



**THE CITY OF NEW YORK
COMMUNITY BOARD 12**

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Antonio Reynoso
Borough President

Yidel Perlstein
Chairperson

Barry Spitzer
District Manager

**COMMUNITY BOARD 12
SEPTEMBER MINUTES**

**HELD ON
TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 24, 2024**

**VIA ZOOM
& IN-PERSON
AT COMMUNITY BOARD 12
5910 13TH AVE.
BROOKLYN, NY 11219**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

AAMNAH KHAN
ALEX MUNOZ
AVROHOM WOLFSON
BENJAMIN KLEINBART
BETH SLEPIAN
CHAIM SCHNEIDER
CHESKY BLAU
DANIEL KERADNAM
DAVID SHLOMOVICH
DOUGLAS JABLON
EDGAR GLUCK
ELLIE KASTEL
JAQUELINE JILL REINIER
JEFFREY DWECK
JOSEPH GROSS
JUDITH OJO-DIAZ
JULES FLEISCHER
MAMNUNUL HAQ
MATTHEW MELNICKE
MIRIAM HERSKO
MORDECHAI KATZ
MORDY GETZ
MORRIS SENDEROVIC
MOSHE FRIDMAN
NAFTALI TESSLER
PETER REBENWURZEL
ROCHELLE ZAMI
SAM STOBER
SHARON FUCHS
SHLOMIE RIEGER
YAAKOV KAPLAN
YEHUDA ROSMAN
YERUCHIM SLIBER
YIDEL PERLSTEIN
YONAH MOSES

MEMBERS ABSENT

ALAN DUBROW
ANNA CALI
BERNARD FREILICH
DAVID FRIEDLANDER
ELLIOTT SIDDIQUI
GABRIEL SASSON
JACOB ASKAL
JACOB HAAS
JACQUE FRIEDMAN
JOHN TALMADGE
JOSPEH GROSS
LOUIE LIU
QIWANG HUANG
SOL WAHBA
YITZCHOK MOSKOWITZ

STAFF PRESENT

BARRY SPITZER – DISTRICT MANAGER
AZIZA TEMIROVA – COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATE

ELECTED OFFICALS AND REPRESENTATIVES

JACOB EISDORFER, REP. BOROUGH
PRESIDENT
ANASTAZIA YASKOVA, REP. MAYOR’S
OFFICE
PINNY HIKIND, REP. COMP. BRAD LANDER
CHAIM SCHNEIDER, REP. AM EICHENSTEIN
SHLOIMY REIGER, REP. AM EICHENSTEIN
JACK PLUSHNIK, REP. CONGRESSMAN DAN
GOLDMAN
COUNCILMAN KALMAN YEGER
CHANTEL ST. FLEUR, REP. COUNCILWOMAN
RITA JOSEPH
LENNY MARKH, REP. STATE SENATOR IWEN
CHU
ASSEMBLYMEMBER LESTER CHANG
MARY KAY SEARY, REP. AM ROBERT
CARROLL

COMMUNITY RESIDENTS

APPROXIMATELY 10 RESIDENTS PRESENT

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ATTENDANCE

ADOPTION OF JUNE MINUTES

- The minutes of June were adopted.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Delivered by Chairman Yidel Perlstein

- The Chairman welcomed all members back and expressed hope that everyone had a nice and relaxing summer.
- During the previous meeting, the Chairman discussed the outstanding cooperation with the NYPD during the funeral of the late 99-year-old Rabbi Wolfson. Regrettably, shortly after this event, two additional funerals occurred within two months, with both Rabbis passing away at a young age. Each service attracted thousands of attendees, with the last funeral estimated to have around forty to fifty thousand participants. The Chairman extended gratitude for the hard work and dedication of the NYPD, the Community Affairs Unit, and various borough and community organizations. Special thanks were given to the Shomrim members for their tireless efforts, ensuring that the events proceeded peacefully without injuries, allowing everyone to pay their respects. Acknowledgment was also made to Jacob for his support from the Borough President's Office in coordinating these events, and to Matthew for his behind-the-scenes efforts.
- The Chairman recognized that last week marked the anniversary of the passing of Rabbi Jack Mayer, a cherished colleague and friend. Rabbi Mayer was a cornerstone of the community and is especially missed during this time of year, as he played a significant role in holiday preparations for the entire community.
- The Chairman welcomed Jacob Haas back to the board. While Jacob never technically left, he had been away for a while.
- The next board meeting will be on October 29th.

