



Chairman, Alvin Warshaviak

*The City of New York*  
*Borough of Queens*

Community Board 8  
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District Manager, Marie Adam-Ovide

**Public Hearing Meeting Minutes**  
**Renaming of Aguilar Avenue to Shirley Weinstein Way**

**Date:** November 12, 2015  
**Chaired by:** Jesse Rosenbaum, Transportation Committee Chair  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m.  
**Place:** Hillcrest Jewish Center  
183-02 Union Turnpike

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The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Committee Chairperson Jesse Rosenbaum.

**Board Members:** Dr. Allen Bennett, Susan D. Cleary, Maria DeInnocentiis, Mary Maggio Fischer, Florence Fisher, Carolann Foley, Kevin Forrestal, James Gallagher Jr., Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Robert Harris, Tami Hirsch, Bright Dae-Jung Limm, Mark J. Lefkof, Mitch Lisker, Frank Magri, Tamara Oshero, Simon Pelman, Jesse Rosenbaum, Steven Sadofsky, Seymour Schwartz, Harbachan Singh, Martha Taylor, and Jacob Weinberg.

**Also in attendance:** Joseph Marziliano, CB8 Staff Member and Marie Adam- Ovide, District Manager.

Mr. Rosenbaum called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Purpose:**

This meeting is regarding the renaming of Aguilar Avenue between Parsons Boulevard and Kissena Boulevard to Shirley Weinstein Way. The request was made by the Civic Associations and individuals of the Transportation Committee. Those who have signed up for public speaking time will be called upon to make a statement. In hearing your comments we ask that you do not repeat a previous speaker verbatim, but state if you agree or not with them. Each speaker will be given up to five minutes of speaking time.

**Public Participation:**

**James De Bonet** – I represent the Flushing Heights Civic Association and I fully support the request to have Aguilar Avenue between Parsons Boulevard and Kissena Boulevard renamed to Shirley Weinstein Way. As President of Aguilar Gardens Shirley served the people. This renaming is their way of remembering her for all she did for the people of the community. Shirley also served

in many organizations in the community and had direct ties to many Mayors and Elected Officials. As President of the Mid-Queens Community Council she supported many other community organizations. Today the program continues under the leadership of Deborah Ayala. Shirley worked as the Secretary for Community Board 8 for many years. She also served as the Treasurer for the 107<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council. In addition, Shirley was a member of the Auxiliary Police force. Her support of the Youth programs in schools like Parsons Junior High and Ryan Middle School sustained these programs after city budget cuts were made. She visited different schools and worked with the police to provide safety for the children as they travel to and from school. She was also very supportive of the Boy Scouts of America. She took a personal interest in the new cub pack 74 at P.S. 173. According to the Principal, the Scouting programs there are helping children who have special needs with performance and behavior. For over 30 years I worked with Shirley at the Mid-Queens Community Council and was amazed at the amount of stamina and perseverance she had in helping people from the community. I hope you remember all that she has done when you vote on this request.

**Alan Sherman-** I was a shareholder in Aguilar Gardens from February 2000- July 2015. I was on the Board of Directors with Shirley Weinstein on and off during this period. I am here to ask you not to rename Aguilar Avenue after Shirley Weinstein. She does not deserve it. She was fired from her position at Community Board 8 in the past. Shirley tried to come off as a know it all who had contacts with local politicians, but held back Aguilar Gardens from growing into a modern cooperative. As secretary, I had to keep the minutes. She refused to utilize a computer to speed up the process. If you did not agree with her she would be vengeful during meetings. Many times during the meetings she would go off on tangents about how things were run in the past and would not address modern conveniences to help the co-op. Her relationship with our superintendent has always been called into question. She allowed this person to run amuck and spend as he pleases. His work was often inferior and she would do nothing. I lost all respect for her when we were talking about the late Borough President Donald Manes. She kept saying how misunderstood and good he was. If you lie with the devil, you must be a devil. The final straw that convinced me to move out was when I got into a disagreement with the superintendent and they sued me to give up my storage bins. In the end, it cost me almost \$4,000 in legal fees. I reported her to HPD and somehow she found out about it. She had moles in HPD who would do whatever she wanted. She showed a lack of knowledge, respect and foreshadowing. Fellow cooperators were scared of her. The petition you have from Aguilar Gardens was circulated by her own cronies and should be thrown out. Once again, please do not name Aguilar Avenue after Shirley Weinstein.

