



COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, Elmhurst, and Newtown

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Melinda Katz
Borough President

Louis Walker
Chairperson

Leroy Comrie
Deputy Borough President

Christian Cassagnol
District Manager

COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE; TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2014

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

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

I. Chairperson Louis Walker opened the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

III. First Vice Chair Patricia Terranova took the roll call. A quorum was present.

IV. VOTE: Minutes of November 12 & December 17 Meetings

Board Member Alirio Orduna made a motion, seconded by Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula, to accept the minutes of the November 12 and December 17 meetings.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 34 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

At this point, D. I. Ronald Leyson, Commanding Officer, of the 110 Precinct addressed the Board.

D. I. Leyson reported he is serving at the 110 Precinct for two years now, and thanked everyone for the tremendous cooperation of partnership built on with the community and the Police Department. It is a very successful partnership in the 110 Precinct. He often attends and speaks before community groups to find out about the issues in the community and addresses concerns before they become major problems. Not only crime conditions but also quality of life issues as well. At times, there is negative feedback as well as positive reactions. But, he reported if he does not know about the problems he cannot address and solve them.

As far as crime statistics, the Precinct finished down last year under 2%. However, two categories did not show a decrease. One is grand larcenies. Grand larcenies run a gamut of many legal subdivisions which encompass Grand Larceny, that involves the person who has had a phone snatched or pickpocketed or property stolen from a person's pocket. Those crimes were up substantially last year and the Police Department is working to combat them. A decrease was shown toward the end of the year around the holiday season at Queens Place and

the Queens Center Mall, which has the highest volume of foot traffic on the East coast. The 110 Precinct is still continuing its efforts to decrease crime. Statistics reported were 693 in 2013 vs 671 in 2012.

Rapes also showed an increase. A couple of rapes were classified as stranger rapes. The criteria to be classified as a rape have been expanded. In the past there had to be an attempt for penetration. Now, reports are taken for an attempted rape if there is an assault where there are sexual overtones. More details were given.

All the other crime categories were down. Six homicides vs. eight the year before and eight shootings vs. eight the year before were reported.

The men and women of the 110 Precinct work very hard. It is very difficult to continue after all the years of Comp stat. when statistics were starting to be accounted for to maintain the steady decrease. 2012 showed a bit of an increase in crime and now it is back on the downward trend. All efforts will be concentrated on continuing to decrease crime across the board.

However, in the 28 day period there is a problem with burglaries. Last year, the Precinct was very successful in decreasing this crime. The year ended with a 10% decrease in burglaries. There were 35 less victims of burglary in 2013 than in 2012. Now, there is a marked increase in burglaries and part of it has to do with multiple dwelling buildings where the burglar is entering through the fire escapes going into more than one apartment in one day. If one perp. enters three different apartments, it accounts for three different crimes and three victims.

D.I. Leyson mentioned a current burglary where the perp. eluded the Police. The building was in lock down but the perp. escaped. There are some leads and all efforts being made to apprehend the suspect.

Subsequently, he urged all to be the eyes and ears of the community. If you see someone on a fire escape, call 911 immediately. Do not assume they were locked out of their apartment. No one should be on a fire escape unless there is a fire. If you see anyone suspicious around your residence, call 911 immediately.

Next, he cautioned do not leave windows open when you are out. Secure your premises, even if you are on the sixth floor of a building, with a fire escape nearby. Perps. will climb on the fire escape to gain access. Make sure you have proper security, he advised.

Crime Prevention Officer Thomas Wen will come out and do a free crime prevention survey. Contact the Community Affairs office 718-476-9310 to make an appointment. Suggestions will be provided to you on exterior lighting, alarm systems, and more for a secure premise.

Another category showing an increase for the month is stolen cars, which has to do with people leaving keys in the ignition while the car is running and leaving the vehicle unattended. Do not leave keys in an unattended vehicle while running. Someone will drive off with your vehicle. It is also an illegal practice. If your car is observed by an officer idling unattended for three minutes, you will be summonsed.

Board Member Georgina Oliver asked about police helicopters hovering over the neighborhood. She called the 110 Precinct and was told they were looking for someone.

D.I. Leyson said the NYPD Aviation Unit, weather permitting, is out on patrol for half of their tour. If the 110 Precinct calls and needs their assistance, they respond. It does not take long for them to arrive on site. Many times the 110 Precinct will use them if they are chasing someone or if the perp. was contained in the building they use the infra-red to apprehend the perp. There is no time limit on using the Aviation Unit. It depends on what the investigation is and how long the investigation is going on. Additionally, it depends on what the suspect is wanted for and how long the supervisor on the scene deems it viable for assistance.

