



ELIZABETH BRATON
Chairperson

COMMUNITY BOARD 10

CITY OF NEW YORK ♦ BOROUGH OF QUEENS
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KARYN PETERSEN
District Manager

REGULAR BOARD MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

January 2, 2025

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: L. Amorim, B. Braton, J. Calcagnile, M. Cherenfant, B. Ciaramella, A. Cosentino, F. Dardani, I. Dimoh, E. Fraylon, A. Gellineau, R. Gendron, P. Granickas, F. Gulluscio, G. Hewitt, A. Hill, P. Kishun, D. Mitchell, A. Nocerino, P. Nostramo, S. Pace, A. Rajnauth, K. Roan, N. Santiago, A. Siewnarine, J. Stahl, I. Van Putten, L. Walker, D. Wesby

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: S. Acuqui, N. Bissoon, J. Caruso R. Ciulla-Frisone, A. Dhanpat, K. Edwards, R. Hitlall, B. Lall, N. Latchana, K. Ludhiana, R. Martinez, F. Mohamed, S. Mohammed R. Narine, J. Quijano, R. Ramgopal, B. Ramsundar, G. Russo A. Sancler, G. Singh, A. Vital

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Hon. Melinda Katz; Hon. J. Addabbo; Hon. J. Ariola; 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; N. Trivedi, rep. Hon. J. Rajkumar; J. Agard, rep. Hon. K. Anderson; T. Hankerson, rep. Hon. A. Adams; G. Katsalis rep. QBPO; D. Brown, rep. Hon. M. Katz; Capt. B. VanTull, CO 106 Pct.; P.O. Hoang NYPD 106 Pct.; D. Tanis, rep. Resorts World; C. Smith, rep. CAO

The Chairperson opened the meeting at 7pm.

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

The Chairperson wished everyone a Happy New Year and asked that everyone remain standing for a moment of silence for former President Jimmy Carter.

The Chairperson then opened the Informational Public Hearing and introduced the Hon. Melinda Katz who would provide information about the ongoing work of the Queens District Attorney's office.

D.A. Katz wished everyone a good evening and a Happy New Year. She thanked the Board Chairperson for the work that she has done for many decades. The DA said that this is her 30th Anniversary in public office as it has been 30 years since she became an Assembly member in 1994. She has now served as the Queens District Attorney for the last five years. The DA also thanked the CB10 District Manager for the work that she does and stated that it is not easy having 50 bosses and that she manages it very well. She also acknowledged Dan Brown from her office who was here this evening. She said there is a lot going on at the DA's office. She stated that she wanted to come to speak and to use the opportunity to give an update about the DA's office has been doing. She said, "Every day is a little bit of a fight in her business – it is what they do. They try to get justice for the victims, and they try to get fairness for the defendants, they try to make sure that the people who shouldn't be charged are not charged and that the people who should be charged are charged." She then acknowledged CM Ariola who had joined the meeting and thanked her for the work that she does as well. She continued that there has been a lot going on. She stated that there are about 60,000 arrests per year in Queens County. It went up from about 56,000 last year to 60, 000 in 2024. They

