



The City of New York
Borough of Queens

Community Board 8

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Chairperson, Martha Taylor

District Manager, Marie Adam-Ovide

Minutes of Community Board 8 Board Meeting held on Wednesday, January 19, 2022, via [WebEx](#).

Attendance:

Board Members Present:

Dilafroz Ahmed, Heather Bennett-Idels, Carolyn Brown, Robert H. Block, Susan D. Cleary, Maria DeInnocentiis, Kevin Forrestal, Howard A. Fried, Bhitihara-Martha Fulton, James Gallagher Jr., John Gebhard, Wendy Gennaro, Joshua Glikman, Ashan Habib, Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Steven Konigsberg, Paul S. Lazauskas, Mitch Lisker, Elke Maerz, Mary Maggio, Jennifer Martin, David Mordukhaev, Dilip Nath, Alan Ong, Tamara Osherov, Hersh Parekh, Simon Pelman, Frances Peterson, Charlton Rhee, Jesse Rosenbaum, Seymour Schwartz, Deepti Sharma, Douglas Sherman, Harbachan Singh, Dr. Penny M. Stern, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin, Jacob Weinberg and Tamika Williams-Moore.

Board Members Absent:

Jagir Singh Bains, Edward Chung, Kenneth Cohen II, Solomon Davydov, Allen Eisenstein, Carolann Foley, Rabbi Shlomo Nisanov, Mohammad Rahman and Tami Hirsch.

Others Present:

Kelly Wu representing Congresswoman Grace Meng, Max Weprin representing Borough President Donovan Richards, Honorable Council Member Linda Lee, Luna Fu representing Council Member Linda Lee, Ashley Lin representing Honorable State Senator John Liu, Daiquan Llewellyn representing Honorable State Senator Leroy Comrie, David Sperry representing Honorable Assembly Member David Weprin, Daniel Blech representing Assembly Member Daniel Rosenthal, 107th Precinct Commanding Officer Erik Krauss, P.O. Kevin McCarthy, 107th Precinct Community Affairs, P.O. Timothy Gorman, 107th Precinct Community Affairs, Neil Moore, CEO of NYC Health + Hospitals/Queens, CB8 District Manager and Jatnna Reyes, CB8 Staff Member.

Call to Order:

Chairperson Martha Taylor called this Board Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Public Hearing: *This is to hear about any City Government issue (s) or any other issue that affects the district that the public would like Community Board 8 to address.*

Steven Williams – Mr. Williams spoke about the Accessible Dispatch Program. It is a program that connects the community to wheelchair accessible taxis in all five boroughs of New York City. They have an app that allows people to book trips anytime as long as they are in any area of NYC. More information is available on their website at: www.accessibledispatch.com.

Public Participation:

Matthew Malloy representing Council Member Gennaro – Mr. Malloy introduced himself as the new constituent service liaison for CM Gennaro. You can sign up for the council member’s newsletter to receive up-to-date news and information. To sign-up, please visit: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/pKfGwwM>.

David Sperry representing Assembly Member David Weprin – Mr. Sperry is the Chief of Staff for AM Weprin. Offices in Fresh Meadows and in Richmond Hill are open to the public. They have lots of PPE for distribution. They are doing a can drive and are currently accepting donations through February 7th. He can be reached at: sperryd@nyassembly.gov. For any issues or concerns, feel free to email the office at: weprind@nyassembly.gov.

Kelly Wu representing Congresswoman Grace Meng – Ms. Wu is a case worker and field representative in Congresswoman Grace’s office. FREE COVID-19 Test Kits are now available. Please visit: www.covidtests.gov to order yours. Each household is limited to 4 FREE test kits. If you are having issues submitting the order online, you can call: 1-800-275-8777. The Congresswoman was able to assist in getting the Chinese translation for this website as the only available languages were English and Spanish. For any issues or concerns, please call their office at: 718-358-6364 or email them at: NY06casework@mail.house.gov.

Daniel Blech representing Assembly Member Daniel Rosenthal – AM Rosenthal’s Office is open and operational. They are assisting residents by appointment only. They have masks and hand sanitizers available for distribution. For more information, please call their office at: 718-969-1508.

Chairperson Taylor welcomed the 107th Precinct Officers who were present. 107th Precinct’s Executive Officer Erik Rauss was in attendance. She invited him to say a few words.

Executive Officer Erik Rauss – 107th Precinct

- D.I. Chan is on vacation. EO Rauss was covering for him. He worked in the 107th Precinct as a Domestic Violence Sergeant back in 2013-2015. He knows the area well. He is available for questions. He is looking forward to working with everyone on the Board.

Newly Elected Council Member Linda Lee was in attendance. Chairperson Taylor welcomed her and invited her to address the Board.

