



Chairman, Alvin Warshaviak

*The City of New York
Borough of Queens*

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District Manager, Marie Adam-Ovide

Minutes of Community Board 8 Board Meeting held on Wednesday, March 19, 2014 at the Hillcrest Jewish Center, 183-02 Union Turnpike, Flushing in New York.

Attendance:

Board Members Present: Dilafroz Ahmed, Jagir Singh Bains, Carolyn Baker-Brown, Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Edward Chung, Susan D. Cleary, Kenneth Cohen II, Brian DeMasters, Mary Maggio- Fischer, Kevin Forrestal, James Gallagher, Jr., Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Robert Harris, Steven Konigsberg, Paul S. Lazauskas, Mark J. Lefkof, Elke Maerz, Tammy Oshero, Simon Pelman, Frances Peterson, Charlton Rhee, Samuel Rodriguez, Annie Salvatore, Seymour Schwartz, Michael F. Sidell, Harbachan Singh, Martha Taylor, Alvin Warshaviak, Jacob Weinberg and Albert Willingham.

Board Members Absent: Robert H. Block , Monica Corbett, Maria DeInnocentiis, Allen Eisenstein, Florence Fisher, Carolann Foley, Howard A. Fried, Joshua Glikman, Tami Hirsch, Mitch Lisker, Frank Magri, Virginia Rallis, Jesse Rosenbaum, Steven Sodofsky, Anna Sawchuk, and Stanley Weinblatt.

Others Present: Congresswoman Grace Meng, Don Capalbi, representing Congresswoman Grace Meng, Scott Stringer, NYC Comptroller, Dev Awasthi and Pesach Osina, representing Scott Stringer NYC Comptroller, Councilman Rory Lancman, Daniel Rosenthal and Dominic Panakal, representing Councilman Rory Lancman, Carly Liang representing Senator Tony Avella, Anthony Lemma representing Assemblyman David Weprin, Facia Class, representing Assemblyman Michael Simanowitz, Courtney Cariello representing Assemblywoman Nily Rozic, Susie Tanenbaum – Director of Immigrant and Intercultural Affairs at the Borough President’s Office, Marie Adam-Ovide, CB8 District Manager, Alma Karassavidis, CB8 Staff Member.

Call to Order:

Chairman Alvin Warshaviak called the Board Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Public Participation:

Rabbi Shmuel Kogan, stated that he is from the Jewish Institute of Queens located in Rego Park. The institute is in the process of purchasing the Utopia Jewish Center. The plan is to maintain the Jewish Center’s services: Pre-K classes for 4 year olds; expanding from middle school to High School and Yeshiva.

Salute to the Flag

Chairman Alvin Warshaviak led the salute to the flag.

Approval of Minutes:

Mary Maggio-Fischer made a motion to approve the minutes of February 12, 2014 seconded by Edward Chung.

Count in favor 31 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0

Board Members who approved the minutes: Dilafroz Ahmed, Jagir Singh Bains, Carolyn Baker-Brown, Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Edward Chung, Susan D. Cleary, Kenneth Cohen II, Brian DeMasters, Mary Maggio- Fischer, Kevin Forrestal, James Gallagher, Jr., Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Robert Harris, Steven Konigsberg, Paul S. Lazauskas, Mark J.

Lefkof, Elke Maerz, Tammy Osherov, Simon Pelman, Frances Peterson, Charlton Rhee, Samuel Rodriguez, Annie Salvatore, Seymour Schwartz, Michael F. Sidell, Harbachan Singh, Martha Taylor, Alvin Warshaviak, Jacob Weinberg and Albert Willingham.

It is Chairman Alvin Warshaviak's great pleasure to introduce and welcome our Congresswoman Grace Meng. She has already made a name for herself both in our community and in the halls of Congress.

Congresswoman Grace Meng

- Congresswoman Meng thanked Alvin, Marie and all of the Board Members for the great work they do. She has been in Congress now for about a year. She stated that it has been a tremendous privilege representing many parts of Queens in Congress. She is involved with the Small Business and House Foreign Affairs Committees and has been working on various legislations. Three legislative initiatives have been passed in the House.
- She wanted to highlight one issue in particular of great importance called “Spoofing” that is happening to people right here in Queens. Spoofing is when scammers scramble caller ID’s to make the calls appear to come from somewhere else. Often times, people pick up thinking it is NYPD, the IRS, Immigration or your local bank. The scammers convince people to wire money. Right now under Federal Law, it is legal practice if the call comes from outside of the U.S. or via text message. She is working on a bill that would make it illegal. She is asking for help in providing evidence through personal stories of victims.
- Congresswoman Meng announced that she co-founded a Bipartisan Kid Safety Caucus in Congress.
- She reminded the public that her offices on Queens Blvd. and in Flushing are open to serve the community and all are welcome.

