



# COMMUNITY BOARD 6, QUEENS

104-01 METROPOLITAN AVENUE • FOREST HILLS, NY 11375-4136

TEL: (718) 263-9250 • FAX: (718) 263-2211

QNO6@CB.NYC.GOV

WWW.NYC.GOV/CB6Q



Whitepot Settled 1653

ALEXA WEITZMAN  
CHAIR

FRANK P. GULLUSCIO  
DISTRICT MANAGER

GAIL M. GORDON  
1ST VICE-CHAIR

PETER BEADLE  
2ND VICE-CHAIR

MARK LASTER  
VICE-CHAIR • SECRETARY

BRUCE GROSSBERG  
VICE-CHAIR • FINANCE

PRAMEET KUMAR  
VICE-CHAIR • LAND USE

SOUMALY KING  
VICE-CHAIR • SCOPING

## CB 6 MEETING MINUTES

### JANUARY 8, 2020

SHARON LEE  
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

### PRESENT

A. WEITZMAN, CHAIR  
P. BEADLE, 2<sup>ND</sup> VC  
P. KUMAR, VC LAND USE

G. GORDON, 1<sup>ST</sup> VC  
B. GROSSBERG, VC FINANCE

N. ALTMAN  
A. AYON  
H. CHAIN  
S. CHU  
A. COHEN  
C. COLLETT  
J. DERESZEWSKI  
A. DIAZ-HOUSTON  
H. DIMITRIADIS  
E. FELDER  
J. GOLANT

B. GRIFFITH  
O. HORODNICEANU  
M. JACOBSON  
E. KALENDAREV  
N. LEIBOWITZ  
R. MEHRRA  
Y. MEIROV  
S. METZ  
P. MORGAN  
E. MURRAY  
K. NEUMANN

E. NEWTON  
S. ROLNICK  
H. SCHONHAUT  
D. SCHNEIER  
J. SILVA  
R. SILVER  
S. WANDERMAN  
J. WESTON  
E. WONG

### ABSENT

M. BERFAS  
G. CARLSON  
G. FERRERAS  
J. HENNESSY

J. KEVELSON  
S. KING  
M. LASTER  
J. MAKIN

J. MEDINA  
R. NEKTALOV  
M SILVERSTEIN

### OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

FRANK GULLUSCIO  
SHARON LEE  
J. PERRICONE  
J. GOLDES  
J. D'ANGELO  
M. CARLIER  
R. MALONE  
J. PAGE  
S. FRENCH  
K. TUOHEY  
C. DESANTIS

CB 6 DISTRICT MANAGER  
ACTING QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF ACTING BOROUGH PRESIDENT LEE  
OFFICE OF CONGRESS MEMBER MENG  
OFFICE OF SENATOR ADDABBO  
OFFICE OF ASSEMBLY MEMBER HEVESI  
OFFICE OF ASSEMBLY MEMBER ROSENTHAL  
OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER KOSLOWITZ  
OFFICE OF NYC PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS  
112<sup>TH</sup> PRECINCT COMMUNITY AFFAIRS  
112<sup>TH</sup> PRECINCT COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Chair Alexa Weitzman asked Bob Silver to open the meeting with the pledge of allegiance.

**112<sup>th</sup> PRECINCT**

P.O. DeSantis introduced himself as the new Community Affairs Officer for the Precinct. He announced that crime is down this year but there are still a lot of package thefts, car break-ins, etc. These are crimes of opportunity. Safeguard your property, lock your doors.

In light of the recent assaults on the Jewish Community, the precinct has increased presence around houses of worship.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Louis Kramberg, President of the Park City Coop spoke about real estate taxes. The real estate taxes are increasing in New York, but it affects Coop/Condo owners more proportionally. They are forced to raise the maintenance due to this. He asked the Community Board to voice these concerns on their behalf.

Judy Berman, spoke about the Access A Ride evaluation facility on Woodhaven Boulevard. She had a very bad experience including, rude staff, lack of privacy, handicapped accessibility, deteriorating conditions etc. Ms. Berman submitted photos of her experience.

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the December 12, 2019 meeting were accepted.

