

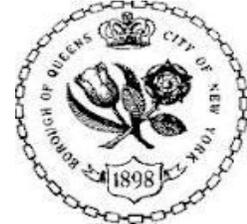


Chairman, Alvin Warshaviak

*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, March 9, 2016 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, Robert H. Block, Edward Chung, Susan D. Cleary, Kenneth Cohen II, Monica Corbett, Allen Eisenstein, Mary Maggio Fischer, Florence Fisher, Kevin Forrestal, James Gallagher Jr., Joshua Glikman, Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Robert Harris, Sylvia Hernandez, Tami Hirsch, Fakrul “Delwar” Islam, Steven Konigsberg, Paul S. Lazauskas, Mark J. Lefkof, Bright Dae-Jung Limm, Mitch Lisker, Elke Maerz, Frank Magri, Jennifer Martin, Tamara Osherov, Simon Pelman, Frances Peterson, Jesse Rosenbaum, Steven Sadofsky, Seymour Schwartz, Michael F. Sidell, Harbachan Singh, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin, Alvin Warshaviak, Jacob Weinberg, Stanley Weinblatt and Albert Willingham.

**Board Members Absent:**

Dilafroz Ahmed, Maria DeInnocentiis, Carolann Foley, Howard A. Fried, Rabbi Shlomo Nisanov, Charlton Rhee, Samuel Rodriguez, Douglas Sherman.

**Others Present:**

Alexander Bennett representing Congresswoman Grace Meng, Borough President Melinda Katz, Susie Tanenbaum representing Borough President Melinda Katz, Councilman Barry Grodenchik, Ari Gershman representing Councilman Barry Grodenchik, Councilman Rory Lancman, Daniel Rosenthal representing Councilman Rory Lancman, Steph Campanha, representing State Senator Tony Avella, Amir Abbady, representing State Senator Leroy Comrie, Aaron Siegel representing Assemblyman David Weprin, Assemblyman Michael Simanowitz, Facia Class representing Assemblyman Michael Simanowitz, Marilla Li representing Assemblywoman Nily Rozic, Marie Adam-Ovide, CB8 District Manager, Jatnna Pimentel and Alma Karassavidis, CB8 staff members.

**Call to Order:**

Chairman Alvin Warshaviak called this Board Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. The order of the meeting was changed by Chairman Warshaviak in order to accommodate the busy schedules of all Elected Officials present.

***Chairman Warshaviak introduced Queens Borough President Melinda Katz.***

**Melinda Katz** – This is a very special time in the borough of Queens. Queens is “moving and shaking”. Folks want to come and live here, build here and they want to make money here. We are a borough of families. As you know, we are the only borough who say the neighborhood that we come from, i.e. Forest Hills, NY; Kew Gardens Hills, NY. It’s amazing how in the last few years Queens has changed. It’s just getting better every single day. The Community Boards are such a huge part of making that happen. If it wasn’t for the Community Boards as the first line of defense, quite often folks may not know where to go. Every one of you are appointed here because you represent the blocks, a profession; something that can help the entire Board work as one. That is what makes the Community Boards in the Borough of Queens just an amazing institution to serve on. Tonight I am here, as well as

the other Electeds because it is Alvin Warshaviak's last meeting. We are all going to miss you. We met 20 years ago. You have led this Board for 25 years! (*BP Katz asked everyone to applaud Chairman Warshaviak*) He has been part of the Community Board for 35 years! It becomes part of your life and we can see that you are sad to go. The people become your friends and your family. Fighting for the neighborhoods in your Community Board just becomes part of who you are. We know that you are going to miss us, but you should know that we are really, really going to miss you! On behalf of the 2.3 million people I am honored to represent, there is absolutely no way that we could ever repay you for the service you have given this great borough. Congratulations on your number of years. *Borough President Katz invited Assemblyman Michael Simanowitz and Council Members Rory Lancman and Barry Grodenchik to join her in a group photo for her presentation of a Proclamation to Chairman Warshaviak.*

