



Chairperson, Martha Taylor

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, January 15, 2020 at the Hillcrest Jewish Center, 183-02 Union Turnpike in Flushing, New York.

Attendance:

Board Members Present:

Dilafroz Ahmed, Jagir Singh Bains, Carolyn Baker-Brown, Robert H. Block, Susan D. Cleary, Kevin Forrestal, Bhitihara-Martha Fulton, James Gallagher Jr., John Gebhard, Joshua Glikman, Marc A. Haken, Robert Harris, Fakrul “Delwar” Islam, Steven Konigsberg, Mitch Lisker, Elke Maerz, Mary Maggio, Jennifer Martin, Dilip Nath, Rabbi Shlomo Nisanov, Simon Pelman, Frances Peterson, Wendy Phaff, Mohammad Rahman, Charlton Rhee, Jesse Rosenbaum, Dr. Penny M. Stern, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin and Jacob Weinberg.

Board Members Absent:

Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Edward Chung, Kenneth Cohen II, Maria DeInnocentiis, Allen Eisenstein, Florence Fisher, Carolann Foley, Howard A. Fried, Michael Hannibal, Tami Hirsch, Paul S. Lazauskas, Bright Dae-Jung Limm, Frank Magri, Tamara Osherov, Seymour Schwartz, Douglas Sherman, Harbachan Singh, Rachele Van Arsdale, Stanley Weinblatt and Albert Willingham.

Others Present:

Borough President Sharon Lee (Acting), Susie Tanenbaum representing Borough President Sharon Lee (Acting), Susan Seinfeld representing Councilman Barry Grodenchik, Kristen Jeffries representing Councilman Rory Lancman, Barbara Baruch representing State Senator John Liu, State Senator Leroy Comrie, Anthony Lemma representing Assemblyman David Weprin, Deputy Inspector Scott Henry from the 107th Precinct, Sergeant Christopher Burke from the 107th Precinct, Rabbi Manes Kogan, Anthony Iuliano from the Department of Buildings, Marie Adam-Ovide, CB8 District Manager and Izabela Szczepanska, CB8 Staff Member.

Call to Order:

Chairperson Martha Taylor called this Board Meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

Chairperson Taylor introduced Rabbi Manes Kagen. She announced that he will speak before public participation.

Rabbi Manes Kogan – Rabbi Kogan introduced himself and informed everyone that last Sunday he was invited to speak at the rally against hatred and anti-Semitism at MacDonald Park in Queens. He spoke about two things that he believed the Jewish Community needs to work on. He stated that other communities have been discriminated against and can understand why the Jewish communities are scared. He stated that it is important for the Jewish people to build more bridges with the community. He is reaching out to the community to learn more about others. He needs help to put this together. He spoke about his experience speaking at a shelter. He stated that everyone in the shelter asked him questions regarding the Jewish religion. He asked everyone if they would invite him into their community as well. He will ask questions about other religions to learn. He thanked everyone for having him speak and left his contact information.

Chairperson Taylor thanked Rabbi Kogan and encouraged everyone to get together with the Rabbi.

Public Participation:

Emily Zuniga – Ms. Zuniga is from Catholic Charities and represents the meals on wheels program. She informed everyone that they service this area along with many other areas in Queens. She stated that they not only deliver a meal every day, seven days a week but they also offer case management assistance. Flyers with information were left on the table.

Chairperson Martha Taylor invited for Deputy Inspector Henry to speak.

Deputy Inspector Henry – Deputy Inspector Henry spoke about the hate crimes that are going on and discussed the first one that the 107th precinct had. He stated that last week Chief Barrere chaired a meeting with all the Jewish Community Leaders. He informed everyone that prevention starts with education and that he just came from a conference that was held by Rabbi Nisanov. He stated that they had about 150 kids and it was very engaging. He spoke about what happened at the conference and how it is necessary to educate young people. He asked that if someone sees something to give them a call and they will do their best to address it. He stated that with these anti-Semitic and hate crimes they are ahead of it they are doing their best.

Chairperson Martha Taylor thanked the Deputy Inspector and 107th Precinct for all the work that they do.

Mitch Lisker – Mr. Lisker thanked Deputy Inspector and the 107th Precinct for all the hard work that they do. He also spoke regarding anti-Semitism. He asked that the Community Board would make a resolution to say that they are opposed to the anti-Semitism and all anti-religion. He stated that all Community Boards should be doing the same thing because we are all one.

