



Chairman, Alvin Warshaviak

*The City of New York  
Borough of Queens*

Community Board 8  
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District Manager, Marie Adam-Ovide

Minutes of Community Board 8 Board Meeting held on Wednesday, September 10, 2014 at the Hillcrest Jewish Center, 183-02 Union Turnpike in Flushing, New York

**Attendance:**

**Board Members Present:**

Jagir Singh Bains, Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Robert H. Block, Susan D. Cleary, Maria DeInnocentiis, Brian DeMasters, Allen Eisenstein, Mary Maggio Fischer, Florence Fisher, Carolann Foley, Kevin Forrestal, James Gallagher Jr., Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Robert Harris, Tami Hirsch, Fakrul “Delwar” Islam, Steven Konigsberg, Bright Dae-Jung Limm, Paul S. Lazauskas, Mark J. Lefkof, Mitch Lisker, Elke Maerz, Frank Magri, Jennifer Martin, Tamara Osharov, Simon Pelman, Frances Peterson, Charlton Rhee, Steven Sadofsky, Annie Salvatore, Seymour Schwartz, Michael F. Sidell, Harbachan Singh, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin, Jacob Weinberg, and Albert Willingham

**Board Members Absent:**

Dilafroz Ahmed, Carolyn Baker-Brown, Edward Chung, Kenneth Cohen II, Monica Corbett, Howard A. Fried, Joshua Glikman, Samuel Rodriguez, Jesse Rosenbaum, Alvin Warshaviak, and Stanley Weinblatt

**Others Present:**

Joseph Chen representing State Senator Tony Avella, Valli Cook representing Queens College, Courtney Cariello representing Assemblywoman Nily Rozic, Anthony Lemma representing Assemblyman David Weprin, Alen Beerman representing Councilman Mark Weprin, Daniel Rosenthal representing Councilman Rory Lancman, Pesac Osina representing the Comptroller, Susie Tanenbaum representing Borough President Melinda Katz, Stephen Everett representing City Planning, and Scott Wolff representing Assemblyman Michael Simanowitz

**Call to Order:**

Area 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Chair Seymour Schwartz called this Board Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**Public Participation:**

**Diane Marinconz-** I am here to speak briefly about the walk at Flushing Meadows for Alzheimer’s. 2014. It will take place on September 28<sup>th</sup>. It will raise funds to help find a cure for this terrible debilitating disease.

**Abdullah Zahid & Sharon Banks-** Good evening Community Board 8. Sharon is from the Pomonok Library and I am from the Hollis Library. We wanted to thank the Community Board from the bottom of our hearts on behalf of our customers for their support with book purchases. Also, the Queens Hollis Library will be closed due to renovations for about ten days starting September 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Mia Chmela-** I love American Dance and Drama because we learn a lot of new things that are really fun to learn.

**Fred Sciretta-** I’m the Director of American Dance and Drama. We have been located on Union Turnpike for 40 years. We are a very well known school in the area, with all different types of classes and programs that we do. We

do community benefits as well. All we want to do is expand the space of the school to the next storefront. We will be adding more space to the kids that we have. Also, this would allow the parents to sit more comfortably.

**Cara Sciretta**- I run American Dance and Drama along with my parents. In the 40 years in business, I have been there 20. The only thing we are trying to do is to make the lobby, where the parents sit, into a bigger space. This will also give the students more room to dance. We are not adding classes or increasing enrollment. We have signs that ask our parents not to double park or block driveways. I actually go outside and stand on the corner to make sure the children are safe and that nothing bad is happening.

**Ellen Ehrlich**- I have lived in the neighborhood for well over 30 years. I've been with American Dance and Drama for 20, both as a student and a parent. I consider American Dance and Drama an absolute asset to the area and to the neighborhood. It is very important to the children.

**Nicole Pelicane**- I am a parent of American Dance and Drama. We've been there for a couple years and it is an amazing establishment. What they are trying to do is wonderful. They want to give us parents more room so that we don't have to double park and just drop off our kids. We can go find parking and come to a nice meeting area and actually sit there and wait. I think this will also bring more money into the community. If I am waiting for three hours I'm going to get a slice of pizza next door or Dunkin Dounuts coffee across the street.