have about 40,000 arraignments a year. There are about 950 staff members who are working in the DA's office. The office had about 700 employees when she became the DA. The staff consists of about 400 ADA's, about 400 support staff, which includes Executive Assistants, and paralegals. There are also 95 to 100 detective investigators. It is a large office with a \$100 million dollar budget and every single day they try to move forward the arrests and arraignments that have to be done within the legal allotment of time for them to occur. Arrest arraignments are done within 24 hours and if the arrestees are held on remand there must be an indictment within 144 hours (8 days) depending on when the weekend is and when they get arrested. It's a lot of people, a lot of work and a lot of defendants the office is processing. At the same time, they are processing and convicting those in the system, they are also trying to keep people out of the system, if warranted. She stated that you can't always prosecute your way out of crime. You also must worry about the Junior High School and the High School kids and the gangs that would have these teenagers believe that those gangs are their chosen family when they are not their chosen family. They need people to talk about that and they need people to come out, so she hired about 20 to 25 people who go to every single Community Board meeting, every single Community Council Meeting, and she also hired a youth group counselor who has one job to keep kids out of the criminal justice system. He goes to the Junior High Schools and to the High Schools, he goes to the basketball and the soccer games during the summer. He comes out to the groups with her when she goes to a basketball game and he is there to talk to the kids afterwards. The coaches have asked why the District Attorney is at the basketball game and she says that the first time these teenagers see her should not be when she is coming to get them. It should be when she is trying to keep them out of the criminal justice system, and you can do both. She continued that one of the things that annoys her the most is when people say that you can't have equity in the courtroom and safety in the streets. It is a lie. You can do both. You can have safety in the streets and equity in the courtroom and you can look at past convictions that are 20 or 30 years old where there were wrongful convictions. There are 3,000-gun cases going on at one time and she stated that she wanted to speak of a few cases that would be of interest to everyone. She stated that an officer was killed on a highway last year about a year and a half ago. The officer was there because there was an accident on the highway, and he went there to direct traffic. There were flares, signs and lights and a woman who was drunk ran through the barriers and ran him down and killed him instantly. The woman did not plea. She was taken to court and to trial and the four homicide prosecutors were amazing because they were showing in court all the cars that had heeded the sign and there was one car that didn't. The woman was tried, and she received a sentence of 22 - 27 years for the crime of running down the police officer. She continued that about a month ago they had another conviction on an assault on a police officer. A man was on a bus, and he picked a fight with someone who was sitting down on the bus. The MTA bus driver called over 2 police officers and asked for help. The man sitting there was a big man. He got up and put the defendant in a head lock to wait for the police to come. The bus stopped and the man got off the bus and pushed the 2 police officers and one of the officers caught up to him and the defendant shot him in the hip and the abdomen. Thankfully he survived. She stated that it is interesting because he didn't shoot him to get away. During the run, the magazine fell out of the gun. When the magazine fell out, there was still one round in the chamber. While the police officer was down on the ground, face down screaming in pain, he was shot again by the defendant. It was a long trial, and he was convicted for that crime. He is doing serious time for that. The DA went on to describe the case about the murder of Amir Griffin, a 14-year-old child, who was killed on the basketball court where he was playing. A gang mistook him for someone else who was a member of an opposite gang and shot him right on the basketball court and killed him where he was playing. She stated that we have these big convictions and we are holding people accountable which could be prison time or it could also mean mental health services or that the individual has a drug addiction and needs to go to the drug rehab court. Accountability could also mean that the individual cleans up graffiti for 6 months because he has lessons to learn, and he is sent to not for profits who can teach him those lessons to make sure that in the future he is not back in her system in the courtroom and how important is that to do both at the same time. To keep kids out of the system while convicting those that are violent felons and have a long history of it and trying to do both at the same time and balance the rights in court while holding people accountable for those crimes that they commit. She also spoke about some of the cases involving squatters where her office has investigated, made arrests, and prosecuted. The DA offered advice as to how property owners may help prevent themselves from being victimized by people illegally trying to get control of property. She continued to speak about scooters and how the DA's office has worked to get 1,000 scooters off the streets recently. That work is ongoing. She continued to speak about scams and stated there is a current scam going around Queens involving the elected's offices. She warned that no elected official or police officer will ever ask you for money. No police officer will call you and say you are under investigation and for this amount of money they will consider it closed. She warned not to pay it but to call her office and report it. She described the work of the Cold Case Unit. Technological advances have made it possible to give families closure when DNA helps solve crimes from the past or identify unknown victims from long-past crimes.

The Chairperson asked if anyone from the public wished to speak.

A question was raised about gambling that occurs in schools and how outreach can be done with the schools to reach the children about the problems with gambling and how it leads to other problems.

DA Katz suggested setting him up with her office's Youth Coordinator who goes in to the schools so he can have a conversation about that issue to be aware of it.

