



Chairman, Alvin Warshaviak

*The City of New York  
Borough of Queens*

Community Board 8  
197-15 Hillside Avenue  
Hollis, NY 11423-2126  
Telephone: (718) 264-7895  
Fax: (718) 264-7910  
Qn08@cb.nyc.gov



District Manager, Marie Adam-Ovide

Minutes of Community Board 8 Board Meeting held on Wednesday, December 12, 2012 at the Hillcrest Jewish Center, 183-02 Union Turnpike, Flushing, New York

**Attendance:**

**Board Members Present:**

Jagir Singh Bains, Carolyn Baker-Brown, Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Robert H. Block, Maurice Braithwaite, Susan D. Cleary, Kenneth Cohen, II., Monica Corbett, Maria DeInnocentiis, Allen Eisenstein, Mary Maggio Fischer, Florence Fisher, Carolann Foley, Kevin Forrestal, Howard A. Fried, James Gallagher, Jr., Michael Hannibal, Robert Harris, Tami Hirsch, Steven Konigsberg, Mark J. Lefkof, Mitch Lisker, Elke Maerz, Frank Magri, Tammy Osherov, Simon Pelman, Charlton Rhee, Samuel Rodriguez, Jesse Rosenbaum, Nily Rozic, Steven Sadofsky, Annie Salvatore, Seymour Schwartz, Michael F. Sidell, Harbachan Singh, Norma Stegmaier, Martha Taylor, Alvin Warshaviak, Jacob Weinberg and Albert Willingham.

**Board Members Absent:**

Dilafroz Ahmed, Joshua Glikman, Marc. A. Haken, Frances Peterson, Virginia Rallis, Anna Sawchuk, Robert Van Pelt and Stanley Weinblatt.

**Others Present:**

Assemblyman Michael Simanowitz, Assemblyman Rory Lancman, Barry Grodenchik -Director of Community Boards, Carly Liang representing State Senator Tony Avella, Dominic Panakal representing Assemblyman Rory Lancman, Alen R. Beerman representing Councilman Mark Weprin, District Manager Marie Adam-Ovide, Jamise Jones 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:**

**Judith Guttman, Martin Guttman, Ralph Newman (on behalf of Marie Lagano) and Chris Vazquez** are strongly opposed to the proposed housing at the Queens Hospital T Building by ComuniLife, a health and human services agency.

**Andrea Veras**, representing the Briarwood Task Force, expressed her ongoing concerns with the Briarwood Community. She would like to see additional lighting and more police presence. She will continue to fight for the betterment of her community.

**James Gallagher** shared with us that the NYC Council unanimously approved the Brinckerhoff Colonial Cemetery. He wanted to thank all his fellow Board Members, especially Maria DeInnocentis and Martha Taylor and all our Elected Officials for working so hard.

**Salute to the Flag**

Chairman Alvin Warshaviak led the salute to the flag.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Dr. Bennett made a motion to approve the minutes of November 14, 2012 seconded by Mark J. Lefkof.

**Board Members who approved the minutes:**

Jagir Singh Bains, Carolyn Baker-Brown, Dr. Allen J. Bennett, Robert H. Block, Maurice Braithwaite, Susan D. Cleary, Kenneth Cohen, II., Monica Corbett, Maria DeInnocentiis, Allen Eisenstein, Mary Maggio Fischer, Florence Fisher, Carolann Foley, Kevin Forrestal, James Gallagher, Jr., Michael Hannibal, Robert Harris, Tami Hirsch, Steven Konigsberg, Mark J. Lefkof, Elke Maerz, Frank Magri, Tammy Osherov, Simon Pelman, Charlton Rhee, Samuel Rodriguez, Steven Sadofsky, Annie Salvatore, Seymour Schwartz, Michael F. Sidell, Harbachan Singh, Norma Stegmaier, Martha Taylor, Alvin Warshaviak, Jacob Weinberg and Albert Willingham.

**Count in favor:   36                        **Opposed:   0                        **Abstained:   0******

**Chairman's Report**

- Condolences to Harbachan Singh on the passing of his wife, Susil H. Singh. We, the members of the Board, send our condolences.
- Congratulations to Jesse Rosenbaum on the birth of a new grandson. This is his 10<sup>th</sup> grandchild.
- Staff Member Jennifer Phillips was in a car accident along with her mother. Both are recuperating and are expecting to fully recover.
- Attached to your packets is the "Approved 2013 Community Board Meeting Schedule".
- An article, written by Bob Harris is also in your packet. The article is in honor of Pat Dolan and a street renamed after her.
- Happy Birthday to Simon Pelman.
- Happy Birthday to District Manager Marie Adam-Ovide! A birthday cake was shared and enjoyed by all.
- Chairman Warshaviak thanked Simon Pelman for bringing the birthday cake.
- Cheap Shots Bar and Lounge
  - There is a bar on Union Turnpike that applied for an application with the State Liquor Authority. Cheap Shots Bar is applying for an all-night permit so that it may continue to serve alcohol up to 8:00 a.m. on New Year's Day, January 1, 2013. Cheap Shots does not exactly have a stellar history with the community.

