



Chairperson, Martha Taylor

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, January 9, 2019 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, Robert H. Block, Susan D. Cleary, Florence Fisher, Carolann Foley, Kevin Forrestal, Bhitihara-Martha Fulton, James Gallagher Jr., John Gebhard, Joshua Glikman, Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Robert Harris, Tami Hirsch, Fakrul "Delwar" Islam, Steven Konigsberg, Bright Dae-Jung Limm, Elke Maerz, Mary Maggio, Frank Magri, Jennifer Martin, Dilip Nath, Tamara Osherov, Charlton Rhee, Jesse Rosenbaum, Douglas Sherman, Harbachan Singh, Dr. Penny M. Stern, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin and Albert Willingham.

Board Members Absent:

Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Edward Chung, Kenneth Cohen II, Monica Corbett, Maria DeInnocentiis, Allen Eisenstein, Howard A. Fried, Paul S. Lazauskas, Mitch Lisker, Rabbi Shlomo Nisanov, Simon Pelman, Frances Peterson, Seymour Schwartz, Rachele Van Arsdale, Jacob Weinberg and Stanley Weinblatt.

Others Present:

Susie Tanenbaum representing Borough President Melinda Katz, Davinder Paul Singh representing Councilman Barry Grodenchik, Henry Yam representing Councilman Rory Lancman, Pierre Millien representing State Senator Leroy Comrie, Barbara Baruch representing State Senator John C. Liu, Mohammad Rahman representing Assembly Member David Weprin, Daniel Blech representing Assembly Member Daniel Rosenthal, Honorable Assembly Member Nily Rozic, Hudy Rosenberg representing Assembly Member Nily Rozic, Marie Adam-Ovide, CB8 District Manager and Izabela Szczepanska, CB8 Staff Member.

Call to Order:

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

Public Participation:

Wendy Phaff – Ms. Phaff represents Queens Center for Progress (QCP), an organization that provides programs and services for people with developmental disabilities. In February, there will be an event called Evening of Fine Food. They will be honoring a few members and former members from the community. In March, there will be a community walk and they are always looking for support from local businesses in the community. Ms. Phaff also announced that the organization is always volunteering at different non-profits around the neighborhood.

If anyone needs any help to get things done they have individuals that can help.

James Gallagher Jr. – Mr. Gallagher wished Ms. Phaff success in her program and wished everyone a Happy New Year. He announced that there is a bad water leak on 64th Avenue near 184th Street and would

like to remind everyone about DEP's Water and Sewer Line Protection Program (*flyers were left on the table*). DEP's program will protect the homeowners and can fix water breaks. If not the homeowner will need to fix it within 72 hours. He explained that the homeowners were away for a week, and came back to find the water turned into ice. The service program is only \$155 dollars a year and is worth it. If you believe you have a water leak in your house there is a company called Honeywell that will come to check. Mr. Gallagher also stated that today is National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day and would like to thank all the officers.

Salute to the Flag

Chairperson Martha Taylor led the salute to the flag.

Chairperson's Report – Martha Taylor:

- Detective Tom Motta will be retiring next month. He is one of our Community Affairs Officers and has served in that position for the last nine years; however, he has been with us longer (*24 years*). We thank him for his exemplary service and wish him well.
- As previously stated, today is Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. Chairperson Taylor thanked all the NYPD Officers and those in attendance for their service.

Chairperson Taylor welcomed Deputy Inspector Scott Henry and Detective Tom Motta to say a few words regarding Detective Tom Motta's resignation from the NYPD.

Deputy Inspector Scott Henry- He announced that it has been a privilege being a Commanding Officer at the 107th Precinct. He thanked Detective Motta for working with him. Detective Motta would always guide everyone through. He would never say a bad word about anyone. Deputy Inspector Henry stated that he truly brings that service aspect to what they do. Often people in public service don't really pay attention to that aspect of their job. He states that Detective Motta will be a tremendous loss to the team.

