed in front of her property to protect it from collisions in the future.

### **4. OPENING OF MEETING & READING OF MINUTES**

Chair Wilson asked if there were any corrections/additions to October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting minutes and motions. There were none. Rabbi Daniel Pollack made a motion to adopt the minutes, Joe Iaboni seconded it.

**Motion # 1:** To accept October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting minutes and motions as presented

**Vote # 1:** Unanimous

### **5. MONTHLY UPDATE NYPD 102<sup>nd</sup> PCT REPORT**

Capt. Fidacaro gave an update on crime stats stating that there were 72 major crimes last month vs 68 prior, which is a 6% increase for the 102<sup>nd</sup> Pct.

102<sup>nd</sup> Pct. was down or even in all categories except for rapes (5 vs 0) and burglaries (14 vs 9). Burglary cases are up specifically in north/east portion of the Precinct: in Kew Gardens, Richmond Hill and Woodhaven. 3 arrests were made regarding those burglaries and are looking for 1 more individual regarding robberies in Kew Gardens.

Overall, stolen cars continue to be a problem as people leave their keys in the ignition.

Capt. Fidacaro wished all veterans a Happy Veteran's Day and congratulated Assembly Member-Elect Rajkumar on her victory.

Capt. Fidacaro answered board members' questions.

### **6. CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS & EXEC. REPORT – Kenichi Wilson**

- Wished all Happy Veteran's Day and Happy Diwali.
- Participated at the Neir's Tavern getting their Lease on Life Celebration.
- Attended the Punjabi Ave Street Co-Naming Event and was very happy to see the Richmond Hill community coming together.
- Congratulated all Legislatives on their re-election and Assembly Member-Elect Jenifer Rajkumar.
- The next Exec Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 6:30 PM.

**7. DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT – James S. McClelland**

- Wished happy birthday to Marilyn Custodio, Laraine Fletcher, Mohamed Safie and Raghbir Singh.
- All community boards will be going through an audit by the comptroller's office. It is mainly administrative and relates to meeting and public hearing notifications. Will have a conference call on Thursday that will provide further information.
- The next district service cabinet meeting for all city agencies is scheduled for December 17th at 10:30 AM via Zoom.
- Since January the office has received over 220 complaints, concerns or questions regarding various quality of life issues and requests for assistance. A vast majority of these cases have been resolved and we will continue to work ensure that each one is closed to the satisfaction of the constituent.
- Happy Veterans Day to all of my fellow Veterans: Nick Comaianni, Joe Iaboni and J. Richard Smith. Happy and joyous Diwali to all. A Happy Thanksgiving to all. Even during these challenging times there is always something to be thankful for. An eternal joy and peace to our Sikh community as they celebrate the Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev ji at the end of the month.

**8. EDUCATION & YOUTH SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT – Sherry Algreto, Chair**

- Thanked DM McClelland and Chair Wilson for keeping CB9 Facebook page up to date.
- District 27 Deputy Superintendent Norman attended October DOE meeting and gave a presentation on stats of student attendance in schools in CB9.
- The 2021 High School Regents Exams have been cancelled.
- A letter will be sent to Queens BP regarding Richmond Hill Library Renovation.
- Thanked Council Member Adams and her budget director Kate Mooney for providing funding for many school projects in CB9.
- Thanked all veterans for their service. Wished happy birthday to her dad who turned 85 today. Wished all a Happy and safe Thanksgiving.

**9. HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT – Andrea Crawford, Chair**

- Over 61,000 people were hospitalized, 135,000 per day are being diagnosed and 1,000 people die every day due to COVID-19. This virus is still a threat and deadly. Also, all are advised to get inoculated against the flu. People can get a flu shot, get tested for COVID-19 and get an antibody test all in one visit for free at Queens Hospital, DOE certified screening site, which is closest to CB9, 7 AM to 7 PM.
- Pfizer vaccine study is very promising; will have massive issue with distribution.
- All are advised to take care of their health, i.e., to have their annual checkup, mammograms, etc.

**10. LAND USE & HOUSING COMMITTEE REPORT – Sylvia Hack & Sherman Kane, Co-Chairs**

- BSA Application #86-10BZ – 93-08 95<sup>th</sup> Avenue

**Motion # 2:** To approve the BSA application for a variance extension for the 1 ½ story building at 93-02 95<sup>th</sup> Ave

**Vote #2:** 35 in favor and 1 abstention

**11. ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT – Cristal Rivera, Chair**

- Open Storefronts Program was announced at the end of October which allows eligible businesses to conduct activity on sidewalks or on roadway on a temporary basis. The program will run until December 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Partnership between NYC Economic Development Corporation and NYC by Design is offering free design services to any restaurants that are doing outdoor dining and want their outdoor space to look more appealing.