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Weitzman reminded all community board members that the applications have been sent out and are due back by January 31, 2020. She noted that there are 2 notaries present at the meeting to notarize applications.

Ms. Weitzman reminded all committee chairs that they should meet at least once before May. She spoke about the Capital and Expense Budget Requests. These requests have been submitted and we will receive a response from the responsible agency. These responses will be sent to the appropriate committee. This is would be a good opportunity to call a committee meeting to discuss these and plan for next years requests.

Ms. Weitzman announced that the MTA released a draft plan for the Queens Bus Network Redesign. There is a link for public comment as well as public forums. The MTA is tentatively scheduled to attend our February 12, 2020 meeting.

There is also a plan for District 28 middle school diversity. CB 6 is aware of this and would like to remain in the conversation to make sure that all our residents are heard throughout the process. There will be a series of upcoming community engagement sessions that we will promote. We are in an early phase of conversations with other CB's in District 28 to see how we can work together on this. Joan Weston voluntarily stepped down as Co-Chair of the Education Committee and Heather Dimitriadis has stepped in to fill that role. Ethan Felder is the other Co-Chair.

Ms. Weitzman spoke about the Civic Engagement Commission, which had its first meeting of Chairs and District Managers.

Ms. Weitzman congratulated Heather Dimitriadis for being appointed to the Participatory Budget Advisory Board and Renee Mehrra for being honored by the Consulate General of India on the occasion of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, for her work in the Community.

Last, Chair Weitzman asked for a formal resolution for to honor Joseph Hennessy to recognize his years of service to the Community Board. The resolution passed unanimously on a voice vote.

## **DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT**

District Manager Gulluscio mentioned that the Governor reported that there is a \$6.5 billion deficit in the NYS Budget.

Mr. Gulluscio attended the historic Swearing In of Melinda Katz as the first female District Attorney.

Mr. Gulluscio submitted the attendance for 2019 to the Borough President's Office.

He also distributed the NYC Rules and Regulations for Community Boards to all Committee Chairs.

District Manager Gulluscio spoke about the additional allocation that was given to Community Boards last year and this year. He said last year this money was spent on branding the community boards as was mandated by the city. He said that the money is spent at the discretion of the District Manager. He can decide what to spend it on as long as it doesn't exceed \$10,000. Mr. Gulluscio added that if any board members had ideas on how to spend this money, they can call the office.

## **PRESENTATION BY AMANDA NASNER DEPARTMENT OF HOMELESS SERVICES**

Amanda Nasner gave the following background information about Homelessness in New York City

- In 2011 there was a big increase in homeless individuals due to the Advantage Program being defunded by NYS and NYC
- Between 1994-2012 the city lost 150,000 rent stabilized apartments
- Between 2005 – 2015, rent increased by 19% but wages only increased by 5%

Ms. Nasner also said that the top 3 causes of homelessness is:

1. Eviction
2. Domestic Violence
3. Overcrowding

Ms. Nasner referenced Mayor DeBlasio's new initiative, Turning the Tide which would phase out commercial hotels and close cluster sites. This would happen over time, since the city needs additional shelter beds before they close these hotels. The plan is to open 90 shelters citywide. Queens currently has the least amount of shelters.

Ms. Nasner also spoke about actions that DHS takes to prevent homelessness:

- New rental assistance program
- Emergency rental assistance (one shot deal)
- Increase funding for legal services

Ms. Nasner spoke about the following initiatives:

Homestat, which is an initiative for chronically homeless individuals. A database that street teams use to collect data about individuals that are living on the streets. The outreach provider for Queens is Breaking Ground. They are available on the streets 24 / 7.

