



April

COMMUNITY BOARD # 8 NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT OFFICE

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OFFICERS

CHAIRPERSON: Martha Taylor
DISTRICT MANAGER: Marie Adam-Ovide
1st VICE CHAIR: Stanley Weinblatt
2nd VICE CHAIR: Seymour Schwartz
3rd VICE CHAIR: Michael Hannibal
EXEC. SECRETARY: Carolyn Baker-Brown
TREASURER: Harbachan Singh

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Honorable Barry Grodenchik - 23rd District
Honorable Rory Laneman - 24th District

BOROUGH PRESIDENT

Sharon Lee

STAFF

Jatna Reyes, Community Associate
Izabela Szczepanska, Community Assistant
Vacant—Community Assistant (Part-Time)

BOARD MEMBERS BY AREA

Area 1 – Kew Gardens Hills

Dr. Allen J. Bennett – CHAIR, Susan D. Cleary, Florence Fisher, Joshua Glikman, Bright Limm, Mitch Lisker, Jennifer Martin, Rabbi Shlomo Nisanov, Simon Pelman and Jacob Weinberg

Area 2 – Briarwood

Seymour Schwartz - CHAIR, Carolyn Baker-Brown, 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, Dilafroz Ahmed, Bhitihara-Martha Fulton, Karkul "Delwar" Islam, Paul Lazauskas 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, Frank Magri, Rachele Van Arsdale and Stanley Weinblatt

Area 6 – Utopia, Fresh Meadows, West Cunningham Park

Maria DeInnocentiis – CHAIR, James Gallagher, Jr., Robert Harris, Tami Hirsch and Tamara Osherov

Area 7 – Jamaica Estates & Holliswood

Howard Fried – CHAIR, Dr. Robert Block, Edward Chung, Howard A. Fried, Marc A. Haken, Michael Hannibal, Jesse Rosenbaum, Harbachan Singh, Martha Taylor and Mohammed Tohin

There's still time to respond to the 2020 Census!

Community Board 8, Queens
Hillcrest Jewish Center
183-02 Union Turnpike (Auditorium)
Fresh Meadows, NY 11366

The Minutes of the February 12, 2020 Board Meeting were unanimously approved by 27 members.

Chairperson Taylor expressed her condolences to Board Member Mary Maggio on the passing of her daughter, Lauren. Chairperson Taylor announced that the Community Board needs to have a contact person and telephone number for each Board Member in case of an emergency. The information will be kept confidential at the office.

Guest speakers: Tejumade "Teju" Ajaiyeoba – Ms. Ajaiyeoba gave a brief overview on the Coronavirus. She explained Coronaviruses: a set of viruses which run from mild to a common cold. This may include something more severe, like a pneumonia. What they are dealing with now is a "Novel Coronavirus". It is referred to as "Novel" because it is new. It has been abbreviated to COVID-19. Some of the symptoms associated with this virus are fever, cough and shortness of breath. In terms of prevention, the agency suggest that individuals cover their coughs and sneezes. Use your elbows or sleeves, not your hands. Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds. Wash hands often with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

Continued on page 3 →

The next CB8 meeting will be on **Wednesday, April 22, 2020** at 7:30 p.m.
Minutes of Board Meetings are available on our website: www.nyc.gov/queenscb8 within two weeks.

A Word from the District Manager ...

Dear Community Board 8 Resident:

Since March 17th some of Community Board 8's staff started teleworking. We went to full teleworking on March 23, 2020. If you have any issues, please contact us via email (anytime) or call us at (917) 336-8173 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays.

*Committee meetings and general Board Meetings will be held **virtually** until further notice. You will have the option of watching the meeting by webinar. More information will be posted on our website as they become available. Please check our website periodically: [nyc.gov/queens cb8](http://nyc.gov/queens/cb8).*

Until we meet again, we sincerely wish that you remain healthy and safe.

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

NYC Department of Parks and Recreation



In response to observed crowding at certain Parks sites, and as part of the city's ongoing effort to maintain social distancing in public spaces to keep all parkgoers safe, NYC Parks will close the following facilities effective immediately:

- Skate parks
- Volleyball courts
- Bocce courts

Additionally, adult fitness and exercise equipment areas in parks will be carefully monitored, and NYC Parks will close these areas where necessary to prevent crowding.

Areas of parks outside of these features will continue to remain open for park visitors to enjoy. The citywide enforcement effort to encourage social distancing among parkgoers remains in place, involving multiple City agencies, including NYPD, OSE, the Sheriff's Office, DEP, DSNY, DOB, and FDNY. The City will continue to monitor conditions and determine if more severe restrictions are necessary.

To make it easier for New Yorkers to enjoy their parks and benefit from recreational opportunities, even if they're staying indoors, NYC Parks has launched **Parks@Home**: a wide variety of online park tours, fitness classes and other fun activities. Get more information here:

<https://www.nycgovparks.org/highlights/parks-at-home>

For all updates on park service changes and closures, please refer to the NYC Parks website:

<https://www.nycgovparks.org/about/health-and-safety-guide/coronavirus>.

