



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, September 12, 2018 at the Hillcrest Jewish Center, 183-02 Union Turnpike in Flushing, New York.

**Attendance:**

**Board Members Present:**

Dilafroz Ahmed, Jagir Singh Bains, Robert H. Block, Edward Chung, Maria DeInnocentiis, Allen Eisenstein, Florence Fisher, Kevin Forrestal, Bhitihara-Martha Fulton, James Gallagher Jr., John Gebhard, Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Robert Harris, Tami Hirsch, Fakrul "Delwar" Islam, Paul S. Lazauskas, Bright Dae-Jung Limm, Elke Maerz, Mary Maggio, Jennifer Martin, Dilip Nath, Tamara Osheroov, Frances Peterson, Seymour Schwartz, Harbachan Singh, Dr. Penny M. Stern, Martha Taylor and Mohammed Tohin.

**Board Members Absent:**

Carolyn Baker-Brown, Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Susan D. Cleary, Kenneth Cohen II, Monica Corbett, Carolann Foley, Howard A. Fried, Joshua Glikman, Steven Konigsberg, Mitch Lisker, Frank Magri, Rabbi Shlomo Nisanov, Simon Pelman, Charlton Rhee, Jesse Rosenbaum, Douglas Sherman, Rachele Van Arsdale, Jacob Weinberg, Stanley Weinblatt and Albert Willingham.

**Others Present:**

Susie Tanenbaum representing Borough President Melinda Katz, Davinder Paul Singh representing Councilman Barry Grodenchik, Henry Yam representing Councilman Rory Lancman, Anthony Lemma representing Assembly Member David Weprin, Daniel Blech representing Assembly Member Daniel Rosenthal, Hudy Rosenberg representing Assemblywoman Nily Rozic, Stephen Everett and Nolan Gray representing City Planning, Le-tis Williams representing the Fire Department, Marie Adam-Ovide, CB8 District Manager and Jatnna Reyes, CB8 Staff Member.

**Call to Order:**

Third Vice-Chair Michael Hannibal called this Board Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**Public Participation:**

**Carol Sorensen** – Ms. Sorensen is the President of Hyde Park Gardens. She is requesting approval of speed bumps on 68<sup>th</sup> Drive between 136<sup>th</sup> and 138<sup>th</sup> Streets. She also mentioned that All-Way stop signs are also needed for the safety of pedestrians and to deter speeding. Several accidents haven been reported in the past.

**Denise Downing** – Ms. Downing is from the Queens Borough Public Library, Queens Village branch. She spoke about the Older Adults Services and Mail-A-Book program. Flyers were left at the table with the next upcoming events.

**Francesca Bishop** – She is from the Queens Borough Public Library, Hillcrest Branch. She spoke about the different programs the library offers to the community at large from toddlers to older adults. Flyers were left at the table with information.

**Davinder Paul Sing** – He announced that Council Member Barry Grodenchik will have several events this week. On Friday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. there will be a Senior Nature Walk at Alley Pond Park (76<sup>th</sup> Avenue & Springfield Boulevard). On the same day at 10:30 a.m. there will be a Homeowners & Tenant enrollment event at the SNAP Senior Center (80-45 Winchester Boulevard). On Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., there will be a Bike Helmet giveaway event at the Castlewood Playground (71-64 252<sup>nd</sup> Street). Everyone is welcome to attend.

**Daniel Blech** – There will be a Free Civil Legal Services event on September 17<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. There will be a Mobile Van stationed at 159-06 71<sup>st</sup> Avenue in Flushing. Everyone is eligible to receive free legal services, regardless of immigration status. On Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, there will be an E-Waste Recycling Event from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in front of the Young Israel of Kew Gardens Hills (150<sup>th</sup> Street between Jewel Avenue and 70<sup>th</sup> Road).

**Salute to the Flag**

Chairperson Martha Taylor led the salute to the flag.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Kevin Forrestal made a motion to approve the minutes of June 20, 2018, seconded by Marc A. Haken.

