

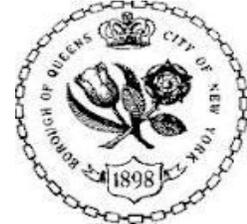


Chairman, Alvin Warshaviak

*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, December 9, 2015 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, Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Robert H. Block, Edward Chung, Susan D. Cleary, Kenneth Cohen II, Monica Corbett, Maria DeInnocentiis, Allen Eisenstein, Mary Maggio Fischer, Carolann Foley, Kevin Forrestal, Howard A. Fried, James Gallagher Jr., Joshua Glikman, Michael Hannibal, Sylvia Hernandez, Tami Hirsch, Paul S. Lazauskas, Bright Dae-Jung Limm, Mark J. Lefkof, Elke Maerz, Frank Magri, Jennifer Martin, Tamara Oshero, Simon Pelman, Frances Peterson, Charlton Rhee, Douglas Sherman, Steven Sadofsky, Seymour Schwartz, Michael F. Sidell, Harbachan Singh, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin, Alvin Warshaviak, Jacob Weinberg and Stanley Weinblatt.

**Board Members Absent:**

Florence Fisher, Marc A. Haken, Robert Harris, Fakrul "Delwar" Islam, Steven Konigsberg, Mitch Lisker, Rabbi Shlomo Nisanov, Samuel Rodriguez, Jesse Rosenbaum and Albert Willingham.

**Others Present:**

Alexander Bennett representing Congresswoman Grace Meng, Susie Tanenbaum representing Borough President Melinda Katz, Steve Behar representing Councilman Elect Barry Grodenchik, Daniel Rosenthal representing Councilman Rory Lancman, Stephanie Campanha representing State Senator Tony Avella, Amir Abbady representing State Senator Leroy Comrie, Aaron Siegel representing Assemblyman David Weprin, Michael Farcer representing Assemblyman Michael Simanowitz, Marilla Li representing Assemblywoman Nily Rozic, Marie Adam-Ovide, CB8 District Manager, and Alma Karassavidis, CB8 staff member.

**Call to Order:**

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

**Public Participation:**

**Wendy Phaff-** I work locally for an organization called Queens Center for Progress. I am the Assistant Director of Development and have been with the organization for five (5) years. I also live in Briarwood. We provide programs and services for people with developmental disabilities in Queens. We have been in this neighborhood for 65 years. I am hoping to have our organization participate a little more in the community and give us more of a presence as well as getting to know our neighbors. I also work with an organization called the Queens Distance Runners who are bringing the first full marathon to Queens in spring 2016.

**Jim DeBonet-** Shirley Weinstein was a Secretary of CB8. She was a member of your team for over 30 years, same as the current staff, who work on behalf of the people of the community. Shirley believed in the Board and made sure that services were given to the community. In the old days, there was no computer. She worked hard to provide the information needed for members to do their jobs at hearings and meetings. She was one of you and together you were able to serve the public. Now she is gone but not forgotten. The people of Aguilar Gardens and

the Mid Queens Community Council are requesting your help to recognize her and show their appreciation by adding her name to Aguilar Avenue/Shirley Weinstein Way. Over the years, Shirley was very active in the community in different organizations, as well as working with several Mayors of the City of New York and many Elected Officials in Queens. She and former Councilman Povman were a team. She developed the Mid Queens Community Council where I worked with her for over 30 years. She was also the first female auxiliary officer of the 107<sup>th</sup> Precinct. At the same time, Shirley made contributions to many organizations such as: The Holocaust Museum, Boys Town, Queens Child Guidance, The Beacon Program at Parsons Junior High as well as contributing many times to the Boy Scouts of America.

**Alan Sherman** – I was a shareholder at Aguilar Gardens from February 2000 until July 2015. I was on the Board of Directors with Shirley Weinstein on and off during this period. I am here to appeal to you “DO NOT” rename Aguilar Avenue after Shirley Weinstein. Just because someone was a community activist does not mean that they need to be immortalized. There have been many community activists who will not get their name on a street pole. I do not mean to speak of the departed in a hostile manner but Shirley was a mean spirited person. Shirley came off as a “know it all” who has contacts with local politicians. She held back Aguilar Gardens from growing into a modern cooperative. As Secretary, I had to take the minutes. She refused to utilize a computer to help speed up the process. If you did not agree with her she would make your life miserable within the co-op. Many times during the meetings she would go off on tangents about how things were run in the past and would not address modern conveniences to help the co-op. Her relationship with some of the employees had always been questioned. She allowed them to do as they please. There were rumors that she allowed them to bring in supplies and then sold them outside. We have no proof, but it was widely known. I lost all respect for her when we talked about Donald Manes. She informed me how misunderstood he was. If you lie with the devil, you are a devil.

