



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 Board Meeting held on Wednesday, November 9, 2022, at the Hillcrest Jewish Center, 183-02 Union Turnpike in Flushing, New York.

**Attendance:**

**Board Members Present:**

Dilafroz Ahmed, Robert H. Block, Edward Chung, Maria DeInnocentiis, Kevin Forrestal, Bhitihara-Martha Fulton, James Gallagher, Jr., John Gebhard, Wendy Gennaro, Ashan Habib, Michael Hannibal, Steven Konigsberg, Mohammed Islam “Delwar”, Mitch Lisker, Elke Maerz, Tammy Osherov, Hersh Parekh, Simon Pelman, Mohammad Rahman, Seymour Schwartz, Deepti Sharma, Douglas Sherman, Harbachan Singh, Dr. Penny Stern, Mohammed Tohin, Amy Tse and Jacob Weinberg.

**Board Members Absent:**

Heather Bennett-Idels, Susan Cleary, Kenneth Cohen II, Solomon Davydov, Allen Eisenstein, Howard Fried, Marc Haken, Tami Hirsh, Neeta Jain, Paul Lazauskas, Mary Maggio, Jennifer Martin, Yaniv Meirov, David Mordukhaev, Dilip Nath, Rabbi Shlomo Nisanov, Alan Ong, Frances Peterson, Charlton Rhee, Jesse Rosenbaum, Martha Taylor, Tamika Williams-Moore, and Emanuel Yllescas.

**Others Present:**

Max Weprin representing Honorable Borough President Donovan Richards, Evelyn Li representing Honorable Congresswoman Grace Meng, Luna Fu representing Honorable Council Member Linda Lee, Adam Suionov representing Honorable Council Member Jim Gennaro, Rokeya Akhter representing Honorable District Attorney Melinda Katz, Marco Cruz representing Honorable Assembly Member Daniel Rosenthal, Ananya Rajaraman representing Honorable Assembly Member Nily Rozic, Deputy Inspector Kevin Chan, P.O. Kevin McCarthy and P.O. Timothy Gorman, District Manager Marie Adam-Ovide and Sandra Aikens-Williams, CB8 Staff Member

**Call to Order:**

First Vice Chairperson Michael Hannibal called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**Public Participation:**

**Christopher Fishkin:** A member of the Franciscan Order or St. Francis of Assisi. He is commonly known as, Brother Christopher. His concern is regarding motorcycles and motor bikes driven without head lights. Also, they often drive on sidewalks without regard for traffic safety. He has noticed a daily trend of delivery motor bikes, bicycles and scooters without lights riding on sidewalks and completely ignoring

traffic rules. He started Bring the Light Campaign to give a voice to this issue. He asked that board members join his campaign regarding this issue. He can be reached at [helpbringlight@gmail.com](mailto:helpbringlight@gmail.com).

**Elected Officials:**

**Adam Suionov representing Council Member James Gennaro** – Introduced himself and wished everyone a nice day.

**Rokeya Akhter representing Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz** – Their last Gun Buyback Program removed 62 operable guns. Those interested can be placed on the Queens District Attorney newsletter email list by contacting her at [rakhter@queensda.org](mailto:rakhter@queensda.org).

**Anthony Lemma representing Assembly Member David Weprin** - Both offices are now operational Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. On behalf of Assemblyman Weprin, he wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

**Ananya Rajaraman representing Assembly Nily Rozic** – They are going to mail their 2<sup>nd</sup> newsletter this week. She wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

**Roll Call**

**Salute to the Flag**

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairperson Michael Hannibal led the salute to the flag.

**Guest Speaker:**

**Deputy Inspector Kevin Chan, 107<sup>th</sup> Precinct** –

A skimming device [a micro sized camera allowing criminals to video tape your finger as you enter your PIN number] was found at the 76<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Main Street branch of TD Bank. This type of crime increases during the holiday season. He recommended that everyone cover their fingers as they input their PIN at ATMs.. Skimming devices are hidden and hard to detect, even by him. Car break-ins are on the rise as we near the holiday season. Happy Thanksgiving.

