



Chairperson, Martha Taylor

*The City of New York  
Borough of Queens*

**Community Board 8**

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District Manager, Marie Adam-Ovide

Minutes of Community Board 8 Meeting held on Wednesday, September 11, 2024, at the Hillcrest Jewish Center at 183-02 Union Turnpike, Queens, NY 11366.

**Attendance:**

**Board Members Present:**

Dilafroz Ahmed, Saaif Alam, Heather Bennett-Idels, Edward Chung, Kenneth Cohen II, Marva Dudley , Allen Eisenstein, Howard A. Fried, Bhitihara Martha-Fulton, James Gallagher Jr., John Gebhard, Wendy Gennaro, Joshua Glickman, Ashan Habib, Elke Maerz, Mary Maggio, Caitlin Marziliano, Nikolas Michael, Dilip Nath, Alan Ong, Hersh Parekh, Simon Pelman, Israel Peskowitz, Mohammad Rahman, Jesse Rosenbaum, Aliyah Salim, Deepti Sharma, Douglas Sherman, Harbachan Singh, Dr. Penny M. Stern, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin, Amy Tse, Rabbi Mayer Waxman and Jacob Weinberg.

**Board Members Absent:**

Maria Deinnocentiis, Michael Hannibal, Mohammed “Delwar” Islam, Neeta Jain, Mitch Lisker, Jennifer Martin, David Mordukhaev, Tammy Osheroov, Tobias Paris, Frances Peterson, Jenna Citron Schwab, Seymour Schwartz, Steven Villaran.

**Others Present:**

Assembly Member Sam Berger, Kevin M. Morris representing Mayor Eric Adams, James Mongeluzo representing NYC Comptroller Brad Lander, Shubhra Datta representing Borough President Donovan Richards, Ruo Cheng Chen representing Council Member Linda Lee, Peter Paolo representing Councilman James F. Gennaro, Rokeya Akhter representing District Attorney Melinda Katz, Scott Seber representing Senator John Liu, Lya Rothmann representing Senator Toby Stavisky, Sam Verstandig representing Assembly Memer David Weprin, Hoshahnia Kumaran representing Assembly Member Nily Rozic, Residents Hadar Weisz and Joan Hausmann, D.M. Marie Adam-Ovide, CB8 Staffers Soleil Griffin, Naima Hernandez and Nettie V. Norris.

**Call to Order:**

Chairperson Martha Taylor called this Board Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

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**Public Participation:**

**Hadar Weisz**

Requested a stop sign on 147<sup>th</sup> Street and 78<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

*Chairperson Taylor requested that the resident speak with CB8 Transportation Chairperson Jesse Rosenbaum after the meeting.*

## **Jesse Rosenbaum**

Provided a brief update of the e-scooter program from the May 23, 2024, Transportation Committee meeting.

- there are three companies that are providing the e-scooters.
- To unlock the e-scooter it can cost a dollar and then thirty-nine cents to forty-eight cents per minute depending on the company used. The average ride is probably fifteen minutes.
- To rent the scooter, you would need to be at least sixteen years old.
- The maximum speed of the scooter is fifteen miles per hour.
- Each scooter has a sensor that can stop the scooter if they ride in areas that are not permitted (i.e. a park, the sidewalk)
- To rent it, you would undertake a half hour training session along with a quiz
- When you are finished riding the scooter, you would have to send a picture and place the e-scooter on the sidewalk near the street. Not the middle of the street.

He then proceeded to list several concerns he has regarding the program.

- There are no helmets required to rent a e-scooter.
- In case of a flash storm or blizzard, there is a requirement of twelve hours for the vendors to remove the e-scooters.

If you see the e-scooter sitting in the street, in the middle and/or on the sidewalk, or on the medians on Union Turnpike, that is not permitted. He requested feedback from the community to be sent to the Community Board 8 office so that it can be given to the e-scooter vendors. The recommendation he has is to require helmets, allow thirty minutes notice to stop the e-scooter when there is a flood, or thunderstorm, and have an e-scooter stored house.

He received a notice that one of the vendors, Lime, is pledging \$2.5 million to improve the program. The article shows corrals; however, we do not have them, and they are not required. He requested for them to attend the next committee meeting on Wednesday, September 25<sup>th</sup>; however, they do not have information yet. They will be scheduled for the next meeting which will be towards the end of the year.

**Response [Chairperson Taylor]** – Let me be the first to provide feedback. This is a terrible situation. I almost got knocked over by an e-scooter on the sidewalk. There is no enforcement. It is clearly marked that you are supposed to wear a helmet and that it cannot be on the sidewalk. We need to get rid of them.

## **Howard Fried**

When it comes to insurance, these e-scooters can lead to injuries, damage, and then some. What happens when the e-scooters are laid out on the sidewalk and someone with a wheelchair or walker is not able to get by?

**Answer [Jesse Rosenbaum]** – The insurance is carried by the companies against the City of New York. It is not against the individuals who are driving it, not for anyone they bump into.

