



*The City of New York*  
*Borough of Queens*

**Community Board 8**

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Chairperson, Martha Taylor

District Manager, Marie Adam-Ovide

Minutes of Community Board 8 Meeting held on Wednesday, October 11, 2023, at the Hillcrest Jewish Center at 183-02 Union Turnpike, Queens, NY 11366.

**Attendance:**

**Board Members Present:**

Dilafroz Ahmed, Heather Bennett-Idels, Robert H. Block, Kenneth Cohen II, Maria DeInnocentiis, Allen Eisenstein, Kevin Forrestal, Bhitihara-Martha Fulton, James Gallagher Jr., John Gebhard, Wendy Gennaro, Ashan Habib, Michael Hannibal, Steven Konigsberg, Mitch Lisker, Mary Maggio, Jennifer Martin, Dilip Nath, Alan Ong, Tammy Osherov, Mohammad Rahman, Simon Pelman, Jesse Rosenbaum, Jenna Citron Schwab, Seymour Schwartz, Dr. Penny M. Stern, Douglas Sherman, Martha Taylor, Amy Tse, Rabbi Mayer Waxman, Charlton Rhee, Harbachan Singh and Jacob Weinberg.

**Board Members Absent:**

Susan D. Cleary, Rabbi Yaniv Meirov, Edward Chung, Solomon Davydov, David Mordukhaev, Rabbi Shilomo Nisanov, Simon Pelman, Frances Peterson, Mohammed Tohin, Howard A. Fried, Tobias Paris, Hersh Parekh, Deepti Sharma, Islam “Delwar” Mohammed, Elke Maerz and Neeta Jain.

**Others Present:**

Shubhra Datta representing Borough President Donovan Richards, Kelly Sextan representing James Gennaro, Council Member James Gennaro, Rokeya Akhter representing District Attorney Melinda Katz, Ari Inniss representing Senator Leroy Comrie, Lois Marbach representing Councilwoman Linda Lee, Scott Sieber representing State Senator John Liu, Rick Malone & Josh Simanowitz representing Assembly Member Samuel Berger, Hoshahnia Kumaran representing Assembly Member Nily Rozic, Lya Rothmann representing Senator Toby Stavisky, Norris Johns representing NYC Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, Tianna Armstrong representing Congresswoman Grace Meng, D.M. Marie Adam-Ovide [CB8 Staff Soleil Griffin, and Nettie Norris].

**Call to Order:**

Chairperson Martha Taylor called the Board Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

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**Public Participation:**

**Michael Clark - representing Housing Works**

Housing Works is a community based non-profit. They gave some background on how they started. They provide housing for those that are in high need and serve the public through their services. They have a robust network of professionals that work to help the community. They assumed operational management at the Wyndham in January 2023, after being approached by the mayor.

They plan on “Being A Good Neighbor” by getting involved in the community. Councilwoman Linda Lee’s office will furnish them with a recommended list of organizations, CB’s and NYPD for them to reach out to, as

a start. They should have the list when they meet with the Councilwoman the 1<sup>st</sup> week in November. Please check out their website for more information on Housing Works.

### **Former Councilman Barry Grodenchik**

He spoke on his relationship with Nettie Mayersohn and what a legend she was in the community and the State of New York. He outlined just a few of the legislative accomplishments she got passed:

- Baby AIDS Bill - this took her 3 years but she fought and it got passed
- Bill requiring victims of crimes or their survivors to be allowed to testify

*Chairperson Martha Taylor reminded each speaker that they have 3 minutes to speak*

Mark Deutscher, Mark Fletcher, Richard Teichler and a few others spoke in support of the co-namings for Nettie Mayersohn and Michael Simanowitz.

### **Jennifer Martin – Funeral Director & Director of Community Outreach**

She represents Parkside Memorial Chapel, Sinai Chapel, Forest Park Chapel and Schwart Brothers-Jeffer Memorial Chapels. They just renovated the entire building and it is beautiful. Since the renovation, they have held some monthly, fun events (i.e. a six-week bereavement group, a shredding event and even a Broadway Musical) They want the Chapels to be a happy place as well. On October 18<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. they are hosting appraisers from an auction house in Manhattan to appraise personal jewelry. Everyone is invited to come out.

### **Guest Speakers:**

#### **The Honorable James Gennaro, Council Member**

He acknowledged the birthdays of our CB8 Board Members. He spoke highly of former Assembly Member Nettie Mayersohn, the wonderful work she did and the impact she had on our community. He thanked the NYPD for all the hard work they do to keep us safe. He shared his thoughts on the war that is going on in Israel and Palestine.

