

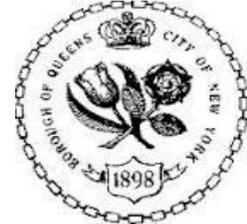


Chairman, Alvin Warshaviak

*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, April 13, 2016 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, Monica Corbett, Allen Eisenstein, Mary Maggio Fischer, Florence Fisher, Carolann Foley, Kevin Forrestal, Bhitihara-Martha Fulton, James Gallagher Jr., Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Sylvia Hernandez, Tami Hirsch, Fakrul “Delwar” Islam, Steven Konigsberg, Paul S. Lazauskas, Mark J. Lefkof, , Mitch Lisker, Elke Maerz, Frank Magri, Jennifer Martin, Rabbi Shlomo Nisanov , Tamara Osherov, Simon Pelman, Frances Peterson, Jesse Rosenbaum, Seymour Schwartz, Douglas Sherman, Harbachan Singh, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin, Rachele Van Arsdale, Jacob Weinberg and Albert Willingham.

**Board Members Absent:**

Kenneth Cohen II, Maria DeInnocentiis, Howard A. Fried, Joshua Glikman, Robert Harris, Bright Dae-Jung Limm, Charlton Rhee, Steven Sadofsky, Alvin Warshaviak and Stanley Weinblatt.

**Others Present:**

Alexander Bennett representing Congresswoman Grace Meng, Susie Tanenbaum representing Borough President Melinda Katz, Steve Behar representing Councilman Barry Grodenchik, Honorable Councilman Rory Lancman, Daniel Rosenthal representing Councilman Rory Lancman, Amir Abbady representing State Senator Leroy Comrie, Facia Class representing Assemblyman Michael Simanowitz, Marilla Li representing Assemblywoman Nily Rozic, Muhammad Rahman representing Assemblyman David Weprin, City Planner, Stephen Everett, Marie Adam-Ovide, CB8 District Manager and Jatnna Pimentel, CB8 staff member.

**Call to Order:**

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

**Public Participation:**

**Kevin Forrestal** – Mr. Forrestal announced that this Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup> the Queens Civic Congress Foundation will be having a Biennial Luncheon. There will be special honors accorded to three Queens Civic Leaders for their outstanding community service. One of them is our Board Member James Gallagher Jr. (*everyone applauded*). Tickets for members of the Civic Congress are \$50 if purchased in advance. Non-members and tickets purchased at the door are \$55. The event will take place at Antun’s Caterers located at 96-43 Springfield Boulevard in Queens Village at 1:00 p.m.

**Judith Guttman** – She is from Parkway Village and spoke about the bar Cheap Shots. She stated that she has an official letter from the Kew Gardens Civic Association stating that their letter of complaint from 2014 is still valid. They still have the issues of loitering garbage, noise etc. A copy of this letter was submitted to the Liquor License Committee Chair last night.

**Martin Guttman** – He reiterated what Mrs. Guttman stated. He googled this location and it appears that they have cabaret dancing when they do not have a cabaret license.

**Chris Tokmakidis**- He stated that he was from Parkway Village also. He stated that Cheap Shots is not being operated as a bar; it is being operated as a night club (loud music, cabaret dancing etc.) He hopes that some action is taken against this bar.

*Acting Chair Martha Taylor asked Carolann Foley (107<sup>th</sup> Precinct Council President) to speak to these residents at the end of the meeting and she agreed to do so.*

**Wendy Phaff** – Ms. Phaff is the Assistant Director of Development of Queens Center for Progress (QCP). A non-profit organization that provides person-center supports and services for individuals with developmental disabilities who reside in Queens. QCP will have a Footsteps for Progress Walk on Saturday, April 16, 2016 at 8:30 a.m. It's a 5 mile walk from their Adult Center on 81-15 164<sup>th</sup> Street to Kissena Parks and back. If you donate \$25 you will receive a T-shirt as a gift. Flyers and registration forms are on the table for those who are interested in attending. She also mentioned that there is spots available for the New York City Marathon on November 6<sup>th</sup>. She also works with an organization called the Queens Distance Runners who are bringing the first full marathon to Queens on April 30, 2016. More information is available at the table!

