



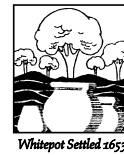
COMMUNITY BOARD 6, QUEENS

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HEATHER BEERS-DIMITRIADIS
CHAIR

DONOVAN RICHARDS
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

CHRISTINE NOLAN
DISTRICT MANAGER

CB 6 MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 13, 2024

PRESENT

HEATHER BEERS-DIMITRIADIS, CHAIR	SALUA BAIDA, SECRETARY OF ADMINISTRATION
PETER BEADLE, 1 ST VICE CHAIR	L.T. CIACCIO, SECRETARY OF FINANCE
KEITH ENGEL, 2 ND VICE CHAIR	JOHN DERESZEWSKI, PARLIAMENTARIAN
MARK LASTER, 3 RD VICE CHAIR	

E. ALFONSECA

R. ASHE

J. AVILA

A. AYON

S. BAIDA

K. BATRA

H. BIRNBAUM

H. CHAIN

G. CHEN

K. CLARK

L. DAVIS

B. GROSSBERG

B. GROSSBERG

K. IMAS

S. JAIN

M. LASHLEY-KABORE

P. MORGAN

S. MUNAWAR

N. PIENKOWSKA

J. POORAN

J. PRATT

D. RACHNAEV

P. RODRIGUEZ

S. ROLNICK

M. SALTON

G. SANDOVAL

D. SCHANTZ

H. SCHONHAUT

A.PRATAP SHAH

E.SHVARTSMAN

J. SILVA

M. TUCKER

B. WINSTEAD

E. ZAKRY

ABSENT

D. ARONOV*

T. GAVRIELOF*

M. FERNANDEZ KONIGSBERG*

K. LY

DR. R. MEHARRA

E. WONG*

*EXCUSED ABSENCE

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

CHRISTINE NOLAN

KEVIN McALEER

JORDAN GOLDES

GIANNA VALENTE

JAVIER FIGARO

KAROL GUAMAN

MARIA CONCOLINO

BARBARA VULICH

DISTRICT MANAGER

OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER LYNN SCHULMAN

OFFICE OF CONGRESS MEMBER GRACE MENG

OFFICE OF ASSEMBLY MEMBER ANDREW HEVESI

OFFICE OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY MELINDA KATZ

OFFICE OF ASSEMBLY MEMBER STEVEN RAGA

COMMUNITY BOARD 6 STAFF

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This meeting was held in person with a limited virtual option via Webex for individuals with extraordinary circumstances. The following CB6 Members joined the meeting via Webex: Heidi Chain, Marcelle Lashley Kabore, Kandra Clark, Karen Imas, and Pat Morgan. The meeting will be recorded and posted on YouTube (www.tinyurl.com/cb6youtube).

Chair Heather Beers-Dimitriadis opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

GOOD AND WELFARE

CB 6 MEMBERS

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis reported for Board Member Mark Laster:

- The Central Queens Coalition Against Hate, is going to be having its next Breaking Bread Building Bonds luncheon on February 9 @ 2 PM. Thanks to the efforts of Megan Yuan, Queens Borough Director, Community Affairs Unit, the Office of the Mayor will be paying for that lunch.
- The Food Scrap Drop-Off site that was run by the FHGT Sundays @ Commonpoint will not be reopening anytime soon. You could still drop off your food scraps every Saturday from 11 AM to 1 PM at Yellowstone and Kessel Street. It is now mandatory for all buildings to separate their food scraps. If buildings don't comply, penalties will start in April 2025.
- Anyone interested in helping to plant daffodils will be held this Saturday, November 16, starting @ 10 AM at Yellowstone Park.
- Sunday, November 17 @ noon, after the clean up on Metropolitan Avenue.

Heidi Chain:

- The 112th Precinct Community Council meeting will be held Tuesday, November 19th at 6 PM, at Ridgewood Savings Bank. We will be celebrating diversity with different ethnic foods from various restaurants in our area and awarding the winners of our contest.

Latrice Davis wanted to publicly congratulate former board member Elizabeth Newton, who was named as a judge in Queens.

Jean Silva:

I am speaking tonight, not as a board member, but as the President of the Flushing Meadows Corona Park Conservancy. We are very upset about this program, with the casino. It sounds great, it has a lot of opportunities. There are lot of hidden items. I am asking you to think about everything. The park isn't going to get a penny with this project. Who is going to take care of the new park? Who is going to take care of the rest of the 894 acres of parkland? With any of these projects the money is going to the city and paying for stuff we don't know what is being paid for. We are the first one on the list for budget cuts. We lose \$50,000-\$80,000 a year. We never get it back; we work harder and have a lot of volunteers. The people who are investing in this project will be making money. Think of the park first, don't let them take it.

PUBLIC FORUM

Chair Beers-Dimitriadis reported that the board is going to move into the public comments. The Executive Committee decided to reduce the time allowed for individuals whether you are from the district or outside the district it will be two minutes. If you are an organizational representative in or outside the district you will have three minutes.

Andy Ngoulou/George Hadjiconstantinou – Queens Chamber of Commerce

We received a grant from Small Business Services to work on merchant organizing on Metropolitan Avenue in Forest Hills. We are working with the Metro Village of Forest Hills in doing programs for small businesses. We also received funding from Councilwoman Lynn Schulman to do this program. A program will be held, Tuesday, January 7th, from 3 PM–6 PM, located at My Kitchen in Forest Hills, business resource fair. The NYC Department of Small Business Services and subsided by Congresswoman Grace Meng are in partnership for restaurant free outdoor dining setup program at no cost to eligible food service establishments. Installation setups will begin April 2025.