#### **Honorable Sam Berger, Assembly Member**

He spoke about former Assembly Members Nettie Mayersohn and Michael Simanowitz, alongside Rick Malone and Josh Simanowitz. He proposed that a street be co-named in their memory, for all they have done for our community. He asked the CB8 members to support this proposal.

#### **Deputy Inspector Kevin Chan, 107th Precinct**

107<sup>th</sup> Precinct - Cars are continuously being stolen and broken into. Domestic violence crimes are up. Due to the war in Israel and Palestine, they have stepped up their manpower in order to keep us all safe.

### **Public Hearing (s):**

- Street Co-naming Request - 75th Avenue between Main Street and 147th Street to Michael Simanowitz Way.

**Passed Unanimously – Steven Konigsberg made a motion, seconded by Seymour Schwartz**

Dilafroz Ahmed, Robert H. Block, Kenneth Cohen II, Maria DeInnocentiis, Allen Eisenstein, Kevin Forrestal, Bhitihara-Martha Fulton, James Gallagher Jr., John Gebhard, Wendy Gennaro, Ashan Habib, Michael Hannibal, Steven Konigsberg, Mitch Lisker, Mary Maggio, Jennifer Martin, Dilip Nath, Alan Ong, Tammy Osherov, Mohammad Rahman, Simon Pelman, Jesse Rosenbaum, Jenna Citron Schwab, Seymour Schwartz, Dr. Penny M. Stern, Douglas Sherman, Martha Taylor, Amy Tse, Rabbi Mayer Waxman, Charlton Rhee, Harbachan Singh and Jacob Weinberg.

- Street Co-naming Request - 161st Street between Harry Van Arsdale (Jewel) Avenue and 160th Street to Nettie Mayersohn Way.

**Passed Unanimously – Harbachan Singh made a motion, seconded by Michael Hannibal**

Dilafroz Ahmed, Robert H. Block, Kenneth Cohen II, Maria DeInnocentiis, Allen Eisenstein, Kevin Forrestal, Bhitihara-Martha Fulton, James Gallagher Jr., John Gebhard, Wendy Gennaro, Ashan Habib, Michael Hannibal, Steven Konigsberg, Mitch Lisker, Mary Maggio, Jennifer Martin, Dilip Nath, Alan Ong, Tammy Osheroov, Mohammad Rahman, Simon Pelman, Jesse Rosenbaum, Jenna Citron Schwab, Seymour Schwartz, Dr. Penny M. Stern, Douglas Sherman, Martha Taylor, Amy Tse, Rabbi Mayer Waxman, Charlton Rhee, Harbachan Singh and Jacob Weinberg.

- FY '25 Capital & Expense Budget – Capital & Expense Budget Priorities and Community Board District needs Statement for Fiscal Year 2025.

**Passed Unanimously – A hand vote was taken – Michael Hannibal made a motion, seconded by Wendy Gennaro**

**Elected Officials' Announcements:**

**Rokeya Akhter - representing District Attorney Melinda Katz**

Since taking office, DA Katz's Human Trafficking Bureau has obtained 43 indictments against 62 individuals for crimes involving Sex Trafficking, Rape, Commercial Sexual Exploitation, and violent crimes against those in the sex industry. From 2022-2023 alone, the Human Trafficking Bureau secured a total of 25 felony plea dispositions. Of them, 23 were for sex trafficking and rape charges relating to the trafficking of women and underage children in Queens County. Of these trafficking dispositions (12), more than half, were for the crimes of sex trafficking of a child. The DA's Human Trafficking Bureau can be reached at (718) 286-6548 or by emailing [HumanTrafficking@queensda.org](mailto:HumanTrafficking@queensda.org).

**Lois Marbach - representing Councilwoman Linda Lee**

- October 17<sup>th</sup> bet. 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. the office will have an in-house representative from the Department of Buildings (DOB) to address any issues such as summonses and violations etc.
- November 17<sup>th</sup> bet. 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. a representative from the Medicare Rights Center will be on hand to assist the community with Medicare Open Enrollment changes/questions. This will be held at the SNAP Senior Center on Hillside Avenue. Please call (718) 468-0137 for directions.
- Councilwoman Lee introduced a bill for consideration, Intro 1197, pertaining to Local Law 97.

**Shubhra Datta – representing Borough President Donovan Richards**

- Borough President Richards held a vigil alongside the Queens' Jewish community and non-Jewish community. He, along with more than 100 community members who attended, believe that Israel has the right to defend itself and Hamas is a terrorist organization and prays for the Palestinian families who are being used as human shields.
- Borough President Richards and Queens Economic Development Corporation launched the Queens Tech Innovation Challenge. Five start-ups will be provided a total of \$100,000 with the application open until March 1<sup>st</sup>.
- The Borough President will be hosting a high school fair on November 9<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at the Borough Hall.