A statement was made by a resident about EZ pass and how people are getting bills for \$8,000 and \$10,000 and \$20,000 dollars. She stated that she lives upstate, and her mom lives in Howard Beach, and she had no bills or emails coming to her house, yet the EZ pass kept building up in fees which she feels may be a scam.

DA Katz suggested she speak to some of her elected officials, and to call EZ pass to ask them for a read out or a printout record of everything they are charging her mother for. She added that if you are getting scammed by internet, she is much more effective. She thanked everyone and wished everyone a Happy New Year. The DA provided her office's contact information. The Chairperson thanked District Attorney Katz for providing information on the work of her office and extended an invitation to return anytime she wished to.

The Chairperson then introduced CM Ariola and invited her to speak.

CM Ariola wished everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year. She stated that she has a handout with information with her year in review and that in 2025 she will continue to prioritize safety issues and quality of life issues. She stated that she has addressed a lot of graffiti and a lot of cars that were abandoned and that she wants to thank the 106th Pct for their part with that along with DSNY. She stated that we have seen a diminishing number of these vehicles in our district, but it cycles like everything else like with the graffiti. She continued that she will be fighting for more officers in the 106 Pct. because we have seen a serious diminishment of officers assigned to the 106th Pct. She went on to speak about the budget cycle and also 2 DOT related bills that were passed by the Council. One dealt with requiring DOT to provide notification to Council members when removing parking spots for things like ride share, bike lanes, or bike racks. The other dealt with requiring DOT to notify FDNY when closing streets or putting in bike and bus lanes, so that FDNY is aware that their operations may be impeded. FDNY needs to be involved as part of planning for such DOT actions along with as elected officials, and the Community Boards. She also stated that she sits on the Veterans Committee so any Veterans that are here, thank you for your service. She continued that there are two pieces of legislation coming up that also has bipartisan support that will put Veterans first when it comes to housing preference and vouchers. She stated that City of Yes has passed in the City Council with modifications and that she wants to thank the Council Speaker and her Land Use team that worked on that because the modifications are significant but there are some areas of the 32nd council district that were more significant than others, so the Council will be looking to make further modifications whether through legislation or through litigation. She went on to speak about other issues she was involved in and urged all to take the flyer she left on the table regarding assistance with property tax exemptions.

She stated that she also has information on sanitation bins and that she has also introduced legislation that guidelines be set for cannabis dispensaries operating hours to be limited so that they are not open beyond 9:30 pm. She indicated it has bipartisan support, and she thinks that is something that will pass.

She stated that it has been her absolute pleasure to represent part of the Board area, and she looks forward to the next year and doing even more things with the Board. She stated that the District Manager does a great job and that DA Katz does the most work she has ever seen with a DA. She commented on the work involving the DA regarding retail theft/shoplifting with her Merchants Warrant Program. The first time someone gets caught a form is filled out and when they go into the store again, they can be arrested. She continued that DA Katz makes sure that she can get that defendant bail if she can, and she detains if she can. If she can arrest, she arrests and if she can convict, she convicts, and although we are not seeing that in the other Boroughs, we are seeing that here in Queens. She added that it's great to know she is on the other end of the phone doing her job because we are doing ours. The Councilwoman wished all well for the New Year and thanked all for the honor and privilege to serve in the City Council.

The Chairperson next introduced Captain Berkley VanTull from the 106th Precinct and invited him to speak.

Captain VanTull introduced himself and wished everyone Happy New Year. He stated that he is glad to be back and that he was away for some time for some training. He thanked everyone for being here tonight and continuing to show how important it is to everyone here to keep this community safe and sharing ideas to better this community. He announced that the 106th Precinct had an overall crime reduction in 2024 and that he has a phenomenal staff, and they are a great team. They come to work every day and give 110 percent. They always get the mission done and do what he asks of them to better service the community here in the 106 Pct. He stated that he is really proud of them and how we want to continue building on the great work that we have done in 2024 and we hope that we have much success in 2025 and he wanted to thank the community partners and the community members for their support with the 106th Pct. He wished everyone a Happy New Year.

The Chairperson then introduced Sen Addabbo and invited him to speak.

