



**Community Board 12**  
**The City of New York**  
**Borough of Queens**

Jamaica, Hollis, St. Albans, South Ozone Park, and Springfield Gardens

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**DONOVAN RICHARDS**  
 BOROUGH PRESIDENT

**REV. CARLENE O. THORBS**  
 CHAIRPERSON

**MARICELA CANO**  
 DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY BOARDS

**YVONNE REDDICK**  
 DISTRICT MANAGER

**COMMUNITY BOARD 12, QUEENS**  
**January 20, 2021**

**MINUTES**

General meeting of Community Board 12 was held on Wednesday, January 20, 2021 via ZOOM at 7:00 p.m.

- **PRESIDING: Rev. Carlene O. Thorbs, Chairperson**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**Mohammad Ali**  
**Melvin Artis, Parliamentarian**  
**Jacqueline Boyce**  
**Maxine Brannon**  
**Geraldine Taylor-Brown**  
**Kenneth Carter**  
**Jean Randolph-Castro**  
**Manuel Caughman**  
**Crystal Isaac**  
**Clifton Stanley Diaz**  
**Marcia Francis**  
**Glenn Greenidge**  
**Dora Griszell**  
**Vishal Hardowar**  
**Nurul Haque**  
**Rene Hill**  
**Audrey Lee Jacob**  
**Celeste James**  
**Clementine James**

**Aiysha Jaggassar-Johnson, Exec. Secretary**  
**Al-Hassan Kanu**  
**Bilal Karriem, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairperson**  
**Michele Keller, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairperson**  
**Michelle Kirkland**  
**Khondokar Tarikul Islam**  
**Rev. Bernadette Logan**  
**Wanda Manley**  
**Shah Nawaz**  
**Charline Ogbeni**  
**Rodney Pride**  
**Akther Rahman**  
**Rev. C. Princess Thorbs McGee, Chairperson**  
**Kamal Saleem**  
**Fitzroy Searles**  
**Owen Shakespeare**  
**Florence Simmons, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Chairperson**  
**Toni Totten**  
**Linette Townsley**  
**Khari White**  
**Jeanette Wilson**

**ABSENT:**            **Mabel Everett**  
                         **Nadi Ghaness, Treasurer**  
                         **James Heyliger**  
                         **Richard Hogan**  
                         **Derek Irby**  
                         **Rev. Edward McKay**  
                         **Yvette Sledge**  
                         **Bryan White**

Rev. Carlene O. Thorbs, Chairperson

- Welcomed everyone to CB12's first meeting of 2021.
- I am a life long resident of South Ozone Park, Jamaica Queens; my life and career has been Ministry; and has always been about service. From the days of getting signatures from the Liberal party, with my mom, going door to door, serving on Community Board 12 for a number of years as a member, then 2<sup>nd</sup> vice chair, and on to 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair. Began her service within the Community working with the Police Department as a Police Cadet. I Went on to become a Police Officer with the NYPD. Volunteered with District 29, after retirement, because her Mom was the District Executive Secretary. Affiliations extended, but are not limited, to the Muslim Collective, Faith of NY, The Global Leadership Conference, Kiwanis, Legal Hand, Community Mediation, Chaplaincy, and a number of other Clergy organizations. Attended the Black and Latino Caucus, as well as sat on a number of committees with the Community Board. Graduate of John Jay College of Criminal Justice.
- Congratulated Charline Ogbeni as the new Health Committee Chair and Linette Townsley, as the new Youth Committee Chair.

Aiysha Jaggassar-Johnson, Executive Secretary

- Read the announcements.

Yvonne Reddick, District Manager

- In New York State, an eviction of a tenant is lawful only if an owner has brought a court proceeding and obtained a judgement of possession from the court. A Sheriff, Marshal or Constable can carry out a court ordered eviction. An owner may not evict a tenant by use of force of unlawful means. Any tenant who believes they are about to be evicted is advised to contact an attorney in private practice or with a legal aid or legal services agency, to protect their interests.
- National Grid has scheduled a number of projects to be done in Community Board 12, Gas Mains: 169<sup>th</sup> Place between 108<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 109<sup>th</sup> Road, Jamaica Avenue between 175<sup>th</sup> Street and 176<sup>th</sup> Street; Jamaica Avenue between 176<sup>th</sup> Street and 177<sup>th</sup> Street; and Jamaica Avenue between 176<sup>th</sup> Street and intersection.
- Covid-19 Emergency Eviction and Foreclosure Prevention Act of 2020  
December 28, 2020 Governor Cuomo signed the Covid 19 Emergency Eviction and Foreclosure Prevention Act of 2020, placing a moratorium on residential eviction until May 1, 2021 for tenants who have endured Covid related hardships.