- District Manager Marie Adam-Ovide sent a letter to Mr. Jones at the State Liquor Authority telling him that the Executive Committee of CB8 voted unanimously in opposition of this request and urged him to deny it. This bar is located in close proximity to a residential neighborhood. The precinct has seen an increase in complaints against this establishment.
  - There has been a shooting near the establishment following an altercation between some of the patrons. This is also an undue burden on the community. Residents are entitled to the peaceful enjoyments of their place of dwelling, especially in the wee hours of the morning.
  - In spite of this letter of opposition against the bar, the all-night permit was granted by the State Liquor Authority.
  - It was recommended that our Elected Officials and Civic representatives apply pressure on this matter, possibly a demonstration in front of the establishment.
  - After January 1<sup>st</sup>, we should write a letter both to the State and City Leaders explaining that we are shocked and dismayed that they can allow something like this in the community.
  - Assemblywoman-elect Nily Rozic stated that she would introduce legislation.
  - Assemblyman Michael Simanowitz will also give his assistance.
  - District Manager Ovide explained that this was the only establishment that applied for an all-night permit within CB8.
  - Chairman Warshaviak asked Marie Adam-Ovide to draft a letter to all our Legislature and all other Community Boards asking for the laws to change.
- Susie Tanenbaum, our Borough President Representative is not here this evening. She is attending an Innovation Exchange at Queens College. She wanted to extend Borough President Marshall's best wishes for a Happy and Peaceful Holiday Season to all the Board Members & Officers and to the community at large.

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

The District Manager's Report was distributed.

**DFTA** - Mr. Jones of the Department for the Aging gave a presentation on emergency preparedness.

**SBA** - Nycholas Hynes of SBA informed the Cabinet of the assistance provided by the SBA. Low interest loans available to homeowners, renters, small businesses and not-for-profit organizations affected by the hurricane. He reiterated the need to register by December 31, 2012 to be able to benefit from these programs (*flyers with the particulars were distributed and are available at the CB8 office*). Applying online is the best, as it saves time. If you have applied for a loan and was turned down, you may qualify for grants.

**DOT** - The Department is in the process of designing new street signs. Requests for refurbishment or new street signs will be completed once the designs have been approved. DOT staff that was dispersed through other offices will be going back to the headquarters at 55 Water Street.

**DSNY** – We are on the night plow schedule as of this past Monday in preparation for the snow season. Please place garbage and recyclables at the curb the night before your scheduled pick up.

**DFNY** – There was a decrease in fire, life threatening EMS complaints and an increase in non life-threatening EMS complaints from 2011 to 2012. For the month of November there were 41 structural fires, 17 non-structural fires, 2 suspicious fires, 546 non medical calls and 204 medical calls.

**CON EDISON** – Al Harris of Con Ed gave a briefing on the utility company’s priorities for repair in an emergency situation. 1) Repair all primary systems feeders for the area 2) Repair secondary feeders to the blocks 3) Feeders that service the largest group of customers. Then they break into zones to enable them to work simultaneously in different areas. Workers went door to door to ensure that the homes could be connected to the Con Ed’s power supply.

**DOB** – Last month we had the issue of the Department of Buildings issuing violations due to trees fallen on properties. The Department of Buildings has been issuing Notice of Deficiencies instead of violations to properties damaged by fallen trees. For those properties who received DOB violations prior to November 15, 2012, DOB will go back in the system and change them to Notice of Deficiencies. If you know of anyone who still has the DOB violations instead of NODs, please inform the community board. So far, there were 34 homes cited in our Community Board.

- Mike Sidell asked whether DOB will be letting the home owners know the change has occurred.

District Manager Ovide replied that DOB did not state that they will notify the homeowner of the change. However, they will change it on the computer. Ms. Ovide will ask DOB to contact the homeowner. If DOB will not contact the homeowners, then Ms. Ovide will get the addresses and contact the homeowner of the change.

**NYPD** – So far, the 107<sup>th</sup> Precinct is down by 2% in all major crimes (felonies). They increased major crime arrests by 17% versus last year. Petty larceny is down 10%. DWI arrests are up by 25%. There is an increase in grand larceny (usually car break-ins).

- Carolann Foley shared with the Community Board that the 107<sup>th</sup> Precinct just received an additional 6 new police officers.
- Our new Community Affairs Officer is Peter Capozzi.

*December is the most popular month for birthdays in Community Board 8. Happy Birthday to:*

***Allen Eisenstein, Jesse Rosenbaum, Steve Konigsberg, Annie Salvatore, Seymour Schwartz, Tammy Oshero, Stanley Weinblatt, Tami Hirsch, Charlton Rhee, Dr. Allen Bennett and Simon Pelman.***



District Manager Marie Adam-Ovide thanked the Board Members for the beautiful fruit basket sent to her and her family after her father-in-law’s passing. She and her husband, Robinson, received a slew of sympathy cards from Board Members and staff. We were really touched. We are all born from a biological family; however, that family grows each day with each and every caring person that enters our lives. She thanked the Board Members and Staff of Community Board 8 for treating her family like their own.