Marc A. Haken – Mr. Haken stated that we should take Mitch's proposed resolution and broaden it and not just indicate religion but country of origin, ethnicity and color. He remembered when he was a kid in south pacific and you were taught to hate. He asked if we could include and encompass all these things.

Chairperson Martha Taylor suggested that Marc A. Haken draft the resolution.

Noel Nathole – Mr. Nathole is from Parsons Community School. He announced a Health Fair that will be available to the community. He will be sending emails with more information. If anyone has any questions, he will be available in the back.

Susan Seinfeld - Ms. Seinfeld announced that Councilman Grodenchik, State Senator Liu, and Assemblyman Braunstein met with the MTA at a briefing on their plan and there was a lot of disappointment. She stated that they are disconnecting lines and cutting off service on some express lines. She informed everyone that Councilman Grodenchik has been looking at it very closely and wants to receive comments from the public. MTA has set up several meetings (*dates were left on the table*).

Jesse Rosenbaum announced that Community Board 8 is in the process of scheduling a Public Hearing on this exact item. DM Adam-Ovide stated that there is no confirmed date, but the meeting will be in February. She informed every one of the Informational Hearing on January 30th for two-way conversion and the removal of parking on 168th Place. Jesse Rosenbaum asked that everyone share their comments and attend the meeting. He thanked everyone for their good wishes. He also thanked the sunshine fund for providing a nice fruit basket that they enjoyed.

Chairperson Martha Taylor invited State Senator Leroy Comrie to say a few words.

State Senator Leroy Comrie – State Senator Comrie wished everyone a Happy New Year. He stated that Community Boards disseminate information throughout the community and thanked everyone for their service. He announced that we are looking at a \$6B dollar short call in Medicaid that may impact our entire budget. They are working diligently to ensure they do everything they can to focus the budget within the Medicaid Community. He spoke about MTA's proposed \$51B dollar budget and that it was done without enough transparency. They will be holding hearings about what to see in the MTA budget. He spoke about different MTA budget issues and asked for everyone to provide plans and ideas on the MTA's improvements and bus redesigns. He informed everyone that he was at the rally against hate in Foley

Square. He spoke about the importance of working together and that we will be working with the Rabbi. He informed everyone that the Census it is very important and that there is a severe undercount within this area. He stated that when we are undercounted, we lose dollars. He provided a couple of updates on what is going on in Albany. They are dealing with legalization of Marijuana, tax rates for small businesses and property taxes. He reminded everyone that there are going to be up to five elections this year. On March 24th will be the special election for Borough President, presidential election on April 28th, primary for Congress and State Senate on June 23rd. The general election will be on November 4. There may be a special election for council if one of them becomes Borough President. *Flyers were left on the table with numerous events sponsored by Senator Leroy Comrie.*

Marc A. Haken - State Senator Comrie is there a chance to have Co-ops carved out of the housing bill?

State Senator Comrie – We are working on it. It is a major problem. We understand it and are trying to make that happen. There are real issues with some of the housing bills and we are trying to adjust.

Martha Taylor– I have a suggestion its totally politically incorrect. Get rid of the special elections that are costing us a fortune and that money can be redirected to what we really need.

State Senator Comrie – I don't disagree.

James Gallagher Jr. – Just a point of information as of January 1st, sixteen-year-olds can now register to vote. When they turn eighteen, they will automatically be registered. We are trying to get high schools involved in that.

State Senator Comrie – Yes, we also instituted nine different resident driver's licenses. Yesterday was the first day that if you are an adopted child you can find out who your birth parents were. We send out a weekly email blast if you are interested then please contact my office.

Chairperson Martha Taylor thanked State Senator Leroy Comrie.

Salute to the Flag

Chairperson Martha Taylor led the salute to the flag.

Approval of Minutes:

Marc A. Haken made a motion to approve the minutes of December 11, 2019 seconded by Jesse Rosenbaum.

Count in favor 30 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0

Chairperson Taylor announced that Catherine Goode from the Census is one of our guest speakers tonight. She invited her to address the Board.