Sen. Addabbo wished everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year and he hoped that everyone had a great holiday season. He stated that as we go into 2025, we need to go in with a sense of optimism. Let's be positive and put the dark days behind us and the put the politics away and get to work whether you are a Democrat or a Republican and lets figure out a way to move forward for a brighter future for us and for our children. Let's put the politics away and put people before politics. He continued that his session starts in Albany next Wednesday and they will be dealing with a \$270 billion dollar budget. Work on that will start in January and we have a lot of legislation to do. He asks that people weigh in. If you see something in the budget or you hear something legislatively, if you like it or don't like it or if you have an idea, please let us know as we work together going forward. There will be issues up in Albany that we will still be dealing with such as congestion pricing, which he is not a fan of, and issues like if a person is terminally ill, does that person have a right to say they want to die and not go through the pain and the suffering from the illness, and that they want the dignity of death. Should that person have the right to take pills and never wake up. That will be something the legislature will have to deal with. We will have the hard issues that we can't avoid, and we will have the easy issues too, but he asks for people to weigh in. He thanked the Community Board 10 for the work they do throughout the year and stated that if he can be of any help to let him know and call Carl at his office. He again wished everyone a Happy New Year.

The Chairperson commented that we have elected officials from both parties who do their jobs with diligence, and they should always be treated with respect. She continued to comment that we heard tonight what the District Attorney said, heard what the Police Captain had to say, and heard what the Councilmember and the Senator had said. She commented that there seems to be a general perception in our city and our nation that there is free reign for criminals, and no one gets prosecuted for anything, and arrests don't happen. The facts are that there are arrests and prosecutions that take place every single day, yet many people's perception is that nothing is done by anyone. She urged all the join in helping to change that type of perception as we move into a new year. We have elected officials, government officials, agencies, police officers, and prosecutors who are doing their jobs in very difficult times and we need to help by promoting what is being done. She said, it's a New Year let's start a new trend.

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

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

- Notice from MTA that they will be holding listening sessions on the bus redesign network. It was stated that the Queens one for Queen S/W that covers Boards 5, 6, 9 and 10 will be on Thursday, January 16th from 6:30 to 8 pm at Queens Borough Hall
- Letter from NYC DOE regarding the joint public hearing on the proposed re-siting of grades K through 2 of PS 65 the Raymond York Elementary school on 99 St bet. Liberty & 103 Ave.
- Notice from Office of Technology and Innovation from NYC of 60-day comment period for proposed Link 5 G sites in our district.
- Audit report exit conference summary on controls over payroll personnel and purchasing of the 14 CB in Queens.
- Notice from Parks Dept.
- OMB notice.
- Notice to vacate at 135-26 129 Street

- Demolition notice at 133-12 78 Street
- Demolition notice for 107-21 rear 111 Street
- Notice of comment period from the MTCCC.
- Notice about congestion pricing.
- Agenda Notice from Design Commission.
- Contract Hearing Agendas
- City of Yes for Housing Opportunity revised technical memo from DCP.

The Chairperson stated that if there is anything in the correspondence that the Board Members would like to request to let us know and we will send it to them.

The Chairperson stated that we received an e-mail this afternoon from the Office of Cannabis Management that the State issued the 2024 annual report. It is available and we will send it to the Board Members so they can read what they had to say.

