



*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, September 13, 2017 at the Hillcrest Jewish Center, 183-02 Union Turnpike in Flushing, New York.

**Attendance:**

**Board Members Present:**

Dilafroz Ahmed, Carolyn Baker-Brown, Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Robert H. Block, Edward Chung, Susan D. Cleary, Kenneth Cohen II, Allen Eisenstein, Kevin Forrestal, Bhitihara-Martha Fulton, James Gallagher Jr., Joshua Glikman, Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Robert Harris, Tami Hirsch, Fakrul “Delwar” Islam, Steven Konigsberg, Bright Dae-Jung Limm, Mark J. Lefkof, Mitch Lisker, Elke Maerz, Jennifer Martin, Tamara Osherov, Frances Peterson, Jesse Rosenbaum, Seymour Schwartz, Douglas Sherman, Harbanchan Singh, Dr. Penny M. Stern, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin, Rachele Van Arsdale, Jacob Weinberg and Albert Willingham.

**Board Members Absent:**

Jagir Singh Bains, Monica Corbett, Maria DeInnocentiis, Florence Fisher, Carolann Foley, Howard A. Fried, John Gebhard, Paul S. Lazauskas, Mary Maggio, Frank Magri, Rabbi Shlomo Nisanov, Simon Pelman, Charlton Rhee, Steven Sadofsky and Stanley Weinblatt.

**Others Present:**

Susie Tanenbaum representing Borough President Melinda Katz, Honorable Councilman Barry Grodenchik, Ari Gershman representing Councilman Barry Grodenchik, Honorable Councilman Rory Lancman, Daniel Rosenthal representing Councilman Rory Lancman, Andrew Taranto representing State Senator Leroy Comrie, Anthony Lemma representing Assemblyman David Weprin, Hudy Rosenberg Marilla Li representing Assemblywoman Nily Rozic, Marie Adam-Ovide, 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 Participation:**

**Ahmad Mubarid** – Mr. Mubarid greeted the community members and thanked them for giving him the opportunity to speak tonight. He stated that Ahmadiyya was founded in 1890. It came to the America in 1920, since then, they are engaged in bringing people together. They bring them closer to God, by joining hands with volunteers in every neighborhood. They live to work and spread help and love. They have seventy-two (72) chapters in the United States. He explained that Ahmadiyya volunteers in poor countries especially in Africa, with drinking water projects, hospitals and education. Their “humanity first” chapter a rescuers and first responders team entity. They have been doing blood drives for a few years now and the Queens Chapter has a championship record by accumulating fifty-seven (57) pints of blood. They received a certificate of merit from the City’s Blood Bank Association.

Their community is proud of Dr. Salam, the Physics Nobel Prize laureate member of Ahmadiyya. Their community was honored on Tuesday, July 21, 1998 when General Director Chris Llewellyn Smith unveiled the street naming of the route Abdus Salam on the Meyrin site in Geneva. He stated that the whole community was here tonight to humbly request that the Community Board supports the Co-Naming of a portion of 85<sup>th</sup> Road (*after the Grand Central Parkway's entrance to 188-48 85<sup>th</sup> Road*) to Ahmadiyya Way. They do not want the whole street to be renamed, just the property line. Their children would be proud and joyous to have this name, when they see it become a part of this great community.

**Bill Anello** – Mr. Anello is a Fresh Meadows resident who lives west of Utopia Parkway near P.S. 173. He mentioned that there are seven (7) daycares in this area. He raised an issue that the residents of this area are having with a daycare being built at 172-03 67<sup>th</sup> Avenue. He claimed that the owners of this proposed daycare center asked if the neighborhood wanted this daycare built. They had almost four-hundred (400) signatures against this project. The owners of this daycare responded to them saying that this site will be built as a first-class daycare center and that the project is in compliance with all law and zoning codes. The residents of this area do not want this daycare to operate in this area. It will bring a lot of traffic issues and they are heavily opposed. He does not understand why they will be building a commercial building in a residential area. They are requesting a Department of Transportation traffic study and they are also requesting the support of the Community Board to prevent this project from moving forward. Packets with information about this daycare we handed out.

**James Gomes** – Mr. Gomes is the branch manager for the new TD Bank branch location in Fresh Meadows. He invited everyone to their Grand Opening on October 14, 2017. Refreshments will be served as well as games for the children. They do not want to be just another bank at the corner; they want to volunteer and be involved with the communities that they serve.

