



# December

## 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](mailto:qn08@cb.nyc.gov)  
Website: [www.nyc.gov/queenscb8](http://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  
Vacant - 24th District

### BOROUGH PRESIDENT

Honorable Sharon Lee

### STAFF

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

### 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 and Albert Willingham

#### Area 3 - Hillcrest Estates & Jamaica Hills

**Kevin Forrestal** - **CHAIR**, Dilafrooz Ahmed, Bhithara-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 and Frank Magri

#### 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

## Happy Hanukkah! Merry Christmas! Happy Kwanzaa!

### Virtual Community Board Meeting Re-cap

November 18, 2020

- The Minutes of the October 14, 2020 Board Meeting were unanimously approved by 37 members.

- **Chairperson’s Report – Martha Taylor:**

BSA Cal. No. 2019-277-BZ was removed from the agenda and will be reviewed later.

Due to concerns raised about a new civilian group. The Board met with the Queens Guardian Patrol Association. We are opposed to the use of unmarked cars. We will continue to monitor this with the assistance of the 107<sup>th</sup> Precinct.

Board Member Robert “Bob” Harris passed away last week. He served on the Board for 23 years and was an active member of several committees. He was also the president of the West Cunningham Park Civic Association for many years. We offer our sincere condolences to his wife Edna and his family.

Best wishes to Member Marc Haken who had major surgery a few weeks ago and best wishes to our Staffer, Jatna Reyes, who had major surgery last week.

Thank you, Elke Maerz, who oversees the Sunshine Funds. We are running out of funds and we are asking for contributions. If you would like to contribute, please send a check to the Community Board’s office made out to Elke Maerz earmarked for the Sunshine Fund.

Next Community Board 8 Meeting will be held *virtually* on **Wednesday, December 9, 2020** at 7:30 p.m.

<https://zoom.us/j/94834837988?pwd=RHY0cnFZRmFPcEVtYi81dWNQTU1nZz09>

Minutes of Board Meetings are available on our website: [www.nyc.gov/queenscb8](http://www.nyc.gov/queenscb8) within two weeks.

## *A Word from the District Manager...*

*Dear Community Board 8 Resident:*

*Here are some tips on helping the environment by reusing items, recycling goods and reducing waste courtesy of the Department of Sanitation:*

### ***How to Reduce Waste Over the Holidays***

- *Give homemade gifts, such as cookies, handcrafts or framed photos.*
- *Give entertainment, such as museum memberships; tickets to movies, theater, concert or sporting events; gift certificates to a favorite restaurant.*
- *Give learning, such as language or music lessons; classes in cooking, photography or other favorite hobbies.*
- *Give your time or talent, such as baby-sitting, pet-sitting, computer help or home repairs.*
- *Give fitness, such as gym memberships, personal training session or classes in yoga, Pilates or dance.*
- *Give pampering, such as a facial, massage, manicure or pedicure.*
- *Give to the greater good by making a contribution to someone's favorite charity.*

### ***Other Ways to Cut Down on Waste this Holiday Season***

- *Use an artificial tree instead of a real tree, and reuse it year after year.*
- *Send e-mail greetings rather than paper cards to cut down on paper waste.*
- *Wrap gifts in reusable gift bags or create your own gift wrap using maps or comics. (If you do buy gift wrap and greeting cards, make sure they are from recycled paper).*
- *Use durable plastic ware designed for reuse rather than purchasing new cups and plates for each event. Use washable, reusable sponges, dishcloths, and napkins. If you use disposable paper goods, choose products made with recycled content.*

*And do not forget, others may want the stuff you no longer need. There are many local charitable organizations interested in receiving your gently used clothing, furniture, books, and electronic goods. For more information, go to: <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/donate/resources/events.shtml?filter-term=1#accord-1>*

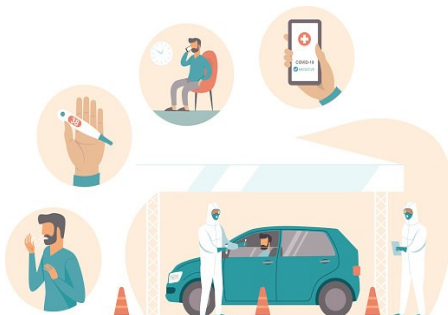
*Please share this information with your friends and neighbors. It takes more than City Hall to make New York City great, it takes us all!*