**Nasir Khanzada**- I am here in support of the variance for the gas station at 72-09 Main Street. They seek to reapply for their variance and extend the terms to allow for the enlargement of a canopy, to add a new dispenser, and to replace the fuel tanks.

**\*\* Before the Salute to the Flag, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair Martha Taylor welcomed back Tami Hirsch to the board after a healthy recovery.\*\***

**Tami Hirsch**- We may have different views, but I want to tell you something: It's been most heartening to get the messages and phone calls from you (the Board). Really and truly I have never experienced anything like this in my life. I am telling you all, thank you, from the bottom of my heart.

**Salute to the Flag**

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair Martha Taylor led the salute to the flag.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Mark Lefkof made a motion to approve the minutes of June 18, 2014 seconded by Robert Harris.

Count in favor 38                      Opposed: 0                      Abstained: 0

**Board Members who approved the minutes:**

Jagir Singh Bains, Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Robert H. Block, Susan D. Cleary, Maria DeInnocentiis, Brian DeMasters, Allen Eisenstein, Mary Maggio Fischer, Florence Fisher, Carolann Foley, Kevin Forrestal, James Gallagher Jr., Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Robert Harris, Tami Hirsch, Fakrul "Delwar" Islam, Steven Konigsberg, Bright Dae-Jung Limm, Paul S. Lazauskas, Mark J. Lefkof, Mitch Lisker, Elke Maerz, Frank Magri, Jennifer Martin, Tamara Osherov, Simon Pelman, Frances Peterson, Charlton Rhee, Steven Sadofsky, Annie Salvatore, Seymour Schwartz, Michael F. Sidell, Harbachan Singh, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin, Jacob Weinberg, and Albert Willingham

**Board Members who did not approve the minutes:**

None

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**Chairman's Report:**

- Ms. Taylor presented Anthony Lemma, who had a message on behalf of Assemblyman David Weprin.

**Anthony Lemma**- Assemblyman Weprin will be sponsoring a Jobs Fair on Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at the Boys and Girls club at 110-04 Atlantic Avenue. It will be from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. There will be multiple City Agencies there and a number of organizations in private industry. Please come out and help us make this a big success.

- We received a letter on August 26<sup>th</sup> from Vines NYC, not-for-profit, which is a non for profit agency looking to apply for an open ended RFP for transitional housing for women with children. Community Board 8 sent a letter on September 2<sup>nd</sup> asking for location of the shelter. We have not received any further correspondence on the issue. Other Community Boards have received a similar letter. It appears that they are reaching out to the Community Boards to assist them in finding a possible location.
- Alma Karassavidis who had been with the Board for about a year as a full time Community Assistant will be returning to her former position on September 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Stanley Weinblatt is home from Margaret Tietz Rehabilitation Center. I am sure he would appreciate any phone calls he would get from us in support as we wish him continued health in his recovery.

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### **District Manager's Report**

**Police Department** – The Precinct has been doing a lot of graffiti clean-ups in the community. They are in dire need of supplies such as paint and would welcome donations. There has been an increase in Grand Larceny. There were 10 more car thefts this year. Otherwise, there has been a 14% decrease in all major crimes.

**Department of Environmental Protection** – Matt Mahoney left the DEP. Assistant Commissioner Mario Bruno is now the acting Director at DEP. With the return of Emily Lloyd, there will be some changes at DEP. We will be notified as soon as the information becomes available.

**DOB** - The Department of Buildings complaints from CB8 have shown an increase. There are usually about 100 or so complaints for illegal conversions. The Buildings Department received about 290 complaints. Illegal conversion complaints and zoning complaints remain the top complaints for CB8. The agency has seen an increase in complaint for residential properties with conjunctive uses.

The agency will be having a meeting to address outstanding ECB violations. ECB violations are for safety hazards situations. Buildings violations are for issues such as zoning – they carry a civil penalty. Many homeowners often pay the ECB violations and do not cure the problem.

Barbed wires and razor wires are illegal and should not be placed on fences or ledges.