**Count in favor**      29                        **Opposed:**      0                        **Abstained:**      0  

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

- Deepest condolences to Dr. Allen Bennett who recently lost his wife due to a battle with cancer. The Executive Board unanimously voted to donate \$75 from the Sunshine Fund to Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in her memory.
- Best wishes to Board Member Carolyn Baker-Brown for a speedy recovery who is recuperating from knee surgery.
- Welcome back to Board Member Maria DeInnocentiis who had knee surgery a few months ago.
- Congratulations to Board Member Edward “Ed” Chung who will be honored by Visions, an organization that assists the visually impaired, for his commitment to the community.
- There will be NYC Department of City Planning Workshop for all Community Board Members scheduled for Thursday, October 11<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Queens Borough Hall in Room 213 for Community Board Members. You must RSVP by October 5<sup>th</sup>. It will address zoning, ULURP and participation in the budget process. This training is being co-sponsored by Borough President Melinda Katz. A flyer for this event was included in the Board Member’s packet.
- The City Charter requires all New York City public servants be trained in Chapter 68 of the City Charter, the City’s conflict of interest law, once every two years. This includes Community Board Members.
- During the next monthly meeting on October 10<sup>th</sup>, Alexander Kipp from the Conflict of Interest Board will conduct a mandatory conflict of interest training for all Community Board 8 Members. She encouraged every member to attend.

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## District Manager's Report, September 2018

**City Planning** - The first step of the rezoning process [City Planning Initial Review] for the Kew Gardens Hills area has been completed. Now, they will start with the application process.

**DSNY** – The agency already sprayed the concrete medians throughout the district. All the weeds are dying out. They will be removed in the weeks to come when they have the available staff.

**DFTA** – We are now in hurricane season. September is national preparedness month and senior month. DFTA's representative will be going to senior centers throughout Queens to speak about emergency preparedness and the need for a "Go Bag". He encourages senior citizens to stay indoors during a heat advisory and to do any outdoor activities before 8 a.m.

**DOB** – CB8 complaints decreased in June and July. They received an average number of complaints for August. The Borough of Queens accounts for 52% of all DOB complaints Citywide filed through 311. The Buildings Department has a backlog in addressing all of these complaints. They need additional resources to do so.

**FDNY** – There are up by 52 additional runs so far this year which is not substantive. They anticipate a reduction in the weeks to come.

The agency has a new program "Leave it behind" where they leave Narcon Kits which include instructions when they respond to overdose incidents. They either leave it with the patient, if he/she is responsive, or with a family member.

They also have the Empower Program which is geared towards helping the ADA community. They have taken that over from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Through this program they contact the residents prior and after storms. They are required to evacuate the ADA community if there is loss of power.

**NYC Commission on Human Rights** – They are doing a survey about race and gender discrimination. They will be leaving postcards for people of African descent and females to complete if they have experienced either race or gender discrimination. There will be a box also placed there to collect these postcards. The agency is asking for locations/sites where they could place them.

**DEP** – There were 444 complaints filed for our area through 311 of which 245 were for noise; 29 were for clogged catch basins and 19 for leaks. There were over 8,500 rain barrels given away at the various elected officials give-away events this past summer.

We learned that the issues with the service line breaks along 188<sup>th</sup> Street were due to electrolysis from Verizon stray electrical current from its wiring. Verizon was scheduled to do its own study this summer and we are waiting for the results.

**DHS** – New homeless shelters will be opening in Ozone Park and Far Rockaway. The agency is still going ahead with its plan to open shelters throughout the City. Ms. Amanda Nasner is requesting time for a presentation either at the committee level or at the monthly board meeting on this issue.

