



# Community Board 12

## The City of New York

### Borough of Queens

Jamaica, Hollis, St. Albans, South Ozone Park, and Springfield Gardens

90-28 161st Street, Jamaica, New York 11432 ▪ (718) 658-3308 ▪ Fax (718) 739-6997 ▪ [qn12@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:qn12@cb.nyc.gov)  
[www.nyc.gov/qcb12](http://www.nyc.gov/qcb12)

DONOVAN RICHARDS  
*Borough President*

REV. CARLENE O. THORBS  
*Chairperson*

MARICELA CANO  
*Director of Community Boards*

YVONNE REDDICK  
*District Manager*

### Minutes of the General Meeting

Wednesday, April 19, 2023, 7:00pm

| Members Present - 33 |   |  |
|----------------------|---|--|
| Ahnaf Alam           | Mohammad Ali                                    | Angela Allen                                     |
| Jacqueline Boyce     | Jean Randolph-Castro                            | Manuel Caughman                                  |
| Marcia Francis       | Glenn Greenidge                                 | Vishal Hardowar, Esq.                            |
| Rene Cheatham Hill   | Yullanda Hinds                                  | Crystal Isaac                                    |
| Celeste James        | Clementine James                                | Chantel Johnson                                  |
| Al Hussan-Kanu       | Bilal Karriem, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairperson | Michele Keller, 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Chairperson |
| Dawn Kelly           | Latoya Legrand                                  | Donald Murphy                                    |
| Abdus Salaam Musa    | Shah Nawaz                                      | Charline Ogbeni                                  |
| Akther H. Rahman     | Krystal Roberts                                 | Fitzroy Searles, Secretary                       |
| Florence Simmons     | Rev. C. Princess Thorbs-Mcgee, Chairperson      | Toni Totten                                      |
| Linette Townsley     | Khari White                                     | Patricia Wooden                                  |

| Members Absent or Excused – 17 |                         |                    |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Wanda Best*                    | Maxine Brannon          | Kenny Carter       |
| Tanbir Chowdhury               | Clifton Stanley Diaz    | Nurul Haque        |
| Jolander Headley               | Khondokar Tarikul Islam | Audrey Lee Jacobs* |
| Aiysha Jaggassar-Johnson       | Sharon Sweeting-Lindsey | Rev. Edward Mckay  |
| Angela Miskis                  | Amanda Sewanan          | Owen Shakespeare   |
| Yvette Sledge                  | Jeanette Wilson         |                    |

\*Left before the roll call

Rev. Thorbs welcomed attendees and called the general meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Mr. Searles made announcements about upcoming events and opportunities occurring within Community District 12.

### **Chairperson's Report – Rev. Carlene Thorbs**

Rev. Carlene Thorbs reminded residents of the recent changes to the times for setting trash out for collection and warned that the Department of Sanitation (DSNY) could issue fines for noncompliance. She advised owners of electric bicycles (e-bikes) to store the devices outside of their homes and garages due to the risk of sudden combustion.

Rev. Thorbs announced that a marijuana dispensary, d/b/a “Good Grades”, owned by Extasy James and Michael James, opened on Jamaica Avenue. She asked the attendees to be vigilant regarding the proliferation of smoke shops and illegal marijuana shops operating within Community District 12. <https://abc7ny.com/woman-owned-dispensary-pot-shop-legal-marijuana-legalized/13049336/>

Rev. Thorbs encouraged constituents to use 311, whether calling, online, or via the mobile application, when making quality of life complaints.

### **District Manager's Report – Ms. Yvonne Reddick**

Ms. Yvonne Reddick informed attendees of the rise in thefts happening at free-standing USPS mailboxes throughout the district and Queens at large. According to Ms. Reddick, at recent the Post Service Advisory Board meeting, Jamaica, Rochdale, and Kew Gardens were identified as neighborhoods hardest hit. Thieves are stealing cheques and other pertinent documents. She steered residents to drop-off outgoing mail at a USPS branch office rather than place the items in a free-standing mailbox.

Ms. Reddick reminded everyone that housing insecurity and foreclosures are still present in the district and help is available. Renters facing eviction were advised to apply for rental assistance and a “one-shot-deal”. For more information on both programs, please contact the NYC Human Resources Administration (HRA), CAMBA for the Home-Base program, or NYC Department of Homeless Services (DHS) – Veterans Unit. Homeowners undergoing the foreclosure process can visit the following website for some New York State resources and tips.

[https://www.dfs.ny.gov/consumers/help\\_for\\_homeowners/foreclosure\\_assistance/help\\_for\\_homeowners\\_facing\\_foreclosure](https://www.dfs.ny.gov/consumers/help_for_homeowners/foreclosure_assistance/help_for_homeowners_facing_foreclosure)

## **Community Session**

Mr. Michael Riesner, Recycling Coordinator, New York Paint Care, announced the New York State Law which will require purchasers of paint to pay a nominal fee, which will fund recycling efforts. His organization New York Paint Care was instrumental in getting the law passed. New York Paint is an administrator of NYS paint recycling program.

There is no cost to residents and businesses when dropping off their unwanted paint for recycling. A small fee on the sale of new paint—called the PaintCare fee—funds all aspects of the program including paint collection, transportation, processing and public education. The PaintCare fee in New York varies by container size: \$0.00 for half pint or smaller; \$0.45 for larger than half pint up to smaller than one gallon; \$0.95 for one gallon up to two gallons; \$1.95 for larger than two gallons up to five gallons. Businesses, organizations, and households with 100 gallons of paint or more to recycle may request a free pickup at their location.

For further information about the program and organization, please visit <https://www.paintcare.org/>

## **Jackie Lagsam, Queens Borough Commissioner, NYC Department of Parks and Recreation**

Borough Commissioner Lagsam introduced herself. She briefly gave an overview of her career and 20+ years with the department. Ms. Lagsam was interested in learning about the thoughts and concerns of the community regarding parks and playgrounds within the district. She took questions, provided answers when available, directed questions regarding specific locations to the onsite staff, as well as provided resources and points of contact for follow-up. The questions from constituents ranged from requesting the installation of native plants in parks and street tree beds throughout Community District 12 to removal of the phragmites adversely impacting Baisley Pond. However, the majority of the constituents expressed frustration over the process for obtaining sidewalk repairs to damage caused by NYC street trees.

## **Business Session**

At 9:55pm, Rev. Thorbs made a motion for the board to enter its business session, which was seconded by Ms. Celeste James. The motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Bilal Karriem made a motion for the board to accept the March 15<sup>th</sup> general meeting minutes with necessary corrections. The motion was seconded by Ms. Jean Randolph-Castro. The motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Karriem made a motion to close the business session, seconded by Ms. Toni Totten, and vote in favor by all. The meeting adjourned at 10:00pm.

Minutes written by Mr. Fitzroy Searles, Secretary.