



COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, Elmhurst, and Newtown

46-11 104th Street

Corona, New York

11368-2882

Telephone: 718-760-3141

Fax: 718-760-5971

e-mail: qn04@cb.nyc.gov

Melinda Katz
Borough President

Damian Vargas
Chairperson

Melva Miller
Deputy Borough President

Christian Cassagnol
District Manager

January 10, 2017

BOARD MEMBER ATTENDANCE

Board Members Attending:

Priscilla Carrow
Giancarlo Castano
Chaio-Chung Chen
Erica Cruz
Maria Damico
Marialena Giampino
Ingrid Gomez
Jennifer Gutierrez
Rovenia McGowan
Edgar Moya
Sandra Munoz
Gurdip Singh Narula
Georgina Oliver

Alirio Orduna
Alexa Ponce
Ashley Reed
Cristian Romero
Clara Salas
Gigi Salvador
A. Redd Sevilla
Lucy Schilero
Alton Derrick Smith
Marcello Testa
Damian Vargas
Louis Walker
Rosa Wong
Minwen Yang

Board Members Absent:

Lucy Cerezo-Scully
Safat Chowdhury
Debra Clayton
Judith D'Andrea
Ann Pfoser Darby
Joseph DiMartino
Hector Hernandez
James Lisa

Salvatore Lombardo
Peter Manganaro
Patricia Martin
Shwe Zin (Winnie) Oo
Albert Perna
Oscar Rios
Patricia Terranova
Lester Youngblood

ATTENDING:

Pat Rosero, Queens Borough President's Office
Christian Cassagnol, CB4 District Manager
Margaret Silletti, CB4 Community Coordinator
Christian Long, CB4 Community Assistant
Assembly Member Francisco Moya
Ari Espinal, Assembly Member Francisco Moya's Office
D. I. Christopher Manson, 110 Police Precinct
Det. Toro, NYPD PBQM, 68-40 Austin Street, Forest Hills, NY
Louise Emanuel, representing Assembly Member Jeffrion Aubry Office
QiBin Ye, representing Council Member Daniel Dromm's Office
Lillian Zepeda, representing Council Member Julissa Ferreras-Copeland's Office
Alexander Bennett, representing U. S. Rep. Grace Meng's Office
Aliya Latif, representing NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer's Office
Andre Mane Suarez, NYC H&H
Mike Liquori, VFW Post #150
John Damico
Ada Yu, World Journal
L. Coraz, 102-20 46 Avenue, Corona, NY
Jimmy Apostolatos, PO Box 737939
Ana Guillcatunda, 33-44 98 Street
John Wang, Queens Night Market

COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE: TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2017

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

PLACE: VFW POST 150
51-11 108 STREET
CORONA, NEW YORK

I. First Vice Chair Giancarlo Castano opened the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

III. Executive Secretary Marialena Giampino took the roll call. A quorum was present.

IV. **VOTE:** Minutes December 13, 2016

Board Member Priscilla Carrow made a motion, seconded by Board Member Alirio Orduna to **accept** the minutes.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 27 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

At this point, First Vice Chair Giancarlo Castano announced the election for the position of Chairperson of the Board will be held again because the last time it was held in November there was a technicality that was not met. This is necessary in order to be in compliance with the Board's bylaws and City Charter.

Ballots were distributed to all Board members.

Subsequently, District Manager Christian Cassagnol reported First Vice Chair Giancarlo Castano was one of the candidates last time and has since withdrawn his name for the Office of Chair. The vote will be cast between Board Member Marcello Testa and Board Member Damian Vargas.

After the ballots were collected and counted, First Vice Chair Giancarlo Castano announced Damian Vargas is the Chairperson of the Board.

V. REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

District Manager Christian Casasagnol reported on:

- Elmhurst Library Grand Opening
- DM seeking to get a second tour for Board members. Youth Committee expressed interest in holding committee meetings at the Elmhurst Library, but it does not have a public meeting room as yet.
- LinkNYC
- Kiosks at public phone booths. The program is extremely successful. Internet browser removed.

- Lights not as bright. Community Board invited to submit locations or discuss problem locations.
- Universal Pre-K school on the Hall of Science grounds. There was little to none community input although the SCA did apologize for the oversight. A meeting with the Board's Committees involved in the planning will be arranged.