*“Alvin Warshaviak, this is a Proclamation on behalf of all of us that are here; on behalf of the entire Community Board, and whereas Community Boards are an essential link between City Government and local neighborhoods. Their appointed members play a vital role in addressing Land Use, Zoning issues, identifying Budget Priorities and helping to ensure the delivery of services. Community Board members look to their Chairman for steadfast guidance and respect and leadership. For 25 years, Mr. Warshaviak has personified these qualities as Chairman of Queens Community Board 8. After serving for 10 years as a Board Member, Alvin Warshaviak worked as a Comptroller of DC37 for 21 years. He found time to participate in DC37's Jewish Heritage Committee while showing his support. I, Melinda Katz, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> as Alvin Warshaviak Day in the borough of Queens”. (A standing ovation was given to Chairman Warshaviak).*

**Rory Lancman** – Alvin, when you come back from your travels in the Fall, we will have a City Council Proclamation for you. I hear that there may be a cake involved also. I did want to come by tonight and say thank you for being a friend and truly, a mentor. When I was on the Board as a new member Alvin was someone who would give me guidance. Sometimes I would ask for that guidance and sometimes it was given to me regardless. You have really been a tremendous leader for this Board. We get to see a lot of Community Boards in action and we love all of them equally, but Community Board 8 really is a special place and in no small part that is due to your leadership. It is a very difficult job which you have handled with grace and dignity and really made a tremendous positive contribution to our community. We all wish you the best. Congratulations!

**Barry Grodenchik** - It is a bittersweet moment for me as well as for most of the people who know and love Alvin. Of course it took your leaving to get you a standing ovation. I don't know if it was for your years of service or because you are leaving, but, either way...you deserve it. This is my home Community Board. I grew up in this community. I owe a lot to this man and I mean that very sincerely. He was also a mentor to me. He helped me in so many ways I can't begin to describe. He helped so many people and you all know that to be true. The true nature of a hero, I believe, is that they never ask for anything for themselves. In all the years I have worked with Alvin, he never asked for anything for himself. That, to me, is the measure of the man we have before us tonight. I have something but I'm not going to read it. It's just a little something from the City Council. Rory and I are going to sponsor a bigger one when you come back. I am going to do something I very rarely do in public life (*kisses Alvin*). We love you and wish you the best of everything. We look forward to seeing you soon and will have a cake for you.

**Michael Simanowitz** – What many of you may not know is that Alvin Warshaviak is probably one of the primary people responsible for me being an Assemblyman. I was a member of the same synagogue as Alvin and was working for the City at HPD at the time. I said to one of the other members that I wanted to get involved in the community. He told me to go talk with Alvin Warshaviak, Chairman of the Community Board. I went over to Alvin and he told me to start coming to the meetings; he would put me on some of the Committees. Back then you didn't have to be on the Board to be a part of a Committee. He then introduced me to two members who were sitting next to me, Barry Grodenchik and Gary Spruck. Gary used to work for Nettie Mayersohn. I invited Gary over for a Shabbas meal. I told him that if he ever needed a place to eat on Shabbas, feel free to call me. That

week, he called me and many weeks thereafter. Then one day in August, he called me to say that he gave Nettie his two-weeks notice. He said that he told her all about me and that she wanted to meet me. The rest, as they say, is history. So Alvin it's all your fault! I've been coming to this Community Board for 20 plus years. It's been a sweet day because we all know that Alvin will be enjoying himself greatly. We are all very jealous of him. We are going to miss him and his leadership that he provided for this great board. I know with the wonderful people sitting around this table, you will all continue to follow in Alvin's great footsteps. Congratulations and enjoy the rest of your life!

**Alvin Warshaviak** – Before you go, I just want to say that there are a lot of Community Boards in Queens and in New York, but this is the best. All the years I have been here I always said that the reason why is because we have the best people on the board, the best Elected Officials. They all work hand in hand and as a result we get a lot accomplished. Thanks to all the Electeds and all the people on the board.

**Melinda Katz** – I know there is a lot of business to be done tonight but I would like to very quickly introduce the new Director of Community Boards, Vickie Morales. Also Susie Tanenbaum is doing a great job. We have a lot of great events coming up; Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup> is our Greek Independence Day Celebration and on March 24<sup>th</sup> is our Bangladesh Independence Celebration. Alvin, God Bless!