PUBLIC HEARING

Joane Vjas - Resident

- The resident has lived in the same location for 38 years and has recently expressed concerns about changes in the neighborhood. A new neighbor resides at 182 Minna Street, where a former single-family home has been converted into a six-family unit. It is unclear whether the three units are rented or purchased. The resident is particularly worried about the lack of a gate at 182 Minna Street, where the driveway surrounds the building. Two weeks ago, a grocery store convenience shop at the gas station on Chester and Fort Hamilton was robbed. A witness reported seeing two male suspects allegedly fleeing down Mina Street and cutting through the driveway of the building. The resident hopes that security cameras could be installed, as this would enhance safety. They noted that the suspects may be residents of a nearby shelter located at 1118 36th Street, which was established during the pandemic. During the summer and throughout the year, the resident has observed these individuals congregating on 36th Street near McDonald's, where they set up barbecues with grills, folding chairs, and shopping carts.
- The resident expressed concerns about the management of the shelter, stating that it is not a safe environment. They feel uneasy going to McDonald's due to the large gatherings of individuals in the area, which often leads to conflicts. The McDonald's manager frequently asks these individuals to move along.
- Across the street, a new residential building with eight families has been constructed. The building's owner, Sherlock Security, has been noted for having security personnel frequently parked in the driveway. The resident recommends that community members consider installing

security cameras to assist the 66th Precinct in their monitoring efforts. They have observed that police presence is rare, typically only occurring in response to incidents such as stabbings or arrests. Last spring, a young woman was found deceased in one of the apartments, allegedly a resident of that building. The resident expressed frustration with the ongoing issues and advises neighbors to keep their children indoors due to safety concerns, stating that the current situation is not suitable for families.

Anthony Loum -Branch Manager of the Mapleton Library

- Good Budget News: Thanked the elected and community leaders, and everyone who wrote a letter or called their elected officials about library budget cuts. 30,000 Brooklyn patrons took action to ask for the reversal of library budget cuts. With everyone's support, the city reversed the proposed cuts.
- This is a victory for all New Yorkers and allows libraries to continue to provide the vital services, resources, and open hours that Brooklyn needs.
- Over the summer we were able to return to our regular services hours.
- Back to School at BPL!: Kids can receive live, online tutoring at home. This free service through BrainFuse offers tutoring in math, reading, writing, and science from 2-11 pm. All you need is a library card.
- In-Person after school programs: craft programs, teen times, movies, and more. Visit your local library or their online events calendar to see the full range of after school programs near you.
- Teen Internship Application Now Opens: BBL is recruiting teens for internships and other paid opportunities. Teens can earn a stipend and receive volunteer services hour and resume-building experience at programs that teach about tech, early childhood literacy, library careers, books and publishing, and more. Find out more on their website or at the local branch.
- Promoting Voter Registration: Brooklyn Public Library is an official partner of National Voter Registration. Every BPL branch has voter registration forms, often in many different languages.

Richard Navas:

- Residents have raised concerns regarding commercial parking along Fort Hamilton Parkway. Trucks are occupying space on side streets, which detracts from parking availability for local residents. A total of 35 complaints have been submitted to the 66th Precinct regarding this issue, specifically between 39th Street and 10th Avenue. Residents are still awaiting enforcement action to remove these vehicles, and there has been no response thus far. It is suggested that the community board explore possible solutions to address this ongoing problem.
- Another concern is related to tree maintenance in the area. Several trees are in need of pruning, as falling branches are obstructing traffic lights. Notably, the trees at the intersection of Fort Hamilton Parkway and 40th Street, as well as the specific addresses 3923 and 1061, require urgent attention. Residents report that despite notifying the Parks Department over a year ago, no action has been taken to address these issues.
- Residents have also reported incidents of illegal dumping in the area. They have contacted 911 and captured individuals on camera engaging in this activity. The sanitation department's website advises residents to notify 911, but when they do, they are redirected to call 311 and are instructed to wait 24 hours for sanitation to respond. This has led to confusion among residents about the appropriate channels to report illegal dumping. It is unclear whether they should call 911 upon witnessing illegal dumping or automatically report it to 311.