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

BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S LIAISON REPORT: Georgia Katsalis introduced herself and wished everyone a Happy Holiday and a Happy New Year. She stated that the Community Board appointment process is underway. The applications will be live as of January 7th and it closes on February 14th. Those reapplying may reapply by going to queensbp@nyc.gov to submit their application. 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. Application interviews will be conducted by phone. She announced that on Tuesday, January 7th there will be a Know Your Rights Training that will take place at 103-12 Roosevelt Avenue, Corona. On Tuesday January 14th at 6 pm there will be a virtual parent advisory board meeting. On Thursday January 16th there will be a celebration honoring Haitian Independence Day at Queens Borough Hall. On Thursday January 30th at 6 pm they will be hosting a Lunar Year Celebration. To RSVP for any of these events go to 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 starting January 6th, 2025, through Fall 2025 National Grid will be closing the roadway to traffic as needed during working hours Monday to Friday 8 am to 6 pm on Old South Road bet. 128th Street and 120th Street, Old South Road bet. 129th Street & 130th Street and Monday to Friday 9 am to 4 pm on the intersection of Old South Road & 130th Street, the intersection of Old South Road & 129th Street, and the intersection of Old South Road & 128th Street. It will be necessary to close these streets while they work to protect the public and give construction crews room to work safely as they upgrade the infrastructure. After the work is complete the roadway will be opened to vehicular traffic. Proper signage will be posted on the affected street to communicate closure and detour information. The District Manager wished everyone a happy and healthy New Year.

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

- Bus Redesign comments that were received by the MTA and the Executive Summary.
It was also stated that copies are available on the table up front, and the entire document is available to download on MTA's website.
- Copy of the different changes that were made to the bus routes in our area.
It was stated that if anyone has further comments, they can make them on the MTA's website. MTA will issue its final report when they get the next set of comments
- Information on the election process for the Community Education Council.
- Copy of the Woodhaven Blvd. Capital Projects PowerPoint from the last Transportation Committee meeting.
- Information on Link 5G.
- Con Ed information and the Consumer Affairs and Public Safety Committee reports.

The Chairperson continued her report with:

- Announcing the names of Board Members whose terms are expiring. These members must reapply before Feb. 14th.
- List of the current shelters from DHS that are operating in the boundaries of CB 10.

The Chairperson also reported on the walking tour with Speaker Adams Office along the Liberty Avenue Corridor and provided the response from DOT regarding our request for some specific information regarding the Woodhaven Blvd. Capital Projects. The report continued that the Board's expression of negative opinion concerning 3 retail cannabis dispensary locations would go to OCM this week. The chairperson also reported a copy of the MTA's 2025-2029 Capital Plan had been received and the Council Speaker's office was hosting a citizenship event on January 11th at 10 am to 2 pm at York College.

The meeting continued with committee reports.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

LAND USE: The Committee Chair wished everyone a good evening and stated that we are still waiting for applications that are making their way through City Planning for the Russo Hotel, the 92 Street project. He stated that we haven't seen those applications yet so he is expecting that we will be seeing them in the next month or two and we will begin working on those. He continued that there is another project on 79 St. & Linden Blvd. which is a rezoning of the current zoning overlay there. It is a big project, a high rise, and we are waiting to see that.

He also reported about some land use issues that were part of the review of the dispensary sites. Two of the 3 sites have issues concerning DOB matters that need to be resolved. He wished a Happy New Year to everybody and thanked the committee members for their participation.

The Chairperson thanked the Land Use Chair and thanked the Committee Members from both the Land Use and Public Safety committees for taking the time the night before New Year's Eve to come to a meeting. She added that there was a quorum of both Committees present and just about everyone who was present offered a lot of constructive comment.

AIR POLLUTION: The Committee Chair wished everyone a Happy New Year.

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

JFK: The Committee Chair wished everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year including the staff.

GATEWAY /JAMAICA BAY: The Committee Chair wished everyone a Happy New Year.

The Board Chair added that Flood Net is on the agenda at the next Borough Board Meeting,

LIBRARIES: The Committee Chair stated that the report is in the folder and wished everyone a very Happy New Year.

PUBLIC SAFETY: The Committee Chair thanked the Land Use Chair who did a lot of work on the 3 individual cannabis store locations. He stated that we appreciate his hard work on it and also thanks the Committee for getting together during the holidays to review the sites. He also wanted to mention that the CO from the 106th Precinct was away for 3 months for FBI training and at that time the XO Mario Deras, had to do two jobs, his own job and the CO's job and for his great efforts the Borough stole him from us and assigned him to Patrol Borough Queens South. The Committee Chair reached out to him to thank him for his hard work during those three months. He also reported that the crime stats are in the folder and wished all a Happy and Healthy New Year.