Board Member Lucy Schilero asked about “smack downs” in the neighborhood. D. I. Leyson reported no incidents have been reported. He said the Police Department tracks crimes against the elderly—65 years of age or older and 75 years or older. Crimes are monitored against the elderly (all complaints are read) but there is a special category for crimes against the elderly. Any specific trends are looked at. No trends in this community targeting the elderly have been found.

Before concluding, he mentioned the new Police Commissioner while supporting outgoing Police Commissioner Ray Kelly who brought us to new heights in counter terrorism and crime reduction. D. I. Leyson spoke about the policies of Police Commissioner Bratton and in giving Precinct commanders the authority they need to deal with their individual communities since each precinct has different issues and needs. He looks forward to working with Police Commissioner Bratton.

V. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson Louis Walker reported on the excessive absences by the Community Board members. Meetings are held ten times a year. He read a listing of the frequency Board members had missed meetings. Half of the time quite a number of members are not in attendance. He noted nine members were out four times from a total of ten meetings, which is not good.

Board members are expected to not only attend the monthly Community Board meeting, but also Committee meetings as well. Attendance at Committee meetings has been very poor. Borough President Melinda Katz is very much aware of attendance and will not tolerate numerous absences. Many Board members who have gotten accustomed to being absent may not be re-appointed to the Board.

VI. REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

District Manager Cassagnol reported on a letter sent from the Board office regarding Board member re-appointments. This letter applies only if you are due for re-appointment. Board member terms are staggered two year terms. Because the council manic district lines have changed, you may not be in the same council district when appointed to the Board. The standard procedure for getting a Board re-appointment is to fill out the application, have it notarized and hand it in or mail it to the local council member. Some members were appointed by former Borough President Helen Marshall. Because Borough President Katz may not know you, she cannot reappoint you. She will probably look at the attendance and if you were appointed by former Borough President Helen Marshall, you will be considered for reappointment. If you do not know who your council member is, please contact the Board office for assistance.

If you did not receive a letter, you are not due for re-appointment at this time. The process was explained.

Next, District Manager Cassagnol announced January 25, 2 p.m., Queens Theater In The Park, a meeting will be held to discuss the future of the NY State Pavilion at Flushing Meadows-Corona Park.

Next, he spoke about a street co-naming submitted by Council Member Daniel Dromm, which will be brought to the Board later this evening by Council Member Dromm’s staff member Mr. Michael Mallon.

Concluding his report, he informed the Board Audrey Galligen will resign.

VII. REPORT OF THE LEGISLATORS

Ari Espinal, representing Assembly Member Francisco Moya reported since this is a session year, the Assembly Member will not be around as much since he will be in Albany three/four days per week.

Subsequently, she reported on the Affordable Care Act. Once per week, starting next week, there will be a designated person in the Assembly Member's office to address inquiries. Please call the office at 718-458-5367 for more information.

Next, Joel Trinidad Santos, representing Council Member Julissa Ferreras, reported on a successful Three Kings Event. Special thanks were extended to District Manager Cassagnol, Board Members, and Al Perna. More than 2,000 toys were given away to local children. Mayor Bill de Blasio and City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito as well as other dignitaries were also in attendance.

Upcoming is the State of the District Address. Invitations will be mailed. The 2014 State of the District Address is scheduled for Tuesday, February 4, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m., at Langston Hughes Library, 100-01 Northern Blvd., Corona, NY.

Lastly, he reminded the Board of all the services offered at Council Member Ferreras' office. Services are offered by appointment. Services include: immigration, attorney services from the Urban Justice Center, Domestic Court and Family screenings, and HRA screenings, to name a few. Contact the office and speak to Mr. Trinidad Santos who handles all appointments.

Next, Michael Mallon, representing Council Member Daniel Dromm's office, reported on the Lunar New Year Celebration, planned for Sunday, February 16, tentatively at 2 p.m., Elmhurst. An array of cultural performances, dances, and singing is scheduled. (Exact location and time to be determined). Details will follow. All were urged to attend.

Following, he brought up the proposed street co-naming for Manny "The Wrong Man" Balestrero Way. Manny Balestrero was arrested after three witnesses identified him as the person who robbed an office and was charged with two armed robberies and, despite his innocence, was brought to trial. This had happened in the 1950's. Alfred Hitchcock made a renowned film about this. Henry Fonda played Manny in the film titled, *The Wrong Man*. While Manny awaited trial, the person who actually committed the robberies confessed at the 114 Police Precinct to several robberies, including the two that Manny was accused of. In view of those facts, Manny Balestrero should be honored. He lived on 73 Street in Elmhurst. The date of the co-naming has not been established nor has the particular street. Details will follow.

Mr. Mallon asked for the Board's support.

Next, Ms. Deanna Foote, representing Senator Peralta's office, reported the African American Heritage Celebration will be held Thursday, February 6, at the Langston Hughes Library, 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Two people are competing for the keynote speaker slot. More information will follow.