Odette Wilkens – Wired Broadband

I'm Odette Wilkens, President and General Counsel of Wired Broadband, Inc., a non-profit in Forest Hills focusing on safe technology for the public. I also have been a technology transactional attorney for over 20 years. I am also Executive Director and General Counsel of the NYC Alliance for Safe Technology. I've been appointed by FCC Chair Jessica Rosenworcel to a working group of the FCC's Communications Equity and Diversity Council (CEDC). We are working on issues of digital discrimination. Turning to the issues in Forest Hills. A 5G Tower has been proposed next to a school playground at 69-20 Juno Street on the sidewalk of P.S. 144. That siting is subject to historic preservation review under the National Historic Preservation Act. Although we wrote a submission in opposition, the NYS Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) disagreed with us. Originally, a 5G Tower was proposed closer to the corner of 69th Avenue and Juno Street on the school sidewalk which we opposed, and in that instance SHPO agreed with us. The community opposes the 5G Tower at the school. It is only feet away from the historic school structure which is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and will have an adverse impact on the historical aesthetics which qualify the school for such eligibility. We will be filing an objection to SHPO based on a number of reasons. There was defective notice in the application with a material error. The application cited the wrong address. It stated 69-23 Juno Street when the proposed siting is at 69-20 Juno Street next to the school's playground. There is a two-story house at 69-23 Juno Street, not a school building. The incorrect address, 69-23 Juno Street, was cited about 30 times in the application and supporting documentation. There were only about three instances of the correct address "across from 69-23 Juno Street." The application was contradictory on its face. We relied on the wrong address when submitting our comments to SHPO. Therefore, this rises to defective notice and material error in the application. We are requesting SHPO that the application should be rejected and a new application submitted with the correct address with a new 30-day shot clock. While the stated purpose for the 5G Tower is to bridge the "digital divide," there has been no evidence of a lack of connectivity in Forest Hills. The applicant has provided no documentation showing any unserved or underserved areas at the school or in its vicinity. We're told that the telecom carriers determine where the towers should be sited, and that information is proprietary. What is sorely lacking is transparency, particularly in the use of public assets. In the absence of supporting documentation, 5G Tower fails in its essential purpose of bridging the "digital divide." 5G Tower's proposed siting is only 140' from the historic structure of PS 144 and is within sight of it. The 5G Tower will destroy the historic setting of the school. The school has gone through great lengths to maintain its architectural integrity and the area around it. It spent \$52 million on the new addition and gave a facelift to the façade. The site developer states that the 5G Tower will be camouflaged by nearby buildings, street infrastructure and trees. It won't. The tower is 32-1/2' tall – that's 3 stories. It will dominate the streetscape. There are only two-story houses. There's one thin light pole 40' away. There are sparse, new-growth trees on that block. The foliage will stop the 5G signals, so what good is the 5G Tower then? In the winter, it will stick out like a sore thumb. No camouflage. No visual buffers. The Van Court Association district in which PS 144 is located has gone through great lengths for many decades to protect and preserve the architectural setting of the area, determining what is and is not permitted to be constructed. Regarding 5G Towers in our neighborhood, you can file to be a consulting party to voice opposition to the 5G Towers. Here are instructions to file either as part of the general public or as a consulting party. Deadlines have either gone or are fast approaching. So, if you're interested in filing comments, here are some guidelines. For General Public: You can comment on any site listed at <https://citybridgelink5g.azurewebsites.net>. Send comments by email to: citybridgelink5g@ebiconsulting.com; Olivia Brazee Olivia.Brazee@parks.ny.gov; Sloane Bullough sloane.bullough@parks.ny.gov. For Consulting Parties: First, to apply as a consulting party, send an email to all three: NEPA-NHPA@link.nyc, sderrick@ebiconsulting.com, tammi.grant@boldyn.com. State: the name of your organization, why you should be a consulting party (with "a demonstrated interest" due to legal, economic or historic preservation concerns), the geographic area you are interested in (could be one or more blocks, neighborhoods, historic districts, community districts, etc.). If you don't receive a timely

response (within 3 days) or have any questions: send an email to Tammi Grant at tammi.grant@boldyn.com, cc your email to: Chris Murray at cmurray@ebiconsulting.com. Please contact me for more information and with any questions. We also hold weekly meetings in NYC; please let me know if you'd like to attend.

Chair Dimitriadis announced if you are interested in this project there was a presentation made to the Environmental Protection Committee earlier this fall you can find the presentation on YouTube. If you have any further questions about our response to the project, reach out to the Community Board office.

Jennifer Martin – Schwartz Brothers Funeral Director

I am a funeral director and the director of outreach, representing four funeral homes under one roof. Schwartz Brothers, Parkside, Sinai Chapel and Forest Park which is our non-sectarian branch. We are having two programs: Songs of Love and Thanksgiving with Cantor Irene Failenbogen on Wednesday, November 20th at 3:30 PM and Historic Houses of Queens presented by Rob MacKay on Tuesday, December 17th at 6:30pm.

Ilulia Glushcheko

I'm here to discuss Bill Int. 0559-2024, which aims to improve food and nutrition education in New York City schools. This bill proposes regular reporting on the quality and scope of nutrition education provided to students, but I'd like to enhance it by recommending that we also incorporate dental health education alongside nutrition.

Why? Nutrition is one of the key factors that impact dental health. A study from the American Dental Association found that poor diet, especially sugary foods and beverages, is a major contributor to tooth decay and other dental problems in children. In fact, cavities are the most common chronic disease among children in the U.S., with nearly one in five children aged 5 to 11 having untreated tooth decay. In NYC, children in underserved areas, like parts of Queens, face the greatest burden of dental health disparities, leading to missed school days and a greater likelihood of needing costly dental treatments. While food and nutrition education can reduce the risk of obesity, promoting oral health education can have the same preventive impact on dental diseases. Incorporating lessons on healthy snacks, limiting sugary drinks, and maintaining proper oral hygiene into the food education curriculum could lead to better outcomes for both students' health and their learning environment. A 2021 study showed that children who received both nutrition and oral health education were 35% less likely to develop cavities over a two-year period. In the spirit of Bill Int. 0559-2024, I propose the following policy changes: add oral health education to the food and nutrition curriculum. Schools should teach students about the impact of nutrition on both physical and dental health. This should include simple practices like brushing after meals and drinking water instead of sugary drinks. Require reporting on dental health education alongside food and nutrition data, tracking the number of students who receive both types of instruction, disaggregated by race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status. Provide training for school personnel on both food and nutrition education and dental hygiene, ensuring educators can guide students on maintaining both a healthy diet and oral hygiene. The data supports that by combining food and nutrition education with oral health knowledge, we can help address significant health disparities and improve both the dental and physical well-being of our students. This is an opportunity to promote a healthier generation while reducing health-related school absences in neighborhoods like ours in Queens. Thank you for considering these important changes, and I urge your support in passing Bill Int. 0559-2024 with these enhancements. Key Data References: American Dental Association: Cavities are the most common chronic disease in children. NYC Health Department: High rates of dental issues in low-income and underserved areas, especially in Queens. CDC Data: 1 in 5 children aged 5-11 years old have untreated tooth decay. 2021 Study: Children who received nutrition and oral health education were 35% less likely to develop cavities.

Alfonso Lopez – Queens Borough Commissioner for DEP

I am the Queens Borough Commissioner for DEP; we never had this role before. The advantage to me is having people like you in your leadership to show me some DEP sites that need attention. DEP has fixed two catch basins. You can reach me and my team at queensdep@dep.nyc.gov. Please reach out to me with catch basins that aren't cleaned, areas prone to flooding. A lot of the big projects are started off with a phone call or email through 311, the elected officials and through our office. Put a complaint through 311 and if your complaint isn't being resolved email me, cc your community board. On November 2nd an announcement was made about the drought. Right now, we are in the early phase, we encourage people to not run the water unnecessary, repair leaks in your home. If you see a fire hydrant open call it into 311 and notify me.