**Approval of the Minutes:**

**Michael Hannibal asked for a motion to approve the October 26, 2022, minutes.**

District Manager Adam-Ovide noted an error in the minutes, Mohammad Rahman was erroneously listed as absent. A correction will be made on the final copy.

**Michael Hannibal asked for motion to approve the October 26, 2022, minutes, with the correction.**

**Edward Chung made a motion to approve the minutes of October 26, 2022, with corrections, seconded by Kevin Forrestal.**

**Vote: In favor: 26          Opposed: 0          Abstained: 0**

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**Chairperson’s Report – Michael Hannibal:**

The calendar for the 2023 meeting schedule was not in the packet. There was a change from the original proposed calendar. The first Wednesday in November 2023 will be All Saint’s Day. In observance, the

Executive Board meeting date was moved from November 1, 2023, to November 8, 2023. The full board meeting will be held on the third Wednesday, November 15, 2023.

**Michael Hannibal asked for motion to accept the 2023 Board Meeting Calendar, with the correction.**

**Wendy Gennaro made a motion to approve the 2023 Meeting Calendar, with corrections, seconded by Harbachan Singh.**

**Vote: In favor: 26 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0**

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**District Manager’s Report**

**Mayor’s Community Affair’s Unit (CAU)**

Mayor Eric Adams announced that \$4 Billion is being allocated to make new schools go all electrical.

**Police Department (NYPD)**

Robberies are down and burglaries are up. The latter is a difficult crime to prevent. Neighborhood Coordinating Officers (NCOs) are working different shifts and patrolling areas in marked and non-marked cars. Officers are deployed on different tours. They are patrolling the subways. They are increasing patrols during the morning and evening rush hours. These new initiatives are being funded by NYS. The 107<sup>th</sup> Precinct is also collecting non-perishable items for the City Harvest. Residents should go to the precinct and leave these items in the dedicated box at the precinct.

**Department of for the Aging (DFTA)**

The agency has a new campaign “Join Us” encouraging to go to the 300+ older adult centers across the five boroughs. Call Aging Connect at 212 AGING-NYC (212 244-6469).

**Department of Buildings (DOB)**

The Department of Buildings’ new building codes for 2022 are now available. There were 600 changes to the previous building codes. Most of them deal with site safety.

On November 2, 2022, the DOB Administrative Enforcement Unit located at 280 Broadway in Manhattan started accepting walk-in customers for assistance with Certificate of Correction requests that have been submitted online through DOB NOW. They are open Monday through

Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. This unit and its services are also available to you at your borough’s “Buildings After Hours” on Tuesdays from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**Department of Transportation (DOT)**

The Department of Transportation informed us that their Dusk to Darkness campaign started. At dusk, there are more pedestrians out in the street. Motorists are urged to take extra precautions by reducing their speed.

The 2023 Alternate Side Parking Calendar is now available. It can be found on their website at:

<https://www1.nyc.gov/html/dot/downloads/pdf/asp-calendar-2023.pdf>

The Department of Transportation’s goal was to redesign/improve 1,000 intersections citywide for safety this year. They have already met this goal.

**NYC Emergency Management**

When NYC experiences different emergencies, New Yorkers want to help. This is very much appreciated. The best way to help is to donate cash or gift cards to trusted organizations, or the Mayor’s Fund if a specific fund is activated. Usually, in-kind donations such as old clothing or supplies are unsustainable. By donating cash or gift cards, those affected are given a sense of control. It also gives them the ability to purchase items that they need and that are culturally appropriate.