Chairman Alvin Warshaviak suggested that anyone who has personal “Spoofing” stories should send them to Marie at CB8 and she will in turn forward them to the Congresswoman. He introduced the Honorable NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer. Mr. Stringer was elected Comptroller on November 5th. He has dedicated himself through his public service career to building a strong middle class for the city. Focusing on all the issues that middle class want; affordable housing, budget reforms, schools, etc. He previously was the Manhattan Borough President and served in the Assembly. He speaks on behalf of the working people in the unions.

Honorable NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer

- Mr. Stringer thanked Grace Meng, and recognized new, but very experienced Councilmember, Rory Lancman.
- Mr. Stringer advised that there are a lot of challenges that the city face, especially with the Mayor’s Preliminary Budget. While the budget proposal is very modest and very thoughtful because of our fiscal constraints, we still have to finally negotiate 152 labor contracts that have to be included in this budget. City workers have been without raises for 5-7 years. We need this mayor to work with labor to come up with an agreement and that process started. We need a balance that meets the City’s needs while protecting the working families of our city.
- As Auditor in Chief, we audited NYCHA. There are 600,000 people living in public housing. We have to look at what we can do to make repairs and streamline that housing before it gives way.
- His office is auditing the three library systems, starting with Queens. 86% of the Queens library is funded by public monies. The city needs to keep funding libraries; keep them open 7 days; make more programs for kids and seniors. It is important to ensure that our tax dollars are going to support the programs and system throughout the City of NY.
- The Comptroller registers 20,000 contracts. Much has been talked about those technology contracts and outside consultants that bill us a lot of money to do very little. These contracts are not meeting the good government ethical standards. We are taking a very strong stand with the administration by finding ways to create a technology system that is not abused with cost overruns. Certain companies are trying to hold on to the software. That is not workable.
- The pension fund is doing very well.
- Mr. Stringer introduced Pesach Osina as the liaison to our area. He brings great experience to this role.
- Time to raise the budget of our Community Boards. There has been no increase in the budget for 20 years. Our Community Boards need the technology and the staff capacity to perform their work.

Chairman Alvin Warshaviak introduced Councilman Rory Lancman.

Councilman Rory Lancman

- Councilman Lancman praised Scott Stringer for doing a terrific job.
- He stated that Budget Hearings are extremely important. He has more interaction in City Budget process as Councilman. He had a hearing with DEP last week and asked about the status of the work DEP is doing to address flooding on Utopia Pkwy.
- He asked them about the high water rates, way above and beyond what the city really needs to service the bonds that were sold to pay for our infrastructure.
- Rory Lancman, Mark Weprin, Paul Vallone and others will hold a press conference at Utopia Playground at Jewel Avenue at 10:30 a.m tomorrow.

Chairman Alvin Warshaviak extended congratulations to Councilman Lancman on his daughter's Bat Mitzvah which was conducted in Israel. Mazel Tov!

Mark Lefkof introduced David Barrere, the new Assistant Chief for South Queens. He has been on the force for 24 years, with 19 years in the patrol sector. For the last 5 years he was in the Detective Bureau. He was Commanding Officer of the 75th Pct. in East New York, the 76th Pct. in Red Hook and the 114th Pct. in Astoria.

Assistant Chief Barrere – NYPD 107th Pct.

