



Chairman, Alvin Warshaviak

*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, December 11, 2013 at the Hillcrest Jewish Center, 183-02 Union Turnpike, Flushing, New York.

**Attendance:**

**Board Members Present:** Dilafroz Ahmed, Jagir Singh Bains, Carolyn Baker-Brown, Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Robert H. Block, Edward Chung, Kenneth Cohen II, Monica Corbett, Maria DeInnocentiis, Brian DeMasters, Allen Eisenstein, Mary Maggio Fischer, Florence Fisher, Carolann Foley, Kevin Forrestal, Howard A. Fried, James Gallagher, Jr., Joshua Glikman, Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Tami Hirsch, Paul S. Lazauskas, Mark J. Lefkof, Mitch Lisker, Tammy Oshero, Frances Peterson, Samuel Rodriguez, Steven Sadofsky Annie Salvatore, Seymour Schwartz, Harbachan Singh, Martha Taylor, Alvin Warshaviak, Jacob Weinberg and Stanley Weinblatt.

**Board Members Absent:** Susan Cleary, Robert Harris, Steven Konigsberg, Elke Maerz, Frank Magri, Simon Pelman, Virginia Rallis, Charlton Rhee, Jesse Rosenbaum, Anna Sawchuk, Michael F. Sidell and Albert Willingham.

**Others Present:** NYC Comptroller John Liu, City Councilman-Elect Rory Lancman, Deputy Borough President Barry Grodenchik, Susie Tanenbaum representing Borough President Helen Marshall, Anthony Lemma representing Congresswoman Grace Meng, Wataru Nakai representing Councilman James Gennaro, Courtney Cariello representing Assemblywoman Nily Rozic, District Manager Marie Adam-Ovide, Jamise Porterfield and Barbara McKeon - CB8 Staff Members.

**Call to Order:**

Chairman Alvin Warshaviak called this Board Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**Public Participation:**           None

**Salute to the Flag**

Chairman Alvin Warshaviak led the salute to the flag.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Mark Lefkof made a motion to approve the minutes of November 13, 2013 seconded by Marc Haken.

Count in favor   32                      Opposed:   0                      Abstained:   0

**Board Members who approved the minutes:** Dilafroz Ahmed, Jagir Singh Bains, Carolyn Baker-Brown, Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Robert H. Block, Edward Chung, Kenneth Cohen II, Monica Corbett, Maria DeInnocentiis, Brian DeMasters, Allen Eisenstein, Mary Maggio Fischer, Florence Fisher, Carolann Foley, Kevin Forrestal, James Gallagher Jr., Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Tami Hirsch, Paul S. Lazauskas, Mark J. Lefkof, Mitch Lisker, Tammy Oshero, Frances Peterson, Samuel Rodriguez, Steven Sadofsky Annie Salvatore, Seymour Schwartz, Harbachan Singh, Martha Taylor, Alvin Warshaviak, and Stanley Weinblatt.

**Chairman’s Report:**

- Chairman Warshaviak gave a warm welcome to former Board Member Bernie Diamond. It is a pleasure to have Bernie visit the Community Board.
- Happy Birthday to District Manager Marie Adam-Ovide. Marie thanked everyone for the birthday wishes.
- Congratulations to our own Stanley Weinblatt. Stan was honored at the Stevenson Regular Democratic Club. Stan has been President of the Club for 25 years and a Board Member of Community Board 8 for the last 26 years.
- Congratulations to Board Member Edward Chung. Mr. Chung was selected as this week’s “Star of Queens”, in the Queens Courier.
- Congratulations to Norma Stegmaier on her retirement as a Board Member of Community Board 8.
  - Norma was recently awarded the “1<sup>st</sup> Pat Dolan Community Service Award”.
  - Norma served on the Board for 23 years, beginning in April 1990.
  - She received her PHD at the University of Illinois in 1965.
  - She was a college professor at Lehman College in the Bronx.
  - She is a member of the Kew Gardens Hills Civic Association, formerly called Valley Homeowners Civic Association.
  - She is a member of the Flushing Meadow Corona Park Conservancy.
  - She served on several committees on Community Board 8.

Norma Stegmaier thanked the Community Board. She stated “It has been a wonderful experience to be a part of this Community Board.” She is saying “so long” to us all and wishes the Board well. Chairman Warshaviak presented a plaque to Norma in honor of her many achievements while on the Community Board.

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**District Manager’s Report**

District Manager’s Report was distributed.

**DOT** – Our new Deputy Commissioner for Queens DOT is Nicole Garcia. She replaced Dalila Hall who was promoted to Queens Borough Commissioner this year. She attended our District Service Cabinet and is looking forward to working with our Board in her new capacity. She has been with the Department for about five years.

We were notified that painted curbs near fire hydrants are not done by the Department of Transportation. In fact, painting of curbs in New York City is illegal.