For more information and guidance about COVID-19, please refer to the DOHMH website:

<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/coronavirus.page>.

If you have further questions, don't hesitate to contact your local NYC Parks Borough Commissioner or NYC Parks Government Relations staff.

Avoid touching your face. Do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands. Unfortunately, this outbreak has also caused a lot of people to be stigmatized and harassed. The agency is working on an anti-stigma campaign to try to alleviate some of the stress and pressure that a lot of people are going through. If you know anyone who is undergoing stigma, they can text “Human Rights” to 311 to get assistance. To get more information about the virus, they are advising everyone to text: COVID to 692-692. You will receive updates and remain informed throughout the day. This has been created by the Office of Emergency Management (OEM). For more information on COVID-19 and the latest updates, please visit: www.nyc.gov/doh.

Doraine Zhong, Government Affairs Officer, DFTA – Ms. Zhong announced that the agency just launched a new information center for seniors. It is called, “Aging Connect”. Aging Connect is the City’s direct link to aging services. For more information, please call: 212-AGING-NYC (212-244-6469) to speak with an aging specialist and learn about services and supports available for older adults and their caregivers, and volunteer opportunities. She introduced Ms. Elizabeth Sofield, Program Director, NY Foundation for Seniors Citizens – who spoke about the Home Sharing program.

This program was established in 1968. It is a program that connects adults “hosts” with extra private spaces in their homes or apartments with appropriate adult “guests” to share their space. A “host” is a person who has a spare bedroom in their private home or apartment willing to share it with someone in order to share costs. The guest is on a monthly contribution. They are not on a lease, they are on a licensed agreement. They go through a screening process: background check, photo I.D., proof of income, etc. They have social workers who conduct social visits to make sure that the homes are suitable for the guests. They serve the five boroughs, Long Island and Westchester. For more information, please visit: www.nyc.gov/aging.

Committee Reports:

Kevin Forrester, Co-Chair - Queens Complete Count Committee (QCCC) – He informed us that starting tomorrow, March 12th, mailers will go out to households with questionnaires to fill out for the Census. He encouraged everyone to fill it out. He wants to make sure everyone gets counted. He reminded everyone that the information that they provide is confidential and it is prohibited by law from being distributed. At their last QCCC meeting, there were presentations on what the Library system is doing to assist in the NYC Census and other City and State entities are doing.

Bhithara Martha Fulton, Chair, Parks Committee – The committee met on February 18, 2020 to discuss a proposal from the NYC Soccer Initiative and the creation of mini soccer fields in several playgrounds in our District, and to review the Flushing Meadow Corona Park Meadow Lake paths project. The Mayor’s Fund to Advance New York City, is a not-for-profit organization committed to promoting partnerships between the City and the private sector in support of high impact public programs. This initiative is a five-year initiative funded with \$3M. The goal is to install 50 soccer pitches with free programming and maintenance fund of \$600,000 dollars. These areas have not been utilized and the space can be used for this purpose. This program will operate 24 weeks out of the year. The proposed pitch areas for Community Board 8: Utopia Playground, Pomonok Playground/P.S. 201, Fresh Meadows Playground/P.S. 173Q. They all sit in an empty area of yard which is not really being utilized. The installation process will take about three to six weeks. A vote was taken for a letter of support to be sent. **Vote:** 25 in favor 2 Opposed 0 Abstained

Meadow Lake NW Path Project – This project is a \$3.72M budget. The goal is to simplify and clarify existing pedestrian circulation, reduce the impacts of frequent flooding, improve entrances at the pedestrian bridges and create safe crossings at pedestrians/vehicular intersections. A motion was made at the meeting to approve the plans for this project to be done at Flushing Meadow Corona Park.

Honorable [Acting] Borough President Sharon Lee – Borough President Lee took the time to thank the full Board for their support during her transition as acting Borough President. She has enjoyed this journey and is forever grateful with the Borough of Queens for the support given during this time. She reminded everyone that we have elections coming up. She encouraged everyone to vote and to fill out the Census questionnaire.

Have you tried to buy any good or service needed to limit the spread of COVID-19?



It is ILLEGAL for stores to overcharge you.

On March 16, the NYC Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP) announced an emergency rule that makes price gouging illegal for any personal or household good or any service that is needed to prevent or limit the spread of or treat the new coronavirus (COVID-19).

Examples include:

- Cleaning products
- Diagnostic products and services
- Disinfectants (wipes, liquids, sprays)
- Face masks
- Gloves
- Hand sanitizer
- Medicines
- Paper towels
- Rubbing alcohol
- Soap
- Tissues

It is illegal to increase prices of these types of goods and services by 10% or more.

Were you overcharged?

If you think a store excessively increased the price of these items beginning in March, file a complaint at nyc.gov/dcwp or call **311** and say "Overcharge."

Reminder about NYC's Paid Safe and Sick Leave Law

If you work part time or full time at any size business or nonprofit in NYC, you have the right to safe and sick leave to care for yourself or anyone you consider family.

Visit nyc.gov/workers or call **311** and say "Paid Safe and Sick Leave."