**Jeff Gottlieb**- I’m here today as President of the Central Queens Historical Association. I worked with Shirley for 25-30 years on a number of community projects, including protection of parklands. She protected Flushing Meadows-Corona Park against encroachment by the Grand Prix people who wanted to build a racetrack around it. She also had an interest in Lefrak and protected the wetlands around it. She was with the Queens Hospital Center Advisory Board. Shirley was constantly going to Public Hearings and asking for more money for Queens Hospital Center. She vehemently opposed the moving of the Queens Hospital Center south into Jamaica. She felt that it was fine where it was. She also gave her time to the NYPD. She was very much involved in increasing Police presence within the 107<sup>th</sup> Precinct. Shirley was at times very difficult to deal with because she had very strong opinions. She was a good person and I am 100 percent for the naming of Shirley Weinstein Way.

**Norma Chassagne**- I reside at Aguilar Gardens and have known Shirley Weinstein for approximately 24 years. She was a warm and loving person. Shirley was a very strong willed person. I want to emphasize that we (*Aguilar Gardens*) are for and in support of co-naming Aguilar Avenue to Shirley Weinstein Way.

**Abe Fuchs**- I agree with what Jeff Gottlieb has stated, even though I was not there. What he said made perfect sense. Anyone in the public eye is going to do things that some people will disagree with. It isn’t right to encourage rumors and innuendo. From what I have heard, it seems that a street co-naming, not street re-naming, would be very appropriate.

**Deborah Ayala**- I am the current President of the Mid Queens Council (Shirley Weinstein’s former organization). You have all gone through this over and over and I would like to appeal to you now. This is a co-naming. You did it for Pat Dolan and others; it was done on 188<sup>th</sup> Street for the Weprin family. You have 225 signatures that were submitted in favor versus 2 people that are against it. I am reaching out to all of you to think about how you should vote. If the community that you live in and represent have the signatures needed and asks for the co-naming, then you should go ahead and vote for the community. Then it can be given back to the City Council to be voted the right way. It’s not re-naming, it’s co-naming. I don’t think that talking bad about someone is the right way to do things. Let’s not slander anyone and just look at the facts and vote the right way.

**Mike Sidell**- I have lived in this neighborhood since 1955. Shirley played mahjong with my mother. Hal did my father’s taxes. If the community has the majority of signatures there, it is what the community wants. We did it for Pat Dolan and Rabbi Schechter. I think we should vote for the co-naming.

**Alex Bennett**- I represent Congresswoman Grace Meng. Last month I announced the U.S. House of Representatives passed three pieces of transportation legislation sponsored by Congresswoman Meng. Last week, President Obama actually signed this key transportation bill into law. Her measures aim to enhance the safety of school buses, improve the performance of child car seats and protect the privacy of motorists in future driverless vehicles all across the nation. Congresswoman Meng is quoted as saying that these pieces of legislation are a huge boost to save children's lives, preventing future tragedies and ensuring that privacy protections are addressed for future driving technologies. This federal transportation bill, entitled Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST), is a five-year \$305 billion spending bill that funds the nation's roads, bridges, highways, and transit systems. I have left 2016 calendars from Congresswoman Meng for board members and the community. Wishing everyone a Happy Holiday Season!

**Ivan Mossop**- I am the son of Marilyn Mossop. She could not be here tonight and sends her regrets. I am in support of this street co-naming of Aguilar Avenue/Shirley Weinstein Way. As I understand it, Aguilar Avenue is a public thoroughfare that is paid for by taxpayers, not by Aguilar Gardens shareholders. The community and public at large own that road and support it with tax dollars. That being said, whatever the internal strife was inside the co-op should not be considered. My mother is also supportive of the co-naming of Shirley Weinstein Way.