Christina Clum:

- A resident has made a simple request to the CB12 board to send meeting invitations earlier via email. This change would allow more residents to accommodate the schedule and participate in discussions. The resident noted that there is a public hearing listed on the agenda, but it has been four months since the board convened, and there is currently no information regarding the topic of the public hearing or any relevant documents available for review.
- Moving forward, the resident suggests including a topic on the agenda that outlines what the public hearing will address, as well as providing links to relevant information that residents can access to better understand the issues at hand. This will enable community members to determine if they have input or opinions to share during the public hearing.
- The resident also inquired about the individual voting process for zoning decisions within the CB12 board. Specifically, they want to understand how the board ensures that community representatives are not financially benefiting from their votes on zoning laws. Given the current context of the "City of Yes" initiative and ongoing developments, this question is particularly pertinent. The resident emphasizes the importance of transparency in the voting process to assure the community that board members are acting in the public interest, without personal financial gain from zoning decisions.

Fraidy Stein:

- A resident living on 49th Street and 11th Avenue raised concerns regarding the safety of the playground located at Fort Hamilton Parkway between 52nd and 53rd Streets. While the playground features play equipment, a basketball court, and sprinklers, there is currently no gate separating the basketball court from the children's area. This lack of separation poses safety risks, as adults often congregate near the children's section, creating an uncomfortable environment for families. The resident has noted the presence of individuals who make her feel uneasy, which discourages her from using the park. Additionally, basketballs frequently roll into the children's play area, further exacerbating the safety concerns.
- The resident also reported a dangerous situation regarding sidewalk usage, particularly with grocery delivery bikes operating on the sidewalks. She has had close calls with multiple vehicles that have nearly run her over. She referenced a professor, Michael, who has written about the need for regulations governing sidewalk usage in densely populated areas. Currently, sidewalks, especially on 49th Street, are severely congested due to outdoor dining setups and delivery services, leaving only about three feet of space for pedestrians. This limited space makes it nearly impossible for strollers to pass and creates a hazardous environment for pedestrians, particularly children. The resident expressed concern that the current conditions are unsafe for kids to walk outside, highlighting that this issue is prevalent throughout Boro Park.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT:

Delivered by District Manager Barry Spitzer

The District Manager had a few items to mention:

- In recent weeks, the Chairman and community members have noted numerous street closures due to construction activities throughout the district. National Grid is currently upgrading gas lines and mains across Boro Park. The District Manager held a meeting last week with Hallen, the main subcontractor for National Grid. Improvements have been observed, as lanes are being opened for vehicle passage during construction. The

office continues to receive complaints from community members and bus drivers, and there is ongoing communication with the contractor to ensure further enhancements.

- The city is engaged in green infrastructure initiatives, which involve extensive street excavation and the installation of new cement to improve water drainage. This work is being conducted by the Department of Design and Construction (DDC) in collaboration with the subcontractor DiFazio. While some street closures are permitted, there have been concerns regarding insufficient consideration for local businesses. A significant business located at 46th Street and New Utrecht Avenue has been impacted for over a month due to ongoing closures, leading to traffic congestion. The District Manager is in discussions with DDC and has scheduled a meeting to address these issues.
- Residents are encouraged to report any street closures to the CB12 office, which prioritizes these issues. The office may coordinate with the Department of Transportation (DOT) to issue summonses as needed and will notify supervisors to ensure streets are reopened in a timely manner.
- With the holiday season approaching, preparations are underway. A meeting is scheduled for tomorrow with various organizations, the NYPD, and city agencies to discuss critical details aimed at ensuring a safe and secure environment for the community during the holidays.
- The District Manager addressed a series of calls and inquiries regarding new NYC sanitation regulations. Beginning November 12, all properties with one to nine residential units will be required to use bins with secure lids for garbage disposal. This rule applies to all buildings serviced by the Department of Sanitation (DSNY), including city agencies, houses of worship, nonprofits, and residential units. Residents may use compliant bins of 55 gallons or less that they currently possess, but starting June 2026, only official NYC bins will be allowed. These bins will be available at significantly lower prices than retail. This initiative aims to address ongoing rat issues reported in the community. The office is also addressing complaints regarding improper garbage disposal practices, including the placement of garbage bags in cans and mishandling of bins during collection. The board is actively working with DSNY to resolve these concerns.
- The District Manager noted positive engagement from vendors during the holiday season regarding permits for trailers selling religious articles. The office frequently receives inquiries about permit requirements, and they ensure that vendors secure the necessary approvals. Residents are encouraged to report any trailers or containers that may not have visible permits, and the office will investigate and take appropriate action before enforcement measures are applied.

