



*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 Board Meeting held on Wednesday, December 11, 2019 at the Hillcrest Jewish Center, 183-02 Union Turnpike in Flushing, New York.

**Attendance:**

**Board Members Present:**

Dilafroz Ahmed, Robert H. Block, Edward Chung, Susan D. Cleary, Maria DeInnocentiis, Allen Eisenstein, Florence Fisher, Kevin Forrestal, Bhitihara-Martha Fulton, James Gallagher Jr., Michael Hannibal, Robert Harris, Tami Hirsch, Fakrul “Delwar” Islam, Steven Konigsberg, Paul S. Lazauskas, Bright Dae-Jung Limm, Mitch Lisker, Elke Maerz, Dilip Nath, Tamara Osherov, Frances Peterson, Mohammad Rahman, Seymour Schwartz, Harbachan Singh, Dr. Penny M. Stern, Martha Taylor and Mohammed Tohin.

**Board Members Absent:**

Jagir Singh Bains, Carolyn Baker-Brown, Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Kenneth Cohen II, Carolann Foley, Howard A. Fried, John Gebhard, Joshua Glikman, Marc A. Haken, Mary Maggio, Frank Magri, Jennifer Martin, Rabbi Shlomo Nisanov, Simon Pelman, Wendy Phaff, Charlton Rhee, Jesse Rosenbaum, Douglas Sherman, Rachele Van Arsdale, Jacob Weinberg, Stanley Weinblatt and Albert Willingham.

**Others Present:**

Susie Tanenbaum representing Borough President Melinda Katz, David Noh representing Councilman Barry Grodenchik, Kristen Jeffries representing Councilman Rory Lancman, Andrew Taranto representing State Senator Leroy Comrie, Muhammad Rahman representing Assemblyman David Weprin, Daniel Blech representing Assemblyman Daniel Rosenthal, Hudy Rosenberg representing Assemblywoman Nily Rozic, Nolan Gray from the Department of City Planning and Jatna Reyes, CB8 Staff Member.

**Call to Order:**

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

**Public Participation:**

**Alan Sherman** – Mr. Sherman spoke about a request for a re-design study of Jewel Avenue from Queens Boulevard to Utopia Parkway. He feels that if this study is approved, it will limit the ability for cars to drive on the road due to more bicycle lanes. He asked that CB8 contact DOT to stop them from doing this. A written report was given to the CB for the record.

**Kristen Jeffries** – The office of Councilman Rory Lancman launched their internship program for college students. Anyone interested in this program can contact their District Office at: 718-217-4969.

**Susan Cleary** – Ms. Cleary spoke about changes being proposed by DOT and Transportation Alternatives on Main Street in Flushing. They are looking to have car-free transit and expand bus lanes. She wants CB8 to get involved and stop DOT/Transportation Alternatives from doing this.

**David Noh** – There will be a scope meeting on Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Windsor Park Library regarding 210<sup>th</sup> Street Playground. They [*New York Junior Tennis & Learning*] continue to have their FREE [*funded by the City Council*] indoor tennis at Cunningham Park’s Tennis Center on Saturdays and Sundays from 6:00 a.m. to 7:45 a.m.

**Salute to the Flag**

Chairperson Martha Taylor led the salute to the flag.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Kevin Forrestal made a motion to approve the minutes of November 13, 2019, seconded by Michael Hannibal.

Count in favor 28                      Opposed: 0                      Abstained: 0

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**Chairperson’s Report – Martha Taylor:**

- Best wishes to Board Member Jesse Rosenbaum for a speedy recovery as he is recuperating from knee surgery. We wish him the best.
- Best wishes to DM Adam-Ovide who is not feeling well and could not attend the meeting tonight.
- In the CB8 Member packets, there was a list of the CB8 meeting dates for 2020. She asked the Board Members to review them and let her know if there were any issues. The meeting dates we approved with no changes.

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**District Manager’s Report, December 2019**

**Buildings** – Earlier in the fall (October) there was a 58% increase in the number of DOB complaints (300+) for our district. In November the number of complaints went back to normal (168). For Airbnb complaints, the agency asked that the Community Board office directs them to the Mayor’s Office of Special Operations and send a copy of the complaints to the Department of Buildings. There may also be illegal conversions done to the property as well that DOB can address.

**Parks** – There will be many events at the CB8 parks for the month of December:

- Friends of Captain Tilly Park – Clean-up of Captain Tilly Park on December 7, 2019
- Menorah Lighting Ceremony at Cunningham Park at the 196<sup>th</sup> Place parking lot – December 22<sup>nd</sup> from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Fir Well Event - from December 26<sup>th</sup> to January 11<sup>th</sup> residents can bring their Christmas trees to Cunningham Park’s 196<sup>th</sup> Place parking lot for composting.
- Menorah Lighting Ceremony at Haym Salomon Square – December 13<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- There will be a mulch fest on Saturday, January 4<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Department of Transportation** - The agency’s holiday construction embargo went into effect on November 15th and should end on January 2nd. The following streets are affected in Community Board 8:

- Queens Boulevard
- Hillside Avenue (180<sup>th</sup> Street to Van Wyck Expressway)
- Main Street

**Sanitation** – We informed the community that the department resumed collection of organic wood in October, since the Asian Longhorn Beetle has been eradicated from New York City. If you placed wood out for collection and it was not removed, please file a complaint through 311 or contact Community Board 8.

