



COMMUNITY
BOARD #14

**COMMUNITY BOARD#14
VIRTUAL MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 9, 2021**

PRESENT

Audrey Amsterdam-Handy, Louis Caucig, Andrea Colon, John Cori, Dr. Gerald David, Ahmad Edwards, Jack Epter, Joanne Fogarty, Eugenia Gibson, D. Brian Heffernan Tamara Jacobs, Felicia Johnson, Paul King, Betty Leon, Denise Lopetri-Neibel, Nancy Martinez, John McCambridge, Sonia Moise, Helen Montero, Al Moore, Daniel Mundy, Dolores Orr, Dr. Harold Paez, Eugene Pasternak, Dr. Eli Shapiro, Karen Sloan-Payne, Michael Tubridy Jose Velez, Wanda Warden, Edwin Williams

ABSENT

Noreen Ellis, Temina Feldman, Yitzchok Goldstein, Annette Lord-Cohen, Ife Maijeh, Rosalyn Mason, Alicia Mazyck, Kevin Morgan, Isaac Parsee, Linda Plummer, Chris Tedesco, William Gordon

GUESTS

Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer-Amato, Stephanie Castillol-Samoy - Rep. State Senator James Sanders Jr., Sandee Doremus – Rep. State Senator Joseph Addabbo Jr., Malik Sanders – Rep. Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, Dan Brown-Rep. District Attorney Melinda Katz

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:20pm. .

MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 9, 2021

Denise Lopresti-Neibele made the motion to approve the February 9, 2021 minutes as written. Betty Leon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDANCE- Letter dated February 3, 202, that was requested by the Board at the January meeting be sent to U.S. Senators Schumer and Gillibrand and to all local officials. Letter requested that emergency funding be provided for sand replenishment of our beaches. Beaches were dangerously eroded by the winter storms. This funding would allow a contractor to replenish the devastated sections of the beach this spring 2021.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR – The Chair thanked our local Sanitation workforce for their excellent job of removing snow from the streets after the recent storms.

As a reminder to board members that have already been notified of re-appointment to the board, please complete applications online before the deadline.

COMMUNITY BOARD #14
City of New York
Borough of Queens

DOLORES ORR
Chairperson

JONATHAN GASKA
District Manager

1931 Mott Avenue, Room 311
Far Rockaway, NY 11691
Tel.: (718) 471-7300
Fax: (718) 868-2657
cbrock14@nyc.rr.com
www.nyc.gov/queenscb14
FACEBOOK: [cb14rockaway](https://www.facebook.com/cb14rockaway)



REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER - Jonathan Gaska, District Manager reported that the Army Corp of Engineers will give a full presentation at the Board's March meeting. Also the draft scope for the Edgemere Resiliency was emailed out to City Planning and to all board members.

ELECTED OFFICIAL CALL IN

ASSEMBLYMEMBER STACEY PHEFFER-AMATO

Assemblywoman Pheffer-Amato reported that sessions in Albany are being held three days a week. Discussions on the budget are taken place. There are massive cuts in education which she and others are fighting against to ensure all schools get a fair share of funding. Also she is fighting against cuts effecting the environment, agencies such as DEP requires adequate funding to efficiently maintain and update facilities what will protect both residents and our environment.

She stated she is very much aware of the issues regarding beach erosion . Her office is open to address and help residents with issues and concerns.

February is Violence and Awareness Month. She will be hosting a webinar on February 18, 2021 that focuses on talking honestly about teen dating and violence and to start the conversations regarding awareness of signs of predators in an organization.

March 1, 2021 her office will be hosting a virtual Non-Certified CPR Training along with the Fire Dept. that focuses on compression only.

Office of QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT DONOVAN RICHARDS

Malik Sanders reported that he will still be CB#14 representative's but he mainly will be focusing on borough-wide planning and land-use issues.

Office of STATE SENATOR JOSEPH ADDABBO JR.

Sandee Doremus reported that Senator Addabbo Jr. is on his way from Albany and has been working very hard on several bills that can be forwarded to all at a later date if needed.

Office of QUEENS DISTRICT ATTORNEY MELINDA KATZ

Dan Brown reported that District Attorney Katz is hosting a winter coat drive and items can be dropped off at the QBH, by the court house building or he can pick up the donated items if needed. He can be reached at 718-286-6593 or by email dbrown@queensda.org.

