

# Bayswater Breeze



75th Year

BAYSWATER

March 2, 2020

## **BAYSWATER OPEN MEETING**

MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2020 AT 8:00 PM

BAYSWATER JEWISH CENTER, CORNER HEALY AVE. & DICKENS ST.

### BAYSWATER CONCERNS

## **!!CANDIDATES NITE!!**



### **QUEENSBORO PRESIDENT CANDIDATES**

Please join us on Monday, March 2, 2020 at 8:00 PM when we hear from:

Costa Constantinides  
Elizabeth Crowley  
Anthony Miranda  
James Quinn  
Donovan Richards  
Dao Yin



as they each tell us why he or she is the right person for the job of Queensborough President to replace Melinda Katz, who became District Attorney.

How will their approaches to this position affect you as Queensborough citizens and as members of the Bayswater community on the Rockaway peninsula? **COME WITH QUESTIONS!!**

### OPEN MEETING

**MONDAY, MARCH 2  
BAYSWATER JEWISH  
CENTER  
CORNER HEALY AND  
DICKENS**

We look forward to seeing you.

Our 101st Precinct will also be joining us with community updates.

This is a good time to visit with friends and neighbors, learn about what's happening in Bayswater and the peninsula and how it will affect us, enjoy conversation and coffee and cookies.

A short reminder - Please bring you membership dues of \$25 for 2020.

All December dues will be counted towards 2020.

[www.bayswatercivic.org](http://www.bayswatercivic.org)

# THE BAYSWATER BREEZE

Published By  
BAYSWATER CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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**\*BAYSWATERCIVIC.ORG - CONTACT US\***

ROCKAWAY NASSAU SAFETY PATROL



**IF YOU SEE OR HEAR  
SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS,  
CALL THE 24 HOUR HOTLINE  
516-858-7300  
POLICE - 911**

To receive Security Alerts sign up at:  
[securityalerts@rockawaypatrol.org](mailto:securityalerts@rockawaypatrol.org)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rockaway is on everyones mind these days, from Queensborough President Candidates to the developers and agencies who dont think about parking to the MTA cutting bus routes to the residents who have to travel those bus routes.

**IMPORTANT!** OUR OPEN MEETING on MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2020 at 8:00PM at the BAYSWATER JEWISH CENTER is CANDIDATES NIGHT. Please join us to know where these candidates stand and how their ideas will affect us.

### DOUBLY IMPORTANT

If you are a Bayswater Civic member and wish to be on the BCA Board as an Association Board member, please contact President Enid Glabman at 718-471-7093.

Thanks to all who have already sent in their dues.

Sincerely,  
Enid Glabman, *President*

## PS 104Q/ WESTBOURNE SCHOOLYARD PLAYGROUND

Bayswater Civic Association met with members of the Parks Department of the City of New York and Restoration Corps concerning the renovation of the Westbourne Playground at PS 104Q in Bayswater. The intention is to turn it into a soccer field. Our concern was what would happen to the baseball half-court/backboards and the paved areas where children run, learn how to ride bikes, etc.

Happily, our concerns were addressed. PS104Q received a grant from the School Construction Authority for fake turf. While soccer will be available for play there, the basketball half-court/backboards will be increased from 3 to 4. Furthermore, the turf section will be in the center of the yard with plenty of paved space around the perimeter for children to run, ride bikes, and play. Tress will be added.

It was felt by the Parks Department that the design "was a very strong one and adds functionality for the school and neighborhood users."

## THE MTA AND THE ROCKAWAYS

Fascinating that as more and more people will be moving into the Rockaways and particularly into the Far Rockaway areas of the Rockaways, the MTA in its wisdom has decided to cut buses, bus stops, and routes from this area as it considered the bus transportation redesigns for the peninsula. There was consternation at the Wednesday night workshop meeting over the killing of the Q53 and

it continued into the Thursday night presentation at the "Y" by the MTA. The representatives continuously stated that they "heard loud and clear" the message of the people. The Q53 bus runs from Beach 116th Street to Roosevelt Avenue in Woodside, a route really necessary for getting to and from the peninsula.

