



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, October 18, 2017 at the Hillcrest Jewish Center, 183-02 Union Turnpike in Flushing, New York.

Attendance:

Board Members Present:

Jagir Singh Bains, Carolyn Baker-Brown, Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Edward Chung, Kenneth Cohen II, Monica Corbett, Maria DeInnocentiis, Allen Eisenstein, Florence Fisher, Carolann Foley, Kevin Forrestal, Howard A. Fried, Bhitihara-Martha Fulton, James Gallagher Jr., John Gebhard, Joshua Glikman, Marc A. Haken, Robert Harris, Tami Hirsch, Fakrul “Delwar” Islam, Paul S. Lazauskas, Bright Dae-Jung Limm, Mark J. Lefkof, Mary Maggio, Tamara Oshero, Simon Pelman, Charlton Rhee, Seymour Schwartz, Douglas Sherman, Harbachan Singh, Dr. Penny M. Stern, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin, Jacob Weinberg and Albert Willingham.

Board Members Absent:

Dilafroz Ahmed, Robert H. Block, Susan D. Cleary, Michael Hannibal, Steven Konigsberg, Mitch Lisker, Elke Maerz, Frank Magri, Jennifer Martin, Rabbi Shlomo Nisanov, Frances Peterson, Jesse Rosenbaum, Steven Sadofsky, Rachele Van Arsdale and Stanley Weinblatt.

Others Present:

Facia Class representing Congresswoman Grace Meng, Susie Tanenbaum representing Borough President Melinda Katz, Stacey Yearwood representing Councilman Barry Grodenchik, Muhammad Rahman representing Assemblyman David Weprin, Hudy Rosenberg representing Assemblywoman Nily Rozic, Marie Adam-Ovide, CB8 District Manager and Alma Karassavidis, CB8 staff member.

Call to Order:

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

Public Participation:

Oscar Heath Jr. – Mr. Heath is a resident of the Community Park Gardens in Flushing. He stated that there are speeding and dumping issues along Park Drive East between Jewel Avenue and 77th Avenues, which is adjacent to the Van Wyck Expressway. He reported that there have been three (3) car accidents along this route between July and October of 2017. The most recent car accident was yesterday when a car flipped over and a passenger was thrown from the car. The other passenger remained in the car. He hoped that both of them were doing okay. In all these cases, it has been one moving vehicle hitting one or more stopped vehicle(s). The dumping issue involves toilet bowls, sheetrock, carpeting, lumber, rocks, chairs, furniture and dead animals in plastic bags. He stated that the smell is so bad from the dead animals that the police were called. They were not sure whether there were dead animals or dead bodies in the bags. In two of the cases, dead goats were found to be in the bags. These issues along Park Drive East are a huge problem for the residents. The residents are asking for safety measures such as speed bumps and/or traffic cameras. Also requested was a clean up for the dumping places along Park Drive East. Mr. Heath also requested that Police monitor the area to see when the dumping is occurring and give out violations

in order to deter this behavior. Mr. Heath stated that all this information has been forwarded to CB8 along with photos.

William Kregler – Mr. Kregler stated that he believes that Vision Zero will cause neighborhoods to lose driving lanes, parking spaces and will have an adverse effect on our communities and businesses. He also believes that hotels and shelters are moving people in overnight and that the city is building hotels just for the purpose of housing the homeless. He does not feel that people should vote for the removal of Rikers Island because jails will be moved to other communities to house prisoners. He stated that more schools are needed; not jails. He feels that we should not get caught up with the charter school programs and believes that there should be more gifted programs offered in our public schools. He stated that we have to have more control over the overdevelopment of the city in terms of the zoning regulations. Mr. Kregler pointed out that the Community Boards should put the residents first, not the administration.

Clifford Hamburger – Mr. Hamburger represents the Flushing Heights Community Association. He stated that his community is looking for help with the building of a daycare on 172nd Street and 67th Avenue. He believes that it is a commercial building in a residential block and it should never have been approved. It will increase traffic congestion and pollution and he feels it will threaten the safety of the children in the area. He mentions that there are 22 similar facilities in the area and another one is not needed. The plans are to accommodate 30 staff members, 3 administrators and 282 children. With 11 parking spots for the building, the street parking will choke the residents. He feels that it compromises the zoning regulation. Mr. Hamburger informed everyone that there have been 2 events organized with regard to this building: a community meeting at P.S. 173 on October 10th and a protest at the site this past Monday. All elected officials were invited but only Senator Tony Avella sent a representative. Mr. Hamburger doesn't understand how the Department of Buildings approved this without taking quality of life issues into consideration.