*Robert Block, Marc A. Haken, Douglas Sherman, James Gallagher, Jr., and Solomon Davydov.*

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**Borough President’s Donovan Richard’s Representative Max Weprin,**

Borough President Donovan Richard’s will be hosting the following events at Queens Borough Hall

- Tuesday November 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. - Veteran’s Day Service
- Thursday November 17<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. - Transgender Day of Remembrance Ceremony
- Monday November 21<sup>st</sup> at 6 p.m. - Keeping Each Other Safe Workshop [self-defense class]

You can contact his office at queensbp.org for additional information. Happy Holidays.

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**Committee Report:**

**Bhitihara-Martha Fulton, Chair – Parks Committee**

On October 2, 2022, Bhitihara-Martha, Marc A. Haken, Susan Cleary and Hassan Habib met with Anthony Sama, Administrator of Flushing Meadow-Corona Park, and the Deputy Director of Engineering. The Department of Parks and Recreation staff presented details of mandatory upgrades of the electrical vaults. It is a fifty-two-million-dollar project. Fifty million dollars are from FEMA and two million dollars are from the Mayor’s Office. The project is hazard mitigation due to flooding in the park. There are eight electrical vaults surrounding the area of Meadow Lake, one electrical platform and one comfort station in the flood zone. The new vaults will be two-stories, [lifting the electrical equipment away from the low tide ground level]. This will lift the electrical circuits at least fourteen feet above ground. Hopes are that this will help alleviate the strain of climate conditions, such as flooding, on the system. Last week the Executive Committee approved a letter of support for the project and the District Manager Marie Adam-Ovide composed and sent the letter.

**Guest Speaker:**

**Honorable City Councilman James Gennaro:**

(Presentation of a drafted letter addressed to Honorable Governor Kathy Hochul.)

In 49 states and the federal system dangerousness is a consideration for remand until trial. He is asking that the state statute allow judges to factor in type of crime and how many times a defendant has been convicted of the same type of crime, previously. Honorable Mayor Eric Adams refers to this as the syndrome of Catch, Release and Repeat. He asks that she make this a priority as it goes through both houses of the state legislature. He further stated, this is an action needed to keep New Yorkers safe from criminals. He asked that the board consider making this a resolution. He noted, this problem is most

prevalent in communities of color. They want to know when will we be safe on the subways, in the streets and at home?

**Kevin Forrestal:** I request that James Gennaro's letter be sent to the Executive Committee for consideration [or a supportive letter from CB8].

**Michael Hannibal:** Yes.

**Health Minute with Dr. Penny Stern:**

November is National Diabetes month. Diabetes is defined as a metabolic disease characterized by high levels of glucose or sugar in the blood and urine. There are two types of Diabetes, Type 1, and Type 2. Type 1 is an autoimmune disease, formally known as Juvenile Diabetes. Type 2, formally known as, Adult-Onset Diabetes. Due to the growth in numbers of obese children, the number of children is increasing with this diagnosis.

- More than 30 million adults and children have diabetes.
- 1 in 11 Americans have diabetes.
- 84 to 85 million Americans have pre-diabetes.
- Every 21 seconds someone in America is diagnosed with diabetes.
- African Americans and Hispanics are most likely to be diagnosed with diabetes.
- Persons with diabetes are more likely to have a stroke, heart attack and/or suffer from a loss of limb(s).
- The economic cost in America is estimated at 320 billion dollars annually.
- This year diabetes has caused more deaths than breast cancer and AIDS combined.

This is the one-hundredth-year anniversary of the discovery of insulin. In 1923, the first patient was treated with insulin.

Recommendations to avoid or live better with diabetes:

- Eat more plant-based food
- Be more physically active
- Lose weight
- Eat unsaturated fats and not saturated fats
- Avoid fad diets
- Make healthier [food and beverage] choices.

**Adjournment:**

**Wendy Gennaro** made a motion to adjourn this meeting at 8:04 p.m.

*Respectfully,*

*Sandra Aikens-Williams, CB8 staff  
November 14, 2022*