Craig Lastres – Commonpoint Queens

I am the Chief Operating Officer at Commonpoint. I am here today to support Metropolitan Park. We are in CB6 and nine sites, roughly 50,000 people come through our doors. One of our biggest things is our food pantry on 108th Street. We had 30,000 people come through our food pantry this year. These people are in crisis. When I think about how we get from crisis to stability is by giving these people a job to get off the food pantry line. To be able to feed and support their family. Commonpoint is interested in training these people so they can get a job at the Metropolitan Park, the hotel and everything else they're trying to build here. In Forest Hills we have a program for children with disabilities. We need to think about the children with disabilities, the park will have the ability for all children to play there. I think all the economic development, having more parkland in Queens that will help all the residents of Queens is a priority for us.

Maggie Kassmiss

I am a resident of Forest Hills, and I work in a school in Bayside, I also grew up in Corona a few blocks away from Citi Field. I'm here tonight to support the Metropolitan Park project. It's a wonderful project, it will change the face of Queens. The most important part of this project is the jobs it is going to bring, over 20,000 local union jobs. As a teacher, I think about my students that need an afterschool job. College students that need part-time jobs, that are creating a working path, to start their own path. I'm thinking about teachers or people that are sitting in this room, that has two or three jobs, there isn't enough opportunities. For kids to have the opportunity to find work, not just a part-time job but a part-time job that can turn into a long-lasting career. Transforming that jungle of concrete. To have this park being built right in my backyard is a great opportunity. As a teacher and a coach for 20 years in the public school system. I can tell that the facilities around Queens aren't enough for our kids, our young athletes. This park will create so many facilities for them to have the experience to play in surface fields. On wonderful surfaces, fields, things that a lot of our kids maybe don't have access to. It's going to be a great project.

Larry Gallegos

I am a lifelong Queens kid who was raised in Jackson Heights. I am in support of Metropolitan Park. My wife and I are raising two children here and I want them to see what a community is capable of advocating for. That when we fight, we win. I want to be able to take my kids to this park, my wife to those restaurants and watch my kids play on these ball fields. I am here and so many others here because of what this project represents. A project that was built from the ground up with community every step of the way. I know there are concerns with this project, but I'll will say a few things about that. I wouldn't be here with my children, if I didn't have faith in this project. If there's any community that can hold people accountable, it's this one. Are these opponents truly representing the fabric of this community. What realistic alternative will they provide our community. I heard people saying that, you know, the only people that'll benefit are the casino or the Mets. You obviously haven't walked down Rosevelt Avenue, the street vendors, the small business owners. I see a lot of pop up when these types of things happen on Instagram saying yeah, we won we did this and then the community is left behind with more disinvestment. Let's now let this happen. I urge the community board to support this project. Our community deserves it and needs it.

Tammy Rose

I'm a mom and have lived here in Queens for almost 30 years and support Metropolitan Park project. I am an early childhood educator, we have five schools here in Queens, one is up the road here in Rego Park. We support this project because of what it can truly bring to our neighborhood. I am not going to lie, when I first heard about it, I was not for this project. I went to the first town hall, and they were talking about the concrete that was just sitting there, getting hotter and hotter. Then they started talking about the jobs it would bring and talking to the team. What does this mean? What can it mean for our community because I already employ 78 people through our staff, but I represent over 315 families. Many of the families work in service industry jobs and are in the unions. The Metropolitan Park representative's would bring 24,000 union jobs. My first question as an early childhood educator is who is going to take care of the kids? That is when they said one of the projects that we will have here, is all employees that work there will have childcare. This is instrumental in Queens; we don't have that. All permeant jobs that are there you will have childcare. I support this project; we need jobs that provide childcare. Let's let Queens be the instrumental force in doing that.

Olga Reyes

I am here to represent Metropolitan Park as a mom that would like to have a job nearby. I live in Corona, having the opportunity to work in a place that is blocks away from me makes a big difference. That extra five minutes you get to spend quality time with your child after working 8-5 PM, 9-6 PM, 10-11 PM, being able to tuck the child to bed. You get home to feed and put your child to bed, spend quality time with them. Having the opportunity for our local neighborhood to have childcare on the site, takes a lot of the burden off of the parent. This project itself that is nearby for me to take my child to see a concert or play in the park. Flushing Meadow Park has been neglected; I don't think they are responsible for this neglect. We need to find a solution to beautify the park again. Lately, it's been lacking, I, would love to volunteer with you to help find a solution with Flushing Meadows Park which has nothing to do with Metropolitan Park. They are bringing something big and beautiful.

Kevin Tse

I am the Deputy Director for Chinese American Planning Council; we are a 60-year-old social service organization rooted in community and anchored throughout New York City. Our Queens community center that serves over tens of thousands of residents across the borough annually. From early childcare to after school programs to English literacy, to adults programming. Our holistic services include community members to survive and thrive. Chinese American Planning Council is supportive of the inclusive community integrated workforce and economic development potential of Metropolitan Park project as it aligns with our agency's mission to promote the social and economical empowerment of immigrants and low-income New Yorkers.

As an organization that provides linguistic accessible and culturally competent employment services and wraparound support, we believe Metropolitan Park has the potential to move the needle on economic mobility for Queens residents by creating real pathways to upskilling hiring and retention of local talent. Through the project's commitment to supporting workforce training, job creation, career advancement Metropolitan Park is positioned to be an opportunity hub inclusive of the local business community and boroughs diverse but often marginalized populations. Including multilingual and multigenerational immigrants', individuals with disabilities, unemployed and underemployed queens' residents served by community organizations such as CPC.

Rebecca Pryor - Guardians of Flushing Bay

The Development that the ULURP application enables is in the middle of low-income communities and communities of color, many of whom are already suffering from indirect residential and commercial displacement, lack of access to open space, and environmental justice burdens. If approved, the project would double the parking spaces in an area where residents fall into the 80th and 90th national percentiles for air toxicity and proximity to traffic. The adverse environmental impacts of the proposed 78-acre Queens Future Development Project have rendered a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) necessary. The applicants have prepared a DEIS and submitted it as part of the application package for the ULURP process. Upon review of the DEIS, GoFB believes that the proposed project's social and environmental impacts are so profound that the project should not receive ULURP approval, parkland alienation legislation, or a casino license, all required for the proposal to move forward. If the project is to move forward, GoFB calls on the Community Board to significantly modify the proposal to protect the health and well-being of the communities and ecologies directly impacted by it. These recommended modifications include: An acre-for-acre replacement of parkland. Prohibition of a casino on the Development site. A meaningful study of indirect residential and commercial displacement. Development recommendations reflective of the Phoenix Meadows Vision Plan. A community benefits agreement that includes a robust financial commitment Queens Community Boards 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, and 9 play a critical role in Queens Future's Development proposal approval process. As representatives of your Community District, you have the power to protect your communities against future displacement, the taking of 78 acres of public parkland, and the impacts of a predatory casino. If the project does move forward, Community Board 6 has the opportunity to call for the benefits that your communities deserve—public parkland that protects neighbors from future flooding, public parkland that increases well-paying green jobs and food vendor activity, and public parkland that benefits the public. As the board reviews Queens Future's ULURP application, GoFB urges you to either vote NO or NO UNLESS MODIFIED and include the following modifications in your vote. 1. Stop a 78-acre, likely tax-free public parkland giveaway The Applicants' ULURP application is one of three necessary processes that would enable the development of more than 78