*Sincerely,*

***Marie Adam-Ovide***

*P.S. If you would like an email version or to receive the [Newsletter earlier](#), please contact us at 718-264-7895 and provide your email address. This information is also available on our website: [www.nyc.gov/queenscb8](http://www.nyc.gov/queenscb8).*

## **COVID-19 - Mobile Testing**



Please be advised that a COVID-19 testing site will be in our district:

December 2nd— December 4th: 10 a.m.— 4 p.m.

Mobile Van: NYCHA/Pomonok Houses  
Community Park b/w Buildings #13 & #14  
67-16 Parsons Blvd., Flushing, NY 11367

(Continued from Page 1)

- **Chairperson's Report – Martha Taylor:** (Continued)

The City schools are closed tomorrow (11/19) due to the increase in Covid-19 case being 3% and above throughout the City.

- **Elected Officials' Announcements:**

**Former Honorable Councilmember Lancman** – Mr. Lancman announced that he now working for the governor as the Special Counsel for Ratepayer Protection. He loved being on this community board and representing this community. He thanked everyone for their friendship, support and cooperation for the last 16 years. He lives in the neighborhood and will be visiting often.

- **Committee Reports:**

**Health Minute with Dr. Penny Stern, Health Committee Chair:** Dr. Stern spoke about severe maternal morbidity (SMM). This includes unexpected outcomes of labor and delivery that result in significant short or long-term consequences to a woman's health. Dr. Stern hopes to bring these facts to wider communities' attention and make it easier for clinicians to recognize at risk women and prevent negative outcomes.

**Transportation Committee Jesse Rosenbaum:** Mr. Rosenbaum announced that there was a request to co-name Foothill Avenue to **Melvin "Mel" Doby Way** in honor of Melvin Doby, Hilltop Co-op Village President and former NYC Police Officer who received many honors after 911. The request was also accompanied by a petition with 128 signatures. The concept was presented to the Transportation Committee and it passed overwhelmingly.

**Mary Maggio** made a motion to send a letter of support, seconded by **Marc A. Haken**.  
Count in favor: 38    Opposed: 0    Abstained: 0

**Census 2020- Kevin Forrestal** – Mr. Forrestal announced that numerous speakers spoke about the Queens Complete Count Committee being the best in the State and the City. They praised both Susie and Tim who coordinated the effort. With all the obstacles it was still a huge success thanks to Susie and Tim. Congratulations to both of you.

**Borough President's Representative – Susie Tanenbaum** - On behalf of Borough President Sharon Lee, she offered condolences to Community Board 8 on the passing of longtime Board Member Robert Harris. The Borough President held her 11<sup>th</sup> Virtual Job Fair with 16 organizations and 350 participants. Yesterday, the Borough President and the Queens Complete Count Committee held a zoom event called Farewell to the Census. For more information, please visit: [www.queensbp.org](http://www.queensbp.org).

**Scott Solomon – City Planning:** Mr. Solomon informed everyone that on October 19<sup>th</sup> City Planning referred out the zoning for coastal flood resiliency. It is essentially making permanent the zoning rules that were changed post Superstorm Sandy. A land use committee meeting will be scheduled with Community Board 8 for discussion.

# Be Festive, Stay Safe!

## Tips for a Safer Holiday Season



Make a plan to celebrate the holiday season safely. Be festive while protecting your loved ones and preventing the spread of COVID-19: Do not travel (rediscover holidays at home!); do not host or attend a holiday party (go virtual instead!); and do not gather in groups and only celebrate with household members (less is more!). Here are some tips on how to celebrate.

### No matter how you celebrate, always practice these four key actions:

**Stay home:** Celebrate at home, especially if you aren't feeling well, tested positive for COVID-19, have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19, or were recently traveling.

**Stay apart:** Keep at least 6 feet from others. Do not attend holiday parties or other gatherings, especially indoors.

**Wear a face covering:** Protect those around you. You can have COVID-19 and not know it.

**Keep your hands clean:** Wash your hands often or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands and cover your coughs and sneezes.