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**Committee Reports:**

**DEP/Sanitation Committee – Briefing on work to be done with the wells – Kevin Forrestal, Chair of the DEP/Sanitation Committee**

- DEP made a presentation at the Executive Board Meeting on December 5<sup>th</sup>.
- The Delaware Aqueduct is leaking and there is a long term plan needed to replace it. In about 2020, they are going to have to close a section of the Aqueduct and find alternative ways to produce extra water for short periods of time one summer.
- One of the things they are considering is to use the Jamaica water supply. They came to us because some of the things they would be doing will be visible to the public and they wanted people to know what was going on before hand.
- DEP will come back to the Board when they have more facts to share.

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**QHC's T-Building – CommuniLife Proposal briefing by Kevin Forrestal, Chair of Area 3**

- The Health and Hospital Corporation and Queens Hospital Center came to the Executive Board last week saying they were interested in a project and wanted to come speak to the Board as an informational courtesy.
- Their original proposal included roughly 300 studio apartments for people with HIV, mental illness, formally homeless, people who are poor and up to 30% would be veterans.
- They have since changed the proposal to:
  - 251 units of housing, which 175 will be studios
  - 76 Multifamily Units (39 one-bedroom, 33 two-bedrooms and 4 three-bedroom apartments).
- The Queens Hospital Center will have the studios which would house the mentally ill and formally homeless people.
- There was a lot of discussion, obviously with safety and security issues.
- They mentioned that there is a screening tool including background checks and internal security within the building requiring residents to check in and check out.
- They also spoke about a service agreement which is the equivalent to a lease.

- The Executive Board asked and they agreed that they would provide details of those documents to us at which time we can see what kind of screening they would provide.
- The Executive Board will be following up with them shortly.
- ComuniLife agreed to a Community Dialogue Group.
- The Executive Board asked them if there are any approval requirements as far as ULURPS are concerned. They indicated that they believe it was an as-of-right. Mr. Forrestal personally feels this is not as-of-right and that the Community Board will be seeing a ULURP application.
- Bulk of the funds will be coming from the Office of Mental Health.

They indicated some of the rent would be:

studio -	\$	539.00	per month with utilities
1 bedroom -	\$	933.00	“ “ “ “
2 bedroom -	\$	1,170.00	“ “ “ “
3 bedroom -	\$	1,295.00	“ “ “ “

The question is: Is this what the individual will be paying or will he/she be subsidized?

- Many local community organizations are very concerned about this including the Briarwood community.
- The Board has not received an application; therefore, there is no action that can be taken at this time.

**Discussion:**

- Susan Cleary asked who would they be doing background checks on. Answer: The potential residents.
- Maria DeInnocentiis attended the Executive Board Meeting when this was presented and there were a couple of things that bothered her:
  1. The reason they want to do permanent housing and not transitional housing is because the hospital is already taking care of these people as out-patients. If the hospital can't handle it then they would be fined for not being able to find housing for homeless people. If this is not transitional housing, what happens when the 275 beds are filled with the new patients, then they will have to go to another facility. Their story as to why they need this housing is a problem.
  2. The other concern is the children. The T-Building is steps away from a high school and a ½ block away from St. Nicholas of Tolentine Elementary School. They plan to have mentally ill patients and a percentage of them are veterans that have post-traumatic stress disorder. They will be able to walk around the children in our neighborhood. The children in our community are an issue.

- Martha Taylor:

The Executive Board specifically asked them, since Queens is so under hospitalized, why couldn't they use the building as a hospital? They said it was too old. Mr. Forrestal explained that it would cost too much. It would be cheaper to build a new hospital.

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**Barry Grodenchik, Director of Community Boards** wished everyone a Happy Hanukkah. He also wanted to wish everyone a Happy Kwanzaa, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

- He also congratulated Nily Rozic. She is on her way to the Assembly and this will be her last Board Meeting as a Board Member for CB8.
- He also presented Frank Magri with a citation of honor for his unselfish and heroic act of assisting a young woman who was being assaulted in the NYC subway. Mr. Grodenchik congratulated him.
- Mr. Grodenchik also reminded the Board Members to complete their renewal applications on time.

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**Resolution Against Budget Cuts to Social Services – Mary Maggio-Fischer**

Members of CB8 call upon Mayor Bloomberg, Council Speaker Christine Quinn and the members of the City Council to defend and restore the accumulated years-long, across-the-board cuts in services and social programs, and further urge the improvement and expansion of all services for our communities.

**Vote: It was a unanimous vote in favor of passing the resolution.**

Distribution: Copy of Resolution to be sent to all Community Boards in NYC, all City Council and to all Queens Legislators

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**Assemblyman Michael Simanowitz wished everyone a happy holiday!**

**Assemblyman Rory Lancman wished everyone a happy and a healthy holiday!**

**Assemblywoman Elect Nily Rozic wished everyone Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa, Merry Christmas and much health and wealth!**

**Chairman Warshaviak wished everyone Happy Holidays!**

**Adjournment**

This Board Meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.  
Respectfully submitted, Barbara McKeon, CB8 staff  
December 13, 2012