acres of public parkland, transforming the site into a massive hotel, casino, and entertainment complex. The ULURP application comes before passing a New York State parkland alienation bill, allowing for the Development atop 78 acres of public parkland, and before granting a casino license. Both processes are needed to build the development, and both will be bolstered by the passage of the Applicants' ULURP application. If parkland alienation legislation passes, New Yorkers will lose more than 78 acres of open space to a hotel and casino complex, impacting hundreds of thousands of nearby residents, encouraging a precedent for future alienation across New York City, and privatizing one of our most valuable public assets. This loss is even more significant when considered against the potential of this land and its associated community benefits, such as increasing connectivity to local communities and the rest of Flushing Meadows Corona Park, increasing access for small business vendors, increasing recreational activity, and implementing systems to capture 100% of the stormwater that falls on the site. 2 Ngu, S. (2020, August 13). 'Not what it used to be': In New York, Flushing's Asian residents brace against gentrification. *The Guardian*. 3 US Environmental Protection Agency (n.d.). EPA's Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool (Version 2.2). EPA EJScreen. Retrieved January 10, 2024, from <https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/> 4 Ibid. 2 Both bills introduced in both the New York State Assembly (A5688) and Senate (S9747), which this ULURP approval would bolster, not only enable the gifting of 78 acres of public parkland to a private developer, but they do so without also requiring acre-for-acre replacement of parkland elsewhere. Replacing alienated parkland by creating new parkland elsewhere is strongly recommended in the NY State Handbook on the Alienation and Conversion of Municipal Parkland. While replacing parkland acreage of this scale is challenging, Flushing Airport, a ~90-acre wetland and green space 1.2 miles away from Citi Field, is a potential site for such a replacement if it were to be required.

OUR ASK: As representatives of the communities directly impacted by this massive public land giveaway, we are calling on the Community Board to vote no, or no, unless modified to include a future acre-for-acre replacement elsewhere in Queens. 2. Prohibit a casino on the parkland adjacent to Citi Field Growing scientific research confirms that gambling and gambling addiction is a public health issue with multiple health effects, including the highest rate of suicide of any addictive disorder. Gambling does not only impact the health of the gambler problem gambling can impact an average of seven other people, including spouses, children, extended family, and friends, negatively affecting an entire community. Further, Chinese communities in New York, of which Flushing is the largest, are already well-known to be targeted by casinos. As evidenced in Senator Jessica Ramos' 2024 survey¹¹, local communities want parks and economic development that improve our health and well-being, not a project that corrodes public health and gifts 78 acres of public land to a billionaire to build a casino. OUR ASK: As representatives of the communities directly impacted by any future casino, we are calling on the Community Board to vote: No, or No, unless modified to prohibit a casino as a condition of the land use actions. 3. Invest in public parkland, in alignment with the Phoenix Meadows Vision Plan GoFB is a steering committee member of the Flushing for Equitable Development and Urban Planning coalition (FED-UP), a coalition of community-based organizations that builds community power with those most affected by the impacts of local large-scale luxury developments. FED-UP envisions a Queens that is accessible, affordable, equitable, and healthy. A Queens where residents, workers, small businesses, and ecologies can thrive. New York State Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. (2017, September 1). Handbook on the Alienation and Conversion of Municipal Parkland.<https://parks.ny.gov/documents/publications/alienationhandbook2017.pdf> 6 Johnstone, P., & Regan, M. (2020). Gambling harm is everybody's business: A public health approach and call to action. *Public Health*, 184, 63-66. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.puhe.2020.06.010> 7 Inniss, B. (2022, December 15). The Often-Unrecognized Public Health Impact of Gambling. *The Network for Public Health Law*. <https://www.networkforphl.org/news-insights/the-often-unrecognized-public-health-impact-of-gambling/> 8 Marionneau, V., & Nikkinen, J. (2022). Gambling-related suicides and suicidality: A systematic review of qualitative evidence. *Frontiers in Psychiatry*, 13. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsy.2022.980303> 9 (n.d.). Problem Gambling. American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. https://www.aamft.org/Consumer_Updates/Problem_Gambling.aspx 10 Hong, N., & Chan, M. (2022, December 26). Casinos Target a Vulnerable Clientele: Older Asian Gamblers. *New York Times*. <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/12/26/nyregion/nyc-casino-asian-immigrant-gamblers.html> 11 Honan, Katie. (2024, April 1). Pol's Poll Shows Low Support for Citi Field Casino. *The City*. <https://www.thecity.nyc/2024/04/01/poll-casino-citi-field-jessica-ramos-steve-cohen/> 3 In 2024, FED-UP developed the Phoenix Meadows Vision Plan¹² as an alternative to be considered in contrast to the Queens Future Development Project. Phoenix Meadows proposes to transform the site into a massive park with a central esplanade, space for small business vendors, pedestrian and bike connections to local

neighborhoods, and green space that absorbs 100% of the stormwater (70 million gallons per year) on-site. Phoenix Meadows retains the current number of parking spaces by building the park alongside and on top of three-story decked parking garages. The brilliance of Phoenix Meadows is in its simplicity: invest in public parkland to increase economic activity, create well-paying green jobs, and protect against future storms. Invest in public parkland without preying on the wealth of local communities. Invest in public parkland so that it is worthy for Mets fans to celebrate their home team. The Applicants have the money and ability to propose such an investment in partnership and collaboration with local communities. Yet, the Applicants insist on a false dichotomy: build a hotel complex with a casino or build nothing. We are calling on Community Boards to demand better for Queens. Our ask: As representatives of the communities who will be most directly impacted by the privatization of public parkland into a hotel and casino complex, we are calling on the Community Board to either vote: no, or no, unless modified to reflect the Phoenix Meadows Vision Plan proposal recommendations, including 100% stormwater capture, no parkland alienation, no net gain of parking spaces, connectivity to local neighborhoods, and adequate space for local food vendors.