12. **PUBLIC SAFETY & CONSUMER AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT – Joe Iaboni & Rabbi Daniel Pollack, Co-Chairs**

a. **On Premises Liquor License Application – New**

Four Brothers USA Inc.  
D/b/a Tandoori Hut  
119-08 94<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Richmond Hill, NY 11419

**Motion #3:** Not to oppose new on premises liquor license application for Four Brothers USA Inc., d/b/a Tandoori Hut, 119-08 94<sup>th</sup> Ave with 1 AM Stipulation

**Vote #3:** Unanimous

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

Brisas del Mar Sea Food Market II, Corp.  
76-15 Jamaica Ave  
Woodhaven, NY 11421

**Motion #4:** Not to oppose new on premises wine, beer & cider application for Brisas del Bar Sea Food Market II, 76-15 Jamaica Ave with 1 AM Stipulation

**Vote # 4:** Unanimous

c. **On Premises Beer & Cider License Application - New**

Little Town Coffee Shop Inc.  
90-17 130<sup>th</sup> St  
Richmond Hill, NY 11418

**Motion #5:** Not to approve new on premises beer & cider application for Little Town Coffee Shop Inc., 90-17 130<sup>th</sup> St

**Vote # 5:** Unanimous

d. **Method of Operation Change Application**

Ross Code Lounge Corp.  
D/b/a Ross Code Lounge  
117-15 101<sup>st</sup> Ave  
Richmond Hill, NY 11419

**Motion #6:** Not to oppose method of operation change application for Ross Code Lounge, 117-15 101<sup>st</sup> Ave

**Vote # 6:** Unanimous

3 In 1 Deli Grocery Inc.  
131-11 Jamaica Ave  
Richmond Hill, NY 11418

**Motion #7:** Not to approve method of operation change application for 3 In1 Deli Grocery Inc, 131-11 Jamaica Ave

**Vote # 7:** Unanimous

The next Public Safety and Consumer Affairs Committee meeting will take place on Monday, November 16, 2020 at 7 PM.

**13. TRANSPORTATION & TRAFFIC COMMITTEE REPORT – Faiuze Ali, Chair**

➤ **Street Co-Naming of Southwest Corner of 78<sup>th</sup> Street and 88<sup>th</sup> Avenue – Neirs Tavern Way**

**Motion # 8:** To support Street Co-Naming of Southwest Corner of 78<sup>th</sup> Street and 88<sup>th</sup> Ave to Neirs Tavern Way

**Vote # 8:** Unanimous

Mr. Ali also stated that all of the MTA’s bus stops and subway stations will be equipped with OMNY by the end of December. OMNY is the MTA’s new fare payment system. With OMNY, riders can use their own contactless card or smart device to make fare payments. OMNY will combine fare payments and mobile ticketing across subways, buses and commuter rail.

The council voted to allow e-scooters that can travel up to 20 mph and bicycles with electric motors that can travel up to 25 mph across New York City, in a win for food delivery workers and transportation advocates.

As of November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, backseat passengers are required to wear seatbelts by law. If a vehicle is stopped by a police officer and passengers are observed without a seat belt, they will be ticketed, not the driver.

**14. PARKS, RECREATION & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT – Regina Santoro, Chair**

One hundred and thirty-one new trees will be planted in Community Board #9 by December 8<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Santoro raised concerns regarding a film shooting that took place in front of Bingo Hall on Hillside Ave. No one was notified and all the surrounding streets were blocked off.

There were many park volunteers today working along Park Lane South mulching and clearing paths from leaves.

**15. BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT – John Carter, Chair**

The following was discussed at the last Executive Committee meeting:

- Surplus in personal service is anticipated. Rationale for salary increase for staff members was presented, but the District Manager has notified the committee that as per OMB, the Mayor will not entertain such request/proposal until after January 1, 2021.
- Chair Wilson invited all board members to participate in the next Exec Committee meeting to discuss merit increase for CB 9 staff.

**16. OLD BUSINESS**      *No speakers*

**17. NEW BUSINESS**      *No speakers*

**18. PUBLIC FORUM**      *No speakers*

Regina Santoro made a motion to adjourn. Latchman Budhai seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson at 9:20 PM.