- He stated that crime reduction and quality of life issues are achieved only when the community and the NYPD work together. He is very excited to be here working in Queens South and is looking forward to working with the community.
- **Chairman Warshaviak** stated that we have a very good relationship with the Commanding Officer as well as Community Affairs of the 107th Pct. "What type of problems would we come to you with, as opposed to the Commanding Officer or Community Affairs as we do now?"
- **Ans.:** He supports his Pct. Commanders. If you have a great relationship with Capt. Grover, feel free to call him. If it is something that can be done on the Pct. level, he encourages that relationship.
- Every Monday at 2:00 p.m. he meets with all his Pct. Commanders to sit down and discuss what went on during that week. At that time, they let him know if there are any problems that he can help with.
- You can call me to invite me to a block association meeting, a community meeting, or other events, I would be happy to speak and answer any questions. If you are not happy with something call me or email at david.barrere@nypd.org
- **Edward Chung** asked how Bratton's new policy about increasing community relationships would change the use of "Stop and Frisk". Will there be more Auxiliary Police in NYC?
Ans.: "Stop, Question and Frisk" is not going away. NYPD will continue to use it in order to enforce the law. It may have been abused or used inappropriately in the past. His commitment is that his Officers will be held to a certain standard. To the second question, our Auxiliaries are awesome. We are always recruiting for Auxiliaries.
- **Samuel Rodriguez** asked, "What can the NYPD do with the issue of cars parking and blocking a common driveway?"
Ans.: We can issue a summons. If a car is in a common driveway, it can be towed.
- **Kenneth Cohen II** stated that to his knowledge the practice of "Stop and Frisk" was overturned here in NYC. As a victim of the "Stop and Frisk" method, I would like to know what your policy in Queens South and the 107th Pct. would be, if members of the community feel that they have been stopped unjustly?"
Ans.: The Stop, Question and Frisk practice is not illegal in NYC. It will continue. Police Officers should explain why you are being stopped. I know that is not always the case. The officers are required to give you their names and shield numbers. We will now be monitored by Inspector General, Internal Affairs and the Civilian Complaint Review Board. If you think you are being stopped inappropriately, you can go to the Precinct Commander or complaints can be filed with the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) online at: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/ccrb/html/home/home.shtml>

Chairman Warshaviak introduced Captain Frederick Grover

Captain Frederick Grover – NYPD 107th Pct.

- 107th statistics are flat for the last 4 weeks 87-87. Index crimes are down almost 7% for the year.

- Police Officers responded to a 311 noise complaint on 161st Street. A gentleman opened up the door with a marijuana pipe. Police Officers were invited in and found 5 lbs. of heroin in the apartment, all packaged for distribution. Officers obtained a search warrant, returned the next day and found packaging equipment.
- There was some auto related activity, car break-ins near 165 St. and Hillside Ave. Two men were seen removing hubcaps and wheels from an automobile. Someone spotted the theft taking place from their window and called immediately. We were able to get there quickly and make the arrest.
- Two graffiti cleanups were done in the last month, covering 35 locations in the 107th Pct. They worked with Highway Patrol and did full inspection of whole corridor of the LIE, including the service road. Chronic spots should be reported to Detective Motta. Those locations will be visited more often and surveillance will set up. Three people were identified as responsible for 20 separate incidents of tagging.
- There was a traffic issue with P.S. 173, most importantly the a.m. hours. We are working to make it safe.

Chairman’s Report:

- Chairman Warshaviak extended condolences to Joshua Glikman and his family on the passing of his wife. He sat shiva and is still in the 30 day morning period.
- Barbara McKeon, CB8 staff member for over 11 years, has decided to retire. The appreciation of this full board is with her for the good and hard work she has done. I ask that a letter in my name go out to her thanking her on behalf of the board for her good and hard work that she has done.
- Alma Karassavidis has been promoted and is now a full time employee. We wish her luck.
- CB8 is hiring another full time person. A job posting will go out. In addition there is a program called the Young Adult Internship Program which is free of charge, provided by the NYC Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD). We are going to avail ourselves of that Internship program. If the person works out well we will offer the part time position at the end of the internship. Considering the seniority of the staff members who left CB8, we will still have a savings of somewhere around \$20,000 with the 3 new members of the staff.
- Marie has done a great job on the Passover program which is basically two things; 1) an extensive pick up of garbage 2) the morning of Passover there will be 4 or 5 burning stations throughout CB8.
- There will be nominations in April and elections in May.

District Manager’s Report:

Department of Environmental Protection – Emily Lloyd will return to the agency and serve as its new Commissioner

- DEP – The agency announced that there is \$6M in new grants available for community groups, not-for-profit agencies and property owners for Green Projects. If you have any organization or civic associations or others in your area that might be interested, they can contact DEP. Information is on the DEP website. DEP will be doing some sessions on the Green Infrastructure Program in all 5 boroughs. There will be a session in Queens on April 9th at 59-17 Junction Blvd, from 1:00-5:00 p.m. in the cafeteria.
- There is a new website, DEP QuickPay, which is accessible through the DEP homepage. This makes it easier for people to make payments. DEP has also streamlined the pay by phone system with extended hours. Payment can be made via smart phones or tablets, or pay in cash at any Western Union location. You can also visit DEP Queens offices located at 96-05 Horace Harding Expressway on the 1st floor to pay in person.
- DEP announced that new rules requiring dry cleaners to disclose chemicals used in their process came into effect on February 11, 2014. Ms. Ellis advised that DEP has been working extensively with the National Cleaners Association to inform the businesses of this program. Businesses will be fined if they don’t have a list of the chemicals that are used in their process as to educate the consumers. *(Most dry cleaners use perchloroethylene or “perc,” which is regulated by Federal, State, and City governments, as exposure to perc vapor can have negative health effects. Dry cleaners that use perc are required to post an informational sign which provides contact information to report odors and other problems. The notice also lists where additional information can be found about the potential health effects of perc exposure. Some dry cleaners have more recently promoted the use of non-perc chemicals and these cleaning agents may also have health risks. DEP’s new rule will help inform consumers about the use of non-perc chemicals and any potential effects.)*