They also heard what the people thought about to remove the bus stop near St. John's Hospital in downtown Far Rockaway from the Q22. Q22 service would end at Beach 116th Street instead of traveling further west to Beach 169th Street. The MTA would also discontinue service on the Q114 which goes from Beach 20th to Parsons Blvd. in Jamaica.

The aim of the MTA is to streamline services and speed the commutes. But it seems that it has only aggravated and upset people who might now have to take two or three buses to get to work and possibly paying an extra fare. According to THE WAVE, the MTA will incorporate feedback from the community and bring in a second plan by the summer. Close attention will have to be paid to the next plan. The peninsula is getting many more residents and has fewer transportation options than other communities. We should be getting more, not less.

## BAYSWATER CONCERNS CONT'D

As we listen to these candidates for Queensborough President, it might help to know exactly what their responsibilities are as regards to us as citizens of this borough. Wikipedia was most helpful in giving me this information and to see the article in its entirety, ask for job description and responsibilities of borough presidents, an elected position for a total of 8 years.

### **BOROUGH BOARDS**

Each of the five boroughs has a borough board. They are composed of the borough president, council members from the borough, and the chairperson of each community board in the borough. The borough boards can hold or conduct public or private hearings, adopt by-laws, prepare comprehensive and special purpose plans and make recommendations for land use and planning, mediate disputes and conflicts among two or more community districts, submit comprehensive statements of expense and capital budget priorities and needs, evaluate the progress of capital developments and the quality and quantity of services provided by agencies, and otherwise consider the needs of the borough.

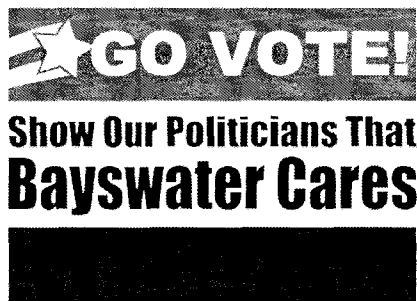
**Borough presidents** advise the mayor, comment on land-use items in their borough, advocate borough needs in the annual municipal budget process, appoint some officials and community board members, and serve *ex officio* as members of various boards and committees. They generally act as advocates for their boroughs to mayoral agencies, the city council, the New York State government, public corporations, and private businesses. Their authorizing law is codified in title 4, sections 81 to 85 of the New York City Charter, while their regulations are compiled in title 45 of the New York City Rules.

### **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The two major remaining appointments of the borough presidents are one member each on the New York City Planning Commission and Two members each of the New York City Panel for Education Policy. Borough presidents generally adopt specific projects to promote while in office, but since 1990 have been mainly ceremonial leaders. Officially, they advise the mayor on issues relating to their boroughs, comment on land-use items in their boroughs, engage in strategic planning for their boroughs, advocate for their boroughs' needs in the annual municipal budget process, monitor and modify the delivery of city services within their boroughs, appoint community boards, chair the boroughs' boards, and serve as *ex officio* members of various boards and committees. They also act as advocates for their boroughs at mayoral agencies, the City Council, the New York State government, public corporations, and private businesses.

Borough presidents are currently elected by popular vote to four-year terms, and can serve two consecutive terms (8 years).

Borough presidents influence the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) by appointing NYC community boards and voting on the applications. The staff of boroughwide economic development corporations are often closely aligned with the borough president, and work closely with the New York City Economic Development Corporation, the primary coordinating agency of city-sponsored economic development.



**IT'S 2020! DON'T FORGET!!!**

*We need each other. YES, I'll send my dues!*

**Bayswater Civic Association**

1022 Bay 24th Street  
Bayswater, New York 11691

*YES, I will join my neighbors for the betterment of Bayswater.*

Enclosed \$25 for the year 2020

Do you have a skill BCA can use? Join us.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Print clearly, so we can send messages!**

*Yes, we have been sending messages.*

# TAX TIME

From The Wave, February 7, 2020

## Addabbo and Pheffer Amato to Bring Department of Finance to Rockaway

*The free event will assist residents with their property taxes*

In order to help residents who have questions regarding their Notice of Property Value statement (NOPV), or those who want to enroll in property tax exemption programs, State Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr. and Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer Amato will bring members of the Department of Finance (DOF) to Rockaway in March.