**Aaron Siegel**- I represent Assemblyman David Weprin. We are hosting a Holiday Toy Drive. All the toys will be donated to the Boys and Girls Club of Metro Queens. Since it is not Toys for Tots, they are being a little more lenient on the toys accepted. They could be new or gently used. Please use your discretion. There are some flyers I left on the table in the back.

**Sylvia Sherman**- I recently learned that in a local motel/hotel in this area, Par Central, there have been homeless families placed. I am not saying that I am opposed to this situation but I would like some information as to whether or not the Community Board was involved in negotiating this. Do we know anything about the population or if there are any issues that the community would encounter such as mental health issues, addiction issues or numerous new children attending our schools? We should be prepared to meet and to work together on any potential problems that may arise.

**Amir Abbady**- I would like to wish everyone Happy Holidays on behalf of Senator Leroy Comrie. There are a few events coming up. Senator Comrie and other Elected Officials from Southeast Queens will be having a Civil Service workshop on Thursday, December 10, 2015 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Thomasina's 205-35 Linden Boulevard, St. Albans, NY. We will also be having a Holiday Toy Drive. You can drop off new or gently used toys, books and coats and winter clothing to our office at 113-43 Farmers Boulevard, St. Albans, NY. All donations must be received by Thursday, December 17, 2015. We are organizing the MLK Poetry Slam at Bethany Baptist Church, 90-21 160<sup>th</sup> Street, Jamaica, NY on Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. We would like to encourage some of the young poets in the community to speak on social justice, inequality, poverty, pride and any of the principles of Dr. King. Work may be submitted via email to [MLKPoetryslam@gmail.com](mailto:MLKPoetryslam@gmail.com). Lastly the Senator urges anyone who is not enrolled to take advantage of new affordable health insurance options made possible by the Affordable Care Act. Open enrollment for many New Yorkers will continue until January 31st. You can get more information about enrolling in health insurance either online, by phone, or in person. If you'd like to get information online, visit [www.nystateofhealth.ny.gov](http://www.nystateofhealth.ny.gov) or call (855) 355-5777.

**Alan Siegel**- I was the former President of Aguilar Gardens for almost four (4) years. There are people from Aguilar Gardens who are not represented. We have about 600 to 700 people in the development. So when you think about it, a couple of hundred votes is not a lot. There was a lot of negative things that Shirley did to many of our shareholders. She was not one for modernization or any changes. There are a bunch of people for this but I know a lot of people, including myself who are totally against the co-naming. I urge the Board to please vote against it.

### **Salute to the Flag**

Chairman Warshaviak led the salute to the flag.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Martha Taylor made a motion to approve the minutes of November 12, 2015 seconded by Steven Sadofsky.

Count in favor   37  

Opposed:   0  

Abstained:   0  

**Board Members who approved the minutes:**

Dilafroz Ahmed, Jagir Singh Bains, Carolyn Baker-Brown, Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Robert H. Block, Edward Chung, Susan D. Cleary, Kenneth Cohen II, Monica Corbett, Maria DeInnocentiis, Allen Eisenstein, Mary Maggio Fischer, Carolann Foley, Kevin Forrestal, James Gallagher Jr., Michael Hannibal, Sylvia Hernandez, Tami Hirsch, Paul S. Lazauskas, Bright Dae-Jung Limm, Elke Maerz, Frank Magri, Jennifer Martin, Tamara Osherov, Simon Pelman, Frances Peterson, Charlton Rhee, Douglas Sherman, Steven Sadofsky, Seymour Schwartz, Michael F. Sidell, Harbachan Singh, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin, Alvin Warshaviak, Jacob Weinberg and Stanley Weinblatt.