District Manager full report on file in the district office.

### Katherine Brezler, Deputy Director Of Community Boards

- New Deputy Director of Community Boards at Boro hall. February 19, 2019 is the deadline for applying to become a member of the Community Board. The new process does not require a notary, but does require the applicant to submit application on line. You can still go through your Councilperson to have them speak to the Boro President.
- Will be putting in the chat about a new Grant Program that is available to small business owners. My email will also be in the chat should anyone have any questions about Rank Voting.

## **PRESENTATION**

### District Attorney Melinda Katz

- In addition making everything virtual and to ensure that the office is still running, there were a lot of policy changes that needed to come into play. The Bail has changed twice, there is no longer bail for non-violent felonies and misdemeanors. The laws changed so that there would be a little more control over those that are constantly coming in and out of the system.
- There are no alternatives available in the system to make sure the individuals show up for court. Looking into asking for lower bail, have a larger percent released on the own recognizant, and lastly, really look at the situation on a case by case basis.
- Working on the diversion courts – you now do not have to plead guilty in a lot of the diversions courts.
- Created the Violent Criminal and Enterprise Bureau, Guns, Gangs, and Drug Bureau; their job is to get gangs off of the streets.
- D.A. Katz has 258 ADA's, for the first time Community Engagement is part of their job. Introduced two of her staff members, Carlene Babb, Executive over Community Engagement, she is from Cambria Heights. This is the first time we have an Executive that is on the same par as the Executive from Major Crimes. There will always be a representative at the Community Board from my office, his name is Marlon Palacios; he is from St. Albans. Kathleen Williams is from St. Albans, she is in charge of all of the community engagement function in the entire borough.
- The Parliamentarian, Bishop Melvin Artis was sworn in for the 2020 – 2022 Term by District Attorney Melinda Katz.

### Deputy Inspector Tavalaro, 103<sup>rd</sup> Precinct

- Ended up the year in crime 8%, the biggest increase was Grand Larceny Auto; up 66% total of 70 crimes. The 103<sup>rd</sup> Precinct led the city in GLA arrests. A lot of the times, the stolen cars are used in crimes. Burglaries were up 30%; driven by commercial vehicles with tools or property left on the street. Robberies up 30%, ended the year up 10%; driven force was the pandemic. The most concerning was the number of shootings experienced throughout the year 41% vs. 12% previous year; almost a 250% increase in shootings for the year. The Precinct was number one in the borough with gun arrests for 1999. The violence increase way too much for the 103<sup>rd</sup> Precinct was consistent with an uptake that witnessed throughout the city. Started the year in a downward trend in crime; hope that this continues throughout January.

### Officer Jermaine Washington, 113<sup>th</sup> Precinct

- For the 28 days period there were 2 murders vs. 0 last year; rapes 0 vs. 2 last year, robbery 16 vs. 12 last year; up 33%, felony assaults are down 30%, 23 vs. 33, burglaries are up 22%, 11 vs 9; grand larcenies are down, grand larceny auto is 21 vs. 17. Please lock your sheds up, this is a place for someone to wait for you until you enter your house. There were 4 shooting victims, 4 vs 3 last year.

## Community Participation

### Rene Hill

- Will be holding a Town Hall Meeting on Wednesday, January 27, 2021. The Council Speaker Corey Johnson has introduced a plan called "Planning Together". The Plan is to eliminate single-family zoning. We need to fight this and loosen up the restrictions on landmarks. I have always fought for our landmarks, single family homes, and for our communities. The Gentlemen, Paul Graziano, that helped me Landmark Addisleigh Park is leading this fight for legislation coming into City Hall. This plan would destroy the look of a lot of NYC communities.

### Paul Graziano

- The Speaker came out with a report and a Bill to completely change zoning and planning in the City of NY. It will up end everything and take away the power of Community Boards and neighborhoods, even Elected Officials created a 10-year planning cycle and force every Community Board to take in thousands of new development units every 10 years. In addition they want to eliminate single family zoning in the City of New York.
- I have just met with Community Board 8, 11, and 13; they have already written a resolution. I will be meeting with Board 8 Land Use Committee next week. The Speaker introduced this Bill on December 17, 2020 to the Council, and there are 13 co-sponsors.

ROLL CALL: Aiysha Jaggassar-Johnson, Executive Secretary, 40 members present at roll call; quorum pronounced.

Motion made by Bilal Karriem to accept December 9, 2020 minutes, motion seconded by Glenn Greenidge; the motion passed.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.