4. Protect Communities from displacement in presentations and messaging materials, Queens Future claims that Metropolitan Park will be a climate-resilient and environmentally just development for Queens. Any new development that purports to be climate resilient or environmentally just requires a robust and transparent anti-gentrification strategy. If not, any development—especially one of this scale and scope—may result in the displacement of the communities for whom the proposal claims to serve. The Development will comprise 3.7 million square feet of new construction. It will result in a markedly different change in land use, transforming the area from a parking lot to a casino and hotel. The Development is situated between the neighborhoods of Flushing, Willets Point, East Elmhurst, North Corona, and Corona, which have a collective median household income (\$56,250) below NYC’s median household income (\$70,663).¹³ Flushing and Willets Point’s Neighborhood Tabulation Area has the lowest median household income of \$44,322.¹⁴ For all these reasons, indirect residential displacement and indirect commercial displacement in Flushing, Willets Point, Corona, and East Elmhurst must be robustly studied and considered in any development proposal. As described in the DEIS, the Applicants use a quarter-mile radius to study indirect residential and commercial displacement, the minimum study area required by the City Environmental Quality Review process. In doing so, the sole neighborhoods the Applicants studied were Willets Point and small segments of Corona. The Applicants did not study the potential impacts of indirect residential or indirect commercial displacement in Queens Community Districts 4, 6, 8, or 9 or in the vast majority of Community Districts 3 and 7, all of which are included in the ULURP process due to the potential impacts of the Development. Absurdly, by following this minimum study area requirement, the Applicants ¹² Flushing for Equitable Development and Urban Planning Coalition. Phoenix Meadows Vision Plan. Queens For All. Retrieved January 10, 2024, from <https://www.queensforall.com/phoenix-meadows-vision-plan> ¹³ NYC Department of City Planning (n.d.). Population Factfinder. Median Household Incomes; Household Type: All Households; Neighborhood Tabulation Areas: East Elmhurst, North Corona, Corona, Flushing; Dollars; American Community Survey 2017-2021, <https://popfactfinder.planning.nyc.gov/#11.67/40.7231/-73.8497>. ¹⁴ Ibid. 4 studied indirect residential displacement in a substantial swath of Flushing Bay, a waterbody with no permanent residential activity. See Figures 3-2 and 3-3 from the Applicants’ DEIS pg. 3-8 for an outline of the study area. In addition to a limited study of indirect displacement, Applicants ignored the impacts that the Development could have on restaurant and bar businesses, which would be competing with the casino and its restaurants. Instead, the DEIS focuses broadly on all indirect commercial displacement, which may not give the level of specificity needed to understand the particular adverse impacts on the surrounding neighborhood’s robust small restaurants, vendors, and bars. Our ask: As representatives of the communities who will be impacted by potential indirect residential and commercial displacement, we are calling on the Community Board to either vote: no, or no, and demand that Applicants meaningfully study 1. indirect commercial and indirect residential displacement to include Queens Community Districts 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, and 9, and 2. the impacts on the local restaurant industry. 5. Demand a transparent and robust community benefits agreement Queens Future shared a letter (Appendix A) to Community Boards about Queens Future’s financial commitment to communities impacted by the project. The letter states that “As part of our 1-billion-dollar commitment to Queens, a Community Improvement Fund (“Fund”) will be created to provide several million dollars in annual grants to benefit community-based organizations” but does not specify the exact amount going to the fund each year. The Community Board letter goes on to explain that a seven-member board—with at least one representative from Queens Community 5 Board 7—will determine the community-based organizations to receive the funding. Verbally and in the press, Queens Future committed 163 million dollars ¹⁵

over 30 years to the Fund, which amounts to 5.4 million dollars annually. Assuming that each of the six impacted Community Districts will receive a seat on the seven-member board, each district will receive roughly 900 thousand dollars annually for thirty years to distribute to community-based organizations. This calculation is based solely on Queens Future's press statements and verbal community board presentations, not on any publicly available signed documentation. The Community Improvement Fund, the central community benefit associated with the project, fails local communities in two keyways: 1. Especially when compared to the project's potential impacts and the future profits stood to gain by Queens Future, 900 thousand dollars in annual grants to each impacted Community District is both low and ungrounded by a transparent rationale. The commitment does not correspond to any relevant financial impacts of the project, which Queens Future has not transparently studied. 2. The signed letter lacks commitment regarding the amount of money granted (i.e. "several million dollars") and an enforcement structure to ensure that communities receive the money committed. While GoFB believes that no community benefits agreement could mitigate or justify the magnitude of the harm caused by this project, Queens communities deserve a robust, lock-tight, transparent, and just community benefits agreement if this project moves forward. We cannot accept crumbs in the face of a massive, predatory project that privatizes 78 acres of precious public land. Our ask: As representatives of the communities who will be impacted by this Development for generations to come, we are calling on the Community Board to either vote: no, or no, unless Queens Future commits to a lock-tight community benefits agreement, including a financial commitment commensurate with the project's studied social and economic impacts, focusing on a study area encompassing Queens Community Districts 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, and 9. A no vote or a no vote with these recommended modifications strives to protect the communities directly impacted by the Applicants' Development that the ULURP process enables. As the representatives of Queens Community District 6, we are calling on you to do everything in your power to prevent the taking of public parkland, prohibit a casino from preying on local communities, prevent the indirect displacement of residents and small businesses, and protect neighbors from the impacts of increased precipitation and storm events due to climate change. Thank you for considering our comments.

Joseph Ottomanelli - Department of Sanitation

I have an update regarding the residential containerization plan that took effect yesterday. Residential establishments of one to nine units will be required to place trash out in bins 55 gallons or less with a secure lid. This is strictly for garbage alone; recycling can continue to be set out as residents have been continuously doing. Residents can use their own bins or the official NYC bin, which they can purchase on bins.nyc or Home Depot which is now an authorized reseller of the bins. By June 2026 everyone will be required to have the official nyc bin. There will be a warning period for the residential containerization plan beginning from yesterday to January 2nd, 2025. There will be a violation issued for anyone not in compliance with containerizing their trash. \$50 for first offense, \$100 for the second offense and \$200 for the third and subsequent offense. In turns of service the empty bins must be removed from the curb by 9 PM day of collection. In means of storage of the bin, residents can be stored within the rear of the yard or within property boundaries. If this isn't feasible residents can store their bins within 3 feet of the building line. Beginning December 19th their will be an increase in fines for repeat commercial offenders. That pertains to any violation like cleaning related offenses failure to clean 18 inches from the curb. Dirty area violations, the breakdown of the fines is: first offense \$50.00, second offense if \$300.00 and the third and subsequent offense will be \$500.00. Those offenses will be within a rolling year.

The following comment was submitted in writing for the minutes

Sidra Ahmad

I am a lifelong resident of Queens. I grew up in Flushing / Fresh Meadows and currently live in Forest Hills. I am strongly opposed to the Queens Future initiative which seeks to develop public land in Flushing Bay with a casino and other entertainment/retail spaces for the following reasons:

- With the existence of Resorts World Casino and the ubiquity of mobile gambling, the borough does not need another casino to facilitate addiction.
- The city is deep in a drought fueled by climate change, and we should not pave over public parkland without increasing climate resiliency and preserving 100% stormwater capture.
- This project will push and price out the working-class communities of color (primarily Asian and Latino) that have long made Flushing a vibrant area, continuing decades of gentrification in Queens and New York a city more broadly.