Honorable Council Member Linda Lee – District 23

- CM Lee introduced herself as our new Council Member for District 23. She is a former Board Member [CB11] and knows the area pretty well. She is a former social worker and have been in the non-profit sector in the last 20 years. Her office is open and operational. She is happy to join this district and is looking forward to working with everyone. She encouraged everyone to reach out to her via email at: District23@council.nyc.gov or via telephone at: 718-468-0137.

Luna Fu representing Council Member Linda Lee – District 23

- Ms. Fu is the new Community Liaison for CM Lee’s Office. She can be reached at: LFu@council.nyc.gov.

Salute to the Flag

Marc A. Haken led the salute to the flag.

Approval of Minutes:

Marc A. Haken made a motion to approve the minutes of December 15, 2021, seconded by Mitch Lisker.

Count in favor: **40** Opposed: **0** Abstained: **0**

Guest Speaker:

Neil Moore, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) – NYC Health + Hospitals/Queens (H + H) – Mr. Moore joined Queens Hospital 11 months ago. This was his return to H + H after working for many years. He spent some time in Maryland working for the University of Maryland’s medical system. He began by recognizing Chairperson Taylor, DM Adam-Ovide, Seymour Schwartz who is the Chair of the Board’s Ad Hoc Health Committee that has been tasked with overseeing the T-Building project for which they have and will continue to do so. He thanked Board Member Carolyn Brown for facilitating his participation at tonight’s meeting. She also serves as the Chairperson of the Queens Hospital Advisory Board. He also asked for everyone to join him in extending sympathy to the family of late Board Member Albert Willingham. He was a long-time member of CB8 and employee/labor leader for Queens Hospital for almost 40 years.

Mr. Moore spoke about the progress they have been making for the Queens Hospital Center. These are some of the main highlights of the presentation:

- Since he joined Queens Hospital, he decided to create a vision to build a strong program for nurses to make Queens Hospital one of the best community hospitals in the country. It is called “Pathway to Excellence”. This program will enable them to have the best workplace for nurses as well as derive good patient care outcome.
- He wants to be able to demonstrate local and national leadership in providing high value healthcare and delivering excellent clinical quality, patient safety and service. Since he’s been there, Queens Hospital has had one of the national records in “left without seeing” (i.e., patients arriving at the emergency room). The national average is 5%. They have been between 0.6% and 0.9%.
- He wants to drive transformation Queens Hospital with innovation and care delivery. They want to engage patients in their own wellness and care. They have embarked on a person’s centered-care approach whereby, it is not only focused on the patient, but it is focused on the caregivers of the person, including the employees of the hospital.
- They want to expand/establish their services to respond to community needs so that they are aligned with our community needs assessment. As you are aware, the Federal Government require hospitals to develop a community need assessment. They want to be responsive to that community need assessment. One of the things they have done is expand their Orthopedic, Women’s Health and Podiatry program. They have plans to open an outpatient/dialysis program. They also have expanded their Dental and Ophthalmologist program to the pediatric population. They are in the process of developing a wound care. They have also expanded their gastrointestinal program.
- They want to better serve the population addressing social determinacy of health. They also want to advance the frontier of medicine and science with their affiliation with Mount Sinai Hospital which is an excellent partner. They want to develop a stronger partnership with community-based organizations.
- To achieve all of this, they need to expand infrastructure at Queens Hospital Center. In the T-Building, they will be able to re-capture 12,700 sq. ft. of space that they will use to build to have back-offices function. They will have the ability to add two floors to their Pavilion building. This will help them to expand and include those services that the community needs.
- They have an old swimming pool that hasn’t been used in many years. This is the area that will be used to establish the outpatient dialysis services.
- They want to attract and enhance relationships with the best and most respected physicians, nurses and other healthcare professionals and staff. In January/February issue of American College of Health Care Executive, they will publish a report that Queens Hospital has been doing.

Chairperson Taylor thanked Mr. Moore for his presentation. She opened the floor for questions from the Board Members.

Marc Haken – I wonder if you have reached out to the local high schools yet. Those who have nursing programs (i.e., Thomas Edison H.S./Gateway of Science H.S.). If not, I encourage you to do so and visit them to see their programs and possibly form a collaboration.

Answer: [Mr. Moore] – Thank you. I’ll look into that. It is actually a good suggestion.