District Manager Cassagnol expressed his enthusiasm and looks forward to working with the new Executive Board on the many upcoming endeavors the Board will take on in the future.

At this point, the floor was turned over to Executive Secretary Marialena Giampino who reported Newtown Playground will be renovated. Previously, the land was a cemetery (old Newtown cemetery with original colonists buried there). Eventually, it turned into a Potter's Field type cemetery. With the renovations, funds will become available. She suggested a memorial be done to commemorate the site. A list of people buried there can be provided.

District Manager Christian Cassagnol stated he intended to reach out to the NYC Parks Department requesting implementation of this suggestion, but was a letter from the Board necessary?

The general consensus of the Board was to write a letter to the NYC Parks Department. The inclusion for a plaque or memorial for those buried there should be mentioned in the letter sent.

Subsequently, Board Member Marialena Giampino made a motion, seconded by Board Member Alirio Orduna, to write to the NYC Parks Department implementing this suggestion.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 27 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

Next, D. I. Christopher Manson from the 110 Police Precinct introduced his officers from the Precinct's Conditions Team, who deals with Quality of Life issues. Finishing the year, increase in 74 major crimes, which is 4.9% (1,580 major crimes).

- Increase in Murders – 2 vs. 1
- Increase in Rape – 30 rapes vs. 26 rapes up 4. Of those 30 rapes, 15 were domestic; 8 were statutory rapes; other rapes by force. Arrests made are 15. D. I. Manson gave more details on the cases.
- Increase in Burglaries – Up 14 burglaries. In 2015 down 115 burglaries, this is 35%. The majority of the decrease in 2015 was kept for 2016.
- Grand Larceny – I. D. theft – Up substantially. Criminals are using sticky mouse traps, as well as other sticky objects, attached to a long string to gain access into mail boxes to grab your mail. They are phishing to illegally obtain personal information and specifically for your personal checks. Using a process known as check washing, they erase the ink on a check using assorted chemicals and then rewrite the checks payable to themselves, increasing the amount payable by hundreds and thousands of dollars. Levels of protection may include LifeLock which is an identity theft protection service that can be used to protect your finances and good name from identity theft and fraud. He also said you may want to hand your mail to the mailman or bring it to the post office.
- Robbery, felony assault, and car thefts – Decreased.
- Decrease in crime for this year.
- Tragic homicide of a 15 month old baby.
- Shootings – an example of a recent shooting on 75th Street was given.

Board Member Ingrid Gomez commended the 110 Police Precinct for their help to seniors during the recent snowstorm.

D. I. Manson replied if you know of a senior that needs help, for example snow shoveling walks/driveways or getting to the store/or picking up medicine, call the Precinct who will try to accommodate.

Board Member Priscilla Carrow inquired if the For Sale cars are off the streets.

D. I. Manson responded not all of them. Five days ago a towing operation was in progress where 15 cars were towed. Starting in Willets Point, the tow operation continued in removing the rest of the cars on the neighborhood streets. Towing operations are scheduled every ten days, he noted. Cracking down on locations in Willets Point, there is much activity.

At this point, D. I. Manson answered questions from the Board members regarding police cases in the area.

Before concluding, he noted crime is down roughly 80% in New York City in the last 22 years,

VI. REPORT OF THE LEGISLATORS

Pat Rosero, representing the Queens Borough President's office, reported the Borough President invites all to the State of the Borough on January 27, 10:00 a.m., at York College.

Next, Assembly Member Francisco Moya reported on the legislative session and priorities. A press conference will be held on Thursday, regarding the Assembly Member's Killer Worker's Bill. Contractors are not providing appropriate safety equipment and training for workers working at heights. Many are immigrant workers. When deaths happen at constructions sites, the District Attorney will be given prosecutorial power to pursue the contractors, which will not only increase the fines but also give them jail time. The construction industry has no review process. For a construction workers there are safety rules and regulations from the Federal level to state and local levels. Support has been given from the labor community as well as the District Attorneys.

