



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, April 10, at the Hillcrest Jewish Center - 183-02 Union Turnpike.

**Attendance**

**Board Members Present**

Saaif Alam, Edward Chung, Maria DeInnocentiis, Marva Dudley, Kevin Forrestal, Howard A. Fried, Bhitihara-Martha Fulton, James Gallagher, Jr., Wendy Gennaro, Joshua Glikman, Michael Hannibal, Mitch Lisker, Mary Maggio, Caitlin Marziliano, Nikolas Michael, David Mordukhaev, Dilip Nath, Alan Ong, Tammy Oshero, Hersh Parekh, Frances Peterson, Israel Peskowitz, Jesse Rosenbaum, Jenna Citron Schwab, Seymour Schwartz, Deepti Sharma, Harbachan Singh, Dr. Penny M. Stern, Martha Taylor, Amy Tse, Steven Villaran, and Jacob Weinberg.

**Board Members Absent**

Dilafroz Ahmed, Heather Bennett-Idels, Kenneth Cohen II, Solomon Davydov, Allen Eisenstein, John Gebhard, Ahsan Habib, Mohammed “Delwar” Islam, Neeta Jain, Elke Maerz, Jennifer Martin, Tobias Paris, Simon Pelman, Mohammad Rahman, Aliyah Salim, Douglas Sherman, Mohammed Tohin, and Rabbi Mayer Waxman.

**Others Present**

Shubbhra Datta representing Borough President Donovan Richards, Ruocheng Chen representing Council Member Linda Lee, Joshua Simanowitz representing Assembly Member Samuel Berger, Henry Yam representing Council Member James Gennaro, Scott Sieber representing Senator John Liu, Ari Innis representing Senator Leroy Comrie, Sam Verstandig representing Assembly Member David Weprin, Lya Rothmann representing Senator Toby Stavisky, Jason Chen representing DSNY, DM Marie Adam-Ovide and CB8 Staff Soleil Griffin.

**Call to Order**

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

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*Chairperson Taylor informed the residents that we have eight new board members. She called on the Capital & Expense Budget Committee to present CB8’s response to the Mayor’s Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2025. The response was not able to be voted on in April due to lack of quorum.*

**Capital & Expense Budget Committee – Harbachan Singh, Budget Director**

CB8 wrote a letter in response to Mayor Eric Adams Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2025. The letter requests that he gives consideration to the funding needs of the CB8 community.

*Harbachan Singh called for a motion to approve the letter.*

**Approval of Preliminary Budget Response for Fiscal Year 2025:** Seymour Schwartz made a motion to approve the preliminary budget response for Fiscal Year 2025, seconded by Howard A. Fried.

*Harbachan Singh called for a roll call of those in favor of sending the letter to the Mayor Eric Adams.*

**32 Yes**

**0 No**

**0 Abstentions**

**Members for:** Saaif Alam, Edward Chung, Maria DeInnocentiis, Marva Dudley, Kevin Forrestal, Howard A. Fried, Bhitihara-Martha Fulton, James Gallagher, Jr., Wendy Gennaro, Joshua Glikman, Michael Hannibal, Mitch Lisker, Mary Maggio, Caitlin Marziliano, Nikolas Michael, David Mordukhaev, Dilip Nath, Alan Ong, Tammy Osheroov, Hersh Parekh, Frances Peterson, Israel Peskowitz, Jesse Rosenbaum, Jenna Citron Schwab, Seymour Schwartz, Deepti Sharma, Harbachan Singh, Dr. Penny M. Stern, Martha Taylor, Amy Tse, Steven Villaran, and Jacob Weinberg.

The motion passed unanimously with no abstention.

*Chairperson Taylor read a directive as to how the public should conduct themselves during public participation.*

**Public Participation**

**Jason Chen – representing Department of Sanitation (DSNY)**

DSNY initiative to have restaurants to secure the garbage in cans. The restaurants have been issued summonses starting on April 1<sup>st</sup>. The first fine is \$50, the second is \$100 and the third could go up to \$200.

**James Gallagher**

Next Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, the MTA will be conducting surveys on Union Turnpike and Utopia Parkway regarding the proposed bus routes. There will be a new bus line Q45. MTA proposed the removal of twenty-five bus stops from the Q30.

**Wendy Li – Civil Court Judge**

She introduced herself as the Civil Court Judge and thanked the community board members for their service.

**Wendy Gennaro – representing Queens Center for Progress (QCP)**

Invited the community to QCP's annual 5k walk on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> in Springfield Playground at Alley Pond Park. There will also be a street co-naming on Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup> in honor of Natalie Katz Rogers, the founder of Queens Center for Progress, on Goethals Avenue and 164<sup>th</sup> Street.

**Cassandra Johnson - New York Supreme Court Judge**

She introduced herself as New York Supreme Court Judge and thanked the community board members for their service.

**Elected Officials' Announcements**

**Ari Innis - representing Senator Leroy Comrie**

Informed the community of events that the Senator is hosting. The Senator also introduced a smoke out bill, S7998, to authorize all municipalities to stop operations of unlicensed cannabis retailers and-seize merchandise.

