



**ELIZABETH BRATON**  
Chairperson

# COMMUNITY BOARD 10

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**KARYN PETERSEN**  
District Manager

## REGULAR BOARD MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

February 6, 2025

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** S. Acuqui, L. Amorim, B. Braton, J. Calcagnile, J. Caruso, M. Cherenfant, B. Ciaramella, R. Ciulla-Frisone, A. Cosentino, F. Dardani, E. Fraylon, A. Gellineau, R. Gendron, F. Gulluscio, G. Hewitt, A. Hill, R. Hitlall, B. Lall, F. Mohamed, S. Mohammed, A. Nocerino, P. Nostramo, S. Pace, J. Quijano, A. Rajnauth, K. Roan, A. Sancler, N. Santiago, A. Siewnarine, G. Singh, J. Stahl, A. Vital, D. Wesby

**BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:** N. Bissoon, A. Dhanpat, I. Dimoh, K. Edwards, P. Granickas, P. Kishun, N. Latchana, K. Ludhiana, R. Martinez, D. Mitchell, R. Narine, R. Ramgopal, B. Ramsundar, G. Russo, I. Van Putten, L. Walker

**COMMUNITY BOARD STAFF PRESENT:** K. Petersen, D.M.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** J. Reina, rep., Hon. G. Meeks; C. Moore, rep., Hon. J. Addabbo; D. Shaeffer, rep., Hon. R. Persaud; J. Garramone, rep., Hon. S. Pheffer Amato; A. Sargeant, rep., Hon. J. Rajkumar; J. Agard, rep., Hon. K. Anderson; T. Logan, rep., Hon. A. Adams; P. Inserillo, rep., CM Ariola; G. Katsalis, rep., QBPO; D. Brown, rep., Hon. M. Katz; Capt. B. VanTull, CO 106 Pct.; Capt. N. Fenton, XO 106 Pct.; P.O. D. Reed, 106 Pct; P.O. B. Wellard, 106 Pct; D. Tanis, rep., Resorts World; R. Hossain, LiveOnNY

The Chairperson opened the meeting at 7pm.

The Chairperson then asked everyone to please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the February Board Meeting.

The Chairperson opened the Informational Public Hearing and introduced Raida Hossain, Queens Community & Government Affairs Liaison for LiveOnNY to give a presentation to provide an overview about the nonprofit, LiveOnNY. LiveOnNY is an organization committed to helping New Yorkers to live on in others through organ and tissue donation.

Ms. Hossain thanked everyone for having her here tonight and introduced herself as the Queens Community Government Affairs Liaison for LiveOnNY which is a nonprofit that handles organ donation in the greater New York City area so every time someone in the New York City area gets a lifesaving heart, kidney, liver or lung transplant they have a team that makes it happen. Their mission is to save lives, provide comfort and strengthen legacies through organ, eye and tissue donation. They work with multiple partners such as hospitals and transplant centers to deliver the gift of life. They care for the families of organ donor heroes who have selflessly given that gift, and they advocate for those who are on transplant waiting lists. LiveOnNY also goes out into the community to educate people about the power of organ donation. She thanked the Board for being a partner in that mission. Their designated service area includes all 5 Boroughs, Nassau and Suffolk, as well as the lower Hudson Valley. This is an area that includes more than 100 hospitals, 11 transplant centers, as well as 13 million people. They are busy making sure that organ tissue gets recovered for the people who need that. They are one of 55 organ procurement organizations (OPO). Those organ procurement organizations are designated by the federal government. Hospitals within the OPOs' designated service area are