Chairperson's Report – **Martha Taylor:**

- She announced that Governor Kathy Hochul passed the extension of the law that allowed us to have virtual meetings and it is in effect until further notice.
- The Comptroller's Office conducted an audit of all Community Boards that addressed: meeting notices, community board website postings, broadcasting/telecasting, and requirements for monthly public hearings/meetings. As a result, these monthly public hearings in conjunction with our board meetings. These public hearings will be held at the beginning of the meetings. Residents can continue to speak to any matter that they wish apart from the subject matter of the hearing for up to three minutes.
- Community Board 8 received an anonymous complaint about illegal construction at 77-12 137th Street. The letter did not provide a valid address, nor telephone number. The office checked with the Department of Buildings and a Stop Work Order was issued. In addition, she informed everyone that when you file a complaint with the CB office, your name is kept confidential. It is not shared with the agency. She asked everyone not to be afraid to provide your contact information as we need this information so we can properly address the issue and keep you abreast of any updates.
- Staffer Izabela Szczepanska resigned from her position this past Friday; the CB is taking steps to replace her.
- She congratulated Board Member Jesse Rosenbaum on the birth of his granddaughter – Myri-Kate. May she only bring happiness and joy to him and his family.
- The City's contract with Exodus for the Wyndham Hotel has been extended for half year not until 2030 like the applicant stated.
- The Community Board was also copied on a letter to the Elected Officials on multiple issues from local residents/civics. The letter was about cars doing stunts/donuts at Cunningham Park and Federal Realty's Parking Lot [Fresh Meadows Parking Lot]. *Chairperson Taylor informed everyone that speed bumps were requested for these parking lots and were placed. They have been working with the NYPD on this issue for a while. The situation is being monitored.*
- The letter also stated that there are tractor trailers parked overnight at 73rd Avenue between Francis Lewis Boulevard and 210th Street. She asked Marc Haken who knows the area if he has seen any. Mr. Haken stated that occasionally he has seen them but rarely. *Chairperson Taylor stated that we have been in touch with our D.I. Kevin Chan and the NYPD is aware of the situation and are monitoring the area.*

Maria DeInnocentiis – Ms. DeInnocentiis stated that the letter sent was created by most of the Civics in Area 6. We formed a committee called the Safe Neighborhood Committee. It was created to send to the Elected Officials and others about issues that are impacting the quality of life in the neighborhood. Most of the issues are ongoing and we've been working NYPD, DOT, etc. Most of those complaints also go through the Community Board. They sent this letter to bring it to the attention of the newly Elected Officials to bring it to their attention.

Tammy Oshero – In regard to that letter, the situation is the parking lot, there have been cars doing donuts in the IOG parking lot. It is definitely a problem. I probably can take pictures of the skid marks on the parking lot.
Answer: [Chairperson Taylor] – We didn't know that IOG was having a problem; however, Federal Realty and Cunningham problem were taken care of with the speed bumps since we have not received any more complaints.
Well, if you don't believe me and you want to see me complaining about this every time, I will do it. It just happened about 15 minutes ago.

Answer: [Chairperson Taylor] – Tammy, we are not saying we don't believe you. We just weren't aware that this was happening at IOG. Now we know it. We'll have the NYPD look into this. *Chairperson Taylor asked P.O. Gorman to look into this location and help us address this issue and update us.*

Also, it came to my surprise about that meeting about the hotel [Wyndham Hotel], the Liquor License meeting the other night, that they had a contract till 2030.

Answer: [Chairperson Taylor] – Tammy, we said that the contract has been extended for half year not until 2030. Marie has already looked into it.

Maria DeInnocentiis – The feeling we had when we listened to the attorney was that they have an extended contract with the City. They were not sure if the contract that they had with Exodus was going to stay but they wanted to make sure that they continue to work with the City. He gave the impression that if they current

residents in there wanted to leave, they wanted to keep the hotel as a homeless shelter or another type of shelter. I don't think they are planning to go back as a hotel.

Jesse Rosenbaum – I want to address the issue of the donuts, excessive noise. The complaints should be going directly to the precinct. They promised that they will look into it and were going to be responsive. If you take pictures and send them, they can't really do anything about it; they have to catch them in the act to issue summonses.

District Manager's Report – January 2022

Queens Public Library

The Queens Public Library has a new streaming platform “Hoopla” for music, movies, TV shows etc., which can be accessed with a library card. They also have a Job Academy where residents can take advantage of virtual training programs. Information is available on their website.

Department of City Planning (DCP)

The ULURP for 77-39 Vleigh Place was certified on January 18th and the public review process has started. The CB8 Public Hearing will probably be held in February.

Fire Department (FDNY)

No statistics were provided for calendar year 2021. Due to COVID there is a staff shortage. As a result, the mobile CPR trainings for January were cancelled. The staff members were reassigned.

Department of Transportation (DOT)

The agency spoke about the DOT Street Plan that must be published every five (5) years. This plan includes about 30 miles of bus lanes and/or camera enforced lanes and 50 miles of protected bike lanes citywide.

Department of Buildings (DOB)

The Department of Buildings updated us on the Homeowner Relief Resolution Program. Under this program homeowners are given warnings instead of violations for certain infractions. The re-inspection for compliance will be done after 90 days not 60 days as previously advised last month.

The DOB Commissioner Melanie LaRocca has been assigned the job of Efficiency Czar. The agency awaits replacement which can happen any day.