Subsequently, he spoke about the subway stations. Funding was allocated to repaint subway stops from 111 Street to 63 Street. The MTA does not have much oversight. The money that was located for our area was used by the MTA for the Second Avenue subway stop and other areas that led to repairing Manhattan subway stations. Hearings will be held to determine not only where the money went but also not to provide any type of funding unless it is coming into the neighborhoods it was allocated.

Conversely, Assembly Member Moya has partnered with the painter's union to paint free of charge subway stations so that all of the people in the community don't have to see the dilapidated subway conditions. The repainting is scheduled for next month.

Next, Assembly Member Moya reported free soccer clinics will be held in local schools for our community's youth.

Then, Assembly Member Moya spoke about immigration. Our community is the most diverse in the entire country. He will sponsor legislation this year to protect the most vulnerable in our society. Immigrants are facing some serious concerns with the new administration at the Federal level. Also, he gave information about the Dream Act how it will make higher education tuition assistance available to undocumented students who were brought to New York by their parents.

At this point, Board Member Georgina Oliver asked about Governor Cuomo's Bill on free education.

Assembly Member Moya responded he applauded the Governor for taking an initiative the Assembly has been talking about for years. However the Governor has taken it upon himself to make an announcement without any details and it does not include dreamers, immigrants who would qualify under the new rule for free college tuition. Details need to be explained including how it will be paid for and who will be included in the process. The legislation should be inclusive for all students not only for a select few.

Next, Board Member Alirio Orduna brought up the problem where a commuter must swipe his card twice; losing money and the MTA makes money.

Hearings will be held on how the MTA is run said Assembly Member Moya. January 27 a hearing will be held on the MTA regarding its practices against their women employees. Assembly Member Moya is the Chair of the sub-committee on worker's safety. Many of the female bus and train operators if they are pregnant are not given reasonable accommodations, and have been told to get off the job. In addition, they are not allowed to collect unemployment benefits because the MTA said they do not qualify. The MTA must be held accountable at a public hearing and have documentation on a public record.

The purpose of the hearing is to shed light on what is happening and to get the testimony of all the female workers on the job. The Department of Labor will also be in attendance.

Next, QiBin Ye, representing, Council Member Daniel Dromm's office, reported Council Member Dromm is co-hosting with Asian Americans for Equality a Housing Seminar on January 14, 2017, 3-4:30 p.m., at the Elmhurst Library (3rd Floor Meeting Room), 86-07 Broadway, Elmhurst, NY. Issues will be addressed such as SCRIE, heat and hot water, or if you need legal advice to resolve issues with a roommate or landlord.

Starting January 18-January 27, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Council Member Daniel Dromm's office will be a new enrollment site for IDNYC. Appointments are encouraged.

At this point, Board Member Lucy Schilero brought up the strong smell of marijuana on passersby which was discussed at the Public Safety Committee meeting on January 3. She receives many complaints about the smell of marijuana permeating the hallways of apartments, in trains stations, or members of the public walking by on the street. This should also be addressed as a health issue.

Board Member Schilero requested this be brought to Council Member Dromm's attention. Legislation is needed to address this issue. For that smell to invade the lungs of children or anyone is not healthy.

Next Alexander Bennett, representing U. S. Rep. Grace Meng's office, reported the Congresswoman has arranged with the VA to hold regular office hours at her district office so that borough veterans can receive assistance on VA benefits and services, information on pending claims and assistance with filing claims. You must be a constituent of the sixth congressional district. Please call the district office to make an appointment.

Secondly, the House Democratic leadership has selected Congresswoman Grace Meng to serve on the House Appropriations Committee. The committee is responsible for funding every federal agency, program, and project within the United States government.

"It is an honor to have been chosen for this critical committee and I thank my colleagues for selecting me," said Congresswoman Meng.

"We must do all we can to create jobs, grown our economy, rebuild our infrastructure, invest in education, and provide resources to improve the lives of all Americans—particularly here in Queens—and I will work tirelessly to make that happen as a member of this important and influential committee."

At this point, Board Member Ingrid Gomez inquired about Obamacare's repeal. What are Congresswoman Meng's plans to retain the Affordable Care Act?

Alex Bennett responded the House leadership is Republican and there is very little the Democrats can do. Congresswoman Meng is opposed to the repeal. He also noted the Congress is Republican controlled and President-elect Trump is on the same page. Please call the Congresswoman's office for further information.