**Susan Shafer**- Ms. Shafer is the Director of Catholic Charities Neighborhood Services at the Bayside Senior Center. She stated that this senior center is within our District and it serves senior citizens who are 60 and older. There is no membership requirements or fees to join, it is funded by the Department for the Aging. They have recreational activities daily and serve hot lunch as every senior center does. Every first and third Wednesday of the month they have a case manager who helps seniors with Medicare, Medicaid and other public assistance benefits application process. She invited everyone to visit them. They are located at 221-15 Horace Harding Expressway in Bayside.

**Jim Gallagher Jr.** – Mr. Gallagher invited everyone to attend the Fresh Meadows Homeowner's Civic Association meeting on Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 p.m. at the Utopia Jewish Center [64-41 Utopia Parkway]. Invited guest speakers: Captain Paul Valerga from the 107<sup>th</sup> Precinct and Kevin Selig, Parks Department Manager for District 8. He reminded everyone that the income tax filing deadline is Monday, April 18, 2016. He encouraged everyone to go out and vote for the Presidential Primary Election on Tuesday, April 19, 2016. As mentioned before, he invited everyone to attend the Queens Civic Congress Biennial Luncheon on Sunday, April 17, 2016 where he will be honored for his outstanding community service. Featured speaker: Preet Bharara, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District.

**Paul Lazauskas**- Mr. Lazauskas announced St. John's University invites residents to share in Ireland 2016. It is a year-long global remembrance of the centenary of the Easter Rising in 1916, a seminal in Ireland's journey to independence. Rebels, romantics, and revolutionaries: The songs and stories of the 1916 Easter Rising on Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. at the D'Angelo Center Ballroom [8000 Utopia Parkway]. Flyers are on the table for more information.

**John Pili** – He is a Coordinator at the Child Center of NY at Parsons Community School. He requested support and advocating for increasing funding for Parsons and summer camps throughout the City. He introduced two participants from their Youth Council, Sameer Nasim and Nicole D'Alesio.

**Sameer Nasim** – This is his first year at Parsons Community School. He loves Parsons and it is fun. They also have a Youth Council which prepares them and teaches them how to become young leaders. Community Board 8 Member Marc Haken is their biggest sponsor. If they receive more funding it will give Parsons the opportunity to have more kids attend summer camps. He hopes the Board will help them make this happen.

**Nicole D'Alesio** – She attends QSI Middle School. This is her first year at Parsons. She is planning on attending Parsons for the summer but funding is needed to serve the community well. If students get into summer camps it will keep them off the street and it will prevent them from doing bad things. Parsons prepares children physically and academically. In youth council they learn how to represent the youth and make a difference in their community. Marc Haken sponsors their anti-bullying event in May (*Nicole asked for everyone to applaud Marc Haken for supporting their program*).

**Marva Dudley** – She is the President of the Parsons Community School Advisory Board. She reiterated what the participants were talking about. She stated that this program is a necessity, not a luxury. These young people enjoy it. As a parent, she saw over the years that this is an excellent program and asked that funding be restored.

*Acting Chair Martha Taylor informed Ms. Dudley that the Executive Committee of this Community Board approved the letter that was sent to Mayor de Blasio in support of funding summer youth programs. This letter is included in the meeting packet.*

**Amir Abbady** – State Senator Leroy Comrie has partnered with several local elected officials to host Rain Barrel Giveaways in our District. The first one is in partnership with Assemblyman David Weprin and Councilman Rory Lancman at St. John’s University on June 5, 2016. The second one is in partnership with Assemblywoman Nily Rozic, Assemblyman David Weprin and Councilman Barry Grodenchik at Cunningham Park on July 10, 2016. There will also be a Healthy Hearts Workshop on Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. at the SNAP Innovative Senior Center in Queens Village. They will also have an Eat Right Live Right Workshop on Thursday, June 23, 2016 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Kew Gardens Community Center. Flyers are on the table.

**Salute to the Flag**

Acting Chair Martha Taylor led the salute to the flag.

*The order of the meeting was changed by Acting Chair Martha Taylor in order to have Nominations prior to the guest speaker presentation.*

**Approval of Minutes:**

Dr. Allen Bennett made a motion to approve the minutes of March 9, 2016, seconded by Marc A. Haken.