VIII. NOMINATION COMMITTEE

Formation of Nominating Committee

Chairperson Louis Walker reported every two years an Executive Board election is held. Tonight, the Nominating Committee will be formed to determine who can stay in their current position, or who may want to leave their position. Next month the Nominating Committee will report on its findings.

Also, at that time nominations will be taken from the floor, said Chairperson Walker. Tonight, though, the Chair has the authority to choose two people to serve on the Committee, but nominations for three people must come from the floor.

Chairperson Walker chose Board Members Giancarlo Castano and Alton Derrick Smith to serve on the Nominating Committee.

At this point, Chairperson Walker read the current slate of Executive Board member officers:

Chairperson	Louis Walker
First Vice Chair	Patricia Terranova
*Second Vice Chair	Anthony Moreno
*(Cannot serve as he is not able to)	
**Treasurer	Joseph DiMartino
**(Cannot serve in this position again as he has served his two successive terms. But he can serve in another position).	
Executive Secretary	Clara Salas

At Large Directors:

Lucy Schilero
Roseann Geiger
Albert Perna
Lucy Cerezo-Scully

Incidentally, Chairperson Walker said he must also fill out an application to be re-appointed to the Board. He must follow the same procedure as all Board members.

At this point, Chairperson Walker opened the floor for nominations to serve on the Nominating Committee.

A nomination was made for Pat Rosero, seconded by Georgina Oliver.

Alirio Orduna nominated Sandra Munoz, seconded by Lucy Schilero.

A nomination was made for Debra Clayton, seconded by Priscilla Carrow.

The Chair pointed out if more than three people are nominated a special election must be held. No further nominations were given from the floor.

District Manager Cassagnol read the five people who will serve on the Nominating Committee are:

Giancarlo Castano
Alton Derrick Smith
Pat Rosero
Sandra Munoz
Debra Clayton

At this point, Chairperson Walker called for a vote on the street co-naming presented by Council Member Dromm's Office.

Board Member Lucy Schilero made a motion, seconded by Board member Priscilla Carrow, to **accept** the street co-naming for Manny "The Wrong Man" Balestrero Way.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 34 in favor, 0 opposed with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

IX. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

No Report.

At this point, Board Member Georgina Oliver commented regarding the Committee attendance. She said her committee (Consumer Affairs) had not yet met.

Chairperson Walker replied attendance is taken when the Committee holds a meeting; not if the Committee did not meet.

Board Chair Walker also explained the committees will have to be restructured again since some Board Members have resigned. Currently, some committees may have one member serving while others may have three members, committees will have to be balanced out again. In the meantime, Committee Chairs are expected to hold a meeting.

X. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Vote: SLA Applications

Before proceeding with the Committee’s report, Committee Chair Lucy Schilero announced CB 4’s CERT Team had been awarded the John D. Solomon Award. The CERT team was given a ‘round of applause for its success.

Subsequently, she explained how to join the CERT Team, including the obligations of being a member.

Next, Committee Chair Lucy Schilero reported the Committee met on January 7. Denied applications were read to the Board.

NYS LIQUOR AUTHORITY LICENSES

January 2014

NEW APPLICANTS

<u>Establishment’s Name</u>	<u>Establishment’s Address</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
Tropicana Restaurant Inc. Wine and Beer Only	40-42 Junction Blvd. Corona, NY	Approved
N&D Restaurants, Inc. “The Olive Garden Italian Rest. #4443” Liquor, Wine and Beer Will re-apply closer to opening time.	92-10 59 Avenue Elmhurst, NY	Denied
RARE Hospitality Inter. Inc. Liquor, Wine & Beer Will re-apply closer to opening time.	92-30 59 Avenue Elmhurst, NY	Denied
Q-4 Lounge Corp. Liquor, Wine and Beer No paperwork was submitted to committee (C of O, proof of ownership, corporation papers, etc.)	40-06 Junction Blvd. Corona, NY	Denied

Entity to be formed by Konstantinos Danalis Not ready to proceed.	108-40 Corona Avenue Corona, NY	Denied
Penang House Inc. “Pulau Pinang” Wine and Beer Only	82-84 Broadway, Store #2 Elmhurst, NY	Approved

NYS LIQUOR AUTHORITY LICENSES

January 2014

NEW APPLICANTS (cont’d)

<u>Establishment’s Name</u>	<u>Establishment’s Address</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
Twins Billiard Coffee Corp. Liquor, Wine and Beer C of O was not submitted, possible 200 ft. rule re: Tifereth Israel of Corona (109-20 54 th Ave.) Iglesia de Dios Pentecostal (106-01 Martense Avenue)	108-45 Corona Avenue Corona, NY	Denied
86-26 Food Corp. Wine and Beer Only	86-26 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Approved