**Alan Siegel-** The more threatened people feel, the more complacent people will become. To name a street after a woman that abused her power to get what she wanted would be a travesty to all of the people that she hurt during her lifetime. If a street is named for Shirley Weinstein, we will have an anti-petition done. We would have done one already, but we were unaware that this was happening. There are far more worthy people to name the street after like a fallen service member or a person who contributed to the betterment of mankind. I reside at 71-50 Parsons Boulevard and many of my neighbors in the building had not heard about the petition. This is no surprise to us who remember how Shirley and her regime operated. During Mrs. Weinstein's time on the Board of Aguilar Gardens over the years there were many allegations of proxy tampering, list manipulation, and Co-Op Board election coercion. Parking lists were manipulated; people were taken off with no notice. Mrs. Weinstein allowed the conversion of storage space into office space, which was renovated and rented at below-market rates to her husband without Board approval. She came to the board for approval after the fact. If you opposed her she would begin a campaign of slander against you. As a Board President, she allowed our buildings to fall into disrepair with the only

focus of landscaping and painting. She fought retrofits for water saving toilets and free fluorescent lightbulbs.

**Norma Chassagne**- I am a Board Member of Aguilar Gardens, and I knew Shirley for approximately 24 years. She was a very strong person who ruffled a few feathers. Shirley also did great community work. She was kind, gentle and strong willed. Our community can never replace someone like her. I am for renaming Aguilar Avenue Shirley Weinstein Way. I have 225 signatures here from shareholders in her building from both ‘A’ and ‘B’ in favor of this street renaming.

*The petition was submitted to the Community Board file.*

**Maria DeInnocetiis**- I am a resident and a member of Community Board 8. I have been a resident of this neighborhood for close to 50 years and I have known Shirley for about 40. The person that I heard described by some opposed to this proposed renaming is not the Shirley that I know and love. Shirley has always been very blunt and a little hard headed, but with a heart of gold. She always tried her best to make changes in the community. She was very active as a founding member of the Queens Community Council. She tried to help wherever and whoever she could. She was loved in her building. I know this because the Mid Queens Community Council would meet in her building’s rec-room, and residents would come in from time to time with good things to say about her. There are 233 names on the petition in support of this street renaming. Something good or bad can be said by every person we all know, but the decision to honor someone is sometimes made by the people that knew them best. I fully support the renaming of Aguilar Avenue to Shirley Weinstein Way.

*Jesse Rosenbaum read a letter from Marlene Schilowitz opposed to the proposed street renaming which was submitted to the Community Board 8 file on this matter.*

**Mark J. Lefkof made a motion to approve the renaming of Aguilar Avenue between Parsons Boulevard and Kissena Boulevard to Shirley Weinstein Way, seconded by Maria DeInnocentiis.**

### **Discussion**

**Susan Cleary**- How much do one of these signs cost?

**Mark J. Lefkof**- We do not know, they are paid for with tax dollars.

*A hand vote was taken on the motion.*

**Vote:**                      **In Favor: 7**                      **Opposed: 16**                      **Abstained: 1**

### **In favor:**

Maria DeInnocentiis, Florence Fisher, Kevin Forrestal, James Gallagher Jr., Robert Harris, Tami Hirsch, and Tamara Osherov.

### **Opposed:**

Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Susan D. Cleary, Mary Maggio Fischer, Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Mark J. Lefkof, Mitch Lisker, Frank Magri, Simon Pelman, Jesse Rosenbaum, Steven Sadofsky, Seymour Schwartz, Harbachan Singh, Martha Taylor and Jacob Weinberg.

**Abstained:**

Bright Dae-Jung Limm

The motion did not pass and therefore is not recommended for approval to the full board.

Meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by,  
Joseph Marziliano, CB8 Staff Member  
November 24, 2015*