**Board Members who did not approve the minutes:**

None

**Chairman’s Report – Alvin Warshaviak:**

- Congratulations to Board Member Dr. Allen Bennett who welcomes his 21<sup>st</sup> grandchild.
- Condolences to Board Member Frances Peterson on the loss of her sister in North Carolina.
- I would like to tell the Board about a meeting that I attended which is quite important. Madison Square Garden contacted us and asked us to attend a meeting about organizing a concert at Flushing Meadows-Corona Park. At that meeting were Martha, Marie and myself. We did it as an accommodation and heard what they had to say. When it becomes serious we will bring it to the full board and we will see what happens.
- MSG wants to take a portion of the park and close it down for a three or four day concert event. With an event this size, it would mean taking the park away for a much longer period, allowing time for setting up and breaking down. They would also have to be careful to not affect any ball fields. We informed them that the one resource that we pride ourselves in is our parks and free space.
- The Borough President, who has been involved with this is totally against it. I received a call from her office saying the Parks Department looks as though they are entertaining this idea. From what I understand, it would be a three-day paid festival. Even though we do not have time to have a full discussion on this, Borough President Katz requested that we send a letter to the Mayor. This letter will not state whether we are for or against it, but rather that unless certain conditions are met, such as that the public have much more input into the decision making. Before we rent out Flushing Meadows-Corona Park, or any park, there should be a policy in place.
- I think there are four (4) more organizations who will be submitting proposals to the Parks Department to grant them access to have this festival. From what I understand, the tickets for the festival would be extremely high so the majority of residents could not afford the event. For about 5-6 months of the year, families use the park for barbecues and family outings. Anything you take away can have a negative impact. I am asking for support in the letter that will be drafted. Since Martha heads the Parks Committee, I will take her lead in this to get the letter out in a day or two to the Mayor in support of the Borough President.

**Carolann Foley-** Is this a one shot deal or is this a plan to take land to build a permanent site?

**Chairman Warshaviak-** No it’s not a permanent thing, but it is not a one shot deal. From what MSG told us, it’s not going to take land away but they are going to do it every year. The issue is not that one time event. Once you open the “Pandora’s Box”, you open it up for everybody else. I am not asking whether you agree with this proposal. The issue is that we need policy on this. We need more information and more input into this. I would like to have a letter drafted to that extent.

**Harbachan Singh moved that Community Board 8 write a letter to the Mayor so that public input be taken into account, seconded by Carolann Foley.**

**Chairman Warshaviak-** Another thing I would like to mention is that at Borough Board meeting they had a discussion on Parks without Borders presentation by Commissioner Mitchell Silver. They have a budget of between \$18M and \$100M and are looking to make needed improvements at all NYC Parks. They are looking at parkland that is not being utilized or in disarray. They gave all 14 Community Boards until February 28 to come up with suggestions with Parks.

**Martha Taylor** - I will call a meeting of the Parks Committee sometime in January.

**Chairman Warshaviak asked CB8 District Manager, Marie Adam-Ovide to speak about the NYC Neighborhood Library Awards.**

**Marie Adam-Ovide** – We received an e-mail informing us that there is grant money available to support libraries that support diversity. There was not enough time to hold a Youth, Education and Library Meeting for this. We have made up flyers which are on the table for everyone. You can go to the website <http://www.nyclibraryawards.org> to nominate the library of your choice. Nominations must be done by December 18<sup>th</sup>. Five branch libraries will be awarded a grand prize of \$20,000 each, and five runners-up will receive \$10,000 each.

**Chairman Warshaviak-** Does this require a lot of forms to be filled out? Is it a difficult process? Is it doable?

**Marie Adam-Ovide** – No, it's doable.

**Chairman Warshaviak-** How many libraries do we have in Community Board 8?

**Marie Adam-Ovide** – We have six; Hollis, Briarwood, Hillcrest, Kew Gardens Hills, Fresh Meadows and Pomonok.

**Chairman Warshaviak-** Let's come up with a list of which libraries in our area could be nominated for this funding? I will leave out Kew Gardens Hills as it was just recently renovated and all new.

*A list of the 5 libraries to be nominated was compiled in order of need as follows:*

1.) Pomonok 2.) Briarwood 3.) Hillcrest 4.) Hollis 5.) Fresh Meadows

**Chairman Warshaviak called upon our Parks Committee Chair, Martha Taylor to introduce the USTA.**

**Martha Taylor** – We have with us Danny Zausner who is the Executive Director of the National Tennis Center. He is here to tell us about everything they have done since the decision was made to allow them to expand.

**Danny Zausner** –Thanks for having us. Happy Holidays to all. It has been about a year since we have been here. We did make a commitment several years ago when we came to this Community Board as well as several others to talk about some renovations that we want to make to our facility over a five year period. We are about halfway through that process right now. We want to keep you abreast of what is going on. As part of the renovations we made a Community Outreach Agreement with all the Community Boards involved (CBs# 3, 4,6,7,8 and 9) and agreed to supply you with quarterly newsletters. If you are interested in our newsletters and are not already on our list, please reach out and give me your email information. I will be happy to add you to the list. We are very interested in hosting school graduations in our outdoor 2800 seat court 17. It is very, very affordable. There is basically no rental charge whatsoever. I will talk about job fairs that we are hosting and Queens Day as well as our involvement in community tennis programs.