**Housing Preservation & Development** – As stated last month, property owners of multi-dwellings must register with HPD. One and two-family dwellings do not have to register with HPD unless the property owner is an absentee landlord whose relatives do not reside on the property. The agency informed us that they are making progress and residents should be able to file these complaints with 311 early next year.

The agency wanted to remind landlords of 3-5 family-dwellings to do their yearly inspections and submit the results in January.

**Mayor’s Community Affairs Unit** – There wasn’t anything to report regarding CB8. CAU has been actively working to coordinate assistance to the families affected by the sewer back-ups in Richmond Hill.

**Department of Design and Construction** – NYCDDC Project # HWPR18Q2 [Pedestrian Ramps] – CCL Farrah Antoine informed us that they will be working at Community Board 11 in a few weeks.

**NYC Commission on Human Rights** – There was a recent change in their policy at the agency. People must call [(718) 657-2465] and make an appointment for services.

**OEM** – Remember to update your “go bags” for the winter. You should have enough items to allow you to shelter in place for at least 7 days without power. NYC CERT is now recruiting for training. To sign-up please go to: [www.nycem.samaritan.com/CERT](http://www.nycem.samaritan.com/CERT). Classes will start in February 2020.



*Happy Birthday to: Al Eisenstein, Jesse Rosenbaum, Steve Konigsberg, Sey Schwartz, Bhitihara Fulton, Tammy Osherov, Stanley Weinblatt, Tami Hirsch, Charlton Rhee, Simon Pelman, Dr. Allen Bennett and Fakrul “Delwar” Islam.*

*Marie Adam-Ovide*

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**Borough President’s Representative – Susie Tanenbaum**

- On Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. there will be an Award Ceremony for the Jamaica Now Neighborhood Action Plan. RSVP at [Queensbp.org/RSVP](http://Queensbp.org/RSVP) or call 718-286-2661.
- On Monday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4:15 p.m. there will be a Chanukah Menorah-lighting Ceremony at Queens Borough Hall on the front lawn. RSVP at [Queensbp.org/RSVP](http://Queensbp.org/RSVP) or call 718-286-2661.
- On Thursday, December 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m., there will be a Kwanzaa Celebration at the Helen Marshall Cultural Center at Queens Borough Hall. Doors open at 4:45 p.m. There will be a film presentation, “The Black Candle” from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. RSVP at [Queensbp.org/RSVP](http://Queensbp.org/RSVP) or call 718-286-2661. Flyers were distributed.
- Dr. Penny Stern asked Ms. Tanenbaum when will Borough President Katz fill-in her position as Queens District Attorney. Ms. Tanenbaum stated that she will start on January 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be an interim Borough President for a period of 45 to 60 days until the Borough President’s position is filled.

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**Committee Reports:**

**Health Minute with Dr. Penny Stern, Health Committee Chair:**

- A study from the CDC reported that nearly 1 in 5 adolescents aged 12-18 years, and 1 in 4 young adults aged 19-34 years, are living with pre-diabetes. Pre-diabetes is a health condition in which blood sugar levels are higher than normal, but not yet high enough to be diagnosed as Type 2 diabetes. It also increases the risk of developing chronic kidney disease, heart disease and stroke.
- Diabetes does not occur across all races and ethnic groups equally. More than 100 million Americans are either living with diabetes or pre-diabetes and many of them do not know they have it.
- The percentage of adolescents and young adults living with pre-diabetes was higher in males and participants with obesity. Hispanic young adults have higher rates of pre-diabetes compared to white young adults. Adolescents and young adults with pre-diabetes had significantly higher cholesterol levels and systolic blood pressure. She suggested that everyone consult their doctor to check on the cholesterol levels and blood pressure.
- Some of the signs and symptoms associated with diabetes include:
  - Increased thirst, frequent urination, extreme hunger, unexplained weight loss, presence of ketones in the urine (*this happens when there is not enough insulin in the body*), fatigue, irritability, blurred vision, slow healing sores and frequent infections.
- The risk of developing diabetes increases with age. Make sure you are eating properly by ingesting fruits and vegetables. Exercising regularly for at least a 30 minute period is key to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

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**Queens Complete Count Committee (QCCC) – Michael Hannibal**

- **Census 2020** – Mr. Hannibal stated that they met with the Committee [*QCCC Committee*] to speak about the process of the census.
- A key set of stakeholders, namely, Queens business leaders were in attendance. Tom Grech, President and CEO of the Queens Chamber of Commerce was in attendance. He introduced his organization and the work

that they are doing to support the census. The five borough-level Chamber of Commerce are working with the Association for a Better New York (ABNY) on a Citywide business census summit.

- A presentation was made by Jaime Faye Bea, Executive Director of Sunnyside Shines' Business Improvement District. She is incorporating census information into their outdoor cultural outreach. She is also engaging with immigrant business owners to build trust and raise response rates among hard to count populations.
- He also spoke about Community Board interface. Having Community Board district leaders like DM Adam-Ovide and others from other Districts to talk about how they can support Census outreach can be helpful.
- The second half of the meeting consisted on discussions by the sub-committees and their potential strategies for reaching out to local business and engaging as potential census outreach partners.
- A map was created by the Census Board showing where the hard-to-count (HTC) areas are. He will send the CB the link for it to be shared with the Board Members.
- The next Queens CCC meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. He will give us a report in January.  
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**Adjournment**

Mitch Lisker made a motion to adjourn this meeting at 8:01 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Jatnna Reyes, CB8 staff  
December 13, 2019*