obligated to call their local OPO when the criteria for a donation is met. Across the US, there are approximately 100,000 people who need an organ transplant. They worked with the NYPD in honoring the hero, Officer Rupert Morris in 2022. He was on a was on a domestic violence case and was tragically was shot. He was a hero in life and a hero in death, because he was able to save 5 people through the donation of his organs. This was an international story and they are proud to have worked to with the NYPD in honoring PO Rupert Morris's legacy. LiveOnNY works primarily on deceased donations. Deceased donation only happens when a patient dies in a hospital and has been declared dead by a doctor. Candidates for donation must have been placed on a ventilator prior to death or have died on the ventilator. The organs must be healthy and suitable for transplant and the patient either has signed up as a donor or third-party authorization was granted. For donation to happen, a person needs to die in a very specific manner. This is why even though so many people have signed up as donors, there is still a wait list. This is because when a person dies in any other way, the organs die with them, but when a person is on a ventilator and is declared dead, the body is still receiving oxygen. The organs then are in a position that they are ready for recovery. However, only 1% of the population passes away in this very specific manner. Even if someone has not signed up as a donor prior to death, donation is still possible. There is a hierarchy of individuals who can make that decision that includes a health care proxy, spouse, and adult child. LiveOnNY has family support advocates who provide culturally sensitive and linguistically appropriate trained support for families in recognition of the diverse constituencies in New York. After a donor hero has saved lives through organ donation, LiveOnNY still provides support for the families of donor heroes if they wish. LiveOnNY also facilitates meetings between the families of organ donor heroes and transplant recipients. Ms. Hossain stated that there are approximately 8,000 people in New York State waiting for an organ and of those 8,000, 7,000 of them live in the New York City's designated service area. LiveOnNY handles the bulk of New York State's needs for organ donation. The number one organ in need, is a kidney as 80% of those on the waiting list need the donation of a kidney. That is followed by livers. One donor can save up to 8 lives through organ donation of vital organs such as the heart, liver, kidney, lung, pancreas, and intestine. Donors can also enhance up to 75 lives through the donation of tissue, comeas, heart valves, tendons, and bones. Even if someone is not able to donate an organ, they can still enhance lives with the donation of tissue. Living donation is handled by transplant centers. LiveOnNY does not do that, but if someone wants to become a living donor to donate a kidney to a friend, a family member or even to a complete stranger the transplant center would be able to facilitate that or create a team of donations such as where you are trying to donate to a sister, but your kidney is not compatible. They may find that it connects with another pair of people who want to have an organ donated and create a chain. To get a transplant, a doctor must refer you if they think you would be a good candidate. The transplant center books evaluations and does a very thorough evaluation where they do medical histories and social histories. They want to make sure that after you get the transplant that you will have all the resources that you will need. They also want to make sure that your body will not reject the foreign organ inside you and if you will be able to take immunosuppression medicine every day under doctors' orders as well as if you are able to follow a diet and exercise regiment. Once you receive an appointment, you are placed on the national transplant waiting list. Multiple factors are considered when placed on the list. Among them are compatible blend tissue, body mass. If a child needs an organ, they need to have an appropriately sized organ for their smaller size body. Other considerations involve proximity because organs only last a short time outside the body. For example, kidneys last up to 36 hours, hearts last 3 to 6 hours. It's a very short window of time so time is of the essence when it comes to an organ being transplanted. A person cannot buy a way up on the list. Race, gender, income, class, or celebrity are not factors in consideration for rank on a waiting list. Only 50% of New Yorkers are signed up as organ donors. Other states have 60% so NY can do a lot better. Because of the lower registration rate in New York, a New Yorker on the list dies every day waiting for an organ. People may sign up to be an organ donor in multiple ways. The most common way is to check off the box at the DMV where you get a little heart on a license. People may also sign up when registering as a voter or sign up on-line when getting IDNYC. Ms. Hossain stated that she also wants to dispel myths and misconceptions about organ donation where people say that the doctor won't try to save them. Every medical professional is legally and ethically obligated to save any person's life. Another concern that people have expressed is that they feel that they are too old, but she explained that you are never too old or too sick and that they have recovered organs from 90-year-olds at their time of death. Testing is always done to make sure that organs are viable for transplant and they can work around different conditions for example, people that are HIV positive and are on the transplant waiting list can receive an organ from someone who is also HIV positive. Another concern people have is about religion and if organ donation might be against their religion. They have worked with trusted faith leaders from across all faiths, Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Sikhism, to ensure that organ donation is compatible with their scriptures and their faith. It is often seen as a final act

of generosity and kindness, and they always encourage people to talk to their faith leaders. Another concern that people have is that they won't be able to have the funeral that they want. LiveOnNY works with family's timelines for burials and organ and tissue recovery. They are sensitively done so a person is still able to have an open casket funeral after organ tissue or organ donation has taken place. Families are not "on the hook" for the cost relayed to organ or tissue donation. That is always handled by the respective organ procurement organization which in NYC would be LiveOnNY. She announced that she will leave informational brochures up front and she is available to answer any questions afterwards.

The Chairperson asked if anyone from the public had questions or concerns. Hearing none, the Chairperson then asked if there were any Board Members with questions or concerns. Hearing none.

The Chairperson thanked Ms. Hossain for her presentation.

The Chairperson asked if there were any additions or corrections to the January minutes. Hearing none. The minutes will stand.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** The Chairperson reviewed incoming correspondence for the month of January which included:

- Letter from DOT regarding speed reducers on 88 Street bet. 107 Avenue & Sutter Avenue.
- Letter from DOT regarding speed reducers on 164 Drive bet. 104 Street & Hawtree Basin.
- Letter from DOT regarding speed reducers on Linden Blvd. bet. 96 Street & 96 Place.
- Notification to Municipalities from Janice McDaniel for a retail cannabis dispensary premises seeking to be located at 116-02 Liberty Avenue.
- Notice from the Parks Dept. regarding an RFP to be issued for the renovation and operation and maintenance at the riding stables at Gemini Fields in Queens.
- Notice of Completion of project #HWS2021Q for the installation of sidewalk, curb and pedestrian ramps.
- Copy of presentation received at the meeting with the Parks Dept. regarding the Ramblersville Shoreline Restoration Project.
- Copy of the School Construction Authority's 5-year Capital Plan Proposed Amendment.
- Letter sent to the Borough President regarding FloodNet sensors.
- OMB notice to acquire water pump equipment.
- Notice from JEK Communications about excavation work by Spectrum on Cross Bay Blvd. & Pitkin Avenue.
- Notice from the Office of Technology & Innovation Franchise Concession Review Committee.
- Notice of the February 11<sup>th</sup> Franchise Concession & Review Committee Hearing.
- Notice of Contract Public Hearings held on January 30 and January 16.
- Letter from SLA regarding a 500 ft. rule hearing for 123-07 Liberty Avenue.
- Letter from AM Khaleel Anderson inviting everyone to save the date to attend his 4<sup>th</sup> annual State of the District Address on February 27<sup>th</sup>.
- BSA information regarding the 105-39 Cross Bay Blvd. hearing that is coming up at BSA.

The Chairperson stated that if there were any Board members who would like a copy of anything listed on the directed mail to let her know.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The Treasurer read the Report for February 2025.

**BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S LIAISON REPORT:** Georgia Katsalis introduced herself and wished everyone a good evening. She stated that the Community Board applications are live on the website and that paper copies are available upon request. The application window closes on February 14<sup>th</sup>. Those reapplying may reapply by going to [queensbp@nyc.gov](mailto:queensbp@nyc.gov). She continued that if anyone has any further questions about reapplying, they may contact the Community Board or the Director of Community Boards, Michael Carlier, at [mcarlier@queensbp.nyc.gov](mailto:mcarlier@queensbp.nyc.gov). Notices of appointments will be made in late March. She announced that on February 8<sup>th</sup> there will be a financial aid workshop for students from 10 am to 2 pm at Queens Borough Hall and that an RSVP is required to attend this event. On February 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm, they will be holding a North Queens Town Hall at Queens Borough Community College at 222-05 56<sup>th</sup>

Avenue, Bayside. To RSVP for any of these events go to [queensbp@nyc.gov](mailto:queensbp@nyc.gov). She added that if anyone has any questions or concerns, she may be reached at 718-286-2853. She thanked everyone and wished all a wonderful evening.

**DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT:** The District Manager stated that we have been notified that in the coming weeks National Grid has planned construction work to install a new gas main at the following locations: 127 Street bet. 111 Avenue & Linden Blvd. and 127 Street & 111 Avenue. The new gas main will be installed in the street or sidewalk and the excavation required will be backfilled each day. The entire work will be kept clean and orderly, and attempts will be made to keep noise, dust and debris to a minimum. All or part of the gas service may have to be replaced. In order to complete this work, National Grid may need to gain access to the homes at the point where the service enters the building. If this is the case, the homeowner will be contacted by a National Grid Representative to make an appointment. All street and sidewalk surfaces affected by the construction will be repaved to ensure a smooth surface. Temporary asphalt pavement will be used until all National Grid work is complete and permanent restoration can be performed.

The Chairperson introduced Captain Berkley VanTull and his newly assigned Executive Officer, Captain Nigel Fenton, from the 106<sup>th</sup> Precinct and invited him to speak.

Captain VanTull wished everyone a good evening, introduced himself as the Commanding Officer of the 106<sup>th</sup> Precinct and stated that it is always a pleasure for him to be here. He thanked the Chairperson and staff and all our partners and the electeds that show up here each month for the good work that all do. Captain VanTull introduced the new Executive Officer, Captain Nigel Fenton, and invited him to speak to the Board. Captain Fenton introduced himself and stated that he has been assigned to the 106<sup>th</sup> Precinct since the first week of January and he thanks everyone for having him here this evening. He stated that he was a Special Projects Lieutenant in Queens South at the 107<sup>th</sup> Pct, a Sergeant at the 73<sup>rd</sup> Pct in Brooklyn, and an Officer at the 13<sup>th</sup> Pct at Manhattan South. He has 19 years in the NYPD and looks forward to working with the community members here as he will try to his best to address all the issues that residents have in the 106<sup>th</sup> Precinct.