Paul Lazauskas – Mr. Lazauskas came to let us know about two events that will be taking place on the campus at St. John's University in the next few weeks. On Tuesday, October 24th at 6:30 p.m. they will hold the 2017 Italian Heritage & Culture Month Celebration and Proclamation Ceremony, Celebrating "Italian Americans in Cinema & Theater" in conjunction with the Queens Borough President's office. There will be a great number of honorees. The featured entertainer will be "Uncle" Floyd Vivino. The event will take place at Marillac Hall, St. John's University, 8000 Utopia Parkway, (*enter gate #2*). *Flyers for this event can be found on the table.* Also on Thursday, November 9th at Noon, St. John's will host their Annual Veteran's Day ceremony. Both events are open to the public. If anyone would like to attend, please contact Mr. Lazauskas.

Sam Verstandig representing Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr. – Mr. Verstandig announced that Senator Addabbo will be hosting mobile office hours from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 19th at the North Forest Park Library [98-27 Metropolitan Ave, Middle Village, NY] and also on Thursday, October 26th, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Kew Gardens Hills Library [72-33 Vleigh Pl, Flushing, NY].

Henry Yam representing Councilman Rory Lancman – Mr. Yam introduced himself as the newest staff member with Councilman Lancman. He stated that he is looking forward to serving the community. He welcomed any questions after the meeting or at the district office where he will be available on Mondays and Wednesday through Friday.

Salute to the Flag

Chairperson Martha Taylor led the salute to the flag.

Approval of Minutes:

Mark J. Lefkof made a motion to approve the minutes of September 13, 2017, seconded by Dr. Allen J. Bennett.

Count in favor 33

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Board Members who approved the minutes:

Jagir Singh Bains, Carolyn Baker-Brown, Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Edward Chung, Kenneth Cohen II, Maria DeInnocentiis, Allen Eisenstein, Florence Fisher, Carolann Foley, Kevin Forrestal, Bhitihara-Martha Fulton, James Gallagher Jr., John Gebhard, Joshua Glikman, Marc A. Haken, Robert Harris, Tami Hirsch, Fakrul “Delwar” Islam, Paul S. Lazauskas, Bright Dae-Jung Limm, Mark J. Lefkof, Mary Maggio, Tamara Osherov, Simon Pelman, Charlton Rhee, Seymour Schwartz, Douglas Sherman, Harbachan Singh, Dr. Penny M. Stern, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin, Jacob Weinberg and Albert Willingham.

Board Members who did not approve the minutes:

None

Chairperson’s Report – Martha Taylor:

- Chairperson Martha Taylor welcomed Board Member Maria DeInnocentiis back who is on the mend and doing well after her surgery.
- She congratulated Board Member Tamara Osherov who was honored at the *Daniel Patrick Moynihan Democratic Club* last night. Ms. Taylor apologizes for not being there. She had other obligations that did not permit her to attend.
- She announced the list of tentative meeting dates for next year. She asked everyone to please call the office and let the District Manager know if there are any conflicts with any religious holidays. The dates will be finalized next month.

Chairperson Martha Taylor asked Dr. Allen J. Bennett to go over the corrections to the tentative dates.

Dr. Allen J. Bennett - Dr. Bennett stated that tentative dates to be corrected are the October 2nd Executive Meeting date, which should be October 3rd. Also, the October 9th and November 13th Board Meeting dates should be October 10th and November 14th, respectively.

District Manager Marie Adam-Ovide – DM Adam-Ovide informed the board that the dates will not become official until November, so we have the whole month to work it out. The corrected list will be provided once it is finalized.

Chairperson Martha Taylor introduced Captain Louron Hall, Executive Officer of the 107th Precinct. He introduced himself to the Board Members.

Captain Louron Hall – Captain Hall is newly assigned as the Executive Officer of 107th Precinct, which means he is the second ranking officer in the 107th Precinct. He stated that although he is new to the rank and position, he is not new to the community. He has been with the 107th Precinct as the Precinct Detective Squad Commander for 2 ½ years. He sent apologies for Deputy Inspector Scott Henry who could not be here tonight. Captain Hall was attending in his place. He stated that he is available to help out the community however he can with any Police related matters. He left a few business cards for the board so that they could reach out to the Precinct. He advised that the Precinct will be switching to the NCO [*Neighborhood Coalition Officers*] model on January 22nd. The Precinct will be broken up into four (4) distinct sectors. There will be two (2) officers in each sector. One NCO sergeant will be responsible for all the sector officers. In addition to the monthly meetings, sector officers are going to be conducting meetings in their own respective sectors to better address the needs of the community. Captain Hall also invited everyone to attend the 107th Precinct Community Council

Annual Children's Halloween Party on Sunday, October 29th from Noon to 4:00 p.m. at the 107th Precinct.