**NYS Comptroller** – The agency reported that \$1M each day is returned to their rightful owners. As of June 2014 there was \$13B in unclaimed funds. You can use the following link to access unclaimed funds for all the states in the Union: <http://www.osc.state.ny.us/ouf/money/>

**Human Resources Administration** - The Department has a new fraud hotline. Please call 718-722-8001 to make any complaints regarding fraudulent activities. As you know able bodied individuals on Public Assistance are required to work for a certain amount of hours for their benefits. Starting August 29<sup>th</sup> it has new provision for college students and college educated people on public assistance. The students may calculate the time that they go to school towards the required work hours. They are also looking for new vendors to take in the individuals with 4 year degrees.

Applicants may now drop off applications at self service kiosks and can make free copies of their applications to keep for their records.

**Con Edison** – There was not much to report. The representative will be working with the DOT to address lighting complaints where there is an issue with the supply of electricity (i.e. bus shelters, lamppost etc...)

**Department of Transportation** - Unfortunately due to the conflict with work being done by the Department of Design and Construction the resurfacing of Hillside Avenue has been postponed once more. There is a limit to how many lane miles that the Department of Transportation can do at night. It is now scheduled for the next season is in the spring. I have asked that the agency work with DDC to do a curb to curb restoration.

The Grand Central Parkway has new LED lights. Drivers should see an improvement on the road. The Homelawn Street Improvement Project is near completion.

**Department for the Aging** - The Agency is planning its annual public hearing for October 29<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to noon. Residents will have the opportunity to testify. They may speak about what they would like the agency to do or make recommendations as to how they can do better. Each individual will have up to 7 minutes to speak; however, they must call 212-602-4264 to register for speaking time. The Public Hearing will be held at Queens Borough Hall 120-55 Queens Boulevard, Room 213. They must provide three (3) copies of their testimony.

**Fire Department** - The Department has seen an overall increase in structural fires, non-structural fires and emergencies from year to date. The response time citywide is between 3 to 4 minutes. There were no stats on response times specifically for Community Board 8. The response time for the EMS has been between 6.7 minutes to 6.8 minutes. They met their target of 7 minutes citywide.

October is Fire Safety Month and the FDNY encourages residents to make use of the many Community Engagement Services that they provide. There is a new class of fire fighters with 300 probationary fire fighters.

**Department of Design and Construction**

**QED 989** – Work has been suspended in community Board 8 for this project. For the next few weeks, they will be doing restoration work once the temporary fill in the trenches have settled. The agency anticipates returning in the spring.

**QED1001** – Work is currently 33% completed. As of September 3, 2014 they were working on 87<sup>th</sup> Avenue from 150<sup>th</sup> Street to 148<sup>th</sup> Street. The next section will be from 143<sup>rd</sup> Street to 148<sup>th</sup> Street near Silvercrest. Afterwards, they will be installing pipes from 164<sup>th</sup> Street to Parsons Boulevard. They will continue to advise the board of any water shut offs on a daily basis.

*Happy Birthday to Board Member Steven Sadofsky who celebrated his birthday yesterday.*

**James Gallagher Jr.** – I just wanted to thank everyone from the Sunshine Club for the beautiful fruit baskets sent to Tami Hirsch and Stanley Weinblatt during the summer.

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

- Welcome back Tami Hirsch.
- I hope it is not too late to commend Marie, the CB8 staff, and everyone at the Community Board for the amazing Health Fair this June. Every year the fair gets bigger and better and I look forward to it next year.
- I’m sure we all remember where we were 13 years ago on September 11, 2001. Borough President Katz will be attending a memorial service sponsored by the Bayside Hills Civic Association. I hope everyone in the room will have the opportunity to take some time to reflect on that day and the values that we all share.
- I want to wish those of you who celebrated the Full Moon Festival, a happy Full Moon Festival. I also hope you please enjoy all the October Holidays and I will see you next month on behalf of Melinda Katz.

**Committee Report:**

**Liquor License Committee:**

**Michael Hannibal, Liquor License Committee Chair**

- **Meatos NY One, LLC d/b/a Meatos Grill Bar, 185-01 Union Turnpike-** This establishment applied for a full Liquor License. The Committee voted unanimously to recommend licensure of the restaurant. Issues surrounding the patio/ deck were tabled pursuant to further information from the Department of Buildings regarding the use of that location.