## **Howard Fried**

If it is against the City of New York and someone drops an e-scooter in front of my house and someone falls, I am responsible since it is my sidewalk. A second issue is violations. There has to be enforcement for individuals on the e-scooters and bicycles going the wrong way on almost every street. A third issue is what do you do when the e-scooter is laying down on the sidewalk? The people that would be responsible are the homeowners and shopkeepers.

**Answer [Jesse Rosenbaum]** – There is a sensor that gets back to the vendors office; however, it does take a couple of days for the e-scooters to be removed. The issue in regards to not obeying traffic regulations is happening everywhere and not just with the e-scooters. Stop signs and traffic signals are just a suggestion now a days.

**Howard Fried**

A couple of days downstream could be a disaster. Until we fix all these issues for the NYPD to get an agenda on what to do, until the City gets an agenda on the insurance, and until the corrals (maybe taking parking space) get resolved, why don't they have these e-scooters removed instead of getting in everyone's way?

**Answer [Jesse Rosenbaum]** – From their perspective, they've invested a lot of money, and they are making money. They are not likely to do what you suggested.

**Saaif Alam**

On my walk in Captain Tilly Park, there are e-scooters that are going in the park. My suggestion is that there should be a license to ride the e-scooter.

**Answer [Jesse Rosenbaum]** – The age to ride the e-scooter is sixteen. A sixteen-year-old can have a permit but not a license.

*Chairperson Taylor stated that we are going to continue the conversation and speak with all our elected officials about it. She continued with the public participation portion.*

**Joan Hausmann**

Stated that something needs to be done at the intersection of 184<sup>th</sup> Street and 73<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. There is a traffic light a block away; however, she deems it as a hindrance because the cars coming up 184<sup>th</sup> Street cannot see the other vehicles coming. In front of Hillcrest Jewish Center, there are signs that says no U-turns; however, individuals are making those turns. Lastly, she stated that she is against purchasing the garbage cans from the city.

**Elected Officials' Announcements**

**Rokeya Akhter – representing District Attorney Melinda Katz**

The DA is providing over \$2.75 million to thirty-four community-based 14,000 youth who are receiving services from these organizations.

There was an eighty-eight-count indictment of a women for animal cruelty. The defendant had thirty-five cats and dogs, in which three cats were found dead under a table. These animals were living in inhabitable conditions. The DA opened an animal cruelty unit that is very active.

**Heather Bennett-Idels**

Thanked District Attorney Melinda Katz for her work in recovering a sacred torah that was stolen from a school in Far Rockway.

**Peter Paolo – representing Councilman James F. Gennaro's Office**

Announced that the Council Member is hosting a free 50's & 60's concert at the Hillcrest Jewish Center. You would need to call to RSVP. On September 24, 2024, the Hillcrest Library will reopen.

*Chairperson Taylor requested for a roll all*

*DM Adam-Ovide announced we have a Quorum*

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*Salute to Flag – Martha Taylor led the salute to the Flag.*

**Chairperson's Report – Martha Taylor**

Requested a moment of silence for all the victims of 9/11 and their families, and the passing of CB8 Member Kevin Forrestal. Jackie Forrestal sent an email thanking Community Board 8, Elke Maerz and the Sunshine Fund donors for their contribution in memory of Kevin Forrestal to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. She also thanked the Board for the tribute in the September Newsletter.

Today, we are collecting donations for our Sunshine Fund that has now been depleted. These funds are used to send well wishes to our members who are ill or had a death in the family. As you know, we cannot use CB8 public funds for this purpose.

Representatives of elected officials' offices must sign-up for speaking time. Tonight, we had a least two people who called ahead of time. If you have any flyers of events that your member is having, place them on the table.

*Chairperson Taylor introduced Assemblymember Sam Berger to speak.*

### **Assemblymember Berger**

There is a bill that he cosponsored that require dealers of limited use motorcycles (i.e. mopeds), to issue temporary registration tags to those purchasing such vehicles. The bill passed, and now they are awaiting the Governor to sign the bill.

There is \$150,000 of SNAP and EBT benefits that were stolen in the district. He passed a bill that would put into place fraud prevention mechanisms. He is awaiting the governor to sign the bill. Another bill that he passed in which a licensed mental health counselor or licensed family therapist can be charged with rape in the third degree for sleeping with patients.

If anyone in the community has any issues their office is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

*Chairperson Taylor introduced CB8's new Community Service Aide Naima Hernandez (everyone applaud). She then invited Captain Mo Tsang to speak.*

### **Captain Mo Tsang**

The precinct cannot do much enforcement when it comes to the e-scooters since they do not have a license plate. If you see an e-scooter that is parked in an area that obstructs pedestrian walkways, you can take a picture of the serial number and report it to the vendor directly. Whoever the last driver is will get fined for improperly parking the e-scooter.

### **Amy Tse**

Private citizens have to take a picture of the serial number, report it to the company, and then the last driver gets the fine?

**Answer [Captain Mo Tsang]** – Yes.

### **Amy Tse**

So, we have to work for the company?