The announcement of the Park Alliance was a big part of the Community Outreach Program that we did. The Mayor was in attendance at the launch which was held in front of the Queens Museum several weeks ago. This is a great opportunity for all the Community Boards to get a lot more money into the park and infrastructure upgrades. All Community Boards will have input as to how that money gets spent. The USTA is the first

financial arm and we are going to lean on a lot of other businesses in the community to get actively engaged in this alliance. We are committed to not just coming back here and presenting but we are also putting in over \$10M in improvements to the park over the next 20 years, in addition to all the other things we do.

Job Fairs have been a big part of what we have been doing. We hire about 7000 people to work the US Open. About 40 percent of the people that work the US Open are from Queens. We intend to work with all the District Managers of the Queens Community Boards to figure out how to do a better job of recruiting more people in Queens.

Queens Day is a big event and is a great opportunity for us to work with a lot of the other parks institutions; Queens Zoo, Queens Museum and Hall of Science. We had tryouts for kids age 10 and under. Every year we have 10 winners and at least 2 of the winners every year are from Queens. They get a chance to perform in front of 23,000 people. This past US Open was the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the US Open being in Queens. As some of you know, the US Open up until 1978 was in Forest Hills. We are in a partnership with ACEing Autism. We are starting up a new event with them beginning in January having free tennis programs every Saturday morning. We continue to work with the Queens Tourism Council to promote the borough. Upwards of 5000 tickets are distributed for free on Arthur Ashe Kids Day. In Queens, for many years this was done through Borough Hall. We are now asking all local organizations who are interested in getting tickets to the event to come to us directly.

There were almost 700,000 people attending the open this year for the seventh year in a row, which translates into about \$800M of economic impact to the City of New York. I mentioned that we strongly try to promote the brand of Queens during the US Open. We broadcast to over 200 countries. The image of Queens is reflected in the icon of the Unisphere in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park. Some of you have already seen our new roof structure that will be done for the 2016 US Open. 2016 will be the last year of the Louis Armstrong Stadium as it currently exists. It will be built in the very same footprint. We continue to promote the brand of tennis by bringing out 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders and introduce them to the sport for free. We offer free tours to all the schools in Queens. As far as our project is concerned we are putting a retractable roof over Arthur Ashe Stadium. It is taking a three year period. We are two thirds of the way through it. The last section of it is going up now. This will be done by this summer and that portion of the project will then be complete. There will be new grandstand seating in the southwest corner close to the Queens Museum. It will be an 8,000 seat outdoor stadium, replacing the existing grandstand stadium that will no longer be used, which will be knocked down. Louis Armstrong Stadium was built for the 1964 World's Fair. It was the original Singer Bowl. The USTA has been using it since 1978. When the USTA first starting using the National Tennis Center in Flushing Meadows. The original Louis Armstrong Stadium before it was Arthur Ashe Stadium was 18,000 seats and we made it smaller when we built Arthur Ashe Stadium. The new stadium will go with the current configuration of 10,500 to 14,000 seats. We are finishing up the design right now with the Public Design Commission approval process. Our intention to break ground on it after this year's US Open. In October 2016 it will take 2 years to build that stadium so it will be done for the 2018 US Open. As I said, it is really just taking the existing Louis Armstrong Stadium footprint and building something new on it. This is not about any additional land.

Every year we go to the Parks Department to identify existing tenant courts that are in need of repair. There was one instance last year where Councilman Grodenchik reached out to me about a school where they had two dilapidated tennis courts. We worked with the principal and rebuilt those courts. If anyone knows of any tennis courts that are in disrepair we are committed to getting those courts back in order. That is what we do across the country and in Queens.

**Frances Peterson** - What is the feasibility of CB8 receiving complimentary tickets for its board members?

**Danny Zausner** - As it relates to Arthur Ashe Kids' Day, if you have an organization that works with children, we would be happy to add you to the list. As it relates to the US Open, we are a charitable organization that takes the proceeds from the US Open and funds the mission of the sport of tennis as a healthy recreational vehicle. For us to give away a bunch of tickets to the Open that we need to sell in order to fund our mission, defeats our purpose. We do not issue complimentary tickets to the Open. I want to mention that the qualifying tournament which is the first week of the three week US Open period is free to the public. It is Tuesday through Friday and Arthur Ashe Kids' Day is also a free event.

