



COMMUNITY BOARD # 8 NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT OFFICE

197-15 Hillside Avenue
Hollis, NY 11423-2126
Tel # (718) 264-7895
Fax # (718) 264-7910
E-Mail: qn08@cb.nyc.gov
Website: www.nyc.gov/queenscb8

OFFICERS

CHAIRPERSON: Martha Taylor
1st VICE CHAIR: Michael Hannibal
2nd VICE CHAIR: Seymour Schwartz
3rd VICE CHAIR: Mary Maggio
EXEC. SECRETARY: Carolyn Brown
TREASURER: Harbachan Singh
BUDGET DIRECTOR: Marc A. Haken

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Honorable Barry Grodenchik - 23rd District
Honorable James Gennaro - 24th District

BOROUGH PRESIDENT

Honorable Donovan Richards

STAFF

DISTRICT MANAGER: Marie Adam-Ovide
Jatna Reyes, Community Associate
Izabela Szczepanska, Community Assistant

Help Wanted: Community Service Aide

BOARD MEMBERS BY AREA

Area 1 – Kew Gardens Hills

Mitch Lisker – (interim) **CHAIR**, Heather Bennett-Idels, Susan D. Cleary, Florence Fisher, Joshua Glikman, Jennifer Martin, Rabbi Shlomo Nisanov, Simon Pelman and Jacob Weinberg

Area 2 – Briarwood

Seymour Schwartz - **CHAIR**, Carolyn Brown, Solomon Davydov, Allen Eisenstein, John Gebhard, Elke Maerz, Wendy Phaff, Mohammad Rahman, Charlton Rhee, Douglas Sherman

Area 3 – Hillcrest Estates & Jamaica Hills

Kevin Forrestal - **CHAIR**, Dilafroz Ahmed, Bhitihara-Martha Fulton, Paul Lazauskas, Hersh Parekh and Frances Peterson

Area 4 – Flushing Heights, Flushing Suburban, Hillcrest

Jagir Singh Bains—**CHAIR**, Kenneth Cohen II, Steven Konigsberg, Dilip Nath and Dr. Penny M. Stern

Area 5 – Georgetown Mews, Pomonok, Electchester, Flushing

Mary Maggio – **CHAIR**, Carolann Foley

Area 6 – Utopia, Fresh Meadows, West Cunningham Park

Maria DeInnocentiis – **CHAIR**, James Gallagher, Jr., Tami Hirsch, Alan Ong and Tamara Osherov

Area 7 – Jamaica Estates & Holliswood

Howard Fried – **CHAIR**, Dr. Robert Block, Edward Chung, Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, David Mordukaev, Jesse Rosenbaum, Harbachan Singh, Martha Taylor and Mohammed Tohin

Welcome to our New CB8 Members!

Ahsan Habib, Deepti Sharma and Tamika Williams-Moore

Link to Help Wanted Ad: <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/queenscb8/downloads/pdf/>

Virtual Community Board Meeting Re-cap

The Minutes of the February 10, 2021 Board Meeting were unanimously approved by 40 members.

Chairperson’s Report – Martha Taylor:

Community Board 11 drafted a letter to the editor to speak against bias incidents targeting the Asian-American Community. They are asking for the support of all Community Boards in Queens.

Kevin Forrestal made a motion to sign the drafted letter in full agreement, seconded by Howard Fried.
Count in favor: **40** Opposed: **0** Abstained: **0**

As stated, a few months ago, the sunshine funds were depleted, and Board Members were asked to donate. Only a handful of members have donated so far. They asked for donations once more.

The Dr. Steven Dillingham, Director of the U.S. Census Bureau recognized Community Board 8 Queens with a certificate that will be prominently displayed at the CB8’s office. It read that we are “an invaluable member of the 2020 Census Community Partnership and Engagement Program”. The Census Bureau appreciated our efforts in making the Partnership Program a success and in helping them achieve a successful 2020 Census.

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Next Community Board 8 Meeting will be held *virtually* on **Wednesday, April 14, 2021** at 7:30 p.m.
<https://zoom.us/j/98767520096?pwd=Ym95ZXcwK3hiMXdQNzNYdjY2cGpKUT09>

A Word from the District Manager...

Dear Community Board 8 Resident:

Below are several text amendments that Community Boards in New York City will have to review and make recommendations for this year. This information was shared by the Department of City Planning.

Elevate Transit: Zoning for Accessibility (ZFA) Text Amendment

In collaboration with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), City Council and the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD), DCP is preparing to expand and improve zoning rules that allow the MTA to leverage naturally occurring private development to help create accessible subway and SIR stations. The goal is to help expedite the delivery of a fully accessible transit system. Today, only about 30% of the City's 493 subway and SIR stations are fully accessible.