Next, Board Member Lucy Schilero inquired about the status of the post office in College Point.

As yet, there has been no official word or movement, said Mr. Bennett. Congresswoman Meng has been speaking to and letters sent to USPS. Mr. Bennett will follow up with his Director of Constituent Services.

Board Member Lucy Schilero also requested Congresswoman Meng to address the mail phishing scam.

Next, Lillian Zepeda, representing Council Member Julissa Ferreras-Copeland's office, reported the City Council discretionary funding application is officially open. The notification was sent out in an e-blast. If you did not receive the e-blast, call Council Member Julissa Ferreras-Copeland's office and it will be mailed out directly. The application must be submitted online. Paper applications are no longer accepted. A workshop will be available to help with the online applications. January 17 is the target date.

Subsequently, she reported there was a three-month amnesty program on fines that allowed participants to resolve violations they received for New York City's Department of Sanitation, Buildings, Transportation, and other city agencies which had gone into judgement. The program has since closed and the City of New York waived \$150 million from property and business owners who had excessive fines owed to the City.

At this point, Board Member Lucy Schilero reiterated the issue of marijuana smoking in public and asked Council Member Julissa-Ferreras address the problem. Legislation should be introduced.

Next, Ari Espinal, representing Assembly Member Francisco Moya reported the Assembly Member was proud to sponsor the annual Three Kings Day Celebration toy giveaway with U. S. Representative Joe Crowley and Senator Jose Peralta. 50-60 children were provided with toys. Community Board 4 Board Members Alexa Ponce and Ingrid Gomez were in attendance. The event was held at St. Leo's and everyone had a great time.

VII. SPEAKER: DAMIAN VARGAS CBQ CHAIR

District Manager Cassagnol announced Mr. Vargas was interim Chair at the time and no report will be given at this meeting.

VIII. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Report and Vote: Renewal of TLC License

Direct Car & Limo Service

53-24 98 Street

District Manager Cassagnol reported since the Transportation Chair was not present; it is unclear if the Committee met on the application. Therefore, the agenda item cannot be discussed. The Base will probably receive its license regardless if the Board takes a vote or not. There were no problems with the location, noted District Manager Cassagnol.

IX. REPORT AND VOTE: Public Safety Committee

SLA Applications

Public Safety Committee Chair Lucy Schilero extended condolences to the family of Steven McDonald, the NYPD detective who passed away on Tuesday.

Then, she reported on the problems with drugs, especially Xanax. Call 1-888-744-0069. This is a detox facility for Xanax but they do other services as well. Following, she mentioned other facilities that assist with drug/alcohol issues.

Prostitution on Roosevelt Avenue and 82 Street was brought up by Public Safety Committee Chair Schilero. This will be addressed at the next meeting.

The many DOT detours were mentioned. It would be beneficial if DOT had an app to alert motorists of any changes in road detours beforehand regarding the flow of traffic.

Subsequently, Committee chair Schilero requested a letter be written to elected officials regarding the issue of marijuana smoking classifying it as a health issue the same as cigarette smoking.

As a result, Public Safety Chair Lucy Schilero made a motion, seconded by Board Member Alirio Orduna, to address the issue of marijuana smoking in public,

By a voice vote, the Board voted 26 in favor, 1 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

At this point, the Public Safety chair reported on the liquor licenses.

NYS LIQUOR AUTHORITY LICENSES

NEW APPLICANTS

<u>ESTABLISHMENT'S NAME</u>	<u>ESTABLISHMENT'S ADDRESS</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
Jaew Hon Inc. Wine, Beer & Cider Applicant contacted office, not ready to proceed. Will reapply next mont	71-30 Roosevelt Avenue, 2 nd fl. Jackson Heights, NY	Denied
Mi Taqueria Tolte Rest. Corp. Wine, Beer & Cider	92-10 Corona Avenue Elmhurst, NY	Approved
Banyan Tree Group <i>Spicy Shallot</i>	77-01 Woodside Avenue Elmhurst, NY	Approved