**Public Participation:**

**Terry Katz** – I grew up in the Pomonok Houses in Queens. My partner, Alan Stark and I made a film that tells the story of how it was growing up in the Pomonok Houses in the 1950s and 1960s. NYC Public Housing is seen as an opportunity for a lot of people. Our film was selected to be screened at the Queens World Film Festival this year. The festival starts next week. Showtime for Pomonok Dreams is on Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 p.m. at P.S. 69 in Jackson Heights. Tickets available at: [www.queensworldfilmfestival.com](http://www.queensworldfilmfestival.com)

**Mike Sidell** – On this joyous occasion, I pass.

**Dennis Frank** – I am from the NYC Office of Child Support Enforcement. Most of our programs are geared towards the family. As you know, family is the cornerstone of our communities. We get the opportunity to help improve parent communication, in order to be in their children's lives. We offer services to people who need help with child support and mediation services for people with family or child related issues. Some of our services are free.

**Renee Murray-Bachmann**- I am a Diabetes Educator from the Northwell Health System. We used to be North Shore LIJ. We would like to inform you of our upcoming Diabetes Health and Product Fair. I brought my colleague, Donna Jornsay with me. The fair will be held at her site.

**Donna Jornsay** – We have a Health and Product Fair for people living with Diabetes being held on Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There will be many vendors with diabetes products at the fair. There will be a cooking demonstration and a presentation by a Dentist on oral health and diabetes. Also we will have someone who specializes in exercise and stress management talking about stress reduction techniques. It is free and open to the community. There will be free parking available in our visitor parking center. We, right now, have almost 30 million people living with diabetes in the United States. Queens is one of the most diverse communities in the country so we are seeing a lot of diabetes at LIJ and want to open this up to the community.

**Jim Gallagher Jr.** – Someone is going around our community putting up posters on street lights. The poster says “Building Developer – 61-77 186<sup>th</sup> Street” *As you all know that is the tall hotel that is going up in Fresh Meadows across the street from Michael’s.* “No Homeless Shelters, No Part Time Renters in our Communities – Bringing Down Home Value”. On the bottom of the poster it says, “Fresh Meadows Homeowners Civic Association – Our Neighborhood – Call Community Board 8 - #718-264-7895 Voice Your Concerns”. The FMHCA never approved

putting up these flyers. We do not know who is doing this. If you see it, please rip it down. I also want to mention that I saw the Pomonok movie about a year ago and it was fantastic! Everyone should see it.

**Marc A. Haken**- I am here this evening to praise Alvin. For some reason, some members of this board think that we don't get along well. Whenever I need an explanation of a fine point on Judaic Law I went to Alvin and he always led me in the right direction. We really do get along very well. I want to wish you and your family a thousand years of pleasure and joy. Please come and visit us every so often.

**Jordan Most**- I am here to update everyone. We made a presentation regarding a proposed extension of term and amendment for a gas station located at 141-50 Union Turnpike. This BSA application was presented at a Land Use Committee Meeting. The gas station variance dates back to the 1950s and is regularly extended. The last extension of term was in 2005, which expired in 2015. We are requesting renewal, although a bit late. Our application also includes approval of an amendment to convert the gas station service station portion of the property to a convenience store. The property is already under new management. It has been significantly upgraded and there have been a number of repairs on the property, which would continue along with the conversion. I will be around later if there are questions.

**Artee Seemangal**- I am with the NYC Department of Consumer Affairs. I am here to talk about the Commuter Benefits law that went into effect on January 1<sup>st</sup>. The law requires employers of 20 or more full time employees anywhere within the 5 boroughs to offer commuter benefits. Full time means working 30 hours or more per week. This helps employees reduce their monthly expenses by using up to \$255.00 per month pre-tax earnings. It also helps employers on payroll taxes. This covers public and most mass transit; MTA buses, LIRR, Metro-North. You can get the full list at our website at [www.nyc.gov/commuterbenefits](http://www.nyc.gov/commuterbenefits) If you have any further questions you can call 311 or visit our website.