ZFA seeks to expand existing zoning tools that help coordinate new developments near transit with the construction of improvements to station accessibility and capacity. Currently, this zoning tool is limited to a few areas of the city, mostly in Manhattan. The proposal would require property owners of developments near stations to proactively work with the MTA to provide station access easements; and would expand zoning incentives for developments in high-density districts to construct station improvements.

FRESH II – The Food Retail Expansion To Support Fresh Text Amendment

*The COVID-19 pandemic dramatically highlighted the vital need for local access to fresh food for New Yorkers, especially in underserved communities. In partnership with the City Council, DCP will seek to expand the existing [Food Retail Expansion to Support Health \(FRESH\)](#) program, which offers zoning incentives and financial benefits to encourage the creation of convenient, accessible stores that provide fresh fruit, meats and vegetables, and other perishable goods in addition to a full range of grocery products. The new FRESH proposal will seek to bring the program to 11 more lower-income community districts. In Queens, FRESH currently applies to Community District 12. With this update, the program will be expanded to CD 1, 3, 4 and 14. It **will not** apply to our district.*

Health and Fitness Text Amendment

Based on outmoded zoning regulation that date to the 1970s, exercise gyms, licensed massage therapy, martial arts studios, and spas, among other health-related businesses, are not allowed as of right in New York City and instead, these businesses are required to obtain special permission from the City's Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA) to open. The process for obtaining a permit is extremely costly, often adding six months and \$50,000 in additional startup costs to open a gym. The process creates a high barrier for small and independent businesses and is likely to slow the economic recovery of a sector that has been significantly impacted by the pandemic.

Because health and fitness facilities offer valued and beneficial amenities to communities, DCP is working to allow these businesses to open "as of right," or without first seeking special permission from the City. In the wake of the COVID pandemic, we share a heightened appreciation for physical and mental health. This text amendment acknowledges the need for health and fitness facilities, and seeks to facilitate the City's economic recovery by removing unnecessary barriers for these small businesses.

Open Restaurants Text Amendment

The Department of Transportation's [Open Restaurants](#) program has helped re-energize our sidewalk and streets, and has saved many small businesses and thousands of jobs. Building on its success, the City Council has passed legislation making the popular program permanent.

We will keep you posted about the hearing dates once scheduled.

Sincerely,

Marie Adam-Oviedo, District Manager

Please share this information with your friends and neighbors. It takes more than City Hall to make New York City great, it takes us all!

News from *Attorney General Letitia James*

New York Attorney General Letitia James issued an alert to New Yorkers to remain vigilant against potential scams related to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) public health crisis. As more New Yorkers become eligible for the vaccine that will help prevent the spread of the disease and a new round of stimulus payments are sent out to combat the economic fallout of the pandemic,

Scammers are out there, and they are continuing to find a slew of new and shameful tactics to exploit this pandemic,” said **Attorney General James**. There have been recent reports of scammers posing as the “IRS Rescue Plan Dept” and attempting to steal people’s personal and financial information through malicious messages, known as phishing emails. In other instances, the subject lines have read: “Joe Biden Rescue Plan Act,” “IRS Rescue Plan Form,” or “President’s Rescue Plan Act,” among others. Many individuals seeking to defraud Americans are doing so by promising stimulus payments in addition to the up to \$1,400 eligible adults may qualify for and up to \$1,400 eligible children could receive.

Attorney General James highlighted the following tips for New Yorkers to follow in an effort to protect themselves from these scams.

1. **Don’t be fooled by familiar logos and branding.**
2. **Look for misspellings and poor grammar.**
3. **Never open attachments or click links from those claiming to be from the government unless you have specifically signed up for a notification or an email.**
4. **Verify the legitimacy of any unsolicited/unexpected email before interacting with it, especially if the IRS or COVID-19 is mentioned in any way.**

New Yorkers who believe they have been a victim of a scam should [contact the Office of the Attorney General \(OAG\) to file a complaint](#). New Yorkers can [learn more about COVID-19 scams on the OAG website](#).

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Elected Officials’ Announcements:

Honorable Councilmember James Gennaro – He announced that he has retained the services of Rory’s former Chief of Staff Henry Yam to be his Chief of Staff. He appreciates everyone’s service to the board and to the community. He looks forward to working with everyone.