Census - Catherine Goode – Ms. Goode informed everyone that the Census is safe, easy, and important. She stated that the Census is not just a count of population. She informed everyone that it determines how \$675B dollars of federal funds are spent within a community for the next ten years. She stated that this funding goes into infrastructure, schools, housing assistance, and emergency services. She informed everyone that the census is available in different languages. To avoid scams, the Census will never ask for a social security number, a bank account number or donations. She states that they are currently hiring people to work. *Flyers were left on the table.*

Department of Buildings – Anthony Iuliano –

Mr. Iuliano wished everyone a Happy New Year. He spoke about DOB's customer service night that is available every Tuesday night from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. It is open to any property owner or individual that has an inquiry. He informed everyone that other agencies (*Department of Small Business and Department of Finance*) will come so they can provide services. He stated that the disapproval came in for 71-12 Park Avenue. He informed everyone that the Borough Commissioner reviewed 64-12 185th Street regarding a perimeter wall exceeding the 21-foot height requirement. They can go up to 35 feet, but they are not going to that. Mr. Iuliano addressed concerns that he received regarding 82-12 166th Street. He informed everyone that they do not regulate trees; however, they do the housekeeping for the Department of Parks and Recreation if they must plant trees. The Department hired additional inspectors for facades and additional staff to enforce inspections. He discussed issues with converting a garage into an apartment and that there has been an increase in complaints. They have found these illegal conditions along with overcrowding and are concerned because it can be a

death trap. They are tracking the college students and the homes that are being rented to them. St. Johns, civic associations, and public safety are tackling the issue. Department of Small Business Services along with the Department of Buildings and the City Council are trying to come up with the zoning and a policy regarding store signage.

Marc A. Haken – Local Law 11 there are A, B, C, D violations. Who enforces the fact that A violations are done in that amount of time or B violations are done in that amount of time?

Anthony Iuliano – When we give a violation it's: class 1, class 2 or class 3. For a façade, a class 1 violation is automatic; although, I have seen a lawyer go to court and bring a class 1 to a class 2 violation.

James Gallagher Jr. - Anthony on November 19th, 2019. Area 6 had a meeting with Federal Realty Investment Trust. They were proposing putting up 950 apartment units above the stores.

Martha Taylor – That's just a proposal. They are not involved with that.

James Gallagher Jr. – I just want to know if he heard anything from them.

Anthony Iuliano – We don't have anything on it.

Chairperson Taylor thanked Anthony Iuliano and announced special guest Borough President Sharon Lee (Acting).

Borough President Sharon Lee (Acting) – She introduced herself to everyone. She will be acting Borough President until the end of March. A special election is coming up on March 24th where they will elect the incoming interim president. She announced that a few months ago, history was made in Queens when we elected our first female District Attorney and Chief Law Enforcement Officer Melinda Katz. She stated that we want to avoid an undercount in the Census like we did in 2010. To make sure we get our fair share of funding and representation. She thanked everyone she has seen at Borough Hall for the Queens Complete Count Committee. She thanked Susie Tanenbaum for all her hard work in securing funds. She spoke about hate crimes and that they are a concern borough wide. They will fight hate crimes and to ensure that our diversity is not only celebrated but recognized as our greatest asset. She informed everyone that budget discussions are coming up and there will be a Budget hearing on January 29th. They will set up the priorities for the borough for the upcoming year. She informed everyone that Board Member applications will be accepted until January 31st.

Chairperson Taylor thanked Borough President Sharon Lee (Acting) and announced that Sergeant Burke will say a few words.

Sergeant Burke – 107th Precinct – He thanked everyone for their participation in the Build-A-Block meetings. The NCO Officers take complaints and work hard. For the upcoming Quarter, Sector A has a Build-A-Block meeting on March 25th that will start 7:00 p.m. in Hillcrest Jewish Center. Sector B will be meeting on March 12th at 7:00 p.m. at 86-86 Palo Alto Street. Sector C will be meeting on February 21st at 7:00 p.m. at 85-12 Main street. Sector D will be meeting on February 18th at 7:00 p.m. at 65-88 162nd Street. He also spoke about decreasing youth crime rates and the importance to increase youth participation.

James Gallagher Jr. – Just wanted to thank A.J. Trotter and Jessica Arrubla for rescuing that gentleman that got hurt in the fire on 174th Street.

Sergeant Burke – Officer Trotter and Arrubla did phenomenal work. It was impressive how they both went into the location and found the man then dragged him out. Job well done. Victim is still in the hospital and is recovering.

Chairperson Taylor thanked the Officers for all the work that they do. Rabbi Nisanov thanked Sergeant Burke and the community officers who came and participated at the meeting for anti-Semitism.