RENEWAL APPLICANTS

<u>ESTABLISHMENT'S NAME</u>	<u>ESTABLISHMENT'S ADDRESS</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
Pata Pa Plean Corp. Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider	76-21 Woodside Avenue Elmhurst, NY	Approved
Los Tres Hermanos Potrillos Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider Applicant has a long history of criminal complaints. SLA violations (including 3 sales to minors and 2 sales to intoxic) and in general being a bad neighbor.	111-16 Roosevelt Avenue Corona, NY	Denied

RENEWAL APPLICANTS (cont'd)

High Flying Birds Inc. 78-14 Roosevelt Avenue Denied
NY Chevilotte Jackson Heights, NY
Applicant failed to respond to our request to meet to discuss their application. Applicant has a long history of criminal complaints, SLA violations (including 1 sale to minor and 1 failure to check ID) and in general being a bad neighbor.

Mangos Steakhouse & Bakery Inc. 78-14 Roosevelt Avenue Denied
Liquor, Wine Beer & Cider Jackson Heights, NY
Applicant failed to respond to our request to meet to discuss their application. Applicant has a long history of criminal complaints, SLA violations (including 2 sales to minors, 3 sales to intox, and 2 failures to check (ID) and in general being a bad neighbor.

ALTERATION

<u>ESTABLISHMENT'S NAME</u>	<u>ESTABLISHMENT'S ADDRESS</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
Sabay LLC Liquor, Wine Beer & Cider	75-19 Broadway Elmhurst, NY	Approved

CORPORATE CHANGE

<u>ESTABLISHMENT'S NAME</u>	<u>ESTABLISHMENT'S ADDRESS</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
Joe's Crab Shack LLC Liquor, Wine Beer & Cider	92-50 59 th Avenue Elmhurst, NY	Denied

Applicant failed to respond to our request to meet to discuss their application.

Subsequently, Board Member Georgina Oliver made a motion, seconded by Board Member Ingrid Gomez, to **approve** the Public Safety Committee's report as presented.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 27 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Consumer Affairs

Committee Chair Erica Cruz reported she would like to hold committee meetings every month at a set time. A meeting date of the third Wednesday of the month was proposed. If you are a Consumer Affairs Committee member, please contact her if you can attend. Meetings will be held at the Queens Center Mall or the Community Board 4 office at 7:00 p.m. Notices will be sent out for a meeting on January 18.

Environmental

No report said Committee Chair Giancarlo Castano, but is working on researching the Board's community gardens to expand their footprint in the district. Two community gardens are located in Corona; and an expansion of the gardens to Elmhurst is being looked into.

Parks

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

Health

No report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

ULURP & Zoning

Committee Alton Derrick Smith reported a meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 17, at 6:30 p.m., at the Board office.

Youth

Committee Chair Cristian Romero introduced the Co-Chair of the Youth Committee Board Member Ingrid Gomez who reported on the Board's recent Coat Drive. She reported the coat drive was very successful and over 100 coats were collected and donated to St. Leo's Catholic Church. January 28 St. Leo's Church will have a food pantry for needy families and those families will be offered coats should they need them. Additionally, a Youth Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 12, 7:30 p.m., at the Board office. On the agenda for discussion are future projects such as the Youth 102 Fair planned for late summer/early fall in Corona.

XI. PUBLIC FORUM

John Wang, representing the Queens Night market, reported planning has begun for this year's Night Market. As yet, no official announcements have been made.

- Opening Night – to help alleviate overcapacity concerns, the first and second nights will be ticketed events so that a count can be made of how many people are attending. He was not in favor of ticketing the event; however, half of the proceeds from the ticket sales will be donated to charities. A portion of the donations will be sent to charities benefiting NYPD and another portion benefiting the FDNY, and a portion benefiting Flushing Meadows-Corona Park, and for the last portion of the proceeds he had spoken to District Manager Cassagnol for suggestions to benefit Corona.
- A schedule from April to October is planned. They are working on plans to avoid the congestion as a result of the large number who attended last year.

Next, the Queens Night Market will co-host a small business seminar series with certain city agencies. Details will follow.

Vendor applications will officially open next week.

District Manager Cassagnol inquired about a selling price for the tickets.

Mr. Wang responded \$5.00 but official announcements will follow when plans are finalized. Updates will be posted on their website.

Since there was no further business Board Member Priscilla Carrow made a motion, seconded by Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.