• *Proponents of Metropolitan Park say that it will create jobs. We have seen over and over that these development projects never create as many jobs, bring in as much revenue, or allocate as many affordable housing units as they promise they will. They just function as massive handouts to corporations and developers. Please block the Metropolitan Park ULURP. The community deserves better than what Steve Cohen is offering. Thank you for your time and consideration.*

Chair Heather Beers-Dimitriadis closed the public forum and reminded the public that tonight's meeting isn't a town hall and won't be taking further comments or questions from the community.

MINUTES

A motion to accept the minutes from the October 9, 2024, meeting was made by Howard Birnbaum and seconded by Natalie Pienkowska. All were in favor.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Heather Beers-Dimitriadis announced the following:

In an effort to improve our efficiency and inclusivity as a board - the Executive Committee met and has approved the following parameters for discussion periods:

- During each discussion period, each member will be granted a single 2-minute opportunity to speak. What does this mean? Each time the floor is open to discussion each member will be granted a single time to speak for two minutes. We have 45 members currently and we want to ensure that each member is provided an opportunity to speak should they choose to do so. Speaking includes comments and questions. We hope that this provides more space for more members to participate while streamlining our discussions. We consider the diverse expressed perspective on our strongest assets as a board.
- As you saw tonight, we have also adjusted the time allotted for public comment along with the time allotted for good and welfare and the elected officials' reports.

The Executive Committee during that meeting also recommended to the Bylaw Committee that they review the Extraordinary Circumstances Resolution and consider making changes to better align with our other policies. There will be more information on this effort in a future meeting.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

District Manager Christine Nolan reported the following:

- It is very hard to hear votes on the recording if they aren't given into the microphone. Therefore, when there is a roll call vote, I will repeat the votes into the microphone. If there is a discrepancy, please stop me and correct me.
- In order to make sure our voting records are accurate; we need to know who was in the room and who wasn't in the room for a roll call vote. Therefore, if you need to leave before the meeting is adjourned, please stop and sign out with Barbara.
- I submitted our needs statement and budget requests to the city through their online portal. Once they put them all together, they will send us a document that I can share with you. Thank you for all your work and input.
- We will have another ULURP item to vote on next month, a Rezoning on Queens Boulevard. To learn as much as possible about the project that you are voting on, we invite and encourage all CB Members to come to the Committee Meeting / Public Hearing next Thursday November 21st at the Rego Center Community Room. If you can't make it to the meeting, a recording of all meetings is available on our YouTube page.
- I want to thank Commissioner Alfonso Lopez for coming tonight. It is nice to have an agency that is willing to meet with us and give out his email address. Please just remember to cc the CB6 office on all emails so we can follow up.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS / CULTURAL AFFAIRS / ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Brently Winstead, Co-Chair, gave the following report:

Liquor License Applications:

CB6 received the following new liquor license applications:

1. The Cottage Tavern, 108-07 72nd Avenue, FH

Change in Method of Operation: Extending hours to 4 am (currently 2 am) and adding live acoustic/jazz music, 7 days a week.

2. BRAZILICIOUS INC., 66-75 SELFRIDGE STREET, FH

Purchase of an existing tavern, adding Brazilian fast food. The owner has 15+ years of food industry experience and operates at the Queens Night Market. The signature item is a Brazilian-style steak sandwich on smoked chipotle yuca bread.

3. 2K HEALTH FOOD SERVICES, 70-13 AUSTIN STREET, FH

New restaurant with a full kitchen and regular menu. Ownership also operates 2K Café Ole, ensuring adherence to liquor laws and local community standards.

4. MELI RESTAURANT, 98-31 METROPOLITAN AVENUE, FH

Greek-inspired menu with a focus on fresh fish, lamb, and raw dishes. Seeking liquor license.

5. RADICI, 100-11 METROPOLITAN AVENUE, FH

Full-service Italian restaurant, opening 7 days a week, 11 am – 10 pm (11 pm on Fri & Sat). Quiet background music, no live music.

All new applications have received unanimous approval from the committee, with no reported issues from the 112th Precinct.

CB6 received the following new liquor license applications:

- Dallas BBQ, 61-35 Junction Blvd, RP
- Bamboo Ya Sushi, 69-12 Austin Street, FH
- Jade Eatery and Lounge, 1 Station Square, FH
- Paratha Wala, 103-09 Metropolitan Avenue, FH
- Spring Tai Fusion & Bar, 96-40 Queens Blvd., RP

All renewal applications have received unanimous approval from the committee, with no reported issues from the 112th precinct.

The Committee Motion is to approve all new and renewal liquor license applications. All were in favor. The motion passed on a voice vote.

LAND USE, HOUSING, LANDMARK COMMITTEE REPORT ULURP - QUEENS FUTURE MAP CHANGE AND AMENDMENT

Keith Engel, Chair, reported that there was a presentation and public hearing on this application at the Land Use, Housing, Landmark Committee Meeting on October 29, 2024. This is a city map amendment and a zoning map amendment on city-owned property to facilitate a new 3.7 gross square foot mixed-use development, including a gaming facility, a music hall, hotel, convention space, parking, and other amenities in Flushing Meadows Corona Park. The development site is within joint interest area 81 and will be referred to Queens community districts adjacent to the site including 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, and 9.

A presentation was made by Julissa Ferreras-Copeland and Sean Caffery, Senior VP of Business and Casino Development at Hard Rock.

When Steve Cohen purchased the NY Mets, he understood that owning the team was a civic responsibility and he wanted to hold the team in trust for the community and for the fans. Part of that process was listening to the fans and listening to the community surrounding the area. Oftentimes, people would come to the stadium and say that there's nothing to do before and after a game. What else can we do as part of the community to be able to enjoy the space surrounding the ballpark? This became the “big idea”. It would provide opportunities for good-paying jobs, a 25-acre park public park, and improved transportation while making this area climate-resistant and creating infrastructure that currently does not exist.

Timeline:

November 2023 – August 2024 – Environmental review and precertification

September 2024 - April 2025 – ULURP Process, ending with the City Council Vote

After that, there will be a community advisory committee, which is part of the gaming application. It is a six-person board representative of the local elected officials who will vote on the gaming portion of this project and then the local siting board, followed by the gaming commission, which will then identify who has won the privilege of having a license in December of 2025.

The gaming facility makes up 10% of the total project but it pays for the project in its entirety. This is an \$8 billion investment but that 10% helps pay for: Conference space, a public plaza, Queens food hall with community space above it, and community athletic fields and playgrounds.

History of the site:

This area was a swamp; In 1913, it became a garbage dump; In 1937, it became the world's fair parking lot; In 1942, it became a commuter parking lot; In 1962, it was Shea Stadium with a parking lot; and then in 2007, it was CitiField with a parking lot on the other side.