REPORTS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS, REPRESENTATIVES & AGENCIES

- **Jacob Eisdorfer representing Borough President Reynoso**
 - Welcomed every back.
- **Anastazia Yaskova representing the Mayor's Office**
 - Pleasure to be here. No major updates. Feel free to let her know for any questions or concerns.
- **Pinny Hikind representing Comptroller Brad Lander**

- **Jack Plushnik representing Congressman Dan Goldman**
 - The 11219 zip code has experienced a significant number of complaints regarding stolen checks, particularly from the IRS, over the past 6-7 months. The investigation into these incidents is ongoing, conducted by the USPS Police. They are actively tracking reported mail thefts, which have seen a substantial decrease in recent months. Previously, this area was identified as having the highest rate of mail theft in the city, but collaborative efforts with the United States Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) have contributed to this reduction.
 - Currently, Congressman Goldman is in Washington, D.C., working on legislation aimed at increasing funding for the Office of Civil Rights within the Department of Justice. This initiative specifically targets the investigation of hate crimes occurring on college campuses, with a particular focus on addressing the rise of antisemitism observed nationally and, notably, in New York. In the coming weeks, additional press releases and information will be disseminated regarding this effort, which has garnered significant support from various groups and major Jewish organizations in Washington, D.C.
 - Thanked everyone.

- **Chaim Schneider and Shloimy Reiger representing Assemblyman Eichenstein**

- **Lester Chang representing Assembly Lester Chang**
 - On Saturday, the office will be hosting a Fire Safety Event in collaboration with the FDNY. This event will focus on educating the community about common causes of fires, the proper usage of lithium batteries, and the importance of safety equipment and procedures. Community members are encouraged to attend and gain valuable knowledge to enhance fire safety awareness.
 - The office has made notable progress in addressing issues related to stolen checks and mail. Recent efforts have led to the successful recovery of some stolen items, demonstrating the office's commitment to resolving these concerns for the community. Assemblyman Chang's office remains available to assist community members with any issues or concerns. The team is dedicated to being approachable and responsive, ensuring that the community feels supported.

- **Kalman Yeger representing Councilman Kalman Yeger**
 - Councilman Yeger expressed his appreciation to the board, the police department, Shomrim, and Community Board for their collaborative efforts in maintaining order during recent events. This partnership has successfully managed gatherings of thousands of individuals.
 - Yeger discussed the two aspects of street construction: The involvement of his office and the district manager to oversee street paving in Boro Park, which is scheduled only during the summer months. Concerns regarding private contractors, such as National Grid, who may operate without adhering to regulations. He warned residents that if they see a street closed with workers present, it is likely that no permit is in place. Residents are encouraged to report unauthorized closures to the Community Board, his office, the police, or 311. Yeger reminded attendees that a minimum of an 11-foot-wide lane must remain clear for vehicles to pass on one-way and two-way streets. Flagmen should be present to direct traffic in construction zones.
 - Yeger addressed the Department of Sanitation (DSNY) law requiring residents to use only city-issued garbage cans. He noted previous commitments made to accommodate religious practices, allowing residents to place trash out earlier on Fridays for the Sabbath without facing fines. However, he reported that some have