Albert Willingham asked Chairperson Martha Taylor if he may ask Captain Hall a question. Chairperson Taylor stated that he could ask the captain a question.

Albert Willingham – Mr. Willingham stated that he has lived in the Briarwood community for over 30 years. There are 2 schools within the community; P.S. 117 and P.S. 217 right across the street from each other. He stated that he has tried numerous times to make contact with Officer Turner of the 107th Precinct. Mr. Willingham advised that cars speed up and down 84th Drive as if it was a racetrack. He informed Captain Hall that there is a School Crossing Guard there in the morning who does absolutely nothing. Children cross at will and he has brought it to the attention of the NYPD and contacted CB8 in August. To date, he says, nothing has been done. He mentioned that over the summer there was a very serious accident there. Now that the schools are open, the crossing guard stands on the side while the children walk by. He says the community is fearful of a catastrophe at any time. He asked that the Captain please address this. Captain Hall agreed to look into the issue.

District Manager's Report, October 2017

DSNY

Organics recycling started the first week of October. When we had the presentation, we were told that the collection would be done on their regular garbage collections days. If you received a flyer from the Department of Sanitation asking you to put out the organics during your recycling day, please follow the directions. More information is available at nyc.gov/organics.

DOB

Department of Buildings informed us that CB8 averages about 200 complaints a month. They have seen an increase in Alteration Type 2 and Type 3 applications. It is believed that property owners are choosing to do the right thing due to the vigilance of the other members of the community who file complaints. When work without permits are called in to the Community Board, please continue to give descriptions of the work being done. That is very helpful.

DFTA – The agency gave presentations on emergency preparedness to seniors at senior centers across the City.

Access-A-Ride has a new pilot program named E-Hail that is currently in Queens and Manhattan. This will be extended to the Bronx soon. [*Under this program, users of Access-A-Ride who travel independently can use either a green taxi or a black car from one location to the other within the borough and pay the regular fare of \$2.75.*]

DEP – There were 246 complaints filed in September for CB8. Acting Commissioner Vincent Sapienza is now Commissioner of DEP. He started as an intern many years ago. He has also worked as Deputy Commissioner of DEP's Bureau of Wastewater Treatment in the past. He really started from the ground up.

NYPD – The 107th Precinct is still doing well in reducing major crimes. Unfortunately, there was an increase in grand larceny last month, especially rims and tires. Honda and Lexus vehicles are the ones targeted. Please be very alert when travelling in mass transit. It only takes a few seconds for your mobile telephone to be snatched out of your hands.

All precincts are collecting supplies for disaster relief. You can only drop off supplies listed on the flyer. Our local precinct is located at 71-01 Parsons Boulevard. More information is available at www.nyc.gov/nypd.

DOT – Earlier this year, we learned that the Department of Transportation had a new policy whereby, the **People with Disabilities Parking Permits** will be valid for five years instead of one. Unfortunately, renewal applications and letters reminding residents to renew their disability permits would no longer be sent. We received a complaint from one of our residents about the latter. We contacted Assistant Commissioner Michael Marsico on this issue and requested that DOT reconsider this policy. Many people with disabilities and senior citizens may forget to renew without the reminder and lose their permits.

We are pleased to announce that in June of this year, the NYC Department of Transportation decided to resume the practice of sending reminder notices to current holders of PPPD State disability permits. These reminder notices are being sent to clients approximately three months prior to the expiration date on their current permits. The first notices went out in July for permit holders who are required to reapply for the State permit in the month of October of 2017.