Count in favor   39                        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, Monica Corbett, Allen Eisenstein, Mary Maggio Fischer, Florence Fisher, Carolann Foley, Kevin Forrestal, Bhitihara-Martha Fulton, James Gallagher Jr., Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Sylvia Hernandez, Tami Hirsch, Steven Konigsberg, Paul S. Lazauskas, Mark J. Lefkof, Mitch Lisker, Elke Maerz, Frank Magri, Jennifer Martin, Rabbi Shlomo Nisanov, Tamara Osherov, Simon Pelman, Frances Peterson, Jesse Rosenbaum, Seymour Schwartz, Douglas Sherman, Harbachan Singh, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin, Rachele Van Arsdale, Jacob Weinberg and Albert Willingham.

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

None

### **Martha Taylor asked Mark Lefkof to begin the Nominations**

**Mark Lefkof-** In accordance with the By-Laws of CB8, the meeting in April is a nomination meeting. The procedure is that in April we nominate candidates for the various offices that are available. Then at the May meeting, there is a vote. In accordance with the By-Laws, I now open the floor to nominations.

### **Chairperson – Martha Taylor**

*Nominated by Dr. Allen Bennett, seconded by Frank Magri.*

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair – Stanley Weinblatt** (*Has a meeting conflict tonight. Accepts nomination if nominated.*)

*Nominated by Mary Maggio Fischer, seconded by Jesse Rosenbaum.*

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair – Seymour Schwartz**

*Nominated by Martha Taylor, seconded by Carolann Foley.*

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Chair – Michael Hannibal**

*Nominated by Seymour Schwartz, seconded by Susan D. Cleary.*

### **Treasurer – Harbachan Singh**

*Nominated by Jagir Singh Bains, seconded by Marc A. Haken.*

### **Secretary – Carolyn Baker-Brown**

*Nominated by Harbachan Singh, seconded by Jagir Singh Bains.*

**Mark Lefkof** closed nominations for all categories. Next month will be the vote for these candidates.

### **Acting Chair Martha Taylor made a couple of announcements:**

- Condolences to Elke Maerz, whose husband passed away last month.
- She welcomed aboard two new Board Members: Bhitihara-Martha Fulton and Rachele Van Arsdale.
- She welcomed and invited Honorable Councilman Rory Lancman to say a few words.

**Honorable Councilman Rory Lancman** – He thanked Martha Taylor and greeted everyone. He was here to welcome the new Board Members: Bithihara-Martha Fulton and Rachele Van Arsdale to the Board. He stated that this is a terrific board and he had the privilege to serve here for 16 years. It was one of the greatest experiences of his life. He stated that this board plays an important role in our community.

He stated that they had a big rally to try to restore the Mayor's cut to the middle school's summer programs. The Community Board submitted a letter/resolution which was very important and helpful. He wished everyone present a Happy and Healthy Passover! Lastly, he congratulated all the nominees.

### **Guest Speakers:**

**Adam Zaranko – One NYC** – Mr. Zaranko thanked the Community Board for having him tonight and giving him the opportunity to present One New York: The plan for a Strong and Just City. He mentioned that One NYC is a comprehensive plan for a sustainable and resilient city for all New Yorkers that addresses the profound social, economic, and environmental challenges ahead. They have four visions for the future: Growth, Equity, Sustainability and Resiliency.

They are working on making these visions a reality. Their goals are big. There's a lot of work ahead. As they work to implement these four visions, we'll measure progress against core principals of empowerment, regionalism and inclusion.

**This plan's goal is to:**

- Create and preserve 200,000 affordable housing units and support creation of 160,000 additional units by 2024.
- In 2040, New York City will have 4.9 million jobs.
- Lift 800,000 new Yorkers out of poverty, or near poverty, by 2025.
- Increase median household income.
- Reduce overall premature mortality by 25% by 2040 and dramatically decrease racial and ethnic disparities.
- New York City's economy will continue to outperform the national economy.
- Reduce the City's greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050 relative to 2005 levels.
- By 2030, the city will send zero waste to landfills.
- In 2040, 90% of New Yorkers can access at least 200, 000 jobs within 45 minutes by transit.

More information about this program is also available on the website: [www.nyc.gov/onenyc](http://www.nyc.gov/onenyc).

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## District Manager's Report, April 2016

### NYPD

Crime is on the rise within our district. It consists of mostly ID theft, scams and burglaries. The 107<sup>th</sup> Precinct needs our assistance in getting the word out on the scams. Information was included in the April Newsletter, please take a copy home today.