### Safer holiday activities

- **Host a virtual party.** Celebrate with friends and family at a video dinner party. Kiss 2020 good-bye at a virtual New Year's ball or with a Tik-Tok dance.
- **Deck the halls.** Put up decorations such as a tree, menorah, kinara, wreath, or lights. Walk around your neighborhood and enjoy the decorated homes and shops. Stop for a hot chocolate or cider to stay warm.
- **Spread the holiday cheer.** Surprise your neighbor by dropping off some holiday cookies. Send snail-mail holiday cards to your co-workers or call a friend you haven't spoken to in a while. Invite someone who may be alone to join your virtual Thanksgiving or holiday dinner.
- **Go caroling outdoors.** Give the gift of music. Wear a face covering and stay 12 feet from others (the virus can spread more easily when singing, so it is important to stand farther apart).
- **Let it snow.** Make a snowperson, go sledding or snow shoeing or have a snowball fight.
- **Holiday shopping.** Don't let Black Friday turn into COVID Monday! Shop online to avoid crowds (and a showdown over the last toy on the shelf) or call for curbside pick up at your favorite local store. If you shop in person, wear a face covering, use hand sanitizer, and go during off hours.
- **Have a feast.** Have a turkey with all the trimmings. Eat some kugel, latkes, or sugar cookies, and have an eggnog – you've earned it!
- **Watch football and the Grinch.** Enjoy your TV traditions and do your best touchdown dance when your team scores.



### Religious Services

Attending indoor services can be risky since it often involves many people in a confined space. If you participate in religious services:

- **Go virtual or outside.** Join online services or worship outdoors.
- **Be prepared.** Bring and use hand sanitizer and make sure everyone over age 2 wears a face covering at all times.
- **Spread out.** Sit only with members of your household and keep at least 6 feet apart from others. Remember to stay 12 feet apart if there will be singing.
- **Bring your own (BYO).** Bring your own books of worship and ceremonial objects. Never drink from the same cup as others.





## Gatherings

Gathering with other people, especially indoors, increases the risk of spreading COVID-19. Group settings make physical distancing difficult and it is not possible to wear a face covering when eating and drinking. Remember, people without symptoms can spread the virus. But if you're going to meet up with other people, party like it's 2020! This means:

- **Know your own risk:** If you are an older adult or have a health condition that increases your risk of severe COVID-19, stay home this holiday season.
- **Know others' risk:** Only meet up with people who you know are careful about using a face covering and keeping at least 6 feet from others.
- **Get tested.** Get a COVID-19 test **before** seeing older adults or others who may be at increased risk for severe COVID-19 and **after** you attend a gathering or travel.
- **Keep it small:** The more people that gather close together, the higher the risk of COVID-19.
- **Outdoors is safer:** Bundle up and celebrate outdoors. COVID-19 spreads easier inside because there is less air circulation. This is especially true in winter when doors and windows are shut.
- **Virtual hugs only.** Unfortunately, close physical contact with people from outside your home is not safe during COVID-19.
- **Keep your plate to yourself:** Don't share plates or glasses and skip the dip and other communal food this year.



## Travel

You should not travel this year. Traveling puts you, your family, and your community at risk. Returning travelers can be a source of community outbreaks. But if you cannot avoid travel over the holidays:

- **Stay local.** This is the perfect year to enjoy the best city and state in the country.
- **Travel safely.** Keep distance from others, bring and use hand sanitizer, and make sure everyone over age 2 wears a face covering. See the Health Department's [Commuting Safely guidance](#) for more traveling rules of the road.
- **Get a room.** Stay at a hotel rather than at someone's home. If you have out-of-town guests, suggest they do the same.
- **Don't drink and drive.** It's a good move to sleep in your own home, but do not drink and drive to get there. Designate a driver. And if you are the driver and you've had too much to drink, walk, take the subway or call a car service.
- **Get tested and quarantine after travel.** If you travel to most other states or another country, you will need to quarantine when you return home. See [New York State's travel quarantine requirements](#) for more information.



## Activities you definitely should not do:

- **Mistletoe:** Unless it's with your live-in partner, keep kissing to a minimum this year.
- **Use your neighbor's blow up snowperson for a dart board.** I know, it's tempting.
- **Have a snowball fight with a pitcher from the Yankees.** Snow is not soft at 95 miles per hour.