*Happy Birthday to Board Members Susan Cleary, Howard Fried, Bob Harris and Rachele Van Arsdale who celebrated their birthdays this month!
Happy Birthday to Susie Tanenbaum as well!*



Borough President’s Representative – Susie Tanenbaum

- Ms. Tanenbaum informed us that in the last month, many of our communities have observed holy days and celebrated festivals. Just a few of the highlights; the Jewish community celebrated Rosh Hashannah [*New Year*], the Muslim community celebrated Muharram [*New Year*]. The Hindu community is right now celebrating Diwali and the Italian-American community celebrated Columbus Day with other New Yorkers. Borough President Melinda Katz is aware of all the celebrations and hopes that everyone enjoyed meaningful holidays.
- Ms. Tanenbaum would like to invite everyone to several upcoming heritage events that will be taking place in the next few weeks.
- Paul Lazauskas has already mentioned the event that will be held on Tuesday, October 24th at St. John’s University. Borough President Katz is partnering with St. John’s University on the Annual Italian Heritage & Cultural Month Celebration. She added that Paul Lazauskas is the mastermind behind this event. She thanked him for all the hard work that he does every year on this event. The event will begin at 6:30 p.m. at Marillac Hall. The theme this year is Italian Americans in Cinema & Theater. There are four wonderful honorees. This year they have a special entertainer whose family comes out of the Italian immigrant theater tradition, Floyd Vivino. Some may remember him from his UHF television show in the 1970s and 1980s, “The Uncle Floyd Show”. He will do an Italian-American comedy routine.
- Borough President Melinda Katz has another cultural heritage event going on the same night, the Fourth Annual Diwali event. It will be held in the Helen Marshall Cultural Center which is the atrium at Queens Borough Hall on Tuesday, October 24th at 6:00 p.m. This event marks the Celebration of Lights with the Hindu Community.
- Borough President Melinda Katz is reviving the Annual Polish American Heritage Month event. The Borough President was visited by the Counsel General of Poland and he proposed that we revive this

event. There will be music, dancing and pierogis. Ms. Tanenbaum mentioned that this event is not to be missed. It will be held on Thursday, October 26th at 6:00 p.m. at the Helen Marshall Cultural Center at Queens Borough Hall.

- Ms. Tanenbaum mentioned that Borough President Melinda Katz will be having the Annual Veteran's Day Observance Ceremony on Wednesday, November 8th from 11:00 a.m. also in the Helen Marshall Cultural Center. BP Katz will be honoring three distinguished Veterans; Corporal Pedro Nieves served in the U.S. Army in WW II and the Korean War. Staff Sergeant, Ed Spencer Polinger served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War and First Class Petty Officer, Rosetta Cargin served in the U.S. Navy Reserves from 1983 to 2006. Ms. Tanenbaum hopes that everyone will be able to attend this meaningful event.
- Ms. Tanenbaum acknowledged two Board Members; Kenneth Cohen II and Allen Eisenstein. At last month's meeting Ms. Tanenbaum announced that BP Katz was launching her internship program and was looking for partners for parks cleanup. Both members approached Ms. Tanenbaum and said they had individuals who would like to apply as volunteers with the Borough President's office to clean up two open spaces in Queens. Her colleague, Joe Nocerino followed up with them and the projects are underway. She thanked them for helping to make this happen.

Board Member Announcements:

Carolann Foley announced that the next 107th Precinct Community Council Meeting will be held on October 24th at 8:00 p.m. After a brief meeting, there will be a ceremony to honor Assemblyman Michael Simanowitz with a plaque which will be hung in the Precinct. There will be a few guest speakers and a little spread. People can see pictures of Michael and share all the good that he did for his community. She extended an invitation for all to attend.

Chairperson Martha Taylor welcomed former staff member, Joseph Marziliano, who was in attendance. He is now the District Manager of Community Board 11. She wished him the best and told him to come back and visit anytime.

Committee Reports:

Public Hearing – BSA Calendar No. 2017-230-BZ - 138-17 Hillside Avenue:

Seymour Schwartz, Area 2 Committee Chair – on behalf of Steven Konigsberg, Zoning Committee Chair

A public hearing was held on September 25, 2017 to consider an Application by a service station for a Special Permit. In attendance were three (3) Board Members; Steven Konigsberg, Bhitihara Fulton and myself [*Seymour Schwartz*]. The service station located on Hillside Avenue extends for about 200 feet along the avenue, from Queens Boulevard to the Van Wyck Service Road (*aka 138th Street*). They operate a self serve gas station, car wash, car detailing and a refreshment facility. They are not looking to do anything new or different. The location is about 34,000 SF. The location received a variance in the early 1960s which continued until about 1974 when the variance ran out. They have been operating 'as of right'. They are now asking for a Special Permit to continue their operations. They would do nothing new or different, no reconstruction, no changes. It seems that the reason for the Special Permit application is due to a change in the franchise which precipitated the request. Behind the station there are a few private homes totally separated from the station by tall foliage and trees. The nearby neighbors were notified of the Public Hearing but none appeared at the hearing. There were a few telephone calls to the Community Board office. In the absence of a quorum, we are bringing it back to the Board for a vote. We notified all who were present that they were welcome to attend this evening's Board Meeting. No one signed up to speak.

