



Community Board 12

The City of New York

Borough of Queens

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

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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, June 21, 2023, 7:00pm

Members Present - 36		
Ahnaf Alam	Mohammad Ali	Angela Allen
Wanda Best	Maxine Brannon	Kenny Carter
Jean Randolph-Castro	Manuel Caughman	Glenn Greenidge
Vishal Hardowar, Esq.	Nurul Haque	Rene Cheatham Hill
Yullanda Hinds	Crystal Isaac	Audrey Lee Jacobs
Celeste James	Clementine James	Chantel Johnson
Bilal Karriem, 2 nd Vice Chairperson	Michele Keller, 1 st Vice Chairperson	Dawn Kelly
Sharon Sweeting-Lindsey	Abdus Salaam Musa	Shah Nawaz
Charline Ogbeni	Krystal Roberts	Fitzroy Searles, Secretary
Owen Shakespeare	Florence Simmons	Yvette Sledge
Rev. C. Princess Thorbs-Mcgee, Chairperson	Toni Totten	Linette Townsley
Khari White	Jeanette Wilson	Patricia Wooden

Members Absent or Excused – 14		
Jacqueline Boyce	Tanbir Chowdhury	Clifton Stanley Diaz
Marcia Francis	Jolander Headley	Khondokar Tarikul Islam
Aiysha Jaggassar-Johnson	Al Hussan-Kanu	Latoya Legrand
Rev. Edward Mckay	Angela Miskis	Donald Murphy
Akther H. Rahman	Amanda Sewanan	

*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 summarized events and meetings that she attended during the previous month. She gave an update on the MTA depot reconstruction project as well as the relocation of the bus terminal currently on 165th Street. On June 5, 2023, the office of the Queens Borough President conducted a joint borough board and land use committee meeting on carbon neutrality and proposed zoning text amendments. Video of the carbon neutrality presentation can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MYan0-9ehRc&t=1s>

District Manager's Report – Ms. Yvonne Reddick

Ms. Yvonne Reddick advised constituents to request NYC Department of Buildings inspections of dwellings, decks, and patios via 311. Ms. Reddick also spoke about the rising homeless and migrant populations within the district and the disparity in services offered to and received by the former compared to those given to the latter.

Community Session

A riveted discussion was had on the migrant population as Queens Community Board 10 (CB10) requested Queens Community Board 12's support against housing the migrants at Aqueduct Racetrack. Several attendees mentioned the fact that Queens Community District 12 is inundated with homeless shelters and other supportive services and requested equitable distribution to those districts lacking in homeless shelters and supportive services, such as CB10. CB12 constituents were mostly opposed to housing the migrants within Community District 12 and the drain they would have on already overwhelmed resources.

The tide of the discussion then turned to the role of the Mayor, City Council, and other elected officials in addressing the migrant crisis. Many constituents asked where "our" elected officials are and why aren't they speaking up for "our" district. The elected officials in Staten Island, Long Island, and various parts of New York State have championed the concerns of their districts, but those representing CD12 have been silent. The large number of angry/ frustrated constituents prompted councilmanic staff to advise their bosses to attend this meeting. NYC Council Speaker Adrienne Adams and Councilmember Selvena Brooks-Powers joined the meeting.

Speaker Adams expressed the concerns of her political party rather than her councilmanic district. As constituents expressed their dismay and disappointment in the Mayoral and councilmanic leadership the meeting was hijacked by pornographic material, which disrupted it for approximately one hour.

Mr. Micheal Rieser, New York Program Coordinator, Paint Care, announced a free paint collection event scheduled for June 25, 2023, in the York College parking lot at 95-45 Guy R Brewer Boulevard. <https://www.york.cuny.edu/events/2023/free-paint-recycling-drop-off-event>

Mr. William Jorgenson, Borough Chief, Office of the Queens District Attorney, spoke on the increasing number of home thefts across the borough. Topics in Mr. Jorgenson's included performing due diligence, avoiding fraudsters, contacting the NYC Department of Finance (DOF), and signing up for the DOF notice of recorded documents program. Property owners can sign up for the notice recorded documents program to be informed about changes in DOF system regarding their deed, title, and related documents. For more information, please visit <https://a836-acrissds.nyc.gov/NRD/>

Mr. Jorgenson encouraged constituents to reach out to the Queens DA help line at (718) 286-6673 for reporting and guidance on criminal legal matters.

Business Session

Mr. Bilal Karriem and Ms. Jean Randolph-Castro, at 9:44pm, made a motion for the board to enter its business session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Glen Greenidge and Ms. Patricia Wooden. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bilal Karriem made a motion for the board to accept the May 17th general meeting minutes with necessary corrections. The motion was seconded by Ms. Celeste James and was passed unanimously.

Mr. Greenidge made a motion to close the business session, seconded by Ms. Yullanda Hinds, at 9:49pm. The motion carried with all members present in agreement.

Committees to Report and Adjournment

Due to the late hour, there were no committee reports. Rev. Thorbs made a motion to end the meeting which was seconded and vote in favor by all. The meeting adjourned at 9:51pm.

Minutes written by Mr. Fitzroy Searles, Secretary.