**Chairman Warshaviak called upon Carolyn Baker-Brown to introduce the Queens Hospital Center.**

**Carolyn Baker-Brown** – As CB8 representative for the Community Advisory Board at Queens Hospital, I have become increasingly impressed and excited about what is happening at HHC in general and Queens Hospital. Before our presentation, I want to introduce you to some of the dedicated staff at Queens Hospital; Sandra Springer, Associate Director of External Affairs and Community Liaison, Cleon Edwards, Associate Executive Director of External Affairs, Elizabeth Sulik, Associate Executive Director of External Affairs, and Donna Green, CEO. Ms. Green will now begin the presentation.

**Donna Green** – You know us as Queens General and as Queens Hospital Center. We are moving towards being known as NYC Health and Hospitals Queens. We are doing that so that we organize around the present NYC Health and Hospitals system that is devoted to wellness. Not being focused on its hospital brand but on its wellness and all the services provided; whether it be a hospital, one of our satellite clinics, or our long-term care facilities.

Our people feel for the individuals that we treat every day. We can't take care of them if we don't care about them. NYC Health & Hospitals System serves 1.4 million New Yorkers about 470,000 of them are uninsured. More than 200,000 are discharges from the various hospitals that we have and we provide 19,000 newborn deliveries. We serve 4.5 million people in our outpatient settings. Out of those, 1.6 million are primary care visits. A very small percentage of the people seen every day account for hospital admissions. The emergency departments see a larger group and the biggest number are seen in our clinics.

**NYC Health & Hospitals 2020 Vision goals are as follows:**

- To increase its reach from 1.4 million patients served annually to 2 million. That means one out of every four New Yorkers will receive care at NYC Health & Hospitals.
- To increase inpatient satisfaction scores to 80%, and outpatient satisfaction scores will exceed 93%.
- Metro Plus, NYC Health & Hospitals health plan, will double its membership to insure one million New Yorkers, 80% of whom will be connected to a primary care doctor at HHC.
- Patients First.

I come from a consulting background and have been in the HHC for more than 20 years. In that capacity, I worked as an internal consultant with all of our hospitals. The agency is changing moving towards the use of the electronic medical record. This will allow us to link our services across our continuum; all services for inpatient, outpatient and long term care. This electronic method is called *EPIC*, which is being implementing by many NYC area hospitals. The *Press Ganey Employee Engagement Follow-Up* is more of a turnaround. Our employee engagement scores need some improvement. They are not where we want them to be. This requires re-energizing our staff to engage employees at every level so that we can get the responses that we need from our patients. *DSRIP* Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment Program is NY State Medicaid Waiver Program. It is a way to bring resources from Medicaid back into the health care systems to improve the outcomes. Finally we have *Transformation/Restructuring* where the HHC is restructuring the top team and refocusing on the organization. We no longer have Senior Vice Presidents of our Regional Health Networks, we will just have CEOs at the hospitals. These are just some of the things that are changing and some of the challenges I face at Queens Hospital Center. I appreciate being given the time to speak to all of you tonight.

**Chairman Warshaviak – Two of our members are being picked up by Access-A-Ride and have to leave the meeting. As an accommodation we will now have the vote for the Street co-naming request of Aguilar Avenue (between Parsons Boulevard and Kissena Boulevard) to Shirley Weinstein Way.**

**Chairman Warshaviak** – Jesse Rosenbaum, the Transportation Committee Chair is not here tonight so I will go through it. We had a Public Hearing on November 12, 2015 when we heard from a number of members from the community who spoke on behalf of the Co-naming of Shirley Weinstein Way and a number of members who

spoke against it. We received a couple of letters which were sent to the Community Board expressing their opposition to the Co-naming. A vote was held and the results were 17 against the Co-naming and 7 for the Co-naming. I will now entertain a motion to approve the co-naming.