**Response [Jesse Rosenbaum]** – If a person is in violation of the regulations, they would not be allowed to ride the e-scooters.

### **Chairperson Taylor**

We need better enforcement.

**Response [Jesse Rosenbaum]** – You need to keep track of these things. By taking photographs of the serial number and/or registration number we can get better tracking.

### **Jesse Rosenbaum**

We are seeing people not stopping at a stop sign or traffic light. How do we improve enforcement?

**Response [Captain Mo Tsang]** – My officers are writing summons every day. We have four traffic officers. They can only be at certain locations at a time. You can provide the locations to our community affairs officer, and they will let our traffic officers know.

**Howard Fried**

What would the precinct need in ways of tools from legislation to enforce against the e-scooters?

**Response [Captain Mo Tsang]** – If the e-scooters have a plate number like mopeds, we will be able to enforce.

*Chairperson Taylor calls Shubhra Datta to speak.*

**Shubhra Datta – representing Queens Borough President Donovan Richards**

The 2024 Community Board Demographic is available on the QBP website. September 17, 2024, is Mexican Independence Day which will be celebrated in Queens Borough Hall. September 28, 2024, there will be a Queens Climate Expo at the Queens Hall of Science at 6 p.m. There will be a Youth Mixer on September 28, 2024, at 6 p.m. at Kekios Studios.

*Chairperson Taylor requested for a motion to approve the minutes.*

*Approval of Minutes: Harbachan Singh made a motion to approve the minutes of Wednesday, June 26, 2024, seconded by Saaif Alam. The motion passed unanimously with corrections.*

*Chairperson Taylor requested that those in favor of approving the minutes with corrections say aye.*

**35 Yes**

**0 No**

**0 Abstentions**

**Members for:** Dilafroz Ahmed, Saaif Alam, Heather Bennett-Idels, Edward Chung, Kenneth Cohen II, Marva Dudley, Allen Eisenstein, Howard A. Fried, Bhitihara Martha-Fulton, James Gallagher Jr., John Gebhard, Wendy Gennaro, Joshua Glickman, Ashan Habib, Elke Maerz, Mary Maggio, Caitlin Marziliano, Nikolas Michael, Dilip Nath, Alan Ong, Hersh Parekh, Simon Pelman, Israel Peskowitz, Mohammad Rahman, Jesse Rosenbaum, Aliyah Salim, Deepti Sharma, Douglas Sherman, Harbachan Singh, Dr. Penny M. Stern, Martha Taylor, Mohammed Tohin, Amy Tse, Rabbi Mayer Waxman and Jacob Weinberg.

**District Manager’s Report, September 2024**

Our next Community Board 8 meeting has been moved from October 23, 2024, to October 9, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. We will be meeting right here at Hillcrest Jewish Center. The Executive Committee meeting will be held on that same evening; however, it will start at 7 p.m. It will be held in the conference room.

Antonio J. Whitaker, Assistant Director of the Bureau of Community Affairs will be our guest speaker next month. He will speak about the Residential Containerization Program that goes into effect on November 12, 2024. If you have any questions, please email them to us in advance of the meeting.

I am certain that you noticed the state of the concrete center medians that are under the jurisdiction of the Department of Sanitation. That agency has failed to adequately address them this year. We have provided some updates in our September Newsletter. We have since reached out to the DSNY Commissioner Jessica Tisch and continued to follow-up with the Mayor’s Office’s Community Affairs Unit. While some were addressed, there are so many that have not. We continue to advocate for their maintenance and look forward to a concrete plan of action to address them under one New York City agency.

Today is the deadline for submitting new capital and expense budget items for review to Community Board 8; however, we received no requests from the community. The deadline has been extended to this Friday, September 13, 2024. Please email us any new items for review by that date



*Happy Birthday to: Dr. Penny Stern and Wendy Gennaro*

*Marie Adam-Ovide*

**Health Minute with Dr. Penny Stern – Health Committee Chair**

Thanked Chairperson Taylor for the 9/11 moment of silence.

September is full of health observances. This week from September 8<sup>th</sup> through September 14<sup>th</sup> is World Suicide Prevention Week. One person dies by suicide an average of every 11 minutes. The risk factors associated with suicide include financial strain – people with more access to housing, health care, quality food and jobs do better than those whose access is more uncertain. Also, people who lack support networks are at greater risk, Veterans are at high risk. People, especially young people, who are bullied are at risk. Non-Hispanic, Native Americans and Alaskan Native people are at highest risk followed by white people and people who live in rural communities. The CDC has offered five actions that communities can consider to help reduce suicide. These are: strengthening economic support; improving mental health services and care; promoting opportunities for personal engagement opportunities in the community; and actively teaching coping and problem-solving skills. If people threaten suicide, please take them seriously. There is usually time to intervene.

**Adjournment**

Mary Maggio made a motion to adjourn, the motion carried unanimously. The meeting ended at 8:20 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Soleil Griffin, CB8 Staff  
September 17, 2024*