Captain VanTull then announced that we are down 23% in crime and that he and his staff are communicating nonstop with Captain Fenton to develop new plans and ways of deploying our officers and strategizing to making this community the safest community in Queens and in the city. He continued that we are seeing some fraud taking place where individuals are impersonating family members, and they may be using AI (automatic intelligence) where they are posing as family members. He said the technology is superb, and you can't tell the difference. These individuals will call as lawyers or law enforcement saying that your family member was arrested, or in a car accident or they committed a crime. They ask for money to bail them out to be sent through Zelle or they will come to your house to pick it up. People usually let their guard down when they hear that a family member is in some kind of distress, and they want to help. He warned to be alert and to be aware of this. If you do get this type of call, hang up and call the police so they can investigate it. He also advised to call a known number for that family member you think may be calling to verify you are speaking to who you think you were speaking with. He said that we have had two incidents of this so far this year. He also stated that there are still incidents where people are leaving cars running in cold weather and their vehicle gets stolen and is then used in other criminal activities. He warned to turn off your car and lock it and not to leave it unattended. He added that we appreciate all the help and assistance as the NYPD is a part of this community and we are in this together. The community is the eyes and ears, and he likes hearing and taking feedback from the community to help him looking at ways to improve. He also commended the officers for the great work they do out there daily. It's tough work but they do it with honor and pride. He thanked everyone for coming out tonight and putting thoughtful ideas out there for making this community continue to be what it is.

The Chairperson then introduced P.O. Sukhjit Kaur and invited her to speak.

P.O. Kaur introduced herself as a Community Affairs Officer at the 106<sup>th</sup> Pct. She announced that on March 23<sup>rd</sup> the 37<sup>th</sup> annual Phagwah Parade will take place. There will be a lot of street closures from 10:30 to 3 pm due to the parade. She said that she hopes to see everyone there and wished everyone a good night.

The Chairperson thanked P.O. Kaur on behalf of the District Manager for her prompt attention with the 911 call that the Community Board Office made this week for an incident in the hallway of the building. It happened during a change in shift, and we thank P.O. Kaur very much for her assistance.

The Chairperson also announced that P.O. Reed and P.O. Wellard were also in attendance this evening.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:** The Chairperson reported that information on the following was in members' folder material:

- Information regarding the FloodNet presentation that was made at Borough Board.
- Material with frequently asked questions regarding FloodNet.
- Information on mental health and wellness preparation.
- Beacon School Newsletter with programs that are available at the Beacon School at JHS 226 on Rockaway Blvd.
- Information regarding the Rockaway Line work that is ongoing on and continuing until May.
- Seasonal Safety Information from the FDNY.
- Information regarding ICE and people's concerns as to what to do if approached by ICE officers
- Notice of the Girls in Sports Day event.
- Committee reports.

The Chairperson reported that the Borough Board Budget Hearing the District Manager testified, and we contacted the Borough President with follow up regarding a question that he asked. We also submitted 5 extra pages of written material to supplement her oral testimony that touched upon why Police Department personnel and school construction are our number 1 expense budget and number 1 capital budget priorities respectively. We also included additional comments regarding resiliency and some of the ongoing projects in the pipeline.

The Chairperson also announced that the District Manager finished her response to the agencies for the Preliminary Budget. She asked the District Manager to share what they said about our request for more police manpower.

The Chairperson reported on the \$188 million grant received by Jamaica Hospital for a cancer center in partnership with Sloan Kettering.

The Chairperson announced that Vaporize, the adult retail cannabis dispensary on 125<sup>th</sup> Street & Liberty Avenue was approved and is now open.

The Chairperson requested the Board Members who are up for reappointment this year to get their applications submitted if they have not yet done so. The list of those who are up for reappointment this year was read.

The meeting continued with committee reports.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**LAND USE:** The Committee Chair wished everyone a good evening and said that he wanted to provide a follow up on 105-39 Cross Bay Blvd. that is moving forward at BSA. We are getting all the documents, and we are in the position as a board to keep things moving along and getting our findings in so the applicant and the Board can calendar the project. In this case we did that however, when we did respond, we put a unique modification and condition on this one to stay involved in it and stay active because of the traffic situation and the other issues that we brought up. Our recommendation was to approve with the modifications and conditions was as follows: the main condition is that the BSA should not approve this project without the applicant and their consulting traffic engineer first obtaining approval of the traffic impact study submission by them to DOT, for the proposed drive thru and the overall traffic plan for access to the project site from Cross Bay Blvd. CB 10 is also requesting, and this is something that we have never done in the past, that we are copied throughout the submission process of the traffic impact study from the applicants to DOT and reserve the right to provide further comment to BSA when DOT has completed its review and approval of the applicants traffic impact study. The other conditions are all related to the proposed site lighting, that it face inward and that the proposed fencing and landscaping be installed and maintained as noted on the plans. Also, requested is that there be a restricted declaration recorded and to run with the property that no openings from the rear of the site to 95 Street be created or installed now or any time in the future running with the property; and he hopes that the Board and the applicant gives us that courtesy and that hopefully we still be able to have oversight on it.

**CONSUMER AFFAIRS:** The Chairperson stated the report from the Committee Chair is in the folder.

**AQUEDUCT:** The Committee Chair stated that his report is in the folder and that the District Manager, the Chairperson and he were invited to celebrate Lunar New Year at Resorts World and that it was a very exciting, colorful and inspiring event. He also added some information that Resorts World is planning for workforce expansion and training should it receive the license. All Board members were urged to visit the “Experience” exhibit that was recently installed.