**Joshua Simanowitz – representing Assembly Member Sam Berger**

The Assembly Member wanted to survey the community to see who supports or opposed Sammy's Law. The street co-naming of Nettie Mayerson Way will be held on Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Scott Sieber - representing Senator John Liu**

The Senator is hosting a DOB in Your District for residents who need assistance with their DOB violations. The Senator and elected official in Queens came together to address squatters. The Senator introduced a bill that defines what a squatter is.

**Henry Yam - representing Council Member James Gennaro**

The Council Member is hosting a street co-naming for Nettie Mayerson. The office will advertise their family fun days. Please contact their office for more information.

*Chairperson Taylor recognized former CB8 staff member who is now District Manager for CB11, Joseph Marziliano. She also informed the residents that the board will not be able to vote on BSA Calendar 2023-64BZ – Block 9702 Lot 10 - AKA 144-08 87th Avenue, since the applicant postponed.*

*Chairperson Taylor led the salute to the flag.*

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

**Approval of Minutes:** Howard A. Fried made a motion to approve the minutes of Wednesday, March 13, 2024, seconded by Amy Tse. The motion passed unanimously with no abstention.

*Chairperson Taylor requested a roll call of those in favor of approving the minutes.*

**31 Yes**

**1 No**

**0 Abstentions**

**Members for:** Saaif Alam, Edward Chung, Maria DeInnocentiis, Marva Dudley, Kevin Forrestal, Howard A. Fried, Bhitihara-Martha Fulton, James Gallagher, Jr., Wendy Gennaro, Joshua Glikman, Michael Hannibal, Mitch Lisker, Mary Maggio, Caitlin Marziliano, Nikolas Michael, David Mordukhaev, Dilip Nath, Alan Ong, Tammy Osherov, Hersh Parekh, Frances Peterson, Israel Peskowitz, Jenna Citron Schwab, Seymour Schwartz, Deepti Sharma, Harbachan Singh, Dr. Penny M. Stern, Martha Taylor, Amy Tse, Steven Villaran, and Jacob Weinberg.

**Members opposed:** Jesse Rosenbaum

*Chairperson Taylor welcomed our new community board members.*

- Aliyah Salim
- Saaif Alam
- Marva Dudley
- Joshua Glikman
- Caitlin Marziliano
- Nikolas Michael
- Israel Peskowitz
- Steven Villaran

*Chairperson Taylor wished those who celebrate Eid a Happy Eid al-Fitr. Members who celebrate the holiday and could not attend tonight’s meeting have an excused absence.*

**Chairperson’s Report**

Chairperson Taylor extended her condolences to our staffer, Nettie Norris, whose aunt passed away this morning. She also acknowledged the CB8 staff members, Marie Adam-Ovide, Nettie Norris and Soleil Griffin, for doing an amazing job in the office. The audience applauded for the CB8 staff members.

Congratulations to former Board Member Rabbi Yaniv Meirov on the birth of his son. Congratulations to Board Member Heather Bennett-Idels daughter on her wedding.

As a reminder, there is no heckling and/or clapping allowed during the Public Participation portion of the meeting. Community Board 8 Members are not to respond to members of the public following their public address. As you know, our office is required to provide the attendance records of all board members the Borough President’s office. In addition to marking members present or absent, we are now required to alert them if board members are not attending meetings in its entirety. We were unable to hold our public hearing last month due to a lack of quorum. Members left before the public hearing. If you are absent for the vote, you will be marked absent for the meeting.

Our guest speaker cancelled for tonight. A copy of his presentation will be emailed to everyone. If you need a hardcopy, please speak to the district manager.

### **District Manager's Report**

#### **Police Department (NYPD)**

These are the stats for Southeast Queens Precincts. There was a decrease of 75% for robberies, 16% for burglaries and 5% for grand larceny. Regrettably, there was an increase of 7% for felony assaults [*some of it from domestic violence*], 28% in grand larceny auto. There was an increase in arrests stemming from the following crimes: 92% for GLA, 57% burglary and 12% for felony assaults.

There will be a Catalytic Converter Etching event at Cunningham Park on Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup> from noon to 4 p.m. at Cunningham Park.

NYPD Summer Youth Employment had about 1000 participants last year. They are aiming for 1500 this year. The application will be available later this month. We received six new officers. They have been assigned to high traffic areas. They are focusing on Hillside Avenue, the routes taken by some of the high schools in the area to deter altercations/assaults.

The agency has a Community Link program that coordinates with other city agencies to address multi-agency issues dealing with quality of life. The NYPD is also fighting “ghost cars”. These are cars with blocked license plates, those using fake temporary plates and other means to make their vehicles untraceable.

#### **Department of Transportation**

The agency has a new report online for the Red-Light Camera program. They recently had staff “Street Ambassadors” canvassing Hillside Avenue and encouraging residents, drivers, cyclists, and passersby to complete surveys. This information will be used to make recommendations for traffic changes.