Detective Tom Motta – Detective Motta stated that nine years ago he was meeting people for the first time and working with them. He stated that at first they are strangers, then you form a bond and with time they become friends. He would call Marie [*Adam-Ovide*] to say "Hello, I haven't heard from you in a while" or Michael [*Hannibal*] "what's going on with that liquor license?" He said he is going to miss that. He stated that they have always tried to do their best when it comes to any situation. Detective Motta stated that the 107th have treated him very well and it's because of the community itself. He thanked everyone, but the time has come. He will take it one step at a time just like when he took on this position. He once again thanked everyone for the great friendship and working relationship.

Chairperson Taylor welcomed Alvin Warshaviak [former CB8 Chair] and asked him to say a few words.

Alvin Warshaviak– Mr. Warshaviak stated that he just got back from Israel last week. He does not miss work but he does miss the board. The community board has a new Chairperson who he hears is doing a great job. He stated that District Manager Adam-Ovide and her staff are fabulous. He misses this board and how interactive it is. He came to the board meeting to see everyone and wish everyone a healthy happy holiday and a Happy New Year. He wished everyone all the best for many years to come.

Chairperson Taylor welcomed Assembly Member Nily Rozic and asked her to say a few words.

Honorable Assembly Member Nily Rozic –

- Assembly Member Rozic announced that there will be a press conference on Sunday, January 13, 2019 at 10:30 a.m. regarding the flooding on 188th Street. The press conference will take place at the intersection of 188th Street and 81st Avenue. Everyone is welcome and encouraged

- to attend. Honorable Barry Grodenchik, Rory Lancman, and Nily Rozic will be calling out Verizon for not doing what they should be doing and hurting homeowners on 188th Street.
- Assembly Member Rozic asked everyone to pick up a copy of the newest newsletter (*copies were left on the table*).
 - On Wednesday, January 16, 2019 will be her annual Homeowner Property Tax Exemption Event. Last year there was anywhere from 50 to 200 people who attended the event. She asked everyone to be ready to wait and to be patient. The Department of Finance and the Department of Taxation will be at the event to help people apply for programs. People have returned to the office and said that they have saved hundreds if not thousands of dollars. She encouraged everyone to take a flyer and spread the word amongst neighbors. She would like to see high participation from homeowners in CB8.
 - Assembly Member Rozic thanked Community Board 8 for their efforts and advocacy. She has worked on a bill that would require State Liquor Authority (SLA) to inform community boards when a local restaurant or bar is applying for an all-night liquor license. She explained that an all-night liquor license is when a bar is allowed to stay open all night. Previously SLA only needed to notify the NYPD. Now it is mandated by law that SLA notifies the local precinct and the community board. She would like to thank the Chairperson and District Leader. Assembly Member Rozic brought the pen certificate that was signed by Andrew Cuomo after this bill passed through both houses of state Legislature and signed into law.

Discussion:

Jesse Rosenbaum– Mr. Rosenbaum asked Assembly Member Rozic a question regarding the flooding problem with the underground pipes that are breaking on 188th Street. He stated that numerous residents have been required to make their own repairs; even if they have insurance. Their broken pipes are excluded because they are not considered standard breaks. Is there any compensation considered from Verizon for the people who have made their own repairs?

Honorable Assembly Member Nily Rozic- Assembly Member Rozic stated that they are trying to get the City to bring Verizon to the table and figure that out. That is part of what they are going to be calling for at the press conference. She hopes that he will stand with them.

Tammy Oshero- Ms. Oshero would just like to say thank you for your letter of support for the limited Q46 service. She finds it shocking that they could want to reduce service. She believes that more buses are needed since they are constantly packed. She also states that between the subway and the county line it would be an extremely long trip with less limited service.

Honorable Assembly Member Nily Rozic – Assembly Member Rozic stated that she believes this is arbitrary and she doesn't believe they have a good reason. This is why they thought it was necessary to call the MTA out on it. She thanked the Chairperson and District Manager for their help and the letter of support that is on the agenda.

Dilip Nath – Regarding the letter of support on this is there any other Elected Official with you on this.