**If you are feeling overwhelmed, anxious or depressed, contact NYC Well, a free and confidential mental health support service available 24/7. Call 888-NYCWELL (888-692-9355), text "WELL" to 65173, or visit [nyc.gov/nycwell](https://nyc.gov/nycwell).**



The NYC Health Department may change recommendations as the situation evolves. 11.9.20



**NYC**  
Health



CORRECT CRISIS INTERVENTION TODAY NYC & CITIZEN ACTION OF NEW YORK PRESENTS

Zoom Webinar  
**THURSDAY  
DECEMBER 10  
7-9:30PM**

ASL  
INTERPRETATION  
& CAPTIONS  
AVAILABLE

# MENTAL HEALTH

## MAYORAL CANDIDATE FORUM

Join 2021 Mayoral Candidates for a forum to share their plans on mental health issues, including housing and policing.

### Moderator



**Cindy Rodriguez**  
Urban Affairs Reporter for  
New York Public Radio

### Panelists:



**Shaun Donovan**



**Kathryn Garcia**



**Carlos Menchaca**



**Dianne Morales**



**Scott Stringer**



**Loree Sutton**

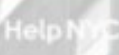


**Joycelyn Taylor**



**Maya Wiley**

To register visit: <http://cit.ac/forum>





## RANKED CHOICE VOTING IS COMING TO NEW YORK CITY ELECTIONS IN 2021

Assembly Members Nily Rozic and Daniel Rosenthal invite you to a virtual Ranked Choice Voting seminar featuring speakers from Rank the Vote NYC and Common Cause NY.



Learn about the *new way to vote* in **CD 24's February 2 Special Election**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3 AT 5:30 PM EST**



**RSVP here or by emailing**  
**rozicn@nyassembly.gov**



## FRIENDLY VOICES VOLUNTEER INITIATIVE



New Friendly VOICES Volunteer Initiative Helps Limit Social Isolation during COVID-19. The Department for the Aging (DFTA) has launched a new volunteer initiative to help limit social isolation among older New Yorkers during COVID-19. Friendly VOICES is a new program that will train and match volunteers with older adults to connect on a weekly basis over the phone or through video calls.

Friendly VOICES (Virtual Opportunities Improving Connections with Elders) is based on DFTA and ThriveNYC's Friendly Visiting program model, a successful program that has helped match more than 2,000 volunteers with traditional homebound older adults who have health challenges. Friendly VOICES is different as the program is available to all older adults who are socially isolated. In addition, Friendly VOICES offers older New Yorkers the option to have a peer-to-peer match and be connected with another older adult, or join a small virtual group. New Yorkers who would like to volunteer can call DFTA's resource line, Aging Connect, at **212-Aging-NYC (212-244-6469)**, or visit the DFTA website and complete an online volunteer form. Older New Yorkers who would like to be a part of Friendly VOICES can also call Aging Connect or fill out an online participant form. To learn more about Friendly VOICES or Friendly Visiting, visit [nyc.gov/aging](https://nyc.gov/aging).



# We Want Your Advice

**Join other New Yorkers to learn about the impact of COVID-19 and share your thoughts with the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene on the fairest way to give out the COVID-19 vaccine, once it is available.**

This group discussion will take place through video call over two half-days in December. Participants will receive **a \$150 gift card.**

To see if you are eligible to join, fill out this survey at **<https://covid19deliberation.questionpro.com>.**



Discussions are facilitated by The New York Academy of Medicine and have been approved by their Institutional Review Board.





"Being a Big is really gratifying.  
You get back so much more  
than you give."  
Peter, Alumnus Big

# BECOME A MENTOR

Ignite NYC's potential one child at a time

Big Brothers Big Sisters of NYC is gearing up for our fall recruitment cycle and wanted to offer our mentoring services to the Hollis community.

Like many programs, we have pivoted to operate virtually throughout the pandemic and as such we have been able to continue pairing youth with mentors who support their learning and development in a remote environment. Our program offers a structured 1:1 mentoring model that focuses on the social emotional learning of youth, while supporting their academic development. We also still offer our traditional in person mentoring model following Covid Guidelines for outings.