PERSONNEL: The Committee Chair stated that he hoped that in 2025 will bring added personnel at CB10 and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

LEGISLATION: The Committee Chair stated he thinks that Bill 104 that CM Ariola spoke about is something we should keep our eye on for the cannabis stores to be open from 9:30 am in the morning until 9:30 at night and he would like to follow up on that.

SUMMER YOUTH: The Board Chairperson stated that the Committee Chair was away this evening, but she had indicated that she is resigning as Chair of the Committee, and she is also resigning as Chair of the Transportation Committee.

TRANSPORTATION: The Board Chairperson thanked G. Hewitt for agreeing to become the chairperson of the Transportation Committee.

OLD BUSINESS: The Chairperson asked if there was any old 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 announced that recently, Congress passed a continuing resolution to avoid a government shutdown up until March 14, 2025 however, the Dept. of Treasury has informed Congress that they could reach their debt ceiling from January 14th to January 23rd which means there could potentially be a government shutdown later this month if Congress does not increase the debt ceiling or suspend it. Secondly, President Biden announced Federal agencies will be closed on January 9th in honor of the passing of President Jimmy Carter. The Executive Order allows heads of federal agency and Department to plan for the closing and determine if a federal agency will remain open. Lastly, the US Postal Service will be increasing their shipping service prices to follow through with the Postal service delivery for America 10-year Plan which focuses on improving the operations and maintaining financial stability for the postal service. The price increase will apply to the following shipping services: Priority Mail and Priority Mail Express will both go up by 3.2 %, USPS Ground Advantage, which is an affordable shipping service that's used for non-expedited deliveries will go up by 3.9% and for large scale shippers there will be a 9.2% increase for parcel select services. USPS did announce that the prices for mailing services will not increase this year. The price increase will be implemented January 19th, 2025 of this year. 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 CM Ariola mentioned about the NYC Dept. of Finance, and he wanted to add that in 2 weeks DOF will be sending out a form called Notice of Property Value which tells you what your property value exemption will be for the fiscal year starting July 1st. He asked that everyone review these forms to make sure they are getting the right exemptions because you only have until March 15th to correct them. He wanted to make everyone aware to look out for it because it is very important for your taxes for next year.

The Chair introduced David Shaeffer, rep. from Sen. Persaud's office and invited him to speak. Mr. Shaeffer wished everyone a Happy New Year and stated that he has their winter newsletter up front about the different things the Senator has events on with a focus on legislatively, things we have been doing around the community. It is a new year and we are starting to develop our new events and he is always happy to get feedback from this community on events that you might be interested in. He announced that on January 21st, they do have free legal services and to give their office a call for specifics. The Senator is excited to get back to Albany in less than a week and he is always happy to hear any concerns. The office number is 718-653-7653.

The Chairperson introduced Neil Trevidi, rep. from AM Rajkumar's office and invited him to speak. Mr. Trevidi introduced himself. He stated that he is the new Director of Public Affairs at AM Rajkumar's office. He wished everyone a Happy New Year and stated that it is great to be here with everyone. He stated that the session starts soon and one thing the Assembly member is working on is the Ghost Busters Act which she had proposed, and they are going to continue to work with everyone to make sure that our communities are safe and successful.

The Chairperson introduced Jeanette Garramone rep. from AM Pheffer-Amato's office and invited her to speak. Ms. Garramone introduced herself and stated that the Assembly member wished everyone Happy and Healthy and Prosperous New Year. Several bills were recently passed such as A9827 which Assembly member Amato co-sponsored requiring the Public Service Commission to publish an explanation of why they are approving rate increases for gas and electric and a summary of how the proposed revenue will be spent. Another bill that was passed that

Assembly member Pheffer-Amato worked on is A386 which was signed into law requiring all pharmaceutical and drug companies to cover pre-natal vitamins for expecting mothers. New York State Insurance will now cover them in full. She continued that starting January 17th the A line is going to be starting to have some of their shutdowns so be mindful if you have children who go to or from the peninsula for school. Information is online to look at the time schedules. There will be shuttle buses once the train service is shut down, so she wanted everyone to be aware of it. She announced that the Queens Bus redesign proposed final plan was released in December, and there is still some time for input and that they are also working on a pet adoption and donation program with Noah's Arc in Rockaway on January 25th however, they are working on the specifics of the event so feel free to give them a call at 718-945-9550 or at the Howard Beach office at 718-641-8755 if you have any questions.