**DFTA** – The deadline to sign up for Medicare was December 7<sup>th</sup>. Seniors should beware of telemarketers asking them for personal information over the telephone. They should not carry too much cash, as they go shopping and should always keep their valuables on their persons. Do not leave handbags on shopping carts.

Emergencies can happen at any time. Everyone should have a go bag. It is important to periodically check for and to replace expired items in the go bags.

**NYPD/Traffic Enforcement** – The total amount of summonses issued for November was 11,726, a slight increase from the month before. The most common infraction was for expired meters (3,841) followed by alternate side parking regulations (2,800).

**DOB** – The Department stated that since the moratorium was not renewed for signs they are still working on the backlog of complaints. I requested that information be sent to business owners about the need to file permits for sign installation and requested literature that can be shared with them. Signage is done on a case by case basis but will look into it.

Our representative stated that there is also an issue when businesses hire companies outside of New York City who may not know the regulations. They may install signs that are not DOB compliant or install them without the required permits. It is important to note that signs installed without a DOB permit may incur a \$5,000 fine for work without permit.

**DEP** – The Department is doing a pilot program within our boundaries to address the issue of improper disposal of cooking oil. They are handing out flyers and caps/lids to be used on containers to dispose of grease with the regular garbage. The boundaries are: *Queens Boulevard to Midland Parkway and Hillside Avenue to Union Turnpike.*

**FDNY** – A class of 242 firefighters graduated last Thursday and another class will commence in January 2014. The Department is still in the process of inspecting retail establishments for overstocking and blocking entrances and exits.

The Fire Department urges residents to test their smoke and carbon monoxide detectors on a monthly basis. This is to ensure that they work correctly. Residents should know what the different alarm sounds are and what they mean:

- 4 quick beeps – carbon monoxide detected
- 3 long beeps – smoke detected
- Chirping sound – low battery

**NYPD** – The Precinct has seen an increase in grand larceny and robberies recently. The increase in grand larceny is due to telephone scams. Scammers pose as debt collectors that may turn off your service if you do not wire money right away. They have been known to claim to be calling from another country asking for wire transfers of funds to bail out a family member. They usually target the elderly. Another issue is the rise of skimming machines and cameras installed at the ATMs. Now it is not just on the ATMs at the small mom and pop stores but at major banks as well. When you go to the ATMs, you are urged to always tug at the device before inserting your card.

**Happy Birthday to Board Members:** *Stanley Weinblatt, Allen Eisenstein, Jesse Rosenbaum, Steve Konigsberg, Annie Salvatore, Seymour Schwartz, Tammy Oshero, Tami Hirsch, Charlton Rhee and Dr. Allen Bennett who are celebrating their birthdays this month.*



### **Borough President's Representative – Susie Tanenbaum**

- Big news this week at Borough Hall was on Monday when Borough President Helen Marshall unveiled a new atrium in the courtyard of Borough Hall. It is called “**The Forum**”. It will be completed in early 2014. It will be available for use by civic groups and cultural events. It seats 450 people. This is part of Borough President Helen Marshall’s legacy that she wants to leave to the people of Queens to be used for many years in the future.
- Borough President Helen Marshall’s third and final term will end on December 31, 2013. Borough President thanks the Community Board members for 12 years of partnership with her office. The Borough President knows what it means to give so much effort to your community through the Community Board. She thanks each Board Member for his/her dedication and for preserving and serving your community.
- Susie has no news yet as to her status at Borough Hall. Susie is hopeful to continue in the next administration. She wants to take this opportunity to say “so long” and thanked the Board for 12 wonderful years. She has enjoyed getting to know many of the Members. She has learned a lot from everyone. She wanted to say a special thank you to Chairman

Warshaviak and appreciates everything that has been done to help her. Susie also thanked District Manager Marie who is “extraordinary”.

- Susie also thanked those Board Members who were on the Queens General Assembly, including Carolyn Baker Brown, Jagir Singh Bains, Harbachan Singh as well as Rabbi Schechter.
- Happy Holidays to everyone and a Happy New Year.
- Chairman Warshaviak appreciates all the hard work Susie has contributed. Chairman Warshaviak is hoping that Susie will be reappointed as the Community Board Liaison. Chairman Warshaviak has requested a letter be drafted to Borough President-Elect Melinda Katz from the full Board expressing what an outstanding job Susie has done and recommending that she be reappointed as our liaison and the Jewish Community Liaison.

### **Memorial in Honor of Former Chairman Al Daly**

Chairman Warshaviak had the privilege of serving as a Board Member under Al Daly for a number of years. He was a true gentlemen and a great Community Board Chairman. Mr. Daly served with distinction on the Board for about 21 years. He was a gentleman who was not afraid to stand his ground. He was a person that was looked upon with great dignity. It was a privilege to have known him. A few months ago Mr. Daly passed away. His wife passed away a few months after him.