There has been four years of engagement with the surrounding communities including:

- Over a thousand meetings
- 16 community workshops, some in the basements of local churches.
- Large workshops at CitiField, which were several hundred people that came in and shared their thoughts and what they thought should be developed here at the site.
- Engaging with residents via door-to-door campaign

Through this engagement, there were a lot of ideas, but the things heard the most are that people wanted expanded open space, and they wanted jobs. They wanted something that brought activity 365 days. At every visioning session, people said that this area was desolate and dark, and after there's a game, there's nothing else to do once baseball season is over. People wanted a hotel, casino, restaurants, live music venue, etc. Ms. Ferreras-Copeland stressed that they want to make sure communities remain connected throughout the duration of this project.

Community Benefits:

- Union project
- \$1 Billion Commitment to Queens
 - o \$320 Million – Public Park and Athletic Fields (25 Acres)
 - o \$480 Million – Accessible MTA Station and Climate Infrastructure
 - o \$163 Million – Community Improvement Fund
 - o \$150 Million – Taste of Queens Food Hall and Community Space
 - o \$25 Million – Neighborhood Projects

Chair Engel reported that there were 25 Public Comments made at the Public Hearing and a majority were in favor of the project. The committee motion was to approve the application with the following condition: to ensure that the funds allocated to the community fund are used to fund projects that the communities themselves select.

There was a discussion/Q & A Session:

How much revenue do you anticipate your casino will make every year?

This is a competitive bidding for the license so the anticipated revenue can't be disclosed at this time.

Are there any legally binding documents or things in this process that would ensure that those community funds are allocated?

For us to receive our gaming license, we have to build and meet all of these expectations, including the over \$1 billion of additional community benefits that we've talked about. Those have to be delivered to the community. Otherwise, we never get a license to operate the building and none of this moves forward. So those are conditions that are met, and it's the binding agreement that we sign with the state of New York and the gaming commission to effectively deliver that.

What investments do you anticipate making to help mitigate against the public health risks with the possible increase in gambling addiction that could happen because of this?

We spend an enormous amount of money; a portion of our revenue is effectively dedicated specifically to treatment. And so, we've worked with ElmCor and a few other local community groups to line up to treat these issues in the communities with the relevant languages that are spoken within Queens. We've tried to find the best at this, and we also have hired the best in the world to do this for us globally. Paul Pelasari, who leads corporate social responsibility for the company, is the one who's doing this, and he was basically one of the foremost recognized people. In treating this specific problem, and so it's a huge issue that we recognize the community is concerned about and it's one that we address consistently in every jurisdiction that we operate.

Will you have monthly meetings with the local community board ongoing?

We designate the property president, who is responsible for the overall operating facility. Julissa's sole responsibility for the organization is to engage with the community. This is all dependent on getting one of the three licenses.

If the license isn't granted, does the demapping revert or does it just not happen in the first place?

Once we go through this process, if we're unsuccessful in getting the license it will revert back to its original status. There won't be any change.

If everything goes forward, what about park alienation? I would like to see that the 25 acres that's demapped are to be found somewhere else.

We are seeking alienation legislation to do the demapping of the 25 acres to become effective. That is the scope of the demapping. In the 25-acre parking lot, we will be creating a new parkland. We will not be seeking to replace the other 25 acres.

At the end of your racial equity report, which is required as part of the ULURP process, you have graphics on that displacement to the communities east and west of the site, Corona and Flushing. Which have a lot of low income and are at risk of displacing folks who don't have a lot of income. What risk are we putting folks at and the risk of affordable housing?

We studied that and concluded that the percentage increase in the population in the neighborhood and surrounding the new facility would be very small. That is not this project. This project is about jobs, but not as far as new residents. We believe new residents in the neighborhood is going to be very low. It would be a small number of people of who would relocate from areas outside New York City to be close to their new employment. About 155 workers in specialty areas will live around Queens. We put a local hiring preference in place so that Queens residents who are in the immediate community are going to be the first to get the jobs.

The 10% of the casino pays for this project. The public returns from gambling tend to decline over time. What makes this different in terms of economic revitalization? I haven't seen this topic discussed at the meetings or hearings. Is there a case study you can share about turning a community around, without depleting local wealth from low-income households? I would like to see some of those case studies, and data matters. This is a long-term proposition; you owe it to this community to show how this has worked well. We need to see a track record of success. We need to see a track record of economic revenues for the localities in the state. It has to be worth it for the communities to go all in on this project.

We have done case studies, where this has been positive. We are not just a casino, they come for the restaurants, concerts, pools, and spa. We transform the community, when we come into the market, we often take an outsized share and reinvest the money back into our properties. There have been a lot of concerns about community funds, having access to this. We are prefunding this part of our overall \$8 billion budget. There is no risk to the community of us being able to pay this out. In Florida for 30 years we guarantee, the first five years of this over two and a half billion dollars to fund state education and environmental efforts. The ownership of Hard Rock makes a commitment to the community. They have made that commitment to other places around the country and around the world. I can give you some examples out there that talk about not only Hard Rock but also where places have been beneficial in creating jobs and long-term success.

We see the arrogance of the USTA when they come and take over the public park. We see the depreciation concern for our community. We are hoping you keep your promises and that the community funds increase. How is the fund going to help with 2500 affordable housing units to be built directly adjacent to the soccer stadium.

One part of the project, what the Mets have done including the agreement that they have with the city, the way that the parking is effectively being designated has now allowed for the additional 25000 affordable housing units to be built directly adjacent to the soccer stadium. Some additional benefits we think could help with affordable housing in the marketplace, stay tuned.

We would like to get some money for Flushing Meadow Corona Park upfront.

The community improvement fund would be administered by a group of community leaders, and representatives from the community boards, one representative sit on this fund board. Yearly it would give out a certain amount of money to be reinvested in the communities that are surrounding Flushing Meadow Corona Park. It will be a fund that is flexible to respond to the community's needs. For the investment in Flushing Meadows Corona Park, there are three ball fields, two have been renovated and the third is going to be renovated. There is investment happening now.

A community advisory board consisting of representatives of the community board is involved, which is already established. There will be a community advisory board consisting of the pertinent community boards. Is that the case?

Yes

How will you handle crime and safety issues?

We put in place public safety and private security that protects everything in the facility, parking garages, bike paths, and road networks. We have license plate scanners, and a lot of cameras which help the community feel safe. If someone drives into one of the parking lots and something happens outstanding warrant or if they have a stolen car, we immediately notify the police. They don't make it out of their car and are arrested. They know not to come to the community as a result of those things.

Why is Community Board 9 involved with this project?

Anything that is adjacent to the park.

Where is this parking going to be? Underground, is it going in structures? This area is swampy.

A big portion of the parking that we are displacing, we're putting it underground. To take this site out of the flood plain and allow it to be climate resilient. That's over 5,500 spaces that will be put in that core area and

moved underground. This allows us to condense spaces and for all parkland and all other stuff to be used for parks. We are consolidating the parking lots in smaller areas.

I see that the waterways are grayed out. What is the future of the waterways when you are building a ferry?