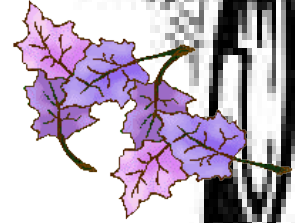
### **Key info for families:**

- Currently we are enrolling students ages **9 & up** for the program.
- Program is completely free/no income requirements
- Youth/families will need technology (ex. iPad, Laptop) to communicate with their mentors weekly or Bi-weekly basis.

We have a series of info sessions coming up over the next few months, please direct interested parents and guardians to register on Eventbrite for an info session to this:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/information-session-for-parents-tickets-126121600101>

# Did you know?



## Littering/Sweeping-Out/Throwing-Out

Littering, sweeping, throwing, or casting any material such as ashes, garbage, paper, dust or other refuse or rubbish into or upon any street or public place, vacant lot, air shaft, areaway, backyard, court, or alley is illegal. Throwing refuse out of windows (i.e., buildings or vehicles) is also a violation. In addition, no person may allow anyone under his/her control (agent or employee) to commit a littering, sweep-out, or throw-out violation. Merchants must put all sweepings into suitable garbage receptacles for pickup by a private carter. Residential units must put sweepings into suitable garbage receptacles for pick up by the DSNY. Sanitation litter baskets may not be used for this purpose.

*(Note: When using a "blower," grass, leaves, litter, etc., must be blown into a pile and properly disposed of with other sweepings.)*

§16-118(1) FINE:

\$100 - \$450 - 1st Offense

\$250 - \$450 - 2nd Offense within 12 months

\$350 - \$450 - 3rd & Subsequent Offenses within 12 months



## LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION (S)

- ♦ **Kissena Pizza, Inc.** d/b/a Valentino's Pizza  
71-47 Kissena Blvd. in Flushing - *Renewal of Wine, Beer and Cider License*
- ♦ **Jaosub, Inc.** d/b/a Sup Thai Kitchen  
178-19 Union Turnpike in Fresh Meadows - *Renewal of Wine, Beer and Cider License*
- ♦ **ESR Hospitality Group Corp**  
185-01 Union Turnpike - *New Full Liquor License Application*
- ♦ **Kemerson Restaurant Corp**  
139-01 Grand Central Parkway in Jamaica - *Corporate Change*

*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.*

### Block Party Permit Requests



The Mayor's Executive Order 146 limiting Street Activity Permits has been extended through **December 31, 2020**.

### DEMOLITION/EXCAVATION NOTICE



- **186-28 Avon Road** - Garage only.
- **61-37 166th Street** - House and Garage.
- **176-58 Kildare Road** - Alteration Type 1. Horizontal and vertical extension including inground pool. New Certificate of Occupancy.
- **158-41 76 Avenue** - Vacate Order. Illegal apartment created at the cellar.

## FDNY News

*from Le-Tis Williams, MPA*












New Yorkers, you may see FDNY members wearing a new mask while responding to help at emergencies across the city. The 3M 6000 Series Half Facepiece Reusable Elastomeric Respirator will provide the same level of protection as the N95, while moving the FDNY out of the supply chain for N95 masks. These masks will provide the user with an effective face seal and hold repeated use. Each FDNY member will be assigned their own mask, which they can clean and maintain. These masks provide the same level of protection for members and the public that they serve.





# December

## Community Board 8, Queens

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
		Virtual 1 Liquor License Cmte. Meeting 7:30 p.m. 	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	Virtual 9 Community Board 8Q General Mtg. 7:30 p.m. 	Hanukah! 10  First Night	11	12	
13	Virtual 14 Public Hearing 191st Street Traffic 7:30 p.m. 	Virtual 15 Public Hearing Zoning Text Amend. 7:30 p.m. 	16	17	Hanukah! 18  Last Night	19	
20	<i>winter</i> <b>solstice</b> <small>21 DECEMBER</small>	22	23	24	25	Merry Christmas 	Happy <b>KWANZAA</b> 
27	28	29	30	New Year's Eve 	31		

*"No one has ever become poor by giving."* — Ann Frank