**IMMIGRANT RESOURCE FAIR:**

- When: Saturday, October 14th 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

- Where: Flushing International High School, 144-80 Barclay Ave.

#### NEW YORK VOTING RIGHTS TOWN HALL:

- When: Thursday, October 19th at 6pm
- Where: Virtual
- Description: Recently passed John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act of NY

#### ITALIAN HERITAGE CELEBRATION

- When: Wednesday, October 25th 7:00-9:00 p.m.
- Where: St. John's University (D'Angelo Center)

#### **Hoshahnia Kumaran – representing Assembly Member Nily Rozic**

Nily Rozic is still out on Parental leave. The office is fully functional in her absence. Nily alongside Attorney General Letisha James and Governor Kathy Hochul announced two bills that focus on Child Data Privacy. The announcement went out earlier today.

#### **Lya Rothmann – representing Senator Toby Stavisky**

They will be hosting a Senior Citizens Homeowner Exemption event (includes Co-ops and Condos) at the Bellerose Public Library located at 250-06 Hillside Avenue on Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. For more information, please call (718) 445-0004.

#### **Ari Inniss - representing Senator Leroy Comrie**

The Senator sends his regards and hopes to attend a meeting before the end of the year.

We will be hosting the following events:

- 10/14- Making of a Man Event from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at Campus Magnet High school
- 10/22- Flowers of Hope Breast Cancer Walk from 10:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m. Brookville Park
- 11/ 2 - Co-Sponsoring - Attorney General Tish James Deed Theft Forum

Bills the Senator is co-sponsoring- bills S1163A w/ Senator Sanders and A7691 w/ Assemblywoman Solages: **Establishes the New York State Community Commission on Reparations Remedies**

#### **Scott Sieber - representing Senator John Liu**

They are hosting a Paper Shredding event tomorrow, October 12<sup>th</sup> bet. 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the large parking lot at Cunningham Park. If the community has any questions or concerns, they can contact the office at (718) 765-6705.

#### **Norris Johns – representing NYC Public Advocate Jumaane Williams**

Throughout September, our office celebrated New York City's diverse communities and fostered civic engagement. We kicked off Hispanic Heritage Month with a family-friendly festival at P.S. 96, we marched in the African American Day Parade, the Mexican Day Parade, and the West Indian Day Parade, and we joined with partners to register voters for National Voter Registration Day.

The City Council recently passed our legislation to require dyslexia screenings for people incarcerated in city jails. The measure will help to expand educational and health services, improve programming inside city jails, and reduce recidivism upon release.

The Public Advocate has now passed 21 bills since taking office, with many more working their way through the legislative process.

Watch Ask the Advocate on News 12. Tune into News12 Bronx, Brooklyn or online to watch our monthly segment Ask the Advocate, live every third Monday of the month from 7:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

where the Public Advocate will answer questions from callers live on air! The next episode will be October 16, 2023.

*Chairperson Martha Taylor called for a roll call.*

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**Salute to the Flag**

*Chairperson Taylor called for a motion to approve the minutes.*

**Approval of Minutes:** Jesse Rosenbaum made a motion to approve the minutes of Wednesday, September 11, 2023, seconded by Jacob Weinberg. The motion passed unanimously.

**Chairperson, Martha Taylor’s Report**

Advised everyone to please check the proposed meeting dates for any religious observation conflicts. If there are any conflicts, please contact the district manager. The dates will be adopted next month at the November 15, 2023 CB8 meeting.

City Planning announced that the second Text Amendment for the City of Yes dealing with Economic Opportunity is expected to be released on or about October 30, 2023. We will have sixty days to send a response. In the interim, the agency is having virtual presentations/info. sessions that residents can attend to and learn more about it. A copy of the presentation is available on the City Planning website.

As you know, we are no longer allowed to have hybrid committee meetings since the mayor did not renew his emergency declaration in June. According to QBP’s Legal Counsel Allan Swisher, the board may pass a CB8 Resolution and have hybrid meetings for exigent circumstances. I received a request from Executive Board Member Kevin Forrestal. The Executive Committee has asked him to work on this.

**District Manager’s Report**

**Mayor’s Community Affairs Unit**

Mayor Adams is going on a trip to Mexico and South America. This is to dissuade migrants from coming to New York City.

**Department of Transportation**

The implementation of the transportation safety project presented to the Board in the spring started last week on Queens Boulevard between Union Turnpike and Hillside Avenue. Bike lanes are being installed.