Harris Khan representing NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer – Last week the Comptroller sent out a letter to the Mayor urging the administration to rescind executive order 101 section 2 without any further delay. They are asking the administration to allow the independent oversight processes to continue. Mr. Khan spoke about the Comptroller’s testimony to the City Council on the preliminary Fiscal Year 2022 budget. He immediately shared some immediate needs that need to be addressed for working families and restaurants. He also highlighted areas of spending over the years where we have been spending money without any real results. They also announced that pension funds last year grew at a rate of over 14%. Throughout the beginning of the Comptroller’s term till now it averages about 9%.

Guest speaker:

Darryl White - NYS Assistant Attorney General – He provided information about the Attorney General’s program “Protecting our Community”. Representatives of the Attorney General’s Brooklyn/Queens Regional Office are available to schedule virtual appointments and receive complaints. Currently they only have a regional office in Brooklyn, but they hope in 2022 they will be able to find a home in Queens as well. They are seeking pop-up offices where they will be able to offer services to residents within Queens. They will share more information on locations and hours to the Community Board to share with residents. The Queens DA had a scam awareness protection town hall meeting about elderly being scammed and those are the things that the attorney general does. If anyone is being scammed, he asked to visit their website and file a complaint. Please visit: ag.nyc.gov



Department of
Transportation

CONSTRUCTION NOTICE

Hillside Avenue Bridge over the Van Wyck Expressway Overnight Closures – 1:00 AM to 5:00 AM Weeknights – Starting on or about 3/24/21

The New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) is advising the public we are closing the Hillside Avenue Bridge over the Van Wyck Expressway (VWE) on weekday overnights from 1:00 AM to 5:00 AM for six weeks starting on or about Wednesday, March 24, 2021. There will be no work on Saturday or Sunday nights.

These closures are necessary to relocate the abutments that support the bridge as we begin to lengthen the bridge. These closures also ensure the safety of pedestrians, vehicles, and workers.

Drivers should follow posted detour signs along the routes shown to the right. Green arrows show the eastbound detour along the southbound service road and across Jamaica Avenue and back up the northbound service road. Blue arrows show the westbound detour which requires motorists to turn right on the northbound service road, turn left on Queens Boulevard, then turn left onto the southbound service road, and right back onto Hillside Avenue.

This work is part of the Van Wyck Expressway Capacity and Access Improvements to John F. Kennedy Airport Project – Contract 1. This project is being built under the Design-Build method which encourages innovative and efficient construction methods and scheduling.

Similar work is continuing on other overpasses over the VWE. Lane closures and work operations are coordinated with other work on this project and with other projects throughout the Van Wyck corridor to maintain the safe flow of traffic through this corridor.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation as NYSDOT continues to improve our transportation infrastructure in New York City.



Contact information for Project Community Liaison, Patrick Jordan:
917-885-2967 (call/text) or VWE@dot.ny.gov (email)



FOOTSTEPS for PROGRESS

Queens Centers for Progress

Presented by:



Saturday - April 24, 2021
Virtual & In-Person Run/Walk/Roll
Forest Park

9:30AM Timed Run Wave
10:00AM Time Run Wave
11:00 AM Untimed Walk Wave
Rain or Shine

4K RUN * WALK ROLL * 2021



A 4K Run/Walk/Roll fundraising event to benefit individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Queens.

**YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN
THE LIVES OF PEOPLE WITH
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

**TIMED 4K RUNNER
REGISTRATION FEE IS \$35.00**

(includes a dri-fit shirt for the first 60 registered runners & the first 100 registered runners receive a custom made medal)

**WALKER REGISTRATION
FEE IS FREE**

(Event t-shirts will be distributed to walkers who donate or fundraise \$30+)



JOIN US!

To register online, visit:
www.tinyurl.com/QCPFootsteps21

Did you know?

RCNY § 4-08(M) (9) Street storage of vehicles prohibited. When parking is not otherwise restricted, no person shall park any vehicle in any area, including a residential area, in excess of seven consecutive days.

RCNY § 4-08(K) (5) Street storage of commercial vehicles prohibited. When parking is not otherwise restricted, no person shall park a commercial vehicle in any area, including a residential area, in excess of three hours.

(6) Nighttime parking of commercial vehicles prohibited. No person shall park a commercial vehicle on a residential street, between the hours of 9 p.m. and 5 a.m. Where a commercial vehicle is parked in violation of this paragraph, it shall be an affirmative defense to said violation, with the burden of proof on the person who received the summons, that he or she was actively engaged in business at the time the summons was issued at a premises located within three city blocks of where the summons was issued. This paragraph shall not apply to vehicles owned or operated by gas or oil heat suppliers or gas or oil heat systems maintenance companies, the agents or employees thereof, or any public utility.