Mark J. Lefkof made a motion to approve BSA Calendar No. 2017-230-BZ – 138-17 Hillside Avenue, seconded by Mary Maggio.

Area 2 Chair, Seymour Schwartz asked if there was any discussion on the motion, seeing none, a roll call vote was taken.

Count in favor 32 **Opposed:** 2 **Abstained:** 0

Board Members in favor:

Jagir Singh Bains, Carolyn Baker-Brown, Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Edward Chung, Kenneth Cohen II, Monica Corbett, Maria DeInnocentiis, Allen Eisenstein, Florence Fisher, Carolann Foley, Kevin Forrestal, Howard A. Fried, Bhitihara-Martha Fulton, James Gallagher Jr., John Gebhard, Joshua Glikman, Marc A. Haken, Robert Harris, Fakrul “Delwar” Islam, Paul S. Lazauskas, Bright Dae-Jung Limm, Mark J. Lefkof, Mary Maggio, Tamara Osherov, Simon Pelman, Seymour Schwartz, Douglas Sherman, Harbachan Singh, Dr. Penny M. Stern, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin and Jacob Weinberg.

Board Members against:

Tami Hirsch and Albert Willingham.

The motion was passed.

Public Hearing – FY2019 Capital & Expense Budget Priorities:

Marc A. Haken, Budget Director: Budget Director Marc A. Haken informed everyone that included in their packets are the Capital [*pink sheets*] and Expense Budget [*green sheets*] Priorities for Fiscal Year 2019. He asked everyone to review it before a vote was taken to approve them. He thanked all the Area Chairs for their dedication and work putting all these priorities together.

Approval of the Capital Budget Priorities

Dr. Allen J. Bennett made a motion to accept the Community Board 8 Capital Budget Priorities, seconded by Carolann Foley.

Budget Director, Marc A. Haken asked if there was any discussion on the motion, seeing none, a hand vote was taken.

Count in favor 34 **Opposed:** 0 **Abstained:** 0

The motion was passed unanimously.

Approval of the Expense Budget Priorities

Harbachan Singh made a motion to accept the Community Board 8 Expense Budget Priorities, seconded by Howard Fried.

Budget Director, Marc A. Haken asked if there was any discussion on the motion, seeing none, a hand vote was taken.

Count in favor 34 **Opposed:** 0 **Abstained:** 0

The motion was passed unanimously.

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Queens Borough President’s Letter – Spectrum Strike:

Kenneth Cohen II – Mr. Cohen stated that in addition to being a Board Member of Community Board 8, he is also a journeyman inside wireman with IBW Local 3. He informed everyone that presently 1,800

members of Local 3 are on strike against Spectrum Communications, which is owned by Charter Communications. They have been on strike since March and it has been a very long grueling process. Many members are losing medical benefits. They are exhausting their unemployment benefits because the strike has lasted so long. He added that in such a strong pro-union city like New York, it is such a shame that we are dealing with this kind of situation. He feels that as leaders of the community, it is the Board's responsibility to stand with these workers. He asked that everyone read the letter that was submitted by Queens Borough President, Melinda Katz. He strongly advises that Community Board 8 also submits a Letter of Support to help our brothers and sisters of Local 3. In addition, if we do decide to submit this letter, we should also ask other Community Boards to submit the same type of letter. Many Local 3 members live in Electchester and other parts of Community Board 8. Local 3 is also housed here in Community Board 8.

Marc A. Haken made a motion for Community Board 8 to draft a Letter of Support for the Spectrum Communications Local 3 workers and also to encourage other NYC Community Boards to join us in this support, seconded by Mary Maggio.

Bright Dae-Jung Limm – Mr. Limm stated that he strongly supports this motion and that it is particularly appropriate for our Community Board given Local 3's location. Even though everyone is familiar with these issues, there are not many opportunities to take action.

Chairperson Martha Taylor asked if there was any other discussion on the motion. Seeing none, a hand vote was taken.

Count in favor 32 Opposed: 2 Abstained: 0

The motion was passed.

Dr. Allen J. Bennett recommended that everyone should get their annual flu shot.

Adjournment

Carolann Foley made a motion to adjourn this meeting at 8:17 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Alma Karassavidis, CB8 staff
October 20, 2017*