Sergeant Burke – Would like to say that there were at least 100 children there. Rabbi Nisanov spoke about the Jewish faith. It opened the children's minds. It was great.

Jagir Singh Bains – Just wanted to thank you. We had a community issue and you helped me along with the Commanding Officer.

Sergeant Burke – As the community grows, we grow.

Chairperson’s Report – Martha Taylor:

- Marleah DesRuisseaux, our part-time staffer recently left to join the Police Department. She started the Police Academy on January 6th. The part-time Community Assistant position will be posted on DCAS, on our website and in the local papers next week.
- Community Board 9 requested that a Queens Advisory Meeting for the Queens Borough-based jails be rescheduled as it conflicts with their CB9 general meeting on January 14th. Community Board 8 was not notified of the meeting at all. As per our request to be included in the review process for the borough-based jails, we should have been notified. We emailed and explicitly asked to be notified in the future.
- Welcome back to John Gebhard from Paris!
- The Community Board 8 will have an Informational Meeting to discuss the Bus Network Redesign. It will be held next month. Once we have a confirmed date, we will include it in our Newsletter.
- Welcome back Jesse Rosenbaum who had knee surgery!
- Everyone received a copy of the Newsletter. It was outstanding thanks to our staff and contributing Dr. Stern. All have information in here. It was wonderful and beautiful. We are very proud of you.

District Manager’s Report, January 2020

Buildings – They will submit the 2019 statistics to us next month. Currently, they are continuing their Business Sign Outreach to inform owners about the amnesty program. The amnesty will end in about a year. They are also addressing the façade and sidewalk shed issues.

Department of Transportation – The representative was unable to attend our District Cabinet meeting last week; however, he sent his report by email.

There was a parking meter malfunction that occurred when the calendar changed to 1/1/2020. The malfunction was like we believed would happen during the “Y2K” predictions from earlier this century. Meters were still functional the entire time; however, they were not able to accept credit card or prepaid card payments.

- Parkeon/Flowbird, the City’s meter vendor, has accepted responsibility for this issue, as meters they serve worldwide were affected. Meters throughout the U.S. and as far as Australia experienced the same problem.
- The goal was to repair every meter by Thursday, January 9th.
 - Two thirds of the City’s meters were repaired as of yesterday morning; ALL meters should be fully operational by now.
 - As repairs were made, drivers were always able to make payments by coins or via credit card on the ParkNYC app.
- Drivers who still find a non-functioning meter should immediately report it to 311 with the meter number.

Alternate Side Parking palm calendars are available. I have copies on the table.

Fire Department – Community Board 8 is faring very well as far as FDNY is concerned. We had a total of 7,521 responses for CB8 in 2019. This was a slight decrease from 2018. There were 28 mortalities due to fire in Queens; however, none of them was in CB8.

Structural fires – 386
 Non-structural fires – 225
 Total fires – 611
 Emergencies – 3, 133
 Medical Emergencies – 3,517

Department of Environmental Protection – The deadline for the annual Water Resource Art & Poetry Program is March 24th. If you would like more information, please contact artandpoetry@dep.nyc.gov or 718-595-3506.

The agency also wanted to remind residents to check their pipes (*info is included in the CB8 Newsletter*).

Department of Design and Construction

- **NYCDDC Project # HWPR18Q2** [Pedestrian Ramps] – CCL Farrah Antoine informed us that they will be working at Community Board 11 in a few weeks.
- **NYCDDC Project #HWQ100FJM** – CCL Jenny Cheng informed us that they are working on the punch list for the area.

OEM – The agency has a calendar with information about what preparedness actions should be taken each month. Go to: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/em/ready/calendar-toolkits.page>, for more information.

NYC CERT is now recruiting for training. To sign-up please go to: www.nycem.samaritan.com/CERT. Classes will start in February 2020. They will be at Grover Cleveland High School in Queens.

They are looking for volunteers for HOPE 2020 to assist in counting the street homeless on January 27th. To sign-up, please go to nyc.gov/hope.

Parks – Under the Mayor’s Fund to Advance NYC, Parks is looking for locations within CB8 to have miniature soccer fields to introduce different communities to the sport. They are currently looking at Utopia, Fresh Meadows and Pomonok playgrounds.

Mulch Fest will officially end at Cunningham Park on January 11th. Cunningham Park will continue to accept Christmas trees until the end of this month. Please drop them off at the 196th Place parking lot.