- not upheld these commitments, leading to unfair summonses. He urged those affected to inform his office and CB12 for assistance.
- Yeager referenced a historic law passed by David Greenfield that allows nonpublic schools, including Yeshivas, Catholic, and private schools, to hire security officers and receive reimbursement from the city. This initiative aims to enhance student safety and provide a secure environment for children. Yeager reported on a recent hearing with other council members to discuss expanding participation in this program, highlighting the need for visible security measures in Boro Park and surrounding communities. He emphasized that children have the right to feel safe and protected from potential threats.
 - Yeager expressed his commitment to serving the community and working toward resolving ongoing issues.
- **Chantel St.Fleur representing Councilwoman Rite Joseph**
 - **Lenny Markh representing State Senator Iwen Chu**
 - The Senator has sent her regrets for not being able to attend the meeting. She has been actively involved in various events, including multiple meetings regarding food distribution through the Met Council on Rosh Hashanah today. Recently, the Senator visited the Kensington portion of CB12, which falls within her district. During this visit, she was able to hear directly from constituents about important issues, including concerns regarding the need for speed bumps and traffic management for many neighbors. Additionally, the senator is a member of the Higher Education Committee in the Senate and is thoroughly reviewing the new report from Judge Liman on anti-Semitism and hate in the CUNY system. While much of the information in the report is not new and is something we are all aware of, its formalization is quite welcome. As a state senator who sits on the Higher Education Committee, she looks forward to implementing the changes recommended by Judge Liman to eradicate anti-Semitism and hate in the CUNY system.
 - For anyone needing assistance, the Senator's office is located at 6605 Fort Hamilton Parkway. The phone number for the office is 718-333-0311.
 - **Mary Kay Seary representing Assemblyman Robert Carroll**
 - The office is giving away free daffodil bulbs as part of a project honoring 9/11. Residents can visit the office to pick up bulbs while supplies last. It is recommended to call ahead to reserve bulbs before coming.
 - The office will host the Department of Finance for one-on-one appointments. Currently, there is a waiting list, but a few additional appointments may be accommodated. Interested individuals should call the office to secure a spot.
 - A DSNY Paper Shredding truck will be stationed at Assemblymember Carroll's office located at 416 7th Avenue (between 13th and 14th Streets) from 9 AM to 12 PM.
 - The MetroCard van will visit the community, and the Department of Buildings will also provide one-on-one appointments. Residents can call the office to schedule an appointment. A free mammogram bus will be available in front of the office. Residents should call to obtain the phone number for making an appointment.
 - The office is dedicated to serving the Boro Park community.

Old Business: No Old Business

New Business:

Beth Slepian-Board Member:

- Beth wanted to bring up two quick points. One was that the councilman was right, and she agreed with him on some concerns about containerization. Since people were discussing it, she was familiar with solid waste issues in the city and felt capable of answering questions about containerization law. She believed containerization was the best way to deal with rats, although she wasn't sure if that was a shared viewpoint and did not agree with how the Department of Sanitation (DSNY) was going about it.
- Beth noted that a ballot was coming up in November. One of the questions was about clean streets, which she had looked into. It sounded like it could be a great thing for the city, but there were some hidden details to consider regarding the Charter Revision Commission (CRC). The proposed amendment aimed to expand and clarify the New York City Department of Sanitation's authority to keep the city clean. One key aspect was that it clarified DSNY's authority to require garbage to be containerized.
- She explained that the requirement for 1-9 unit buildings to have specific containers was not just because they had a city logo, but because they needed to be compatible with retrofitting trucks that could lift and align these containers. However, there were concerns about how this was being implemented, and she encouraged everyone to take a closer look and do their homework.
- Another point she wanted to raise was about the status of the community needs statement. The deadline was coming up very soon in November, and with the holidays approaching, she requested that whatever submissions were made to the community board be prioritized for voting.

Barry Spitzer-District Manager

- District Manager requested all board members to log in with their full names to facilitate promotion to panelist status. Members were encouraged to join the meeting at least 10 minutes early to ensure a smooth start and address any technical issues.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Respectfully submitted by: Aziza Temirova