### DOB

The Department of Buildings meets with homeowners on Tuesdays at the Queens office located at Borough Hall (120-55 Queens Boulevard in Kew Gardens) from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. They have architects, engineers and other staff there to facilitate work, answer questions and assist with clearing violations. That service has been extended to small business owners as well.

Starting in the month of May, community boards and elected officials will start receiving information about all new construction and major alteration via email. The agency has been directed to do so by the New York City Council.

### HRA

We are informed that Commissioner Banks has completed his review of the Department of Homeless Services (DHS). He has submitted its findings on merging DHS with HRA to the Mayor. We recently received information via email and it has been forwarded to the Board Members. I have also included a hard copy in the packets.

### Parks

As stated last month, the Big Apple Circus will be at Cunningham Park from May 8<sup>th</sup> through June 14<sup>th</sup>; however, the shows are only from May 15<sup>th</sup> through June 12<sup>th</sup>. I have already reached out to the Department of Transportation, Sanitation, Parks and the NYPD's 107<sup>th</sup> Precinct for our usual arrangements [*parking, garbage cans, posters and enforcement*]. There will be zero tolerance for blocking hydrants and driveways.

**DOH & MH** – As of last week, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene had no new information on the Zika virus. The Department of Health announced that they are now in the West Nile Virus season. The same precautions against standing water from last year are advised. They reiterated that they do not spray for nuisance mosquitoes. They only spray in areas where mosquitoes tested positive for West Nile Virus. They concentrate on larviciding in catch basins and other places where mosquitoes breed.

**DOT**

DOT informed us that the installation of the LED (*light-emitting diode*) light bulbs are being done by the contractor as follows:

- Highways
- Major streets
- Side streets

When they receive ‘street light-out’ complaints, these non-functioning lights will be replaced with LEDs.

**DDC\***

We received the following updates on these projects:

- **QED 1009** will start at the end of April. I requested that they start in May, as not to interfere with the Passover Holidays. We are waiting for a response.
- **QED 989** has been completed.
- **QED 1001** is 99% completed. New locations have been added to the contract. I will keep you updated as soon as I have more information.
- **QEDA001** is an accelerated project for the installation of water mains and fire hydrants; it was scheduled to start on April 11<sup>th</sup> as per the information on the April Newsletter. This project was delayed and will start work on April 18<sup>th</sup> on 168<sup>th</sup> Street between 67<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 73<sup>rd</sup> Street. Please take a flyer for more information.

**Chometz Burning Stations and Special Passover Collection** – All agencies FDNY, NYPD and Sanitation are on board. Please take a flyer or go to our website for more information.



**Carolyn Baker-Brown, Dilafroz Ahmed and Mark Lefkof who are celebrating their birthday this month!**

**Marie Adam-Ovide**

*\* If you are interested in the parameters that these DDC projects cover, please call the Community Board at 718-264-7895 or send us an email request at [qn08@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:qn08@cb.nyc.gov)*

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**Jim Gallagher Jr.** – Mr. Gallagher stated that last Friday DEP announced that the proposed water rate increase effective July 1<sup>st</sup> will be 2.1% on your water bill. It is their lowest rate increase in 16 years. There will be a public hearing on May 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Christ the King High School in Middle Village.

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

- On behalf of Borough President Melinda Katz she welcomed Community Board 8’s new members. She has been attending this Community Board meeting for 14 years.
- She mentioned that Borough President Melinda Katz is very proud to announce that Queens Borough Hall is the site of the City’s first office for Veteran Services. There is a representative from the Mayor’s Office, Monday through Friday providing legal and social services to our Veterans.
- Next Tuesday night, Borough President Melinda Katz is sponsoring her annual Vaisakhi event at 6:00 p.m. at Borough Hall. Jagir Singh Bains has actively helped them organize this event. She thanked Jagir.
- The New York State Pavilion’s project is on the way. They are collecting ideas and visions for what to do with its renovation. Residents can go to: [www.nyspideas.org](http://www.nyspideas.org) to share their ideas. There are monetary awards for the three best ideas. The cash prize for the first winner is \$3,000, second winner \$1000 and third winner \$500.
- The week of April 14<sup>th</sup> is National Library week and they will be doing a tour on their mobile libraries through the Borough. One of them will be stationed at Borough Hall.
- She stated that April is a very busy month:
  - April 17<sup>th</sup> is the beginning of the City’s annual immigrant heritage week.
  - April is also National Fair Housing month.
  - April 22<sup>nd</sup> is Earth Day.
  - April 19<sup>th</sup> is Presidential Primary Election.
- She wished everyone a Happy Vaisakhi and a Happy Passover to everyone who are observing.