6 Action Point Plan, which is a plan to end the street homeless population:

1. Increase Safe Haven capacity by opening 1,000 new Safe Haven beds
2. Create 1,000 new low-barrier permanent apartments by working with partners across the housing and social services sectors
3. Deliver new health resources to people where they are, providing treatment through street medical care and behavioral health care, and build the trust needed for clients to come inside
4. Provide coordinated rapid outreach response through the Street Homelessness Joint Command Center
5. Leverage state-of-the-art outreach technology to better connect clients to the services they need to transition into housing
6. Expand Diversion and Outreach in our subway system

Ms. Nasner answered some questions from the board including

- The difference between shelters / cluster sites
- Living on the streets is not a crime and individuals can't be removed from the street

- All sites have security and are overseen by NYPD (Some sites do perimeter checks, have metal detectors, curfews, etc)
- There are social service coordinators at all sites that are trained to deal with these individuals and their special needs
- Individuals are not asked to leave the shelters during the day. They are sometimes asked to get up and out of bed to look for employment
- There are currently no homeless shelters in CB 6. There are no plans to open a shelter specifically in this CB, but there are plans to open more homeless shelters in all communities.
- There was discussion about vouchers not being enough for apartment rentals. Ms. Nasner said that DHS doesn't issue vouchers, HRA does. However, they have a source of income discrimination unit.
- Safe Havens (overnight beds for chronically homeless) vs Shelters (must go through intake)
- There is a lot of regulation within the shelters to prevent abuse and violence. There are phone numbers posted within the sites for the ombudsman.
- There is an ongoing issue with individuals that have mental health issues. They are taken to the hospital and released back onto the street without any follow up. Ms. Nasner explained that the homestat program is designed to create a record on these individuals and follow up.

In conclusion, Ms. Nasner said that homeless individuals in need can be reported to 311, Breaking Ground or the CB Office. If the individual appears to be a serious risk to themselves or to others, call 911.

## **CONSUMER AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Elizabeth Newton, Chair of Consumer Affairs Committee, reported that the Board received a liquor license application that was a renewal with a corporate change and class change. They will be changing from beer / wine to beer / wine / liquor. They will also be expanding their restaurant.

El Pollo Inka Peru, 112-18/20 Queens Blvd, FH

Representatives from the establishment was present. The Committee had no objections, and a motion to approve this application as well as all renewals passed unanimously on a voice vote.

CB 6 received the following liquor license renewals:

1. King David, 101-10 Queens Blvd, FH
2. Kazan Mangal, 97-13 Queens Blvd, RP
3. The Billiard Company, 70-49 Austin Street, FH
4. Keuka Kafe Inc, 112-04 Queens Blvd, FH

There was one concern from the public regarding The Billiard Company. They stand outside with a mega phone trying to attract customers. The Community Board hasn't received



any previous complaints about this.

## **ACTING BOROUGH PRESIDENT SHARON LEE**

Acting Borough President Lee introduced herself and explained that she would be the Borough President until the special election in February. She announced that Melinda Katz is now the Queens District Attorney (the first female DA in Queens).

## **AGING / SOCIAL SERVICES / DISABILITIES COMMITTEE REPORT**

Emanuil Kalendarev, Co-Chair of the Aging / Social Services / Disabilities Committee, reported that the committee met on January 2, 2020. The committee confirmed the first presentation, which is scheduled for January 29, 2020 at 7:00 PM at the Rego Park Seniors Club. The topic is "Understanding Older Adults' Entitlements and Benefits". Barry Klitsberg from QICA was invited to speak.

The second presentation is scheduled for February 26, 2020. "How to Access Available Benefits and Entitlements".

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Bruce Grossberg, Chair of the Finance Committee reported that the committee met on January 8, 2020. Mr. Grossberg mentioned the following websites which the Board can visit to receive financial information about NYC: NYC Office of Management and Budget, NYC Community Portals, NYC Planning. He also spoke about the Budget Requests and said that we will receive the responses from the agencies and then we can respond if we wish. He also said that the committees should start reviewing next years requests earlier.

## **GOOD & WELFARE**

Peter Beadle announced that CB 6 now has a Facebook page.

Heidi Chain announced that the 112<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council will be meeting next Wednesday January 15, 2020 7:30pm at Russell Sage.

Pat Morgan spoke about her experience with the Access A Ride office on Woodhaven Boulevard. It isn't handicap accessible; there is no privacy; she felt humiliated; staff is rude; bathroom is hazardous. This is a location where handicapped people are evaluated for services, but it isn't accessible. Chair Weitzman acknowledged that the Community Board is aware of this situation and we will work on how to address it.

Chris Collett spoke about the MTA Bus Network Redesign. He said that people should attend the FH Civic Meeting in February to voice their concerns.