**DOT** - The agency was unable to attend and submitted responses to issues prior to the meeting.

**HPD, NYPD, PARKS & DOH&MH** - These agencies did not attend the District Service Cabinet.

*Happy Birthday to Board Member Dr. Penny Stern who will celebrate her birthday this month!*

*Marie Adam-Ovide*

*Honorable Council Member Barry Grodenchik was in attendance. Chairperson Martha Taylor invited him to address the Board.*

**Honorable Council Member Barry Grodenchik –**

- As a former Director of Community Boards, he empathizes and understands the hard work that all Board Members do.
- He thanked Board Members Marc A. Haken and Kevin Forrestal along with Assembly Member David Weprin, Council Member Rory Lancman and Assembly Member Daneek Miller for attending the unveiling of the co-naming of Ahmadiyya Way on Grand Central Parkway Service Road at 85<sup>th</sup> Road, next to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Mosque. It was a beautiful event and everything turned out well. He thanked the full Board for approving this co-naming.
- He mentioned that construction has started at the Redwood Playground in Cunningham Park. As the Parks Chair of the Council he hopes everyone is taking advantage of every City Park. They have approximately 130 million visitors every year to our parks.
- He spoke about the NYC Charter Commission recommendations, especially the term limits for Community Board Members which he is opposed to. He will be voting against this proposal. He urged everyone to go out and tell the Civics that they represent, neighbors and friends about this. He will be having a press conference on the steps of City Hall in October. Date TBA. He hopes everyone joins him.
- He introduced his newest Community Liaison, Mr. Davinder Paul Singh. He will be available to assist the community in any quality of life issues.
- There will be a FREE Helmet Giveaway on Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at the Castlewood Playground (71-64 252<sup>nd</sup> Street). Everyone is welcome to attend.

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

- Ms. Tanenbaum wished everyone who celebrated Rosh Hashanah, a happy, healthy and peaceful year as well as the Muslim Community who celebrated the Muslim New Year.
- She mentioned that yesterday was the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Commemoration of the September 11, 2001 attacks. She hopes everyone took time to remember this day.
- On behalf of Borough President Katz, she offered condolences to Dr. Allen Bennett for the passing of his Wife Mrs. Judy Bennet.
- She congratulated Board Member Kenneth Cohen II (*not present*) on the welcoming of his new bundle of joy.
- She distributed Borough President Melinda Katz’s 2018 Diversity Calendar. It shows all Holidays for each month of the remainder of the year.
- The New York City Charter Revision is going to have proposals relating to Community Board Member term limits in November. Borough President Katz is opposed to this proposal. Borough Presidents of Manhattan, Bronx, Staten Island and Queens sent a letter to the NYC Charter Revision Commission on this opposition.

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**Stephen Everett – City Planning**

- Mr. Everett introduced Mr. Nolan Gray as the new City Planner for the Borough of Queens. He will be addressing all our concerns from now on. Mr. Everett will be available for us any time via email and telephone.
- Mr. Gray mentioned that he is excited to serve our community and is looking forward to work with all of us. If anyone has any questions, he can be reached at: [MGray2@planning.nyc.gov](mailto:MGray2@planning.nyc.gov).
- He encouraged everyone to attend the NYC City Planning Training Workshop on Thursday, October 11, 2018. To RSVP, you can contact Debbie Carney at [dcarney@planning.nyc.gov](mailto:dcarney@planning.nyc.gov) or call 718-520-2080.

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**Committee Reports:**

**NYC Charter Commission’s Ballot Proposal** – Term Limits of Community Board Members –

*Executive Committee*

- Chairperson Martha Taylor mentioned that Board Members positions in Community Boards are unpaid jobs and should not have term limits. We have members that have served for many years and are very dedicated and interested in their community. Having term limits will destroy Community Boards as a whole.
- Community Board 8 sent a letter to the Charter Revision Commission in opposition of this proposal. Copies of the letter sent by Borough Presidents from Queens, Bronx, Manhattan and Staten Island were included in the packets as well for Board Members review. She encouraged everyone who is against this proposal to spread the word and fight against this as well.

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**Adjournment**

Mary Maggio made a motion to adjourn this meeting at 8:14 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Jatnna Reyes, CB8 staff  
September 19, 2018*