Department of Emergency Management (NYCEM)

The Resolve to Be Ready Calendar is now available on their website. They will have their 10th Annual Symposium on readiness on March 9th at 10 a.m. The application for the John D. Solomon Fellowship class opens on January 24th. This program provides 10 graduate students in the New York City area with the opportunity to complete a nine-month, paid fellowship in an agency of the New York City government or a nonprofit organization. For application, eligibility requirements, and selection details visit: <http://www.nyc.gov/johndsolomonfellowship>.

Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP)

We were informed that under the State Laws there is a Special Leave for the Covid-19 Vaccine:

- Workers get up to 4 hours per vaccine injection, for a total of up to 8 hours.
- This is in addition to accrued leave under State or City Paid Sick Leave laws
- Workers may use accrued leave to recover from side effects of the Covid-19 vaccine.
- This law is effective from 3/12/2021 through 12/31/2022.

Under the City Laws there is a Dedicated Sick Leave for Child Vaccination:

- Workers get 4 additional hours of sick leave for each child; and each vaccine injection
- Covered workers who are parents or legal guardians of kids aged 5-18 or an older child with a mental or physical disability can use leave to:
 - Take kids to get the covid-19 vaccine
 - Care for kids experiencing side effects from the Covid-19 vaccine
 - Dedicated Sick Leave for child vaccination is in addition to accrued leave.
 - Dedicated sick leave for child vaccination effective dates are 11/2/2021 through 12/31/2022.

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



Marie Adam-Ovide

Borough President’s Donovan Richards Representative – Max Weprin

- Community Board applications are live on their website. If you are up for renewal, please re-apply. If you know of anyone looking to become a Community Board member, please direct them to: www.queensbp.org. To CB8 members who do not know if they are up for renewal, he asked that they email him at: mweprin@queensbp.org for details. The deadline to submit applications is February 16, 2022.
- On Tuesday, January 25th at 5:30 p.m., Borough President Richards will be hosting a webinar with Queens Defenders and the Harris Breaking Law Firm to learn more about the Marijuana Regulations and Taxation Act which legalizes adult use of cannabis in New York State.
- On Thursday, January 27th at 2:00 p.m., Borough President Richards will also host a Homeowners Tax Benefit information session webinar with the Department of Finance. To register for these events, please visit: www.queensbp.org/events.

Committee Reports:

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

- Dr. Stern spoke about a report she came across in the (*American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*) which she shared. This was a study conducted over 18 years among 41,000 adults by researchers at the NYU School for Global Health. They were looking at the consumption of ultra-processed foods.
- They found out that over these past two decades, everybody in the U.S. population has increased their consumption of ultra-processed foods. By ultra-processed, she means, poor diet quality which increases the risk for a number of chronic conditions such as heart disease. In addition, eating this ultra-processed food is likely to be a key driver of the obesity epidemic. Ultra-processed foods include things like, frozen pizza, fast food, canned soups, sweets, sodas, sugar sweetened cereal.
- Ultra-processed foods are industrially manufactured, ready to-eat or ready-to-heat foods, they include additives, chemicals that you see on the labels that nobody can pronounce. They do not include whole foods: unprocessed or minimally processed foods, fruits, vegetables, grains, dairy, lean meats, etc.
- Over the course of this 18-year study, the percentage of ultra-processed consumption grew to 57%. This is more than half. In contrast, with the consumption of whole foods actually decreased to 27.4%. Some of the points made by the researchers were really interesting, including the fact that Hispanic Latino adults ate significantly less ultra-processed foods and more whole foods compared with non-Hispanics [whites and black adults].

- There is an apparent impact of COVID-19 on eating habits. The preliminary findings suggest that purchasing of ultra-processed foods increased substantially since the pandemic. Maybe people were finding ease and comfort with this food while at home. Eating them will cause harm your body. She suggested everyone to eat healthy meals and keep a healthy lifestyle throughout this difficult time.

Committee Reports:

Kevin Forrestal: Letter to Mayor Eric Adams on Borough Based Jails

- Chairperson Taylor stated that we may come up with a better letter to send about the Borough Based Jail which we are already opposed to.
- Mr. Forrestal stated that the group that drafted that letter amended the letter. He recommended that the Board postpone this until CB9Q acts on it. *[item was tabled for discussion at a future date. TBD].*

Chairperson Taylor wished Jagir Singh Bains, Kenneth Cohen II, Maria DeInnocentiis, Mohammed Rahman a Happy Birthday. She is also celebrating her birthday this month.

She also mentioned that Board Member Jagir Singh Bains sent in his resignation from the Board which will become effective by the end of March.

She thanked everyone for coming and wished those celebrating a Happy Chinese New Year!

Adjournment

Marc A. Haken made a motion to adjourn this meeting at 8:37 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jatnna Reyes, CB8 staff
January 26, 2022*