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION

NYC Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH)

Re: Local Default on Violations and Summonses

Rachael Amar, Special Assistant to the Commissioner and Chief Administrative Law Judge of OATH informed everyone that OATH is a city agency you deal with to challenge a summons or violation that was issued to you from an enforcement city agency such as DSNY, DEP, DOT and DOB.

Rachael Amar explained she would like to bring awareness to assist residents on how to avoid default and civil court judgement on violations that could negatively affect their credit report. The majority of defaults in the city system for District #14 are from DSNY. For example for 11691 and 11692 zip codes data shows that there are 14,389 defaulted violations from DSNY which is typical across the five boroughs over a period of years.

OATH has conducted webinars since the pandemic started and will continue to outreach in communities that have a high rate of defaults.

Dolores Orr asked that our Economic Development Committee work with OATH beginning with the **Rockaway East Merchants Association** to develop a plan to identify and assist merchants with this issue.

NYC Campaign Finance Board- Re: Ranked Choice Voting

Omar Suarez explained that Ranked Choice Voting is new for the February 23, 2021 Special Election of the 31st Council District. The NY Finance Board is conducting community outreach to explain how it works.

Mr. Suarez explained that once you receive your ballot, which will horizontally have 1-5 in columns across the top and the list of candidates parallel ranked choice voting can be done by following:

1. Pick your 1st choice candidate and completely fill in the oval next to that candidate under 1st choice column.

You must choose at least one candidate for your vote to count.

2. If you have a second choice candidate. Fill in the oval next to that candidate under 2nd choice column.

3. Continue marking up to 5 choices. You can mark as few as one or as many as five.

Mr. Suarez explained that make sure you mark at least for one candidate for your vote to count. Only mark one oval in a column and only mark one oval for a candidate. For more information go to VOTE.NYC or call 866-868-3692.

PUBLIC SPEAKING – The Chair opened the floor for public speaking. Those emailed requesting to speak were recognized and heard. The Chair closed public speaking.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Health and Social Services Committee

Sonia Moise Co-Chair of the committee reported that a meeting was held on February 3, 2021.

- 1) Update from **St. John's Episcopal Hospital**. Renee Hastick-Motes, VP of External Affairs informed the board of the following:
 - Currently St. John's Hospital has 36 Covid patients and 75% of employees are vaccinated.
 - Rockaway Beach Blvd/ Beach 105 Street is a new location of St. John's that offers Dermatology, Endocrinology, Primary Care, Breast Surgeon and Imaging.
 - \$10 million was donated from Ross University for Resident Physicians and will be used for the new Teaching Center.
 - St. John's received government funding to refresh the Labor and Delivery Unit which will include new flooring, paint, lighting and equipment and will provide single occupancy rooms.
 - A mobile van was purchased for health screening and diagnostics.

2) **Planned Parenthood**. Chanel Haliburton representing Planned Parenthood of Greater New York informed all that they are planning to have a mobile van on the Peninsula that will offer women's health services, mammograms, birth control, GYN care, STD testing for men and women, pregnancy testing and counseling.

Services will be offered to patients age 12 and older without parent consent as per NYS law. Planned Parenthood hopes to collaborate with local physicians and medical facilities including St. John's Hospital as well as local organization in the community for.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

-Joanne Fogarty asked what could be done to assist seniors to make vaccine appointments that do not have internet service. Felicia Johnson explained that at this point there is nothing that could be done other than advising seniors to keep calling on Tuesday and Wednesdays.

- Harold Paez made the motion for the board to send a letter to NYC School Chancellor Carranza and Mayor De Blasio supporting a letter from the Scholar's Academy School Leadership Team (SLT) requesting to maintain the policy of sibling preference that was suspended in middle schools as part of the City's budget cuts and changes to the city school system. The motion was seconded by Sonia Moise. The motion carried unanimously.

Harold Paez was asked to provide copies of the letters from Scholar's and the SLT.

-Paul King made the motion for the board to send a letter to the National Park Service that support a letter from Rockaway Little League opposing the National Park Service moving baseball and softball fields to the Beach Club location would make fields inaccessible to many local youth. The motion was seconded by Michael Tubridy. The motion carried unanimously. Paul King was asked to provide copy of the letter Rockaway Little League sent to National Park Service.

-Sonia Moise requested an update on Seagirt Blvd/B 32 St. from DOT. Jonathan Gaska advised that at the next board meeting DOT will give a complete update on safety improvements for Seagirt Blvd from Beach 25 Street to Rockaway Freeway.

There being no further business meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted By: M. Dunning