#### **Department of Design and Construction (DDC)**

**DDC Project I.D: SEQ200558** - In Jamaica Estates, they were finishing work on Wexford Terrace last week. This week they are working on Eton Street. Community Construction Liaison (CCL) Gina Modoo has been keeping us abreast of the work as it proceeds. She can be reached at (917) 832-8935 or via email at [etonstreetccl@gmail.com](mailto:etonstreetccl@gmail.com)

**DDC Project I.D.: HWPR21Q1** – It is a simple pedestrian ramp project. They worked on 164<sup>th</sup> Street and 65<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Jewel Avenue last week. They will be working on Union Turnpike next week. For any questions or concerns, please contact Community Construction Liaison Len’ Niesha James at (929) 303-8722 or [HWPR21Q1CCL2@gmail.com](mailto:HWPR21Q1CCL2@gmail.com)

#### **Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)**

There were 273 complaints called through 311 for Community Board 8 last month. The top five complaints were:

Air, smoke, and vehicular	46
Sewer	33
Hydrant knocked over	22
Lead kit requests	20
Catch basin repair	18

When a concern was raised about fighting fires when a hydrant is not functioning, the DEP representative explained that DEP personnel go to every fire with FDNY to assist in putting out fires.

Additionally, DEP will be coordinating with the elected representatives for rain barrel giveaway events for the summer.

### **Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)**

They are still interviewing for summer staffing.

### **Department of Buildings (DOB)**

The DOB in Your Community Board held on March 15<sup>th</sup> to assist residents with correcting DOB violations was a success. Although we did not have a huge turnout, all those who participated received one-on-one assistance. We may host another such event in the summer depending on the need. We also learned that State Senator Leroy Comrie and Senator John Liu will be hosting their own DOB in Your Community later this month.

### **NYC Commission of Human Rights**

The Commission encourages residents to file complaints ASAP using 311 or (212) 416-0197. There is a one-year statute of limitation on most complaints and 3 years for gender-based violations.

### **Department of City Planning**

There was an EIS [Environmental Impact Study] filed for the building that houses the Key Food supermarket located at 138-37 Queens Boulevard in Briarwood. They are planning to change the zoning from an R6A to an R8X. The land use application has not been filed yet.

### **Mayor's Community Affairs Unit (CAU)**

The application for the Neighborhood Support Team that was originally set to close on April 4<sup>th</sup> has been extended. Re-application for the program is highly recommended. To apply or learn more, please go to: <https://www.nyc.gov/site/cau/Initiatives/support-teams.page>

CAU has an employee that deals with weather events. He should be sending information ahead of weather events and assisting CBs with addressing issues from these events.



Happy Birthday to: Dilafroz Ahmed, David Mordukhaev, and Jenna Citron Schwab.

*CB8 District Manager Marie Adam-Ovide asked the board members if they had any color preference for the CB8 shirts. Majority of the members suggested purple shirts.*

### **Shubhra Datta representing Borough President Donovan Richards**

Welcomed the new board members. He informed them that if they have any questions, they should reach out to Kahleel Bragg, Director of Community Boards. The Borough President is hosting the State of the Borough event; however, the event is at capacity. If anyone would like to learn more information about future events, you can visit the Borough Presidents website.

### **Nominations – Kevin Forrestal, Chair of the Nominating Committee**

Kevin Forrestal, Chair of the Nominating Committee, stated that the Executive Committee acting as a Nominating Committee nominated the following slate for CB 8Q officers in accordance with CB 8Q by-laws:

- Chairperson – Martha Taylor
  - Nominated by: Kevin Forrestal
  - Seconded by: Michael Hannibal
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair – Michael Hannibal
  - Nominated by: Martha Taylor
  - Seconded by: Mary Maggio

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair – Seymour Schwartz
  - Nominated by: Bhitihara Fulton
  - Seconded by: Kevin Forrestal
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-Chair – Mary Maggio
  - Nominated by: Michael Hannibal
  - Seconded by: Bhitihara Fulton
- Treasurer – Harbachan Singh
  - Nominated by: Kevin Forrestal
  - Seconded by: Mary Maggio
- Secretary - Bhitihara Fulton
  - Nominated by: Martha Taylor
  - Seconded by: Michael Hannibal

*Committee Chair Forrestal opened nomination from the floor. Hearing none, nominations were closed. He stated that the election will be held at the May's general meeting.*

**Health Minute with Dr. Stern**

April represents alcohol awareness month. Having a moderate amount could lower the risk of heart disease. A moderate number of drinks for women is one or less in a day and for men is two drinks or less in a day. Women have less alcohol dehydrins and process alcohol differently than men. One drink equals to either a bottle or can of regular beer which is twelve ounces, a glass of wine is five ounces, a shot of distill spirits (i.e. gin, rum, vodka) is five ounces. Alcohol has no nutritional benefits but has a lot of calories. Drinking too much can cause liver disease, heart disease, high blood pressure, several different kinds of depression, cancer, anxiety and stroke.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by,  
Soleil Griffin, CB8 Staff  
April 18, 2024*