Sanitation – They will continue to collect real Christmas trees at curbside until January 17th.

You may see some salt spreaders in the neighborhood. They are on standby in case there is a snow event. The curbside e-waste program that started last year has been very successful. If you have old television set, computer or other electronic devices, you can call 311 and they will schedule to have it removed at curbside. Starting next week, the pickup day for CB8 will change from every Friday to every **Wednesday**.



Happy Birthday to: Jagir Singh Bains, Kenneth Cohen II, Maria DeInnocentiis, Frank Magri, Mohammed Rahman and Martha Taylor.

DM Adam-Ovide - Thanks to Chairperson Taylor and the two Census Committee Chairmen a letter was drafted to the Chancellor. She wanted to make sure that the chancellor was including information about the Census in the curriculum especially since we live in a multi-ethnic world. Sometimes the students are the ones who give their parents information. She informed everyone that CB8 did receive an email back from the Chancellor’s Office. The email stated that yes, they will be giving that information. It will be included in the curriculum.

Community Board 8 will be collecting socks for the homeless in collaboration with the Borough Presidents Office’s week of service.

Borough President’s Representative – Susie Tanenbaum

- She wished everyone a Happy New Year. Acting Borough President Sharon Lee did serve as Deputy Borough President and it’s wonderful to work with someone who knows the workings of our office and appreciates the mission of our office.
- As Allen Eisenstein told us last month the special election for interim Borough President is scheduled for March 24th, 2020.
- Applications to join Community Boards are now available online at: www.queensbp.org/communityboards .

- Martin Luther King Jr. Day is today, but the observance of the holiday is Monday and Acting Borough President Lee is proud to co-sponsor this annual celebration in partnership with Central Queens Public Library. The event is this Saturday, January 18, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. in the Central Library auditorium downstairs.
- This event and the upcoming Black History Month event at the Borough Presidents Office it is organized by the Borough Presidents African American Heritage Committee. The Black History Month event is on February 26, 2020 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Marc A. Haken and Harbachan Singh are long time members. She thanked them for all the work they put into the committee.
- Acting Borough President Lee will be sponsoring her Annual Lunar New Year event at the Queens Borough President's Office and Helen Marshalls Cultural Center on Wednesday, February 5th at 6:00 p.m.
- Queens Borough President's Office has had a Queens General Assembly since 2002. She had the privilege of coordinating this initiative. Several Board Members are delegates on the Queen's General Assembly: Jagir Singh Bains, Carolann Baker-Brown, Harbachan Singh. They are available to serve as a resource if the board wants to organize any kind of dialog.
- She commended Rabbi Nisanov and everyone who is doing any type of work particularly with young people for anti-Semitism.

District Manager Adam-Ovide announced that Nolan Grey will be leaving City Planning and we will have Scott Sollomon instead.

Committee Reports:

Health Minute with Dr. Penny Stern, Health Committee Chair:

Dr. Stern informed everyone about Burnout. Burnout is a colloquial term used to describe a state of emotional physical and mental exhaustion caused by prolonged and excessive stress. This can exist both at home and in the workplace. Dr. Stern spoke about articles regarding heart failure, strokes and blood clots. She hopes that everyone will work to relieve stress in the upcoming new year. She wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Bhitihara Martha Fulton, Parks Committee Chair:

The Parks Committee met on December 19, 2019 with the design team and with Councilman Barry Grodenchik. There was a presentation of the redesign of the Cunningham Park Upper Redwood Playground. She thinks that they did an excellent job and was extremely impressed with the wheelchair accessibility. She stated that this was a great improvement and that the design team does try to work with the community. She informed everyone that we will be sending a letter of support.

Kevin Forrestal – Census 2020 –

Mr. Forrestal stated that all Board Members should have received an email outlining what occurred at the last Queens Complete Count Committee. He informed everyone that in the report there is a timetable that outlines how the census will roll out between March 12th and April 27th. He stated that it is going to be a series of five mailings with reminders. He informed everyone that on Monday evening, there was a subcommittee meeting for Community Board 8 and the Queens Complete Count Committee. The purpose of the meeting was to identify 10 groups as a target. He announced that next week the Chairs and District Managers are going to be asked to come and speak about how they are going to participate. We are also going to be reviewing the actual questionnaire.

Adjournment

Kevin Forrestal made a motion to adjourn this meeting at 9:08 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Izabela Szczepanska, CB8 staff
January 27, 2020*