For more information, visit nyc.gov/dcwp.



Bill de Blasio
Mayor

Consumer and
Worker Protection

Lorelei Sales
Commissioner

COVID-19 PAID SICK LEAVE



EMPLOYEES

Under legislation signed by Governor Cuomo, New York workers are guaranteed job protection and financial compensation while they are on a **mandatory or precautionary quarantine order** due to COVID-19.

YOU ARE ENTITLED TO THE FOLLOWING PROTECTIONS AND BENEFITS IF YOU ARE SUBJECT TO A MANDATORY OR PRECAUTIONARY QUARANTINE ORDER:

If you work for a business with **10 or fewer** employees and it had a **net income less than \$1 million** last year you are entitled to:

- Guaranteed job protection for the duration of the quarantine order.
- Paid Family Leave (PFL) and Disability Benefits (DB) through your employer's existing policy. You will receive your salary up to a maximum of \$2,884.62 per week for the duration of your mandatory or precautionary quarantine.

If you work for a business with **10 or fewer** employees and it had a **net income greater than \$1 million** last year you are entitled to:

- **At least 5 days of paid sick leave** and guaranteed job protection for the duration of the quarantine order.
- After these paid sick days, you are eligible for PFL and DB through your employer's existing policy. You will receive your salary up to a maximum of \$2,884.62 per week for the duration of your mandatory or precautionary quarantine.

If you work for a business with **11-99** employees you are entitled to:

- **At least 5 days of paid sick leave** and guaranteed job protection for the duration of the quarantine order.
- After these paid sick days, you are eligible for PFL and DB through your employer's existing policy. You will receive your salary up to a maximum of \$2,884.62 per week for the duration of your mandatory or precautionary quarantine.

If you work for a business with **100 or more** employees you are entitled to:

- Guaranteed job protection for the duration of the quarantine order.
- **At least 14 days of paid sick leave.**

If you work for a public employer (no matter the number employees) you are entitled to:

- **At least 14 days of paid sick leave.**

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- **If you are quarantined but are able to work from home you do not qualify for these benefits.**
- If your business is closed due to COVID-19, your employees may immediately apply for Unemployment Insurance.
- You may be eligible for additional leave under PFL and DB. Please call the hotline for more information.

QUESTIONS:

For more information go to ny.gov/COVIDpaysickleave



*As New York City Residents we must obey a gamut of regulations. We realize that most residents want to do the right thing and obey the rules. However, they often break them, as they are **unaware** of their existence. So...*



Did you know???

Regular construction activities suspended!

In accordance with State Executive Order 202.6 and the subsequent Empire State Development Corporation guidance, all non-essential construction is suspended for the duration of this state of emergency. Exceptions are provided for the following:

- Construction work necessary to protect the health and safety of occupants;
- Construction work necessary to make a site safe in advance of suspension;
- Construction work that is limited to a single worker;
- Construction work related to utilities, hospital/healthcare facilities, transitional and affordable housing.

If you notice construction outside of these exceptions, please file a complaint through 311 or contact Community Board 8.

Con Edison

The utility company will not disconnect anyone's utility service due to non-payment. The company encourages customers to call and make arrangements.

Con Edison will not call anyone on the telephone and ask them to make payments. **Avoid Scams.** All payments over the telephone should be initiated by the customer by calling the telephone number listed on your utility bill.

LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION (S)

- ♦ Hado Asia Bistro Inc./ DBA Hado Sushi
138-38/40 86th Avenue in Briarwood



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.

CITY PARKING RULES

The City suspends alternate side parking regulations for both street cleaning purposes and traffic flow, on legal and/or religious holidays.



Alternate side parking has been suspended indefinitely while the NYS Stay at Home Order is in effect. **Parking meters are still in effect.**

DEMOLITION NOTICE/VACATE ORDER



81-32 189th Street - Garage (only)
61-19 Fresh Meadow Lane - House (Full Demo)
157-01 72nd Avenue- House (Full Demo)

82-15 134th Street- Emergency Declaration
West façade crack/spalled/bulging & shifting masonry
North façade crack/spalled/bulging & shifting masonry
East façade crack/spalled/bulging & shifting masonry
South façade crack/spalled/bulging & shifting masonry
Sidewalk shed is needed at all four exposures including all returns & building/garage entrance/exit door.

*Community Board 8 has arranged for
A Special Pre-Passover Garbage Collection
as in previous years from the
Department of Sanitation.*

Date: **Wednesday, April 8, 2020**

Please start placing your garbage for removal
the night before (after 4 p.m.) to prevent
any missed collections.



Regrettably, we were unable to set up chomtz burning stations and/or place large containers in designated locations, this year. This is due to the NYS Order to prevent the spread of Covid 19.








Happy Pesach From Community Board 8, Queens



April 2020

Community Board 8, Queens

Stay at Home!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 	9 	10 	11
12 	13	14	15	16 	17	18
19	20 	21	22 VIRTUAL Board Meeting 7:30 p.m. <i>Visit our website for more information.</i>	23 	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		