Honorable Assembly Member Nily Rozic – Assembly Member Rozic stated that she will welcome everyone and anyone. She thanked everyone for having her back in Community Board 8.

Marc A. Haken – Mr. Haken was wondering might it be possible or might it be the right venue for those who have been affected by this to take a class action suit against Verizon?

Assembly Member Nily Rozic – Assembly Member Rozic stated that she will get back to him because she does not know the answer. She stated that it could be one option. Assembly Member Rozic wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Chairperson Taylor stated that they were planning to have a guest speaker from the US Census. Unfortunately they had to cancel due to the Federal Government shutdown. She then welcomed Chief David Barrere to speak.

Chief David Barrere – Chief Barrere thanked the Chairperson and District Manager for a great partnership. He stated that last year they ended with a significantly low crime rate and once again they broke records in Queens South. He stated that they broke a five year record and he couldn't be more

proud. He stated that it was the partnership that they have with everyone on this board that makes it possible. He has spoken to the government and all city agencies to make his favorite part of the city, Queens South, a little bit better. He thanked everyone and he is looking forward to another great year in 2019.

Approval of Minutes:

Carolann Foley made a motion to approve the minutes of December 12, 2018 seconded by Marc A. Haken.

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

District Manager’s Report, January 2019

DFTA – The agency is reminding seniors to plan ahead for snow events. They should have at least two entities to contact for snow removal. If they are not accustomed to doing strenuous physical activity, they should refrain from shoveling the snow themselves to prevent heart attacks.

DOT – The agency announced that they had the lowest number of deaths from vehicular accidents since they have been keeping records. They believe that Vision Zero is working. Unfortunately, the pedestrian fatality has increased.

DOB – The agency will go out this month to transportation hubs to give out information about illegal apartments. This is to inform the public about the dangers of renting or residing in illegally converted apartments that may be unsafe.

Community Board 8 had 443 complaints for illegal conversion and 293 complaints for work without permits in 2018. That is an increase in the number of complaints from 2017. The complete stats for 2018 will be provided to the Board in February.

DEP – The agency hired additional staff for the yearly catch basin clean-ups and rain gardens clean-up. Queens has been divided into two sections: north and south. A new director has been hired for the south section. CB8 is located in the north section and the director is Tom Anello.

The agency issues alerts about protecting properties against frozen pipes when the temperature falls below 32° F. DEP does not address frozen pipes. If pipes are frozen, homeowners must hire a master plumber to thaw the pipes and this may be costly. Hence, prevention is key. The agency recommends closing basement/cellar windows; insulate pipes and meters.

FDNY – In 2018, we had 346 structural fires in CB8 which is a decrease of 49 fires from 2017. We had 233 non-structural fires which is an increase of 13 fires from the previous year. We had 2,596 emergencies which was an increase by 123 emergencies. We had 3,121 medical emergencies that also went up by 14 incidents.

As for the question posed by Board Member Marc Haken last month, the Fire Department has no plan to reduce the number of fire apparatus to purchase more ambulances. It appears that it was a recommendation made by the Independent Budget Office (IBO) not FDNY Policy.

HPD did not attend the District Service Cabinet (12 months – no show).

Local Law 30 – The City of New York recently mandated that there must be an external safety gas cut off valve at each property by December 2019. The utility companies are in the process of working to meet this deadline.

Before the holidays I received a complaint from a Holliswood resident that National Grid was working in the area and was planning to do gas shut-offs. The utility company should have notified the residents of Holliswood of their plans and secure an appointment to install the exterior gas cut-off valve as mandated by the law.

I have reached out to the company and learned that there was a miscommunication. They are not planning to categorically shut-off service unless they have not been able to reach a resident after the third and final notice. They have DOT street opening permits to work on many streets in Holliswood until February 2019.

If anyone received a notice or they are having issues please contact our office I am in touch with one of the representatives who has been working with me making sure that things happen smoothly.

Happy Birthday to: Jagir Singh Bains, Kenneth Cohen II, Maria DeInnocentiis, Frank Magri, and Martha Taylor.