**Ari Gershman representing Council Member Barry Grodenchik** – Mr. Gershman mentioned that Council Member Barry Grodenchik is once again offering free tennis classes for youth ages 5 to 18. Classes will be held at P.S. 205 located at 75-25 Bell Boulevard in Bayside. Registration is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. On Sunday, September 17, 2017 at 11:30 a.m. there will be a dedication ceremony for a street co-naming in honor of Father John J. Murray Way on the north east corner of Bell Boulevard and Union Turnpike in Oakland Gardens. Everyone is invited to attend. Also, in honor of senior month Council Member Barry Grodenchik, in coordination with NYC Public Advocate Letitia James, is offering a senior information session on Monday, September 25, 2017 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the SNAP Senior Center located at 80-45 Winchester Boulevard in Queens Village. Information on property taxes, homeowner's tax benefits, rent freeze programs and unclaimed funds will be available. Flyers for all these events were left at the table.

**Marilla Li representing Assembly Member Nily Rozic** – Ms. Li informed us that she will no longer be representing Assembly Member Nily Rozic at meetings as there have been several staff changes in the office. She introduced Ms. Hudy Rosenberg who is the new Community Liaison and she will be attending our Community Board meetings on behalf of Assembly Member Rozic.

**Edna Harris** – Ms. Harris stated that there have been a series of street markings in front of her home (green marking, yellow lines, red lines etc.). She finally learned that these markings represent a study being done by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on Bioswales a.k.a Rain Gardens. In the past, she had attended two meetings held by the City and at such meetings it was said that, if someone has underground sprinkler systems or you are a senior citizen you can opt-out of the program to not receive a Bioswale installation in front of your home. They dug in front of her house twice and she is heavily opposed to the installation of Bioswales and does not want one to be installed in front of her home since she has two sprinkler systems, power and gas lines underground which she does not want to be interrupted. She has letter from Senator Tony Avella that were sent to DEP on her behalf to opt-out of receiving the Bioswales installation.

## **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 June 14, 2017, seconded by Kevin Forrestal.

**Count in favor**    35                      **Opposed:**    0                      **Abstained:**    0

## **Board Members who approved the minutes:**

Dilafroz Ahmed, Carolyn Baker-Brown, Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Robert H. Block, Edward Chung, Susan D. Cleary, Kenneth Cohen II, Allen Eisenstein, Kevin Forrestal, Bhitihara-Martha Fulton, James Gallagher Jr., Joshua Glikman, Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Robert Harris, Tami Hirsch, Fakrul “Delwar” Islam, Steven Konigsberg, Bright Dae-Jung Limm, Mark J. Lefkof, Mitch Lisker, Elke Maerz, Jennifer Martin, Tamara Oshero, Frances Peterson, Jesse Rosenbaum, Seymour Schwartz, Douglas Sherman, Harbachan Singh, Dr. Penny M. Stern, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin, Rachele Van Arsdale, Jacob Weinberg and Albert Willingham.

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

None

*Chairperson Martha Taylor stated that guest speaker James F. Gennaro is unable to attend our meeting tonight. She asked DM Adam-Ovide to tell us the reason why the guest speaker could not be present.*

**M Adam-Ovide** – DM Adam-Ovide stated that unfortunately Mr. Gennaro was unable to attend the meeting tonight because he was called to chair a public hearing in Suffolk County. He sends his regrets and hopes the Board can have him at a future meeting.

## **Chairperson’s Report – Martha Taylor:**

- Chairperson Martha Taylor wished well to Board Member Maria Deinnocentiis who is home recuperating from surgery.
- She congratulated Board Members Seymour Schwartz and Kevin Forrestal who are recipients of the Liberty Medal Honor. It is the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by the New York State Senate. *Kevin Forrestal’s wife, Jackie, also received this Medal of Honor.*
- She mentioned that Board Member Stanley Weinblatt sent a positive letter to the Daily News about Access-A-Ride and it is on the papers today. A copy was included in each Board Member packet.
- She also congratulated Board Member Dilafroz Ahmed who is the recipient of the AARP Community Hero Award.
- She announced that the Community Board was successful in getting the Department of Transportation to change Croydon Road back to a two-way operation. The conversion will be implemented on Tuesday, September 19, 2017. Flyers about this one-way to two-way conversion were left at the table.