The only thing we proposed is fixing the marina portion that connects to what would be a potential ferry solution for the future. We can include investing in the waterways with the one-time giving opportunity.

Can you implement some activities for families to do that are indoor, i.e. rock climbing and zip lining?

We are providing sensor parks for children. This is one of the things that we heard from the community and are going to implement that. We can try to integrate rock climbing and zip lining.

Are you going to have more buses for Metropolitan Park? Are you going to have shuttle buses coming from different communities to take people there? Shuttle buses that are equipped for disabled people?

We have been working with the MTA and DOT to start to transform transportation to the stadium to come to the games and events. We have been working with the MTA regarding the number 7 train on the Woodside station, to return the Mets 7 Super Express Train. LIRR has been improved by opening up Grand Central Madison Station and new services. Regarding bus service, we are working closely with MTA, the Queens Network Bus Redesign and private partners to try to run Mets Express bus services to various locals (i.e. Jamaica) far and close by.

Would you have an area designated for access-a-ride, Uber and Lyft?

Yes, we designated a new off-street zone. We will have signs this year at the Stadium.

How is the grant money going to be used with all the community groups? The boardwalk and ramp need repairs.

We are putting over \$480 million into the MTA improvements, a big portion of that is going to make it accessible.

The committee motion was accepted by Latrice Davis, and seconded by Martha Tucker. The motion carried on a roll call vote of 32 in favor and 6 against.

REPORTS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS' REPRESENTATIVES

QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT DONOVAN RICHARDS

Amparito Rosero reported the following:

- Community Board and the General Public applications for Community Board open in January. We will provide more info to the board, the general public, and all those interested in the application process in December.
- On Thursday Nov. 14th, 6 pm we are hosting a Celebration of Veterans also at Queens Borough Hall, 120-55 Queens Blvd. in Kew Gardens.
- On Tuesday Nov. 19th, at 6 pm we are hosting a Transgender Day of Remembrance Ceremony. That is also at Queens Borough Hall, 120-55 Queens Blvd. in Kew Gardens.

You can always RSVP to these events on our website at queensbp.nyc.gov

NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLYMAN ANDREW HEVESI

Gianna Valente reported the following:

- Sunday, November 17th from 10 AM-12 PM Metro Cleanup
- The Assemblyman secured \$100,000 in priority funds for Ace Sanitation service, for seven days a week. The routes will be Yellowstone Boulevard between Burns Street and Austin Street; Austin Street between Yellowstone Boulevard and 71st Street and Queens Boulevard and Burns Street.

NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLYMAN STEVEN RAGA

Karol Guaman reported the following:

- We held a veteran lunch with CCA Metro.

- Thursday, November 21st a cleaning home safety workshop in partnership with the Department of Health, from 2 PM-3:30 PM at Boulevard Gardens.
- Saturday, November 23rd, a non-profit training session with the Astoria worker project and QEDC from 10 AM-1 PM at Omar's Hospital. We are also holding a turkey and produce giveaway at the office from 3 PM-5 PM.
- Monday, November 25th to Monday, December 16th we are collecting new socks and toy drive in partnership with the Solution to Hunger at the district office.

QUEENS DISTRICT ATTORNEY MELINDA KATZ

Javier Figueroa reported the following:

- District Attorney Katz shut down a smoke shop in Sunnyside.
- Three men were arrested with illegal cannabis, 850 pounds in an apartment.
- If you see any illegal cannabis shops, report them to the district attorney's office.
- Newsletter and a handout for protecting yourself from squatters.

COUNCILMEMBER LYNN SCHULMAN

Kevin McAleer reported the following:

- The Council Member along with Council Queens Delegation sent a letter to the Sanitation Commissioner about the new waste containerization rules for more flexibility with the rules. Smaller bins for households that produce smaller amounts of waste and potential subsidizing programs for those that have limited income for these new bins.
- The Council Member is working on family-building benefits for city employees to have a family. Securing up to \$10,000 in family building benefits will be compensated for non-union city employees for invitro fertilization, adoption, and surrogacy.

CONGRESSMEMBER GRACE MENG

Jordan Goldes reported the following:

- The congresswoman presented the American Legion with \$300,000 in federal funds for upgrades and repairs.
- We held a passport event to renew and apply for a passport at the Forest Hills Post Office.
- Held mobile office hours with the Veterans Affairs in Maspeth.
- Congresswoman secured \$2 Million for free outdoor dining setups for local restaurants.

At December's meeting, there will be nominations for the executive committee. Elections will take place in January. If you have questions about the election, reach out to the community board office.

Chair Dimitriadis acknowledged Helen Anteage from Elmhurst Hospital for the work she did during COVID.

The meeting adjourned at 10 pm on November 13, 2024.

The minutes are submitted on November 13, 2024, by Maria Concolino, Community Service Aide.

CB 6 VOTING SHEET 11-13-24	NEW LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS	RENEWAL LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS	QUEENS FUTURE ULURP
EDGAR ALFONSECA			YES
DAVID ARONOV	Absent	Absent	Absent
ROBERT ASHE	A	A	YES
JULIETH AVILA	L	L	YES
ANISIA AYON	L	L	YES
SALUA BAIDA			YES
KAVISH BATRA	I	I	YES
PETER BEADLE	N	N	YES
HOWARD BIRNBAUM			YES
HEIDI CHAIN	F	F	YES
GINA CHEN	A	A	NO
L.T. CIACCIO	V	V	YES
KANDRA CLARK	O	O	YES
LATRICE DAVIS	R	R	YES
JOHN DERESZEWSKI			YES
HEATHER DIMITRIADIS			YES
KEITH ENGEL			YES
TAMARA GAVRIELOF	Absent	Absent	Absent
BRUCE GROSSBERG			YES
KAREN IMAS			NO
SARINA JAIN			NO
MATT FERNANDEZ KONIGSBERG	Absent	Absent	Absent
MARCELLE LASHLEY-KABORE			YES
MARK LASTER			YES
KEVIN LY	Absent	Absent	Absent
DR. RENEE MEHRRA	Absent	Absent	Absent
PAT MORGAN			YES
SABAH MUNAWAR			YES
NATALIE PIENKOWSKA			YES
JESSICA POORAN			YES
JOI PRATT			YES
DIANA RACHNAEV			Not present for vote
PEDRO RODRIGUEZ			NO
SHARI ROLNICK			YES
MATTHEW SALTON			NO
GLADYS SANDOVAL			YES
DAVID SCHANTZ			YES
HERBERT SCHONHAUT			YES
AMIT PRATAP SHAH			YES
EUGENE SHVARTSMAN			YES
JEAN C. SILVA			NO
MARTHA TUCKER	↓	↓	YES
BRENTLY WINSTEAD			YES
EDWIN WONG	Absent	Absent	Absent
EPHRAIM ZAKRY			YES
TOTALS:	ALL IN FAVOR	ALL IN FAVOR	32 YES, 6 NO