The Board Chairperson introduced David Tanis representing Resorts World and invited him to speak if he had anything to add.

David Tanis introduced himself and announced that they unveiled the model of what Resorts World is planning on building if they were fortunate enough to get the full gaming license. The model is sitting in the lobby of the property. He urged everyone to please come and look at the model and videos in person to see the build out of how they are planning to expand. It is phenomenal and he asked that everyone please go look at it in person. He continued that they are talking to Albany regularly to see if we are still on track for the bid and the expansion and that once they have an update, they will let everyone know. He thanked CB 10 and the community for all the work they do and for letting them be part of it. If anyone has any questions, he can be reached at 929-244-9769. He added that he doesn't work for Resorts World, but he does represent Resorts World. If there is something he can assist with he will try to help. He added that if someone is looking for employment to please and to go on their website and go to careers and apply there.

The Chairperson advised that the Board members received the pictures of the expansion in their folder material that were thumbnail size but if they want to see the pictures full size, to go to the Resorts World website or the CB10 Facebook page where they are posted full size.

**JFK:** The Committee Chair announced that the \$19 billion dollar redevelopment of Kennedy airport is well underway. The work at the \$4.2 billion new Terminal 6 will stop this October with its 5 new gates and its arrival and departure hall slated to open in 2026. Borough President Richards and Congressman Meeks co-chair the JFK Redevelopment Advisory Council. They are holding a Multiple Concession Hiring Fair at Borough Hall. She continued that a record \$2.3 billion dollars in project contracts have gone to minority and women owned businesses and over \$1 billion dollars in contracts have gone to Queens. The Board Chairperson introduced a Board Member who works for Turner Construction and invited her to make an announcement. The Board Member stated that she works for Turner Construction and does legal operations there. She wanted to let everyone who received the current flyer from Turner Construction know that the event they are advertising is not a job fair. It is a discussion, conversation, information session. Local unions will be there to explain and advise how to join their union and how to get involved. She added that it is a very good event and that it is free. The Chairperson added that we sent out a lot of notices regarding airport work and that we received three more today before the meeting and that they will be sent out to the Board Members tomorrow and they are also posted on our Board Facebook page.

**LIBRARIES:** The Committee Chair wished everyone a good evening and announced that February is Black History Month, and that the library has a lot of different information and exhibits that you can look at, review and enjoy. She added that this year's exhibit is African Americans and Labor and to check your Queens library calendar for dates and activities.

**PARKS:** The Committee Chair reported on the fence separating the children's area from the area where adults without a child will be installed within the week so that no adult should be in that area without a child. He continued that Tudor Park will be getting a similar fence. We also want the signage for that. At Tudor Field there was a large, hanging fence gate that was dangerous which has now been fixed.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:** The Committee Chair announced that Vaporize is now open and that it is the second legitimate cannabis store that has opened in CB 10. He continued that he passed by it the other night and it was closed so he called the owner and was told that they have a limited schedule of 6 hours a day from 12 pm to 6 pm so they will not be open late. He also announced that the crime stats are in the folders.

**PERSONNEL:** The Committee Chair stated that everything is status quo.

**LEGISLATION:** The Committee Chair mentioned two pending Intros at the City Council. One pertains to vending and the other relates to cannabis dispensary operating hours.

**SANITATION:** The Committee Chair announced that there will be no collection on Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> for trash or compost. If that is your scheduled day for trash or compost, put it out Wednesday night and it will be picked up on Thursday.

The Chairperson announced that Board Member Brina Ciaramella has volunteered to take over the Summer Youth Committee.

**SUMMER YOUTH:** The Committee Chairperson announced that civil service exams that are open and info can be found on the DCAS website and right now and there are many jobs offered such as for the 311-Call Center Rep., Correction Officers, Cybersecurity Admin, Environmental Police, Fire Dispatcher, Construction Inspector, Police Officer, School Safety Agent, Traffic Enforcement, and Workers Comp. Examiner. She also announced that the Summer Youth Employment Program applications are open until February 28<sup>th</sup>. They served 100,000 youth last year that were age 14 to 24 and they had paid employment opportunities at Citibank, Google, Paramount, Yankee Stadium, NYPD, FDNY, Health & Hospitals among the many work sites. For more information google SYEP Applications.

**TRANSPORTATION:** The Board Chairperson wished everyone a good evening. He announced that yesterday he and the District Manager attended a Traffic Safety Board Meeting at Queens Borough Hall. He learned that in addition to all of the scooters and electric transportation devices that are around, the City has some ideas on how to keep us safe since a lot of them are operating illegally and you may get hit and the person doesn't have insurance it may make a dent in your pocket for health costs. He added that they also spoke about how lithium-ion batteries that power these devices can ignite on their own and explode even if they are not being charged. He also announced that the MTA Board voted to approve the bus redesign changes on Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>. He congratulated the Board for advocating hard to keep the Q-10 going down Rockaway Blvd. past 130<sup>th</sup> Street so we won on that, but we still must stay vigilant on some other routes. If anyone wants anymore information to go to [mta.gov/info](http://mta.gov/info) to see any of the routes that you may be using and even though the MTA says no other changes are coming, if we advocate long enough and hard enough, they will have to make some changes because they work for us.