APPLY TODAY!

Looking for a **PAID SUMMER EXPERIENCE?**

AGES 14-21

@NYCYOUTH

Summer Youth Employment Program 2021

TO APPLY, GO TO: APPLICATION.NYCSYEP.COM

NYC
Department of Youth & Community Development

WORKFORCE CONNECT
DYCD Youth Employment Programs

The advertisement features a central graphic of a large white number '4' composed of four triangles, each containing a photo of a young person. The background is light gray with colorful geometric shapes in yellow, green, blue, and pink.



LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION (S)

- ◆ **Fresh Meadows Apple, Inc.** d/b/a Apple Bee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar
61-48 188th Street - **Renewal of Full Liquor License**
- ◆ **164-02 Pizza Corp** d/b/a Napoli Rest & Pizzeria
164-02 69th Avenue in Flushing - **Renewal of Full Liquor License**

Any complaints about establishments with liquor licenses should be sent to Community Board 8 in writing. Unless a signed, written notification is received at our office, we cannot follow up. You must also include your address and telephone number.

CITY PARKING RULES

The City suspends alternate side parking regulations for both street cleaning purposes and traffic flow, on legal and/or religious holidays.



Holy ThursdayThurs., Apr 1st
 Good FridayFri., Apr 2nd
 (7th/8th Days) PassoverSat.-Sun., Apr 3-4th
 Holy Thursday (Orthodox).....Thurs., April 29th
 Good Friday (Orthodox).....Fri., Apr 30th

Parking meters are still in effect

DEMOLITION/EXCAVATION NOTICE



69-54 184th Street - Demolition partial & garage
73-34 181 Street - Demolition partial & garage
71-12 Main Street - Excavation/Construction

CITY OF NEW YORK
 DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

REQUEST FOR COMMENT
 REGARDING AN APPLICATION FOR A
 CERTIFICATION OF NO HARASSMENT

Notice Date: March 16, 2021

To: Occupants, Former Occupants, and Other Interested Parties

| Property: <u>Address</u> | <u>Application #</u> | <u>Inquiry Period</u> |
|--------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| 144-08 87 Road, Queens | 19/2021 | February 23, 2018 to Present |

Authority: SRO, Administrative Code §27-2093

Before the Department of Buildings can issue a permit for the alteration or demolition of a single room occupancy multiple dwelling, the owner must obtain a "Certification of No Harassment" from the Department of Housing Preservation and Development ("HPD") stating that there has not been harassment of the building's lawful occupants during a specified time period. Harassment is conduct by an owner that is intended to cause, or does cause, residents to leave or otherwise surrender any of their legal occupancy rights. It can include, but is not limited to, failure to provide essential services (such as heat, water, gas, or electricity), illegally locking out building residents, starting frivolous lawsuits, and using threats or physical force.

The owner of the building identified above has applied for a Certification of No Harassment. If you have any comments or evidence of harassment at this building, please notify HPD at CONH Unit, 100 Gold Street, 6th Floor, New York, NY 10038 by letter postmarked not later than 30 days from the date of this notice or by an in-person statement made within the same period. To schedule an appointment for an in-person statement, please call (212) 863-5277 or (212) 863-8211.

For the decision on the Certification of No Harassment Final Determination please visit our website at www.hpd.nyc.gov or call 212-863-8266.

Grow Community
 Shop with local farmers and food makers

MAY 9
 thru
 DEC 19

Pre-Order
 And Pick Up Sunday

1) Download the WhatsGood Marketplace app
 2) Order from our vendors by Thursday evening
 3) Come to the farmers market to pick up.



SNAP
 WELCOME

HEALTH
 BUCKS
 AVAILABLE

Cunningham Park
Farmers Market

Sundays, 9AM-2PM

In the parking lot off Union Turnpike,
 near the tennis courts



CunninghamParkFarmersMarket



downtoearthmkt

downtoearthmarkets.com











Scan here to sign up for the weekly email



April 2021

Community Board 8, Queens

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|-----|--|--|---|-----|
| | | | | 1  Holy Thursday | 2  GOOD FRIDAY | 3 |
| 4  Happy Easter! | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12  Ramadan Kareem | 13 | 14 Virtual Community Board 8Q General Mtg. 7:30 p.m.  | 15  HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22  Earth Day April 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30  Lag B'Omer | |

"Never cut a tree down in the wintertime. Never make a negative decision in the low time. Never make your most important decisions when you are in your worst moods. Wait. Be patient. The storm will pass. The spring will come. – Robert H. Schuller