**Aaron Siegel** – Assemblyman Weprin's Spring 2016 Newsletter is out. There are copies on the back table. Also on Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. right here in this auditorium, there will be the *GETALARMEDNYC* event. Anyone can come to pick up their free smoke alarm/carbon monoxide detector.

**Amir Abbady** – Senator Leroy Comrie's office is sponsoring a Free Tax Prep help event at the South Hollis Library on Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. We are also doing an entrepreneurs networking event and workshop called RISE. It is being done with an organization called the Plusser Group. It will take place at York College in the main academic building on Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. We are doing the Rainbarrel Giveaway in partnership with Councilman Barry Grodenchik and Assemblywoman Nily Rozic. It will take place on Sunday, July 10<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Cunningham Park. If you are interested, please call one of our offices to reserve your barrel.

**Jessica Douglas** – I am the new Queens Borough Director for Community Boards 8 and 10 through 14. I am here to introduce myself and provide a few updates. Legal Services evictions fell 18% last year to the lowest level in a decade. The Mayor has put in place a \$46 million, 2-year investment to expand legal services and emergency rental assistance for tenants. Last year was the first ever rent freeze on regulated apartments. The Mayor and the Health Department have launched a series of reforms that would improve the safety of daycare across the City. The reform policy would include the creation of a Task Force to increase inspections of repeat violators, added inspection staff and develop other investigative protocol to help identify problem sites using citizens' complaints. If you know of any sites that you suspect of illegal services, please feel free to reach out to your Community Board or you can reach out to me directly at #212-442-0508 or via email at [jdouglass@cityhall.nyc.gov](mailto:jdouglass@cityhall.nyc.gov)

**Assemblyman David Weprin** – (*Chairman Warshaviak was presented with a Proclamation by Assemblyman Weprin.*) This Proclamation is from Assemblyman Simanowitz, myself, and Assemblywoman Rozic. We can have former Assemblyman Barry Grodenchik join us as well and Nettie Meyersohn in spirit. This Proclamation praises

Alvin Warshaviak’s long history with Community Board 8, having been Chair for 25 years. Alvin was also Controller at DC37 for 21 years, and of course had a distinguished career in the Jewish Community in Queens. I remember bringing my young children at the time to the Purim Parade that Alvin founded. It is very exciting that Alvin is going to be spending more time with his children and grandchildren in Israel. It is really a great honor to know you and have known your outstanding service. This is a token of our appreciation. I just want to say that in addition to the free smoke detectors that Aaron announced, we also have free tax assistance every Wednesday in Richmond Hill between now and April 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Salute to the Flag**

Chairman Warshaviak led the salute to the flag.

**Approval of Minutes:**

*Board Member James Gallagher Jr. requested an amendment to the February 17, 2016 minutes wherein Maria DeInnocentiis incorrectly stated that the hotel was on 185<sup>th</sup> Street but it is on 186<sup>th</sup> Street.*

Chairman Warshaviak made a motion to approve the minutes of February 17, 2016, seconded by Marc A Haken.

**Count in favor**      41                        **Opposed:**      0                        **Abstained:**      0  

**Board Members who approved the minutes:**

Jagir Singh Bains, Carolyn Baker-Brown, Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Robert H. Block, Edward Chung, Susan D. Cleary, Kenneth Cohen II, Monica Corbett, Allen Eisenstein, Mary Maggio Fischer, Florence Fisher, Kevin Forrestal, James Gallagher Jr., Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Robert Harris, Sylvia Hernandez, Tami Hirsch, Fakrul “Delwar” Islam, Steven Konigsberg, Paul S. Lazauskas, Mark J. Lefkof, Bright Dae-Jung Limm, Mitch Lisker, Elke Maerz, Frank Magri, Jennifer Martin, Tamara Osherov, Simon Pelman, Frances Peterson, Jesse Rosenbaum, Steven Sadofsky, Seymour Schwartz, Michael F. Sidell, Harbachan Singh, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin, Alvin Warshaviak, Jacob Weinberg, Stanley Weinblatt and Albert Willingham.