**Mark J. Lefkof moved to approve the co-naming of Aguilar Avenue (between Parsons Boulevard and Kissena Boulevard) to Shirley Weinstein Way, seconded by Mike Sidell.**

***Maria DeInnocentiis requested to say something before moving forward on the motion. Chairman Warshaviak granted her request to speak to the Board.***

**Maria DeInnocentiis** – We were all here last month for the Public Hearing. We heard two people who were residents or former residents speak against Shirley. We had petitions of over 250 residents who were in favor of the co-naming. The votes by the Board were swayed mostly by the negatives that were stated. I do not believe that most of the people sitting on this Board knew Shirley or what she did. I would just like to remind all of us here that we are appointed to listen to the community and to take to heart their suggestions and recommendations. On this issue we have 250 residents who signed in favor of the co-naming. We have two people who came forward and had a month to come forth with petitions opposing it. They have only themselves again to come and say the same venomous things they said last month. I would like to ask everyone here to consider the fact that any community leader brings out the best and worst in people. That has nothing to do with what they have contributed over the years or what they have done in their own lives. Shirley has done many wonderful things. I think that anyone that knew her well would say she was outspoken, maybe even to the point of rudeness at times because she felt her convictions deeply. I think we should not be swayed by others that have said things to us or asked us to vote in a certain way, but to the community that handed in those 250 signatures.

**Kenneth Cohen II** - Part of the reason I am able to participate in the community in this manner is because of Shirley Weinstein. Prior to attaining a Beacon Program at Parsons Junior High School, Flushing Suburban Civic Association met at Aguilar Gardens. At that point, Ms. Weinstein began to mentor a lot of the community leaders from Flushing Suburban who then in turn mentored me which got me into service to the community. It is that legacy of continuing to train people that are coming after you to serve, so that our community could stay strong. For that mentorship that she showed someone, that someone would not have been able to then mentor me. Therefore, on behalf of the Flushing Suburban Civic Association, I will be voting for the co-naming of Shirley Weinstein Way.

**Mark J. Lefkof** – As a member of this Board for almost 39 years I happened to be a member when Ms. Weinstein was an employee. It was not a pleasant time. We had a lot of issues with her performance. We had many issues with many things. She was a nice person and tried to help the community. As an employee of the Board, I am sorry to say it was not pleasant. I will be voting No and I encourage my fellow members of the Board to vote No on this issue. I do not think she is deserving of a street naming.

***Steven Sadofsky moved the question, seconded by Frank Magri.***

**Kevin Forrestal** – The vote that has to be taken has to be sixty percent.

**Chairman Warshaviak took a hand count for all those in favor of calling the question**  
**Chairman Warshaviak took a hand count for all those in favor of not calling the question**

Count in favor 20                      Opposed: 7                      Abstained: 0

***A roll call vote was taken on the motion.***

Count in favor 11                      Opposed: 24                      Abstained: 1

**Board Members who voted in favor:**

Robert Block, Kenneth Cohen II, Maria DeInnocentiis, Allen Eisenstein, Kevin Forrestal, James Gallagher Jr., Tami Hirsch, Bright Dae-Jung Limm, Tamara Osherov, Frances Peterson and Michael F. Sidell.

**Board Members who voted against:**

Dilafroz Ahmed, Jagir Singh Bains, Carolyn Baker-Brown, Dr. Allen Bennett, Mary Maggio Fischer, Carolann Foley, Howard Fried, Joshua Glikman, Michael Hannibal, Paul S. Lazauskas, Mark J. Lefkof, Elke Maerz, Frank Magri, Jennifer Martin, Simon Pelman, Charlton Rhee, Steven Sadofsky, Seymour Schwartz, Douglas Sherman, Harbachan Singh, Martha Taylor, Alvin Warshaviak, Jacob Weinberg and Stanley Weinblatt.

**Board Members who abstained:**

Sylvia Hernandez

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**District Manager’s Report, December 2015**

**DOB**

When a violation is given and it is not cured, the Department of Buildings will automatically issue a “Failure to Comply with the Commissioner’s Order” violation within 45 days of non-compliance. This is only for Category 1 and 2 complaints – high level hazardous complaints (i.e. work without permit).

We have about 2,000 complaints year to date about 165 per month. Out of the total number of complaints for the borough of Queens we have 4% of the illegal conversions, 7% of the work without permit and 8% of the work beyond approved plans.

**DDC**

**QED 989 Project** – The Department of Design and Construction informed us that they are working on Union Turnpike (Utopia Parkway to 64<sup>th</sup> Avenue). They are doing water main installation at all intersections. It is a small project and they should be completed in a short amount of time.