On Friday, March 6, representatives from DOF will be at the Knights of Columbus located at 333 Beach 90th Street, Rockaway Beach, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. to assist residents with their property taxes at no charge to them.

Participants in the event will receive one-on-one assistance with a member from the Department of Finance to help them understand their NOPV, ask about their market and assessed values, as well as change their property's description.

If you wish to receive assistance, please bring your Notice of Property Value statement.

"Property values are a vital piece of information for homeowners so they know what they need to pay each year," Addabbo said. "Unfortunately, property values are always changing, so residents need to stay up-to-date on what they owe. DOF representative will also be able to help enroll residents in property tax exemptions programs if they qualify. I would like to thank Assemblywoman Pheffer Amato for once again helping to bring this event to the Rockaways, and the Department of Finances for assisting our constituents."

"Having the Department of Finance come directly to our community is such an important service for everyone to take advantage of. My office has received numerous calls from homeowners inquiring what to do with a property value they feel is grossly inflated. At this seminar, you can speak directly to DOF representatives about your property value, learn about exemptions, and how to apply to them – take

advantage before the final day to appeal," Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer Amato said. "I am happy to join with Senator Addabbo and the DOF in bringing this event to Rockaway!"

There will also be experts from the Department of Finance to help residents sign up for property tax exemptions. Property tax exemptions are available to seniors (65+), veterans, people with disabilities, and clergy members.

In order to apply for these exemptions, please bring photo ID, tax returns or proof of income for 2018 or 2019 for all owners, DD214 or discharge papers (for veterans), and trust documents (if applicable).

To RSVP for a free appointment, call Senator Addabbo's office at 718-738-1111 or Assemblywoman Pheffer Amato's office at 718-945-9550.

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## COMMUNITY BOARD #14 AND RECENT HOUSING PROPOSALS

From The Wave, February 7, 2020

(Article does not indicate location)

### HLU Committee Expresses Concerns About Peninsula's Recent Housing Project Proposals

By Tiffany Baez

With several new developments set to spring up around Rockaway in the coming years, members of CB 14's Housing and Land Use Committee voiced their concern about the availability of parking and healthcare to people on the peninsula during their meeting on Feb. 5.

Brisa Builders, represented at the meeting by Ericka Keller, came to talk about plans for a senior housing project in the area. As of now, the plan is slated to have 83 housing units for seniors ages 62 and up, but only 13 designated parking spaces will be paid for by the spot holder based on their income.

Priority for housing in this building will be given to residents of Queens before residents of the rest of the city, with no particular priority given specifically to Rockaway residents. The anticipated start and end dates of construction have not been confirmed yet since the project is only in the preliminary stages of planning, but the developers did state that they will be receiving federal funding for this project.

In order to strengthen their case with the city for "land-use rationale," Brisa Builders needs to first have the nursing home on the opposite side of the street rezoned, as the home was built in the 1970s without a proper zoning designation. The committee, however, was concerned that this rezoning will encourage the nursing home to eventually start developing surrounding lots, adding even more buildings to the area.

Although Brisa Builders and the owners of the lots slated for construction say that they've surveyed the community for input on this project, the committee was concerned that the survey wasn't informative enough to paint a full picture of the situation. To build additional awareness, committee members proposed that an official survey go out to the community which would include full-disclosure on the potential impacts of the project and requires contact information for those who sign-on in support of the project, so their support can be verified.

The committee also expressed concerns that certain crucial areas of infrastructure were being overlooked in the face of the recent increase in housing development within Rockaway – in particular, the availability of adequate healthcare. Members pointed out that there is only one hospital on the peninsula, St John's on Beach 19th Street, and adding more housing will inevitably increase the staff's workload and patient wait times.

Keller reassured the committee that they are taking this into consideration, and plan to have on-site medical staff for the seniors in the building.

Additional plans for the senior housing project will include on-site social workers, indoor/outdoor social areas on each floor, and support and resources for those who may have mental health or substance abuse issues.

Brisa Builders said that they will return to the committee with an update on the project in the future.