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

None

**Guest Speakers:**

**Anthony Iuliano** – I work at the Intergovernmental Affairs Office in Queens County for the Department of Buildings. There is a big concern about how many complaints remain in the system not being inspected. This has become a common problem throughout the City of New York. Here in Queens, whenever we pull a complaint out of the system from either the Community Board or an Elected Official, about two thirds of the time it results in a violation being issued upon inspection. The complaints received by the Community Board are not frivolous complaints. Depending on the category; if it is an “A” type complaint, where a life-saving issue is involved, we are able to go out within 24 hours to inspect. The problem arises when they are “B”, “C” and “D” complaints. For example, a “D” complaint would be a curb cut. A curb cut could sit there for nine months to a year. If you contact the Community Board or Elected Officials, with that type of a complaint, we could pull it from the system and have an inspector go out there within two weeks. With a curb cut, no access to the property is needed. They just need to pull up in front of the property. This type of complaint affects the quality of life. If someone put an illegal curb cut, that affects parking on your block. When the zoning text amendment is violated we want to catch the property owner and contractor in the act of doing the work. We cite both the contractor and the property owner with a violation. If that type of situation exists, you can call 311 to report it. We want to respond as quickly as possible to the complaints that are directed to our agency. We just received a complaint that came in through Councilman Grodenchik’s office, for a private home being used as a livery business. They reached out to us and we sent an inspector. Violations were issued because they had more than the number of cars allowed to be parked on a one-family property. By issuing the violations, they no longer park on the property, but now are parking in

the street. Now we received an email asking what we can do about that. There is not much we can do about that. They are parked on the street so that is out of our jurisdiction. That type of a complaint would have sat there in the system for 8 or 9 months and that affects quality of life.

Chairman Warshaviak, I would like to wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors on behalf of the NYC Department of Buildings. I just want to say that Community Boards, at times, from an agency perspective, are difficult to deal with. Likewise Community Boards have some difficulties with some of the city agencies. I know that the Department of Buildings have that reputation and we are trying to change that. I think that one of the reasons we have a good working relationship with Community Board 8 is because of the Chairperson, the District Manager and the staff. The staff is only as good as the Chairman and the District Manager. I know at times the Community Board members are frustrated with our responses. Maybe it was not the answer you wanted to hear, or not a quick response; but we try to respond the best that we can. When 66% of the time, the complaints result in a violation; that is a quality complaint and a quality inspection. We just want to reiterate that if you do have an issue within your Community Board district, please work through the District Manager so that we can pull the complaints out of the system. That way we can put certain complaints to rest and not have it linger to become a quality of life issue that affects the community.

**Chairman Warshaviak** – We used to get someone a half day each month. We could have used more than a half a day per month. That disappeared a few years ago. Can we get that back?

**Anthony Iuliano** – That stopped about five years ago. The Community Affairs Office in Queens was the only borough that had an inspector assigned to us who we could use at our discretion. We had an inspector for 3 days out of the week which worked well but then the agency revamped its operations. Some of the Community Boards liked working the half day inspections. Some were a little hesitant because the District Manager would accompany the inspector to the various locations. The property owners would be reluctant seeing the inspector coming to the door with a civilian in plain clothes (District Managers) not knowing who that other person was.

**Chairman Warshaviak** – We are fine with the District Manager not accompanying the inspector and we will take the time from the other Community Boards who don't want the service.

**Anthony Iuliano** – One of things we are trying to do is pulling the complaints out of the system. The idea of the half day inspections, was to address specific complaints of concern to the Community Board. By working with us on the specific complaints, it would be similar to the half day inspections, so we can devote our resources. For example; there was a period where there were a number of billboards and storefront signage complaints that Marie had contacted us about. For these types of complaints, we have to work through a centralized unit in Manhattan. There were five locations with storefront signs that were a problem. We were able to arrange for the inspector because they were all within close proximity of one another. They would accomplish looking at the five locations at the same time. I will bring your suggestions back to the office for them to see what they can do to get that back.

