



The City of New York

# Queens Community Board 11

Serving the Communities of Auburndale, Bayside, Douglaston, Hollis Hills  
Little Neck and Oakland Gardens

**Jerry Iannece** Chairperson / **Susan Seinfeld** District Manager

## COMMITTEE REPORT

TO: All Board Members  
FROM: Government Affairs/Legal  
Tom Meara – Co-Chair  
DATE: 10/07/2013

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On Tuesday, October 1, the Government Affairs/Legal Committee met. Present from the Committee were Tom Meara, Steve Behar, Mohan Jethwani, Dennis Novick, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair, CB11 staff member, Christina Coutinho and Robert Friedrich, President of the Glen Oaks Village Co-ops.

The committee discussed two issues. The first issue pertained to resolution number 1927 that was introduced to the City Council by Councilman Peter Vallone Jr. The resolution discusses the council's support of H.2887 and S.1480, introduced by Rep. Israel (D-NY) and Sen. Schumer (D-NY), respectively. The main focus of H.2887/S.1480 is to amend the Robert T Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide cooperative and condominium associations with the same federal disaster assistance available to single-family homeowners. Currently co-ops and condominiums are defined as "business entities" and therefore are unable to apply for federal grants through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). If passed, this amendment would make co-ops and condominiums eligible for federal grants, currently they are only eligible for loans. The committee unanimously voted to adopt the city council's resolution. However, it should be noted that the committee believes the community board should have been contacted before the resolution passed the city council.

The second issue discussed was in reference to a letter sent by Empire Government Strategies advocating for City Council Intro 1004-2013. If passed, City Council Intro 1004-2013 will give the Mayor's office the legal authority to create a hostel licensing law. The committee voted to table the issue in order to give each member time to read the bill. The committee will reconvene before November's board meeting to discuss the appropriate action.