**OLD BUSINESS:** The Chairperson asked if there was any old business to discuss. Hearing none.

**NEW BUSINESS:** The Chairperson asked if there was any new business to discuss. Hearing none.

The Chairperson continued by introducing representatives of elected officials to speak.

The Chairperson introduced Jose Reina rep. for Congressman Meeks and invited him to speak. Mr. Reina wished everyone a good evening and introduced himself. He stated that on January 17, 2025, the Dept. of Treasury served a letter to Congress letting them know that they will be taking extraordinary measures to manage the debt ceiling starting January 21, 2025. Until the debt ceiling issue is resolved these extraordinary measures will be impacting Federal employees and retirees who will still be receiving their monthly payments however, they won't see an increase to these monthly payments from January 21, 2025 to March 17, 2025. He also announced that the IRS is providing taxpayers the option to file their Federal and State tax returns online for free by going to [directfile.irs.gov](http://directfile.irs.gov). He explained direct file. He urged everyone to please visit the Department of Energy website at [energy.gov/save](http://energy.gov/save) to find out if your appliance qualifies for a tax credit. The website will take you to the necessary forms that you can take to your tax preparer to apply for a tax credit. He continued that on January 5, 2025, the former President signed a social security fairness act into law eliminating the windfall elimination provision act and the government provision offset regulation. These regulations reduce social security benefits for over 3.2 million recipients who received a pension from non-social security covered work. With this legislation, certain workers such as Police Officers, Firefighters and Teachers or Federal retirees under the Civil Service Retirement System will see an increase to their social security benefits along with spouses and surviving spouses. Congressman Meeks' office is still waiting for further information on the implementation of this legislation, and we will update the Community Board when that information becomes available. He stated that if anyone would like to follow up with him on the items discussed they can call Congressman Gregory Meeks office at 718-725-6000.

The Chairperson introduced Carl Moore rep. for Sen. Addabbo and invited him to speak. Mr. Moore introduced himself and stated that Senator Addabbo and the Assembly are meeting in Albany and now are working on the budget which has a deadline at the end of March. They are also working on legislation, and the Senator wants any concerns that his constituents have regarding the budget or legislation to reach out to his office and give him feedback. Mr. Moore also

read a statement from Sen. Addabbo, who is also the Chairman of the Gaming Committee, regarding his intent to push for a ban on sweepstakes casinos following the discovery of a loophole that allows these unregulated platforms to operate across the state potentially exposing vulnerable populations, particularly younger individuals, to gambling risks. Additionally, the Senator is reintroducing a bill for i-gaming which the Senator and industry advocates predict would bring in significant revenue to the state at a time when we are looking at deficits and potential cutting of federal funding. The Senator has also pointed to i-gaming as a form of revenue that can replace congestion pricing which he expressed his opposition to in the beginning. He also announced that he has flyers available up front and that they will be holding free CPR training and in April and May they have 2 semi-annual recycling events where normally they have the shredding and the household goods for Veterans and the following week they have e-waste collection but this year they are adding a Veterans event, a paint disposal event which is a big issue for a lot of people.

The Chairperson introduced David Shaeffer, rep. from Sen. Persaud's office and invited him to speak. Mr. Shaeffer announced that besides the direct file announcement, residents may be eligible through NY State to file taxes for free if they made less than \$85,000. If that applies to anyone give them a call and they can help you investigate that. He continued that their food distribution event was rescheduled to be held on February 13<sup>th</sup> at 616 Belmont Avenue and that they are also holding Saturday office hours, which is a good opportunity for those who have 9-5 business hours to come and meet with them if you need any help. He also announced that they will be holding an event at the Brooklyn Children's Museum Festival on February 19<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 5 pm, and they will hold a Heart and Health webinar on February 19<sup>th</sup> and that information about these events are available up front. For any other inquiries he can be reached at 718-649-7659.