Edwin Wong announced that there will be an event on January 26, 2020 – Lunar New Year Celebration at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs.

There will be State of Forest Hills Civic on January 30, 2020 at West Side Tennis Club. Various community organizations will be invited to speak about their group.

Ethan Felder announced that there will be a Rally Against Anti-Semitism on Sunday January 12, 2020 at 12:00 Noon at MacDonald Park.

#### NYS SENATOR JOSEPH ADDABBO

John D'Angelo announced that if anyone has concerns about the Bus Network Redesign or the District 28 Diversity Plan, they should call his office to discuss it.

#### NYS ASSEMBLY MEMBER DANIEL ROSENTHAL

Rick Malone announced that a bill that was passed requiring pharmacies to notify customers of Class I drug recalls. He is working on 2 additional bills: regarding medical records and prescription drug costs.

Mr. Malone also announced that the following events will be coming up: DOB Workshop, Free Mammogram Event, and Paper Shredding.

#### NYS ASSEMBLY MEMBER ANDREW HEVESI

Michael Carlier announced that the Assemblyman is still working on getting a veto proof majority for Home Stability Support. They need 4 more Senate Sponsors. Assemblyman Hevesi sent a letter to the Governor signed by over 100 members of the senate and the assembly.

Assemblyman Hevesi sent a letter to Attorney General DiNapoli asking for an audit of the top 12 shelter providers in NYC. He feels that there are unsafe and negligent conditions in shelters.

#### ACTING QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT SHARON LEE

John Perricone reminded everyone that January 31 at 5pm is the deadline for Community Board Applications, new and renewals.

#### COUNCIL MEMBER KAREN KOSLOWITZ

Joe Page introduced himself as a new addition to the office.

#### CONGRESS MEMBER GRACE MENG

Jordan Goldes announced that a bill was passed to reduce the cost of prescription drugs.

VA Office Hours will be on January 23, 2020. You can call the office to make an appointment.

Also, Congress Member Meng spoke out about the recent antisemitic attacks. There is a grant program available for non-profits and houses of worship, etc which provides funding for security measures (cameras, fencing, etc). She was able to increase the funding for this program.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Nolan  
*Community Coordinator*



**CB 6 VOTING SHEET**

**1 New\* / 4 Renewal**

**\*The new app was a renewal**

**Resolution for**

**Date: 1/8/20**

**Liquor License Applications**

**with an alteration /**

**Joseph Hennessy**

**class change**

NAOMI ALTMAN			
ANISIA AYON			
PETER BEADLE			
MIRIAM BERFAS		Absent	Absent
GREG CARLSON		Absent	Absent
HEIDI CHAIN			
SHERIDAN CHU			
ALEXANDER COHEN			
CHRISTOPHER COLLETT			
JOHN DERESZEWSKI			
ALEJANDRA DIAZ-HOUSTON	A		A
HEATHER DIMITRIADIS	L		L
ETHAN FELDER			
GLORIA FERRERAS	I	Absent	Absent
JEREMY GOLANT	N		N
GAIL GORDON			
BRENDAN GRIFFITH	F		F
BRUCE GROSSBERG	A		A
JOSEPH HENNESSY	V	Absent	Absent
ODED HORODNICEANU	O		O
MYRNA JACOBSON	R		R
EMANUIL KALENDAREV			
JOYCE KEVELSON		Absent	Absent
SOUMALY KING		Absent	Absent
PRAMEET KUMAR			
MARK LASTER		Absent	Absent
NORMAN LEIBOWITZ			
JAMES MAKIN		Absent	Absent
JACK MEDINA		Absent	Absent
RENEE MEHRRRA			
YANIV MEIROV			
STEVEN METZ			
EDWARD MURRAY			
PAT MORGAN			
RAFAEL NEKTALOV		Absent	Absent
KARL NEUMANN			
ELIZABETH NEWTON			
SHARI ROLNICK			
DAVID SCHNEIER			
HERBERT SCHONHAUT			
JEAN SILVA			
ROBERT SILVER			
MARSHA SILVERSTEIN		Absent	Absent
SUSAN WANDERMAN			
ALEXA WEITZMAN			
JOAN WESTON			
EDWIN WONG			