Human Resources Administration - Steve Banks will be the new commissioner as of April 1, 2014.

- HRA has a new way to recertify for SNAP benefits 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It is called the Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS). To use this process call 866-761-8357. Language options are available.
- To reschedule a SNAP telephone interview appointment call 718-923-6044.
- To reschedule a SNAP telephone recertification appointment call 718-722-4669.

Department of Design and Construction – There are three projects currently: a sewer project and two water main installation projects.

Project SEQ200534 –DDC (sewer)

- Storm sewer Santiago Street Project includes sanitary sewers, water main and currently storm sewers.
- Most of the work has been completed. Currently working on the last section which is Palo Alto Ave. between Santiago St. and Haywood Rd.
- Everything else has been completed on Hillside Avenue from 190th to 192nd Streets ; 191st St. from Hillside Ave. to Palo Alto Ave.; Palo Alto Ave. from Palermo St. to 188th St. with the exception of one block, Haywood Rd. Catch basins were also done in all of those streets.
- Work is currently 75% completed. During the month of March work in street will be minimal, with the exception of inspection of the new sewers and some touch ups around the manholes with cement and concrete.
- Restoration will begin in mid or late April, depending on the weather. Contract goes until mid August, but completion anticipated by mid July.

Project QED1000 – DDC (water main)

- Project working on water mains in various areas of Jamaica Hill area. Currently on Kingston Place between Cedarcroft Road and Wexford Terrace.
- Work was stopped in mid December and started up again on February 18th. No work being done at this time due to weather conditions. Work will be off and on from now on.
- There have been no community issues to date.
- Ms. Christie states that the job is 73% completed. Anticipated completion date is June 4, 2014.

Project QED1001 – DDC (water main)

- Only 7% of the job has been completed.
- All tree cutting for the project has been completed as well as saw cutting on Normal Rd., 159th St, 151st St. and Highland Ave., all the way down to Parsons Blvd.
- The project area is from the Van Wyck service road to 164th St and from Hillside to GCP.

Department of Transportation

- **Hillside Avenue Resurfacing** - A section of Hillside Avenue was resurfaced last summer. The next section will be done during night hours. We received no confirmation on what stretches are being done yet. The agency is limited as to how many lane miles can be done at night. Hillside is in bad shape and DOT knows this. If a full resurfacing cannot be done, then it could be addressed by doing a “wear and tear” repair. This is when a larger section is repaired at a time instead of just filling the pot holes.

Meetings:

- Last Thursday, Marco Carrion, the Mayor’s Community Affairs Commissioner, met with District Managers and Chairpersons of Queens. Almost all the 14 Boards were represented. They discussed how to better collaborate with different city agencies. Community Boards requested access to 311 data, which was promised to us during the previous administration and it never materialized. The Commissioner assured us that the new administration thinks highly of the Community Boards and their members. It is looking forward to having a good working relationship. We also have a new liaison for Queens. Her name is Helen Ho and she is a former employee of the Parks Department and a Queens’s resident.
- School District 25 held a meeting last Friday to discuss how to better include the contribution of African Americans in the school curriculum. Superintendent Danielle DiMango chaired the meeting. Representatives from the Queens Historical Society, Maple Grove Cemetery, elected officials and concerned residents attended. States like Florida and Oregon actually have a Black History Curriculum. One of the attendees wanted the NYS Legislature to follow suit.

Happy Birthday to Board Members Harbachan Singh and Michael Hannibal. Happy Birthday to former Board Member (now Assembly Member) Nily Rozic. They are all celebrating their birthdays in the month of March.

District Manager Adam-Ovide also announced that starting Wednesday, March 26th, DDC will install various pedestrian safety measures at 136th Street and 71st Road in Kew Gardens Hills.