The Chairperson introduced Jeanette Garramone rep. from AM Pheffer-Amato's office and invited her to speak. Ms. Garramone introduced herself and wished everyone a good evening. She stated that the 2025 legislative session began and reminded everyone to check your legislative calendar to see what is going on and to pay attention to any bills coming up and if there is anything you want to weigh in on. She continued that the A-line is shut down in Rockaway and people are upset about having to pay a fare to get onto the shuttle bus. She stated that they are making the MTA aware and being an advocate for your voice. She continued that regarding the Queens bus redesign, there are still opportunities to be an advocate for change. She also announced that there is a new program called the NYS Post Consumer Paint Program in Ozone Park at Sherman Williams at 107-20 Atlantic Avenue where you can go to turn in your paint. She stated that you pay a fee when you buy the cans of paint for the recycling so make sure that you utilize it and that it also diverts paint out of the landfill which is good for the environment. She also announced they will be holding a cat pet adoption on Saturday February 8<sup>th</sup> from 11 am to 2 pm. She stated that cats make great companions especially for seniors who are home alone more often and for young children who have special needs, it also teaches them responsibility. There will be no cats at their office that will be adopted but you will start the process with one of the foundations. They will also hold a donation drive for Noah's Ark, where a family can help take care of an animal until it gets a permanent home, and they will be doing a food drive accepting donations of dry and wet food as well as cat litter. She continued that she hopes that everyone who has an E-Z Pass has signed up for the Queens resident rebate and stated that it is not automatic even though all of your information is in your E-Z Pass account to make sure you tell them you are a Queens resident to get the rebate and your vehicle has to be licensed and registered here, not somewhere else. She stated that they have been working with DOB regarding situations where people have violations and it is holding up the selling of their homes. They had one individual that had a commercial boiler that was affiliated with JFK attached to his address and he had to delay the closing of his home because of this. They will have DOB at their office on February 20<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 1 pm by appt to discuss violation concerns and inspections at 159-53 102 Street. It will be by appointment only and to call them at 718-641-8755 and their Rockaway Office. Their office is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 am to 3 pm and their address for their Rockaway office is 95-16 Rockaway Beach Blvd. and they can be reached there at 718-945-9550.

The Chairperson introduced Janine Agard rep. Assemblymember Anderson and invited her to speak. Ms. Agard introduced herself as the new Deputy Director for Assemblymember Khaleel Anderson and stated that the location for the State of the District is still to be announced and that it will be held in the South Ozone Park area. She continued that they are accepting nominations for the Women's History event and that they have flyers up front. If you know someone in the community that you would like to nominate, please use this flyer as your guide to nominate that person. She continued that the funding process is open so if you are seeking funding for your Community Based Organization and have a 501C-3 please apply. The applications closes on February 10<sup>th</sup> and it is mandatory to participate in the informational session on February 19<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm. If you can't attend, please have someone else from your organization attend in your place. She also announced that it is tax season and that they have free tax services provided by Urban



Upbound in their South Ozone Park Office and to use the QR code or call by phone to make an appointment. She added that you can always reach out to any of the staff to bring any issues to AM Anderson's attention while he is in Albany. If anyone needs to reach out to their office she can be reached by e-mail at: [AgardJ@nyassembly.gov](mailto:AgardJ@nyassembly.gov) or to call their Rockaway Office at 718-327-1845 or their South Ozone Park office at 718-322-4958.

The Chairperson introduced Anna Sargeant rep. AM Rajkumar and invited her to speak. Ms. Sargeant introduced herself as the Chief of Staff for AM Rajkumar and stated that the Assemblymember is in session working on the budget and that it is going strong and to reach out to their office if you have any concerns about specific legislation. She continued that the Assemblymember has been working to pass Priscilla's law, a law to combat illegal e-bikes and to make sure they are registered and are not fire hazards. She has also been fighting ghost cars and trying to find a way to find out who they belong to and how to empower our Police officers to make the right decisions around these ghost cars. She stated that she has also introduced the Empire State of Mind Act where people going through mental health situations and can't get through the paperwork because of them not having an address where they can receive mail and then having to constantly restart the process in a vortex of paperwork. She has also put forth requests for a study on transit deserts. She also announced that they will be having a mammography van on February 18<sup>th</sup> at specific appointment times at their office at 83-91 Woodhaven Blvd. and to call for an appointment at 718-805-0950.

The Chairperson introduced Taylor Logan rep. Speaker Adrienne Adams and invited him to speak. Mr. Logan introduced himself and stated that he is the Constituent liaison for Speaker Adams. He announced that in January they did a cleanup on street poles along with community-based organizations called H2O and they took off old flyers on street poles that were stacked on Liberty Avenue from Lefferts Blvd. to 135 Avenue. They have also been addressing issues with abandoned vehicles at 135 Street & 135 Avenue and had 6 of these vehicles removed. They also have attorneys for immigration, green cards and citizenship and landlord tenant issues and to call 718-206-2068 to book an appointment. He thanked everyone for having him here this evening.