**QED 1001 Project** – They are working on 85<sup>th</sup> Drive (144<sup>th</sup> Street to 84<sup>th</sup> Avenue)  
They are doing final restoration on 168<sup>th</sup> Street (Hillside Avenue to Highland Avenue)

**HRA**

The Human Resources Administration will be partnering with other City Agencies to sign out adults that are 65 years old and up for Medicaid. They are currently partnering with DFTA and DOH & MH. They are willing to attend community events to make presentations and/or tabling at events. They will go to Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and small businesses as well.

**DFTA**

The Department for the Aging will host a Medicare event on December 22, 2015 in Manhattan at 2 Lafayette Street from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Please register by calling Darnley Jones (212) 602-4264.

**DPR**

The north end of Captain Tilly Park is now open to the public. The Christmas tree “Mulch Fest” will take place at Cunningham Park on the Union Turnpike parking lot on January 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.

**NYPD**

There was a rise in robberies during the last 28 days of reporting within the 107<sup>th</sup> Precinct. Many of them occurred near Hillside Avenue and near Queens College. The good news is there were several arrests. A young man as young as 14 years old was responsible for about eight of these robberies. This young men has been in trouble with the law since he was 12 years old. The total robberies year to date is about the same from last year. They anticipate that the number will be less by the end of the year.

Community Affairs also reported that there are free programs held during the summer for at risk youth. They try to reach them before they go down the wrong path. They are also making efforts to educate the public about safety while shopping. They encourage shoppers to remain in groups; have their cars keys on hand; not to leave packages in their vehicles while shopping from store to store.

The 107<sup>th</sup> Precinct is having a Holiday Food and Coat Drive until January 16, 2016. Please bag the coats before donating them to the Precinct. There will be a blood drive on December 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Precinct.

He encourages the people who attend the “Meet Santa’ [Toys for Tots] event on December 20<sup>th</sup> in Jamaica Estates to park a few blocks away and to walk to Chevy Chase and 80th Road. This event is very popular and the area is always congested.

At the Borough Cabinet held yesterday, we had a presentation from Lieutenant Thomas Loeffel, of the Patrol Borough Counterterrorism Unit. He stated that the main concerns are not with the hard targets (buildings, bridges etc.), as they have no credible threat. The concerns they have is with lone wolves who may commit terrorist acts on their own on soft targets. Their goal is to kill and then kill themselves. They carry out less sophisticated attacks. The NYPD is monitoring Facebook and Twitter. NYPD officers are being trained to address terror and have the equipment to detect explosives or if someone had contact with explosives.

They are asking for the community to assist with the anti-terrorism efforts. NYPD encourages residents to contact 1-888- NYC-SAFE or 1-888- 692-7233 if they notice anything out of the ordinary or suspicious (all reports will be kept confidential). They should continue to contact 911 for emergencies, suspicious packages left unattended and if they notice crime in progress. In a terror situation you may have to: run, hide and/or fight. It is important to be aware of your surroundings.

***Happy Birthday to Board Members: Allen Eisenstein, Jesse Rosenbaum, Steve Konigsberg, Simon Pelman, Seymour Schwartz, Tammy Oshero, Stanley Weinblatt, Tami Hirsch, Charlton Rhee, Dr. Allen Bennett and Mohammed (Delwar) Islam who are celebrating their birthdays this month.***



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**Borough President’s Representative – Susie Tanenbaum**

- Borough President Katz wants to invite everyone to her annual Menorah Lighting Ceremony tomorrow evening at 5:00 p.m. on the front lawn at Borough Hall. Anyone can just show up. There will be a candle lighting ceremony with music, food and dreidels. We hope you will all come and celebrate with us.
- I am very happy to distribute a brand new newsletter from Borough President Katz. On the cover there is a reminder to mark your calendar for Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup> for the Borough President’s State of the Borough Address. We would love for all of you to join us.
- I wish everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanzaa and Happy Hanukkah.

***Chairman Warshaviak wished everyone a Happy, Healthy and Safe Holiday. No matter what we celebrate we should all be happy and healthy!***

Carolann Foley made a motion to adjourn this meeting at 9:03 p.m., seconded by Mary Maggio Fischer.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Alma Karassavidis, CB8 staff  
December 18, 2015*