**DOT** announced that there is an increase of residents harassing construction workers in the street in the DOT work zones. They have also removed the cones and other items used to prevent Parking in advance of construction.

They also informed us they have a huge backlog in street light repair, and installation of new lampposts due to limited resources.

### **Department of Parks and Recreation**

There are several green infrastructure projects that will occur in parks in collaboration with DEP.: Holy Cow Playground MPPA and Cunningham Upper Parking lot have upcoming Green Infrastructure projects. The projected start is in mid-November but the date TBD by DEP.

The Lower Redwood Playground Spray Shower Area Reconstruction is scheduled to begin October 16th. Our plumber supervisor confirmed that the Cunningham Tennis concession leak was repaired.

The ballfields with the most drainage issues are on the south side of 73rd Ave. Ballfields #s 10, 11, 12, 13, 14., 15, 16 and 17. Ballfield 10 has a planned green infrastructure project (Projected early spring start).

### **Department of Design and Construction**

**DDC Project I.D: SEQ200558** -In Jamaica Estates, 36 trees were pruned, and 12 trees removed. Tree guards were installed around the trees that remained. We asked whether these trees would be replaced. We were informed that they will be. The Department of Parks and Recreation will be the entity to determine where they will be planted.

**DDC Project ID: HWPR21QX** - Pedestrian ramps have been installed at all corners of 73rd Avenue between 184th Street and 199th Street as of today. The contractor will now go to Kissena Blvd. Stay tuned for further updates.

### **Department of Sanitation (DSNY)**

Starting September 1, 2023, residents who place garbage bags out before 8 p.m. are being given summonses. If you are placing garbage before 8 p.m. it must be in a container. Owners of residential buildings with 9+ units, you may arrange to have your garbage placed out on the day of collection from 4:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m.

Commercial businesses that generate food garbage that are not placing their garbage in containers as directed by the new regulations are also receiving summonses. Containers must be removed when your business reopens the next day. If you own a business that does not generate food garbage, you may place your garbage out in a bag for private carter pick-up after 6 p.m. The fines are \$100 to \$300 dollars for both residential and commercial establishments. We also learned that the lids from the commercial containers are being stolen, as they are costly.

If your garbage receptacle was damaged or lost, DSNY can provide you with a claim form to get reimbursed. You must provide proof that the agency was responsible. You can use pictures or video captured from your doorbell camera as proof.

**NYC Planning** The second part of City of Yes “Zoning for Economic Opportunity” is scheduled to be released on or about October 30, 2023. There are many opportunities to join online presentations. The agency will release the last part “Zoning for Housing Opportunity” next year in the spring.

**NYC Commission on Human Rights** October marks the 8th anniversary of the enactment of the Fair Chance Act. Businesses must do and submit a fair chance analysis for applicants with conviction or current employees with convictions. More information is available. This should include the reasons why employment is being refused based on potential risks to the employer.

### **Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)**

There were 256 complaints received for CB8 in September. The top five complaints were:

- 48 for air and smoke
- 15 for hydrant knocked over
- 33 for sewer backup
- 18 for catch basins
- 12 for dirty water and 12 barking dogs.

*Happy Birthday to Board Members Susan Cleary, Howard Fried, and Ahsan Habib who are celebrating their birthdays this month!*



*Marie Adam-Ovide*

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**Committee Report:**  
**Health Minute with Dr. Stern**

Dr. Penny Stern spoke about a patient who was under the age of 30 who took a fall and broke a hip. She learned about another person who broke a hip at 42 years old while on vacation in Greece. It then occurred to her that many people think that falls only affect the very old and infirm.

There are risk factors that increases your chances of falling as you age. These are declines in vision, hearing, balance and mobility. She also added that chronic health conditions like Parkinson’s disease, arthritis, diabetes, and medication side effects are factors as well. Environmental factors such as clutter, inadequate lighting, wet floors, unstable furniture, and improper footwear can cause falls.

Certain medication can increase the risk of falling, with some of the risks including drowsiness, or instability. Examples of these medications for anxiety and depression, sleeping pills, pain medication, etc. If you are taking these medications, you should speak to your doctor about the side effects.

There are several lifestyle changes you can make to prevent falls such as:

- Increase regular physical activity to improve strength, balance, and flexibility
- Review and modify your medications with your provider
- Remove slippery rugs and clutter in your home and improve lighting
- Wear appropriate, non-slip footwear
- Have regular eye check-ups

She advised that you do everything you can to prevent falls.

Chairperson Martha Taylor adjourned the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,  
 Nettie V. Norris, CB8 Staff  
 October 31, 2023*