**Granting of Variance BSA Calendar No. 340-41 BZ, 72-09 Main Street in Kew Gardens Hills, NY:**  
**Steven Konigsberg, Zoning Committee Chair:**

Application seeks an extension of the terms of zoning variance; to amend the resolution to allow the enlargement of a canopy; to add a new dispenser; and for the replacement of tanks. The applicant spoke at the public hearing, but there was no public participation for or against the application. There were only six Board Members present for the committee vote, but we did record that the six members would have voted unanimously to approve the application.

**Motion:**

Marc Haken made a motion to approve the extension of the terms of variance for BSA Calendar No. 340-41 BZ Main Street in Kew Gardens Hills, NY, seconded by Paul Lazauskas.

**Discussion:**

There was no discussion of the application.

**Vote:**

**In Favor: 38**

**Opposed: 0**

**Voted for:** Jagir Singh Bains, Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Robert H. Block, Susan D. Cleary, Maria DeInnocentiis, Brian DeMasters, Allen Eisenstein, Mary Maggio Fischer, Florence Fisher, Carolann Foley, Kevin Forrestal, James Gallagher Jr., Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Robert Harris, Tami Hirsch, Fakrul “Delwar” Islam, Steven Konigsberg, Bright Dae-Jung Limm, Paul S. Lazauskas, Mark J. Lefkof, Mitch Lisker, Elke Maerz, Frank Magri, Jennifer Martin, Tamara Osherov, Simon Pelman, Frances Peterson, Charlton Rhee, Steven Sadofsky, Annie Salvatore, Seymour Schwartz, Michael F. Sidell, Harbachan Singh, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin, Jacob Weinberg, and Albert Willingham

**Voted against:** None

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**Granting of Variance BSA Calendar No. 51-06-BZ, 188-02/22 Union Turnpike in Fresh Meadows, NY:**  
**Steven Konigsberg, Zoning Committee Chair:**

Application seeks extend the space for the currently occupied location. This application seeks to amend the original variance previously granted. It will allow the addition of floor area to the existing Use Group 9 dance studio on the first floor of the existing one-story and cellar building. The expanded area would include more room for providing more services for the existing population of students and to expand the waiting room in order to make it more comfortable for the parents. Any issues that were brought up in Committee to the applicant about parking were adequately addressed and responded to. There were six Board Members present, and even though we did not have a quorum, all six board members present would have voted to grant the terms of variance.

**Motion:**

Dr. Allen Bennett made a motion to approve the amendment to the original variance of BSA Calendar No. 51-06-BZ 188-02/22 Union Turnpike in Fresh Meadows, NY, seconded by Mary Maggio Fischer.

**Discussion:**

There was no discussion of the application.

**Vote:**

**In Favor: 38**

**Opposed: 0**

**Voted for:** Jagir Singh Bains, Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Robert H. Block, Susan D. Cleary, Maria DeInnocentiis, Brian DeMasters, Allen Eisenstein, Mary Maggio Fischer, Florence Fisher, Carolann Foley, Kevin Forrestal, James Gallagher Jr., Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Robert Harris, Tami Hirsch, Fakrul “Delwar” Islam, Steven Konigsberg, Bright Dae-Jung Limm, Paul S. Lazauskas, Mark J. Lefkof, Mitch Lisker, Elke Maerz, Frank Magri, Jennifer Martin, Tamara Osherov, Simon Pelman, Frances Peterson, Charlton Rhee, Steven Sadofsky, Annie Salvatore, Seymour Schwartz, Michael F. Sidell, Harbachan Singh, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin, Jacob Weinberg, and Albert Willingham

**Voted against:** None

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**2nd Vice Chair Martha Taylor called for a moment of Silence for all those lost in the attack of September 11, 2001**

**2nd Vice Chair Martha Taylor** – Wished everyone Happy Holidays!

**Kevin Forrestal**- Next Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> there will be a Public Forum at the Queens Farm sponsored by the Queens Civic Congress if you are concerned about Bus Transportation in Queens.

**Adjournment**

Carolann Foley made a motion to adjourn this meeting at 8:14 p.m., seconded by Susan Cleary.

*Respectfully submitted, Joseph Marziliano, CB8 staff  
September 15, 2014*