- District Manager Marie Adam-Ovide and Jamise Porterfield created a beautiful memorial slideshow of Al Daly and his life which was shared with his family, friends and Board Members. Chairman Warshaviak thanked Marie and Jamise for the wonderful presentation.
- Chairman Warshaviak read aloud a letter received from Raymond J. Irrera. He had the distinct privilege of serving as Vice-Chairman of Community Board 8 under Al Daly for the last eight years or so of his 15 years on the Board. Al was an astute and knowledgeable community leader with more than a touch of political savvy and a role model for community leadership. The community has lost a talented and able leader.
- **Bernie Diamond** - Al Daly was an exceptional individual who contributed much to our community and our Borough. A few of his accomplishments under his leadership were:
  - He prevented salt domers being built and having a racetrack in Flushing Meadows Park.
  - He prevented a XXX movie theatre from opening in our community.
  - He convinced the Board of Education not to sell schools in our area but to long term lease them to other groups. Thanks to his vision we reclaimed those buildings to our children as our student population grew.
  - He fought to prevent over saturation in our primarily residential community by convincing DOB not to issue a permit to a high rise building in the Briarwood Community.

Mr. Diamond was fortunate enough to work with him for many years and to be a close friend to him and his recently deceased beloved wife, Marilyn. Al Daly left a lasting legacy for all of us, for which we are indebted to him. Our community would look a lot different today if not for his vision, constant vigilance of what is in the best interest of our community, his leadership and his personal persona. Thank you Al Daly. You have earned our respect and admiration.

- **Councilman Elect Rory Lancman** – Al Daly was the Chairperson when Rory Lancman first became a Board Member of Community Board 8. Al was always very nice and respectable to the young members on the Board. He was very professional and kept this Community Board one of the best functional Community Boards in the City.
- **James Gallagher** – His memories of Al Daly go way back to 1965. Jim has fond memories of Mr. Daly and his wife, Marilyn. He will surely miss them a lot. All the people from Fresh Meadows are deeply saddened.
- **Marc Haken** - Al was a quintessential politician.

- Mark Lefkof - Under the leadership of Mr. Daly, the Board fought to stop the sale of PS 179. Mr. Daly had the foresight to know that the community would grow again and the school would be needed.
- Wendy Daly, Al Daly's daughter and grandson  
Wendy thanked everyone for acknowledging her father. This was a wonderful expression of who he was and how he helped the City of New York. Thank you for taking the time in remembering him.

Mr. Daly's grandson thanked everyone for sharing their fond memories of his grandfather. It was very enlightening for him. He knew his grandfather as someone who enjoyed being a family man and a person who enjoyed life. He was a great person.

**City Councilman-Elect, Rory Lancman**

Councilman Elect Rory Lancman announced that he will take the oath of office on Sunday, January 5, 2014 at Queens College at 4:00 p.m. in the LeFrak Concert Hall. Everyone is invited to the ceremony.

**Guest Speaker - NYC Comptroller John Liu**

Chairman Warshaviak welcomed NYC Comptroller John Liu. The people of New York owe John Liu a tremendous debt of gratitude. He was one of the first Comptrollers ever to take a stand for the people of New York. He was an advocate for the people of New York, saving hundreds of millions of dollars.

Mr. Liu thanked Chairman Warshaviak for the very kind words. Thank you for the warm welcome. Mr. Liu took this opportunity to give a final report as City Comptroller.

- We have saved five billion dollars through our audits and contract reviews.
- We are still looking at the Mayor's contracts and have denied many of them even in these last couple of weeks.
- He is proud of the thousands of jobs we helped create.
- Our pension funds are up over the past 4 years.
- He was thrilled to serve in office.
- This is an awesome City. He owes a tremendous debt of gratitude for giving him and his family such incredible opportunities to pursue.
- Thank you CB8. The community would certainly not be as strong as it is today if not for the hard work and due diligence of CB8.

**Deputy Borough President, Barry Grodenchik**

Chairman Warshaviak is sorry to see Deputy Borough President Barry Grodenchik leave his office. He is sure there will be bigger and brighter opportunities in the future for Mr. Grodenchik.

- Mr. Grodenchik thanked NYC Comptroller John Liu. He is a wonderful man and his heart certainly is in the right place. He has been an outstanding Comptroller for the City of New York.
- Mr. Grodenchik really stopped by to say thank you to the Board. It has been an honor these last 4 years as Deputy Borough President to serve the community. It has been a sincere pleasure to work with each and every one of you. Don't ever doubt that you have not made a difference in the community.
- Farewell to Norma Stegmaier. You are a class act.

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Happy Holidays, Happy Kwanzaa and Feliz Navidad!

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Carolann Foley to adjourn this meeting at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara McKeon, CB8 staff member

December 16, 2013