

## ***COMMUNITY BOARD 11 QUEENS***

### **REPORT OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE – JANUARY 27, 2010**

The Health Committee met on Wednesday January 27th 2010. Members in attendance were: Eileen Miller, Chair, Dennis Novick, Andy Rothman and Susan Seinfeld, District Manager.

The Committee discussed the Community Board 7 proposed resolution to remove tobacco advertisements targeted to children. Since we met this late in the month we did not have enough time to explore all of the resolution and ask that everyone please read it. We want to check the statistics written in the proposal, as well as look into the Department of Health standards regarding tobacco sales in Queens, We will bring back a revised proposal for a vote at a future meeting.

We also discussed an article written in the Daily News that cites PCBs in schools, The article cites five schools, including MS 158, with contaminated chalking laced with the poly chlorinated biphenyl. This toxin had been routinely added to caulking before being banned in 1977. The city insists as long as the contaminated chalking is intact and untouched there is no risk for exposure. We would like the Dept of Health to look into this matter and work with the Board of Education. This committee recommends that a letter be written to the agency encouraging them to remove the PCB contained chalking as soon as possible.

The committee discussed another issue that we will also bring back at a future meeting and this was in regard to ambulances taking patients to a hospital of their choice rather than going to the nearest hospital in the event of a "non life threatening illness or injury". We will look into the distances to the nearest hospitals from local areas which have no hospital rather than the most routinely chosen hospital routes. With the closing of three large hospitals in Queens, we want to ascertain that distances to the closest hospitals are met. We are looking to find out if the ambulance routes have been re-calculated since the latest hospital closures.

NYHQ held an open house, which the Committee Chair attended, at their new rehabilitation center at 163 Street and Horace Harding Expressway. This is a modern facility with many new and specialized rehabilitation services.

Survey of establishments selling cigarettes:

CVS

Northern Blvd. and Bell Blvd.

No advertising of any kind in regard to cigarettes.

Cigarettes in back of the counter high above eye level.

One sign over cigarettes counter from the Department of Health regarding the dangers of smoking.

Gulf Station

Horace Harding and 212 St, where candy and cigarettes are sold.

No advertisement at an eye level of children.

Gum and candy shelves are present in front of the counter.

Cigarettes are in back of the counter high up on the shelf.

Eckerd

Northern Blvd and Bell Blvd

No visible advertisements in regard to cigarettes.

It seems that this item is not a problem in our neighborhood., in regard to eye level advertisements for children to view.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eileen Miller