*Chairperson Martha Taylor mentioned the passing of Honorable Michael Simanowitz a.k.a Mike, Mikey. His Hebrew name was Meir which means light. She stated that Michael Simanowitz did shine a light in the time that we had him here. It is going to be very hard to replace him. He will be truly missed. She asked everyone to join her in a moment of silence in honor of Assembly Member Michael Simanowitz’s memory.*

**District Manager's Report, September 2017**

**DSNY**

Organics recycling is coming to Community Board 8 starting the first week of October. Residents of 1 to 9 family dwellings will be receiving brown bins and a smaller bin for the kitchen throughout the month of September. Residents do not have to be present to receive the bins. They will be left at curb side and the bins will include information about the program. If you happen to be home between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. (*distribution time*), there will be knowledgeable representatives accompanying the delivery trucks who can speak to residents and answer questions. If you are an owner or manager of the 10+ dwelling units, Condos or Co-ops, you will receive information on how to sign up for the program by mail. Bins will not be given to 10+ dwelling units automatically.

This is a voluntary program. Residents are not required to participate; however, participation is encouraged. The organics will be turned into industrial compost which the City can sell. This is a good way for the City to be fiscally responsible while being green (environmentally conscious). Information is also available at [nyc.gov/organics](http://nyc.gov/organics).

**Human Resources Administration**

The Medicaid Office Center located at 45-12 32<sup>nd</sup> Place will permanently close on Friday, September 29, 2017. They will resume operation at 32-20 Northern Boulevard on Monday, October 2, 2017. The new telephone number will be 718-784-6729 for assistance. Clients will be informed of this new location by mail and signs posted at the old location.

**DOB**

The Airbnb in residential areas are illegal in NYC because renting for less than 30 days is considered "Transients Accommodations." That falls under use group 7 which is only allowed in commercial zones. DOB has been using advertisements as a way to assist in the enforcement. They have gotten wise and stopped advertising the locations. Enforcement is done centrally (Manhattan). He stated that it is often hard to enforce, as they must find proof of transient accommodations (*i.e. a lock on the door of the rooms and luggage*).

The Department of Buildings informed us that any business that engages in the sale of motor vehicles must be licensed by the NYS Department of Motor Vehicles. The DMV is responsible for licensing businesses that repair and sell cars. If you know of any such businesses that are operating illegally, please contact the community board.

When there is a complaint for work without a permit, it is very important to state what type of work is being done.

**DFTA** – The agency is encouraging seniors to have a go bag. If they already have one, they should replace expired food items, prescription drugs and change the water. They should be certain that copies of their prescriptions are in a plastic bag to protect them from water damage.

Access-A-Ride has a new pilot program named E-Hail for Queens and Manhattan. 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 245 complaints filed in July for CB8 [*August and September will be available next month*]. The majority were for noise. The others were for water leaks, sewer back-ups and miscellaneous complaints. They now have a telephone number for residents to contact for questions related to rain gardens. The number is 718-595-3599. There is also an email address:

[raingardens@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:raingardens@dep.nyc.gov). The agency is requesting speaking time at a future CB8 monthly meeting to speak to the public about the rain gardens.

In response to recent concerns about the time it takes to repair fire hydrants, DEP reported that there are 110,000 fire hydrants citywide. Priority fire hydrants take 3 days for repair. These are hydrants located in the proximity of schools, houses of worship and senior centers. All others take about 7 to 10 days. That does not include the time it takes to have the adjacent cement work done.

The Water on the Go Program [*whereby DEP will tap into the fire hydrants and provide water for events*] is only available from Memorial Day through Labor Day. DEP will not take any requests for dates outside of this time period.

**DOT** – The Department of Design and Construction installs pedestrian ramps at the corners of the streets to facilitate access for people who uses wheelchairs. During these installations they must ensure that no trip hazards remain. They often replace adjacent sidewalk flags. If you notice any trip hazards following these installation, please contact CB8 as soon as possible.

According to DOT, the City only replaces cobblestoned streets with cobblestones in historical districts. They claim that cobble stones are not less slippery than asphalt.

*Happy Birthday to Board Member Steven Sadofsky  
who celebrated his birthday this month!*



*Marie Adam-Ovide*

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*During the District Manager's report DOT section Chairperson Martha Taylor stated that if anyone is having any issues with uneven sidewalks to please let the Community Board know so that action can be taken. Also, Board Member Rachele Van Arsdale stated that it is also important to put the City on notice because if this is not done, then there will be no reports if someone wants to file a law suit.*

**DM Adam-Ovide** – DM Adam-Ovide stated that a representative from the Department of Sanitation was present to answer any questions about the Organics Recycling. Flyers with information were left at the table.