Marie Adam-Ovide

Discussion:

Marc A. Haken – In a multi-unit building is it just attached to the building as a whole or does each individual unit need to have a separate valve?

Marie Adam-Ovide – District Manager Adam-Ovide stated that she does not know but she can definitely find out and will get back to him. She can also put that information into her newsletter. She is sure that other people may have the same question.

Chairperson Taylor announced that on the orange sheet of paper in the packet is a press release from Assembly Member Nily Rozic concerning New York City Transit. In response this board has agreed to write and send out a letter in support of the Assembly Member Nily Rozic.

Borough President’s Representative – Susan Tanenbaum

- Ms. Tanenbaum wished everyone a happy and healthy New Year.
- On December 26, 2018 Queens Borough President Katz hosted her annual Kwanza Celebration and Ms. Tanenbaum would like acknowledge Marc A. Haken and Harbachan Singh who are long time members of the Borough President’s African American Heritage Committee. Ms. Tanenbaum stated that the event was spectacular and she hopes everyone will be able to come next year.
- Ms. Tanenbaum would like to invite everyone to Borough President Melinda Katz State of the Borough Address on Friday, January 25th at 10:30 a.m. at LaGuardia Community College. She asked that everyone mark their calendars.
- On Friday, February 1st is the Annual Borough Board Budget Hearing. Ms. Tanenbaum stated that this is another opportunity for community based organizations, public institutions and community boards to deliver testimonies before the Borough President and request funding for programs. She stated that if you are not able to attend in person you can submit a written testimony online at www.queensbp.org.
- Ms. Tanenbaum announced that Vicky Morales, the Borough President’s Director of Community Boards asked to remind everyone that community board applications (*new and renewals*) are due on Friday, February 8, 2019. As a result of the Charter Revisions there are new applications that are available online at www.queensbp.org. They can be mailed or delivered in person.
- Ms. Tanenbaum stated that term limits have been introduced for community boards. Those who are being reappointed this April will be able to serve for four two consecutive two-year terms.

She stated that Borough President Katz is counting on all of the members who are up for reappointment to submit their applications; continue serving because she values everyone's institutional memory, hard work and service.

- As previously mentioned Ms. Tanenbaum will be the point person for the 2020 Census. They are currently recruiting members to Queens Complete Count Committee. She thanked Community Board 8 members who have already submitted applications. If anyone else is interested, applications need to be submitted by this Friday and are available through the Borough President's website. Ms. Tanenbaum informed everyone that the main requirements are: you are involved within your community, you're interested in helping getting everyone counted in your community, and you are available to attend a monthly public program. She said if anyone has any questions or needs help to contact her directly.

Discussion:

Robert Harris – Has anything been done about the proposal to have undocumented people write that they are undocumented?

Susie Tanenbaum – Ms. Tanenbaum believes there are several lawsuits underway and she does not think they have decided yet. She believes it's going to take several more months although the census form has to be printed by May. She stated that in the next two to three months we will know.

Dr. Penny Stern - When do you find out if the application is approved or not?

Susie Tanenbaum - Ms. Tanenbaum stated that next week she should receive an email from them. The only reason you would not be invited and welcome to join is if you don't meet the criteria.

Chairperson Taylor announced that Nolan Gray from City Planning had nothing to report. She asked Jesse Resenbaum to make a report on behalf of the Transportation Committee.

Jesse Rosenbaum – Mr. Rosenbaum states that it is very clear that we are in objection to decrease service on the Q46 bus line and a letter has been drafted in response and in support of Assembly Member Nily Rozic. If the MTA wants to increase service on the Q77 that's fine but not to take away the service on the Q46.

Jesse Rosenbaum asked the members of the Transportation Committee to wait a few moments after the meeting is adjourned to meet him in the back before they leave. Chairperson Taylor stated that the Committee Report for the Judicial Reform and Community Jail will be tabled for the next meeting.

Adjournment

Carolann Foley made a motion to adjourn this meeting at 8:11 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Izabela Szczepanska, CB8 staff
January 15, 2019*