**Robert Harris** – I heard that if someone puts a complaint in and the inspector goes there three times and cannot gain access, it is considered resolved. Is that right?

**Anthony Iuliano** – The inspector makes two attempts. If they are unable to gain access after two attempts, it is then closed out. In the 311 system, it does show up as 'Resolved'. If the average person sees 'Resolved', it looks as if they were able to gain access and there was nothing there. Showing up as 'Resolved' means that two attempts were made. On the first inspection attempt they leave an LS4. It is taped on the front door for the property owner to call our agency and make an appointment. Most of the time, they do not contact us. If you have filed a complaint against a location and we made two attempts without access, you can call us to start the process all over again. If you just call 311, it will stay there. If you work through the Community Board and our office, we will be able to pull it out of the system and take a more aggressive approach.

**Eshwarie Mahadeo** – I am the Outreach Coordinator for the NYC Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB). We are an independent agency. The agency is empowered to receive, investigate, mediate, hear, make findings, and recommend action on complaints against NYC Police Officers alleging the use of excessive or unnecessary force, abuse of authority, discourtesy, or the use of offensive language. The Board’s investigative staff, composed entirely of civilian employees, conducts investigations in an impartial fashion. The Board forwards its findings to the Police Commissioner. We have a thirteen member board that is assigned by the Mayor, the City Council and the Police Commissioner. The thirteen member board, headed by a chair, hires an executive director, who manages the agency’s daily operations. Our current Executive Director is Mina Malik, who was a former prosecutor for the Brooklyn District Attorney’s Office. Needless to say, the NYPD do an outstanding job for our communities. Unfortunately at times, when interacting with an officer, misconduct does happen. At the CCRB you can file your complaint with us. There are several ways to file a complaint; call at 1-800-341-CCRB (2272), online at [www.nyc.gov/ccrb](http://www.nyc.gov/ccrb) or visit us at 100 Church Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, about two blocks away from the World Trade Center. We are open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Chairman’s Report:**

- Condolences to Dilafroz Ahmed, whose brother-in-law passed away in Bangladesh. She has gone back there to be with her sister and her family at this time. A letter of condolence will be sent.
- Congratulations to Susie Tanenbaum who received an award from Congressman Joe Crowley for the Women’s History Month Celebration.

**Alvin Warshaviak** – After 25 years as Chairman, I want to once again say that as a Community Board, we are blessed with having the best staff. The leadership begins with Marie and trickles down to the staff. I would like to recognize one of our staff members tonight, Joseph. Unfortunately, Joe resigned to take a Governmental Affairs position with the Department of Health. We wish him the best!

**Joseph Marziliano** – It’s been really great to work with and get to know all of you. Some of you I already knew before I started working here. It’s good to know that my home community is so well served. It’s been especially great working with Marie, Jatna and Alma. I am glad that I am not done working with you. That’s the silver lining.

**Alvin Warshaviak** – I want to add that it took a lot of soul searching to reach the decision to retire. I truly enjoy being Chair and a member of this Board. I have said it over the years and I sincerely love every one of you. You all make the Board. The Board, our Elected Officials and an outstanding staff are what makes our community great and makes my job so easy. I truly will miss being on the Board. This past year, I tried to do both, and realized that it’s not possible. I missed too many meetings. It was not fair to the Community Board or to my family. I made a decision and hope it was the right one. I hope we will keep in touch. I wish you individually, as a Board, the staff, the Elected Officials, only the best in the future and good luck!

**Marie Adam-Ovide** – I just want to say that Joe came to us two years ago, ready to work and learned things very quickly. Deep inside, I knew I wouldn’t be able to keep him too long. He is bright and I know he has a great future ahead of him. I want to wish you the very best. I know you are going to go far.

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**District Manager’s Report, March 2016**

**DOB**

The Department of Buildings announced that 30 homeowners went to the Homeowner’s Night at DOB last week to solicit assistance in addressing violations. The Department has been monitoring the blogs. And found that SROs were being advertised by a realtor. They took prompt action and sent a Marshall who observed that a one-family

house that is only 1.5 stories has 10 SROs in CB7. A vacate order was issued. In addition, they have reached out to the proper New York State agency to complain about the realtor.