*Chairperson Martha Taylor welcomed Honorable Council Member Rory Lancman and Honorable Council Member Barry Grodenchik. She invited them both to say a few words.*

**Honorable Council Member Rory Lancman – District 24** – Councilman Lancman stated that it was nice to see everyone again and he hopes everyone had a good summer. Yesterday, was the Primary Election and the General Election will be in November. He is confident that hopefully we will have him again for another four (4) years. It was a very interesting day; however, with the lowest turnout in years. He saw a lot of faces present tonight that he didn't see at the poll sites last night. He encouraged everyone to vote. This is your community and all of you are people who care about your neighborhood and civic responsibilities. He is wishing everyone who observes Rosh Hashanah (the Jewish New Year) a Happy and Healthy New Year. He knows that the Board has a lot of good things coming along for this year. Councilman Lancman and Chairperson Martha Taylor have spoken about them.

On Monday, September 18, 2017 there will be a hearing at the City Council on a bill that he introduced on an idea from Board Member Michael Hannibal. It has to do with requiring the Department of Transportation (DOT) to repair curbs when they do work on a street. He mentioned that some of us have experienced DOT coming to do work and the curbs are left a mess. The hearing will be at 10:00 a.m. at City Hall. Everyone is invited to attend either to observe or to testify. There will be a public participation portion just like the Community Board has. He wishes everyone well and he is looking forward to work with all of us. If there are any issues anyone wants him to focus on or bring to his attention everyone is welcome to call the District Office. Everyone applauded!

Kudos to Board Member Stanley Weinblatt for his positive letter written about Access-A-Ride which was published in the Daily News today.

**Honorable Council Member Barry Grodenchik – District 23** - Councilman Grodenchik started by saying that he couldn't stand in front of us tonight without mentioning the passing of his dear friend Honorable Assembly Member Michael Simanowitz. He was a dear friend of so many of those present tonight. He labored on behalf of this community for over two decades. They both went to the same school of government so he knows he was well trained. He will be missed.

He is happy that everyone is back and hope everyone had a good summer. It was a great summer in Cunningham Park. He thanked Marc A. Haken, President of the Friends of Cunningham Park, for having all the summer events. He thanked Borough President Melinda Katz for her music under the stars festival. He thanked everyone for their support. September 22, 2017 will mark thirty (30) years since he started in public service. He mentioned that it has been a wonderful time to work with all of you. As a former director of Community Boards, he knows the hours and efforts that everyone puts in. He is grateful for everyone and the work they do. He wished everyone a wonderful fall and wished a Happy New Year for these observing next week.

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

- On behalf of Borough President Melinda Katz, Ms. Tanenbaum offered condolences to Community Board 8 on the passing of Assembly Member Michael Simanowitz, a very dedicated public servant.
- Ms. Tanenbaum informed us that in June Borough President Katz had her annual Award Ceremony for Community Board Members. It was a wonderful event. There were three (3) board members that were unable to attend. Two are celebrating their 15<sup>th</sup> anniversaries and one is celebrating his 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- Community Board Service Awards were given to Board Members Dilafroz Ahmed and Robert Harris. Board Member Howard A. Fried was not present to obtain his award.
- Borough President Melinda Katz is taking applications from college and high schools students who may have an interest in public service and would like to do an internship at Queens Borough Hall. The positions are not paid but they are ideal for students who need academic credits or community service experience. If you have any question you can give her a call or contact Joe Nocerino at: [jnocerino@queensbp.org](mailto:jnocerino@queensbp.org).
- Borough President Katz is willing to help with Parks clean-ups throughout the borough. If you or anyone you know is interested in participating in a park clean-up or know of a park that needs to be cleaned to please let her know.
- Borough President Melinda Katz Land Use hearing is scheduled for Thursday, September 28, 2017 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Queens Borough Hall.
- The Parent Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 3, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at Queens Borough Hall.
- On Tuesday, October 24, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. Borough President Katz is having an American Heritage event on the Marillac Hall at St. John's University. This is in conjunction with Joseph Sciamè, Vice President for Community Relations and Paul Lazauskas, Associate Director for Community Relations who are great organizers of events.