The Chairperson introduced Dan Brown from DA Melinda Katz's Office and invited him to speak.

Mr. Brown wished everyone a good evening and thanked everyone for having them here tonight and stated that the DA appreciates your time. He announced that he has a newsletter up front as well as the squatter's flyer that the DA referred to and if you want to contact him on anything the DA said tonight or on anything at all, he can be reached at 718-286-6593.

The Chairperson introduced Davis Tanis rep. for Resorts World and invited him to speak. Mr. Tanis introduced himself and wished everyone a Happy New Year. He stated that it is 2025 and the State said that the status of the full gaming license would be this year so he will be keeping everyone informed with all of the details. He continued that he looks forward to continuing to be good partners with you all and if you have any questions you can reach out to him at 929-244-9769.

The Chairperson asked if there were any other Elected Officials reps that she skipped over or didn't see.

The Chairperson introduced Janine Agard rep. AM Anderson and invited her to speak. Ms. Agard introduced herself as the new Deputy Director for AM Anderson and wished everyone a Happy New Year. If anyone needs to reach out to their office she can be reached by e-mail at: AgardJ@nyassembly.gov. She continued that they are looking for a space to hold their State of the District address, and if anyone knows of a place that can host them to reach out.

The Chairperson introduced Ty Hankerson rep. Speaker Adrienne Adams and invited him to speak.

Mr. Hankerson wished everyone a good evening and wished everyone a Happy New year and stated that he is glad to see everyone back and safe. He announced that 2024 was an amazing year for them in the Speaker's office. They accomplished a lot locally. They started their Neighborhood Coalitions - their South Ozone Park Coalition and their Richmond Hill Coalition - have successfully brought to fruition a number of requests throughout neighborhoods. They have been working with everyone throughout the district, and they have successfully added requested truck signage to Rkwy. Blvd., the Van Wyck Expwy, 135 Street and 135 Avenue. He explained that the community has been requesting No Thru truck signage and DOT has turned it down every single time, but he is happy to say that it has finally gone through and some of those signs will be installed soon, and the rest will be installed later in 2025. He continued that they have cleaned up several fields particularly on 135 Street & 135 Avenue and that a lot of vacant lots are now being cleaned up. He stated that they also did a walk-through down Liberty Avenue to bring awareness to the business owners about keeping up the quality of life. If they don't adhere, enforcement will come in to enforce and Liberty Avenue now has more walk space which is definitely necessary for those who need ADA accessibility. He continued that they also have record investments in terms of capital projects. He stated that the Speaker funded several of our schools with renovations to PS 155 and PS/MS 124 who had an issue with truck drivers coming in to the school yard and smoking as the kids were coming in and with our help we are proud to say we not just made an agreement with the truck company and the school, the kids no longer have to worry about smelling smoke as they come to school so that was a big win for us as well. He added that their next target is Rkwy. Blvd. to make sure that we restore the quality of life back to Rkwy. Blvd. as well.

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

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

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

David Kupferberg introduced himself as the Vice President of Bus Advocacy Passengers United and commented and expressed his concerns on the MTA Bus redesign plan.

Stanley Cummings wished everyone a Happy New Year and introduced himself as a proud member of Gambler's Anonymous for 30 years and spoke of his concerns about youth gambling in the schools with gambling phone apps.

Colin Smith wished everyone a Happy New Year and introduced himself as an outreach specialist for the Council for Airport Opportunity which helps individuals find employment in the aviation industry at JFK, LGA and Newark airport. He announced the minimum starting age is 18 and that he has flyers up front.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karyn Petersen".

Karyn Petersen
Draft- Subject to Approval