**HRA**

We are informed that they are not planning on keeping the families at the hotel in Briarwood indefinitely. They had no choice due to the homeless crisis. The Department of Homeless Services is looking for available permanent apartments. If anyone is aware of any available apartments to contact their agency.

**FDNY**

Last month, we were given the stats for the City as a whole. We asked for CB8 specific stats and they are as follows:

<b>Structural Fires</b>	<b>3384</b>
<b>Non-Structural Fires</b>	<b>2295</b>
<b>Suspicious Fires</b>	<b>222</b>
<b>Emergencies</b>	<b>33,129</b>
<b>Non-emergencies</b>	<b>33,665</b>

The FDNY also informed us that there are 300 probationary firefighters due to graduate this year.

**Parks**

The Big Apple Circus is back in town. They will be there 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 will be working with the DOT, DSNY and Parks, as in the past, to ensure that arrangements for parking, posters and garbage cans are made*]. The Philharmonic Orchestra is scheduled for June 20<sup>th</sup> and there will be fireworks.

The Friends of Cunningham Park was able to secure funds from Councilman Barry Grodenchik to address the poison ivy issue at Cunningham Park along the trails. A goat-herder will be hired to supervise goats eating the poison ivy.

**DEP**

In light of recent issues with the water supply in Flint, Michigan, the Department of Environmental protection wanted to inform New Yorkers that our water is safe to drink. There is virtually no lead in our water; however, if your home was built before 1961 there is a possibility that you may have lead pipes. You may contact 311 to request a FREE water testing kit. It comes with instruction and DEP will test the water. You should receive the results within 30 days. If lead is found in your water, they will advise you of the next steps to take to address the problem.

**DFTA**

Usually, the presentation to Newcomers to Medicare is done in Manhattan at One Lafayette Street and the next one will be on March 24, 2016. This is in spite of advocating to have it held in a central place in Queens (i.e. Borough President's office). The presenter Eric Haussmann is willing to come to community meetings and give the presentation. If interested, please contact the Community Board.

**DOT**

They will get back to us on our requests. As for the LED lights, the plan was to go from CB1 through CB14 in that order. It appears that the contractor might have changed the way that they are installing the LED lights. Once a light is out, they replace it with an LED light regardless of which CB that they are working in.

**DDC**

- QED 1001. Last month we were informed that work would resume in March. So far no work has been done. We will keep you posted once we have a start date.
- QED 989. Restoration work started last week on eastbound Union Turnpike from 165<sup>th</sup> Street to 175<sup>th</sup> Street. There will be limited access to parking and driveway access from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. This information has been included on the March Newsletter.
- The Department of Design and Construction informed us of a project to renovate the Police Department building for Highway Patrol #3. It is located at 198-15 Grand Central Parkway. There should not be any disturbance to traffic or the Cunningham Park while the work is taking place.

**Marie Adam-Ovide**

*Happy Birthday to Board Members: Michael Hannibal and Harbachan Singh.*

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

- Usually when Borough President Katz delivers remarks I don’t get up and speak. I do want to share one memory which has to do with Barry Grodenchik. Many years ago when I began at the Borough President’s office under Borough President Helen Marshall, Barry got the nomination to run for NY State Assembly. He was in the hallway at the Borough President’s Office and I walked by and he said, “I just got the nomination for State Assembly, so you are now going to do Jewish Affairs, but don’t worry because Alvin Warshaviak is going to be your Rabbi”. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank you. You have been a wonderful Rabbi to me. You have been so encouraging! I am very thankful and feel very lucky to have served as liaison for the Borough President’s office for almost fifteen years while you have served as Chairman. I wish you the very, very best! I also want to relay greetings to you from Irving Poy and the whole Planning and Development Department. They feel that it has been a privilege to work with you and they wish you all the best and much happiness. We will miss you very much!
- I also have the Borough President’s new Newsletter which I would like to distribute to everyone.