**Office of City Planning – Stephen Everett**

- The Jamaica Now Action Plan’s one year anniversary is approaching. We have new open positions on the Leadership Council. He asked if anyone is interested, to see him after the meeting.

**Committee Reports:**

**Health Committee:** T-Building Update.

**Seymour Schwartz, Health Committee Chair:**

- He refreshed everyone’s memory and informed the new members of the board about the proposal for the T-Building. It is being converted into 205 housing units, to include 75 units rented to patients/out-patients of Queens Hospital. When the proposal was made, the board reviewed it and presented stipulations: units to be rented to veterans, units for residents of this community board.
- He has been in touch with the developer of the project Mr. Dunn. He has two proposals; one is our request that there be an 8000 sq. ft. community center rent free and that there be union labor construction for the project but there has been no progress on this.
- He will be meeting with Mr. Dunn and HHC on Monday, April 18, 2016 to discuss this further. He will let the Community Board know the results of this meeting.
- Douglas Sherman mentioned that he met with Mr. Dunn. Parkway Village does not endorse this project. They have serious concerns about the units that will be used for patients/out-patients and security; since there will only be a security officer for 24 hours on site, the AMI which is the affordable being 131 units in affordable housing is going to be towards the lower end of the spectrum not the high end of 60-100%, the income levels that we had asked for. He stated that there will be people making \$20,000 at the lowest end of the economic consideration for these affordable units. Parkway Village does not see any benefits for the residents who live directly across the street. Therefore, Parkway Village as a community does not endorse this project.

- Mr. Schwartz told Mr. Sherman that they are aware of their concerns. Mr. Dunn offered Parkway Village the opportunity to look at some of the existing projects that have been done in the past through the boroughs similar to this one. He has insisted with HHC that they move forward with this project. He hopes to learn more about this when they meet on Monday.
- Mr. Sherman added that Mr. Dunn did offer Parkway Village to show them some of the projects he has done before but they declined the offer.
- Mr. Schwartz stated told Mr. Sherman that he will hear from him at the earliest opportunity.

**Liquor License Committee:** Update on renewal and new licenses.

**Michael Hannibal, Liquor License Committee Chair:**

- Mr. Hannibal stated that the Liquor License Committee had its meeting last night. They had three applications.
- NYC Cloud 9 Corporation – The committee wanted to know about some incidents that occurred near this establishment in previous months. They came and they explained how things happened and what actions they took. The committee felt confident that they are doing their best. NYPD confirmed that they are doing all the right things.
- 185-01 Union Turnpike TBD Corp. – Mr. Hannibal stated that a motion was made to recommend approval of the full liquor license for this establishment, provided that they follow through with the Public Assembly Permit once they finalize their lease.
- New Traditions – Mr. Hannibal stated that there was a serious incident that had happened at New Traditions. Most recently, last week there was an arrest for underage drinking. They had a list of statistics of what occurred at Traditions since their renewal in 2014. The problems at this establishment have increased ever since. They refused to work with St. John’s University and the 107<sup>th</sup> Precinct. When the statistics were presented to Robert Johnston [owner], he did not provide the board with answers. This establishment’s liquor license renewal was denied with only one abstention. Mr. Hannibal asked that the Community Board send a letter to the State Liquor Authority (SLA) to advise them that this bar cannot remain open. The board should ask that their license not be transferred to another establishment.
- Mr. Hannibal thanked all the members of the board who attended last night’s meeting for their support. He also thanked Councilman Rory Lancman and Assembly Member David Weprin for their letters of support.
- Kevin Forrestal asked Mr. Hannibal if the abstention was for cause. Mr. Hannibal stated that it was not for cause; therefore, it was a unanimous vote against the establishment.
- Carolann Foley thanked Mr. Hannibal for his great job and leadership on this matter.
- Marc Haken asked why the police did not release information when they believed that the establishment was serving to minors before. Carolann Foley stated that the Police Department has already released the information to SLA.

### **Adjournment**

Carolann Foley made a motion to adjourn this meeting at 8:32 p.m., seconded by Mark Lefkof.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Jatnna Pimentel, CB8 staff  
April 18, 2016*