The Chairperson introduce Phyllis Inserillo rep. Councilmember Ariola and invited her to speak. Ms. Inserillo introduced herself and announced that the Councilmember has introduced a bill requiring the Office of Street Vendor Enforcement to create a portal allowing all agencies enforcing street vendor laws and regulations to share enforcement related information. The bill will require a portal that everyone can log into to see if the vendor has ever been reported before and to verify the authenticity of the vendor's license. She continued that if you have not paid your property taxes or water or sewer charges, you may be at risk of being included in a lien sale on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The Councilmember is focused on the NYC budget. She announced that the Queens Civic Congress has filed a lawsuit against the City of Yes. The Councilmember has been in contact with the administration in Washington, DC regarding City of Yes concerns. She urged anyone interested in City Council Budget Hearings to look at the council website [council.nyc.gov](http://council.nyc.gov) to find out if there are any hearings that they would like to attend and/or testify at. She continued that if anyone needs assistance with property taxes issues, Alex Leguisamo is available to help at their office to discuss exemptions that you may be qualified for on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Please call to make an appointment at 718-738-1083. She announced that The Councilmember will be holding Coffee with a Cop on February 9<sup>th</sup> from 12 pm to 2 pm with the 106<sup>th</sup> and the 102<sup>nd</sup> Pct. She commented on a concern with ill swans and continued that DOT will be paving the underpass on 84<sup>th</sup> Street in Howard Beach in the coming season. Their office will also be collecting items for Veterans such as toiletries, candy, t-shirts and socks up until February 10<sup>th</sup>. She also announced that the Councilmember has pushed for a Veteran's initiative with the help of the Chair of the Council Veteran's Committee where each of the 51 offices in the City Council will have a Veterans Service contact once a month at their office to serve the Veterans within their district. Every Monday, they have someone from CUNY Citizenship Now come to their office to help people seeking to become citizens who have come into the country and would like to become a citizen. Call the Councilmember's office for more information. She also announced that on April 5<sup>th</sup> they will be holding a shredding/e-waste event outside PS 207 on 159<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

The Chairperson introduced Dan Brown from DA Melinda Katz's Office and invited him to speak. Mr. Brown wished everyone a good evening and stated that on January 24<sup>th</sup> Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz announced that a man was sentenced to 34 years in prison for a terrifying incident at his South Ozone Park residence in September 2021. The man was convicted by a jury in December for attempted murder for provoking an angry confrontation with his then wife who was an off-duty police officer. The incident spiraled into a standoff when police officers responded to their colleague's distress call. The person sentenced barricaded himself behind the front door of the home and fired a gun at the police. The man, aged 46, of South Ozone Park was convicted in December 2024 following a jury trial. The charges for which he was convicted were attempted murder in the second degree, assault in the first degree, attempted assault in

the first degree, kidnapping in the second degree, two counts of attempted aggravated assault against a Police Officer, and two counts of criminal possession of a weapon in the second degree. Officers from the 106<sup>th</sup> Precinct and the Emergency Service unit responded to the home and discovered the front entrance had been barricaded and the defendant fired multiple times with one shattering glass and hitting a police officer. A responding officer established contact with the victim who bravely jumped out the second-floor window as the defendant approached her with a gun in hand. She fell to the surface and fractured her knee. The officer ran to cover them both with a large blanket designed to deflect gunfire. The man approached the window and fired at her again and continued to fire at the other officers. The defendant suffered a gunshot wound to his forearm in the period of exchanging fire with the officers and he tossed the firearm out the window as directed by the police. He surrendered and is now facing 34 years in jail.

The Chairperson commented that it was our own former 106 Pct. Community Affairs Officer, Brenda Reddick, who was the police officer that established contact with the victim and put her own life in jeopardy while trying to assist her.

Mr. Brown added that and if anyone has any questions or inquiries, he can be reached at 718-286-6593 and wished everyone a good evening.

The Chairperson commented that it was nice to hear that the perpetrator was going to jail because that was a very serious incident.

The Chairperson asked if there were any other representatives of elected officials or city agencies present that would like to speak. Hearing none.

**NEW BUSINESS:** The Chairperson asked if there was any new business to discuss.

A Board Member asked everyone to reach out to the elected officials and express support for Federal Employees of the Office of Personnel Management in the 5<sup>th</sup> District in our region. She stated that there are 7,763 federal employees in our region, 30% overall. 2.7 million Federal employees are Veterans. The member expressed concern that many may be in danger of losing their jobs. The member kindly asked all to reach out to their elected representatives to urge support for our local federal employees.

**PUBLIC FORUM:** The Chair asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to speak.

Elizabeth Store from the Jamaica Bay Rockaway Parks Conservancy announced that it is hiring for their youth workforce which works in local parks and area shorelines around Jamaica Bay. They are hiring 15 folks aged 18 to 25 to help maintain parks and restore Jamaica Bay marshes and the beaches. If you know of anybody, please recommend. It is a 6-month job and pays \$20 /hr. The Conservancy also helps these folks go on to jobs in Parks and natural areas.

The Chairperson asked if there was anyone else from the public who wished to speak. Hearing none.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,



Karyn Petersen  
Draft- Subject to Approval