**Office of City Planning – Stephen Everett**

- Mr. Chairman, it has been a pleasure to work with you. I wish you the best in your retirement.
- The Jamaica Now Action Plan is approaching its one year anniversary. It was done in partnership with many other City agencies along with Community Boards 8 and 12. The plan was designed to increase quality jobs, improve economic development and improve livability in CB#8 and CB#12. With the one year anniversary of release of the plan coming up, we will have an event to have the Jamaica Now Leadership Council tell us where we stand in terms of what we planned we would be doing. There will be new positions on the Leadership Council open and new opportunities to join any of the sub-committees that work on these projects. If anyone is interested, that process will be taking place over the summer so please let me know.

**Committee Reports:**

**Steven Konigsberg – Zoning Committee Chair-BSA Calendar No. 436-53-BZ – 141-50 Union Turnpike**

**Steven Konigsberg** – We held a Public Hearing on Monday, February 29<sup>th</sup> regarding an application for the extension of term of the previously granted variance for the location at 141-50 Union Turnpike. During the public participation portion of tonight’s meeting, we heard from Jordan Most, the attorney who represents the applicant. There were three committee members and two residents who attended the Public Hearing. The application seeks an extension of terms so that they can continue to operate the gasoline station at that location. They would also like to discontinue the use of the repair bays and convert the building to an accessory convenience store. In addition, they want to make the building bigger. The members of the public who spoke were the neighbors living directly behind the station. Their main concern seems to be an area of ground that is behind this gas station, yet part of the station’s

property, before you get to the neighbors' properties. There is a wall along the back of the gas station with this open area behind it, which is covered by vegetation and trees. The neighbors cited that in the past there was a problem with lighting which was corrected by the prior owner. Any violations that were issued against the property were corrected. One of the questions that were raised at the meeting was as to when the last time the tanks were inspected. They have since provided that information. The tanks were recently inspected. The only concern that the neighbors had was the increase in the size of the building, which would be an expansion, yet still within the gas station's property. At the meeting, all of our questions and concerns were answered. There was no one there from the neighborhoods to speak against the application. The three members of the committee voted in favor of the application. I would like to ask for a motion.

**Motion:**

Mark A. Haken made a motion to accept BSA Calendar No. 436-53-BZ a/k/a 141-50 Union Turnpike, seconded by Seymour Schwartz.

Kevin Forrestal asked that we include as a condition that there be no alcohol sold at the convenience store.

**Steven Konigsberg** – I would like to point out that the minutes from that Public Hearing are included in your packets. Currently that is not one of the issues regarding this application. There is no liquor being sold there now. Whether or not it is legal to do so, that is a matter of right under whatever applications they would take to the State Liquor Authority. While we expressed our opinion at the meeting, it is something that the state allows.

**Vote:**

A roll call vote was taken on the motion.

**Count in favor**    37                      **Opposed:**    1                      **Abstained:**    1

**Board Members who voted in favor:**

Jagir Singh Bains, Carolyn Baker-Brown, Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Robert H. Block, Edward Chung, Kenneth Cohen II, Allen Eisenstein, Mary Maggio Fischer, Florence Fisher, Kevin Forrestal, James Gallagher Jr., Joshua Glikman, Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Robert Harris, Tami Hirsch, Fakrul "Delwar" Islam, Steven Konigsberg, Paul S. Lazauskas, Mark J. Lefkof, Bright Dae-Jung Limm, Mitch Lisker, Elke Maerz, Frank Magri, Jennifer Martin, Simon Pelman, Frances Peterson, Jesse Rosenbaum, Steven Sadofsky, Seymour Schwartz, Michael F. Sidell, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin, Alvin Warshaviak, Jacob Weinberg, Stanley Weinblatt and Albert Willingham.

**Board Members who voted against:**

Susan Cleary

**Board Members who abstained:**

Sylvia Hernandez

**Martha Taylor** – Before we take a motion to adjourn, I want to announce that we are not leaving without having cake in honor of Alvin's retirement. Thanks to Simon Pelman for supplying the cake.

Alvin Warshaviak adjourned this meeting at 8:40 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Alma Karassavidis, CB8 staff  
March 17, 2016*