- On Tuesday, October 24, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. Borough President Katz is having her annual Diwali event at Borough Hall. Everyone is invited.
- On Thursday, October 26, 2017, Borough President Katz will be hosting a Polish Heritage event. The purpose of these events is to affirm the presence of different ethnic and culture groups that we have across the Borough.
- On behalf of Borough President Katz she wished everyone who is observing a Happy and Healthy New Year.

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**Committee Reports:**

**Mark J. Lefkof, Area 7 Committee Chair**

**Street Co-Naming** – Proposal to co-name a portion of 85<sup>th</sup> Road (*after the Grand Central Parkway’s entrance to 188-48 85<sup>th</sup> Road*), to **Ahmadiyya Way**.

**Mark J. Lefkof** - A public hearing was held on June 26, 2017 regarding a request by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community to co-name the street next to their location. He distributed copies of a map that depicts the portion of the street that is being proposed to be re-named. He clarified that the re-naming will only be just after the entrance way onto the Grand Central Parkway down approximately 405 feet. Only one property will be affected by this change. The house that is affected was discussed at the Public Hearing and they have no objection regarding this change. Since there were only four (4) members present and they did not have a quorum, this is being presented to the full Board tonight for a recommendation.

**Seymour Schwartz made a motion to approve the street co-naming proposal to co-name a portion of 85<sup>th</sup> Road (after the Grand Central Parkway’s entrance to 188-48 85<sup>th</sup> Road), to Ahmadiyya Way, seconded by Edward Chung.**

**Area 7 Committee Chair, Mark J. Lefkof asked if there was any discussion on the motion. He reminded everyone that a memorandum regarding the City Council’s Standards and Procedures for Street Co-naming is included in their packets.**

**Marc A. Haken** – Mr. Haken spoke in favor of this motion to approve the co-naming of the street to Ahmadiyya Way. He explained that the Ahmadiyya community are members of the Holliswood community. He explained that in order to have a street co-named in the name of an organization it must be of importance of enduring or lasting interest to large segments of the City’s population that have undertaken acts of enduring or lasting interest. He mentioned that the goal of this community is to strive for peace. He has visited the Ahmadiyya mosque and there have never been any issues. They are respected in the community. At the Transportation Committee meeting and at the Public Hearing, no one signed up for speaking time against this proposal. He encouraged everyone to vote in favor of this co-naming.

**Kevin Forrestal** – Mr. Forrestal stated that he will not disagree with what Mr. Haken was saying about the Ahmadiyya Mosque. He knows that they are very active in the community. He voted in favor of this proposal at the Transportation Committee meeting because he didn’t want it to be rejected. He checked several Community Board’s activities and he believes this is something that we should create our own procedures and clarifications. Several of the other Boards require an organization to be in existence for over 30 years to have a street re-named after them. He recognized that this is a group that has done good. There are many other groups, mosques, churches, synagogues who have also done good work. There have been many organizations that have done interfaith activities that have not had a street named after them. He does not think that we have really hit a threshold of what will constitute a very high honor to re-name

this street. He suggested that everyone vote against this request. There are many other ways to potentially honor this group for their good work which should be considered.

**Robert Harris** – Mr. Harris stated that he has been to this mosque plenty of times. He usually attends meetings at this location. He stated that this is a good organization always working with the people in this community.

**Area 7 Committee Chair, Mark J. Lefkof asked if there was any other discussion on the motion. Seeing none, a roll call vote was taken.**

Count in favor   29                        Opposed:   6                        Abstained:   0  

**Board Members in favor:**

Dilafroz Ahmed, Carolyn Baker-Brown, Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Robert H. Block, Edward Chung, Kenneth Cohen II, Allen Eisenstein, Bhitihara-Martha Fulton, James Gallagher Jr., Joshua Glikman, Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Robert Harris, Fakrul “Delwar” Islam, Bright Dae-Jung Limm, Mark J. Lefkof, Mitch Lisker, Elke Maerz, Jennifer Martin, Tamara Osherov, Frances Peterson, Jesse Rosenbaum, Seymour Schwartz, Douglas Sherman, Harbachan Singh, Dr. Penny M. Stern, Martha Taylor, Rachele Van Arsdale and Jacob Weinberg.

**Board Members against:**

Susan D. Cleary, Kevin Forrestal, Tami Hirsch, Steven Konigsberg, Mohammed Tohin and Albert Willingham.

*The motion was passed.*

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**Adjournment**

Dr. Allen Bennett made a motion to adjourn this meeting at 8:28 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Jatnna Reyes, CB8 staff  
September 15, 2017*