RENEWAL APPLICANTS

<u>Establishment’s Name</u>	<u>Establishment’s Address</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
Mirtiel Restaurant Inc. “Hill Tap Tavern” Liquor, Wine and Beer Failure to show. No paperwork was submitted to committee (C of O, proof of ownership, corporation papers, etc.) 02/23/13 – 1 complaint for assault in front of location resulting in an arrest. 03/09/13 – Arrest for disorderly conduct inside location. 02/21/13 – 1 C summons: sale to minor	83-03 Grand Avenue Elmhurst, NY	Denied
Brenmac Tavern Inc. “Grand Stand” Liquor, Wine and Beer	85-35 Grand Avenue Elmhurst, NY	Approved
La Cueva Deli Grocery Corp. Beer Only	47-18 Junction Blvd. Corona, NY	Approved
Coatzingo Enterprises Inc. “California Bar” Numerous 311 Noise complaints – 5/25/13 to 11/15/13 10/19/13 – 1 Complaint for Assault inside location, resulting in an arrest	79-18 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Denied

12/5/12 – 1 complaint for Assault in front of location
 04/06/12 – 1 complaint for assault.
 1/25/12 – 2 complaints for Assault on the bartender resulting in 2 arrests.
 2/20/11 - 1 complaint for assault in front of location, resulting in an arrest.
 1/25/12 – 1C summons, Failure to check ID

Priama Inc. 79-51 Albion Avenue Denied
 “Club Glazz” Elmhurst, NY

Liquor, Wine and Beer
 Failure to show

No paperwork was submitted to committee (C of O, proof of ownership, corporation papers, etc.)
 311 Noise complaints on: 4/21/13, 07/27/13, 07/28/13, 08/23/13(x4), 08/24/13, 08/29/13, 10/06/13
 07/05/12 – Complaint of Robbery outside location, resulting in 2 arrests.
 8/5/12 – Grand Larceny inside location.
 10/28/12 – Complaint of criminal possession of a weapon outside of location, resulting in an arrest.
 12/16/12 – Assault inside location
 3/29/13 – Grand larceny inside location, 2 assaults in location resulting in 1 arrest
 3/30/13 – Grand Larceny in location
 4/14/13 – Assault in location
 5/26/13 –Petit larceny in location
 6/8/13 – Assault in location resulting in 1 arrest
 8/4/13 – Grand larceny in location
 9/21/13 – Assault in location
 9/22/13 – Petit Larceny in location
 11/3/13 – Petit larceny in location
 11/3/13 – Felony Robber inside location
 11/10/13 – Assault on a police officer in front of location, resulting in an arrest
 11/10.13 – 2 assaults inside location
 12/19/12 – SLA check – 1C – sale to minor
 1/113 – 2Cs, disorderly premise, unreasonable noise
 3/19/13 – 4Cs, disorderly premise, open containers, employ security guard without registration, unlicensed second bar. Also 3 arrests were made for obstructing government administration, resisting arrest and disorderly conduct.
 9/21/13 – 1C; disorderly premises

RECONSIDERATIONS

<u>Establishment’s Name</u>	<u>Establishment’s Address</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
Tacos Y Quesadillas Mexico Corp Wine and Beer Only	104-40 Corona Avenue Corona, NY	Approved
JK Della Sales Dimensions Inc. “Delish by Amerivents” Liquor, Wine & Beer	47-01 111 Street Corona, NY	Approved

Following the report, Board Member Georgina Oliver made a motion, seconded by Board Member Jennifer Lagos, to **accept** the Committee’s report as presented. By a voice vote, the Board voted 34 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

Committee Chair Lucy Schilero also noted a message just received by the residents living near the Hill Tap Tavern on Grand Avenue, not to approve the liquor license application because of numerous problems with the establishment. Objections were noted and recorded.

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Environmental

Committee Chair Giancarlo Castano reported the Committee will meet tomorrow on Wednesday, January 15, 2014.

Health

Committee Chair Clara Salas reported on the following:

The City Board of Health approved annual, mandatory influenza vaccines for children younger than 6 years old. The Board voted unanimously on December 11, 2013 to approve the measure.

For the month of December 2013, Queens Public Television had been running a series on mental health called "Understanding Mental Illness".

John Collins, producer and director of the series, said that there are three main ideas to producing and running the series: (1) To fight ignorance and misunderstanding many people may have about mental health. (2) To say that mental illness is a disease like any common sickness that you will find and should be treated as such and (3) to encourage people to get immediate help if they are feeling any symptoms.

Corona Health Center was closed last month for free/low cost vaccines.

The Health Department, after absorbing extensive budget cuts over the last few years, has had to scale back services such as free or low cost vaccines. The STD and tuberculosis services will continue to be available.

SAVE THE DATE!

Elmhurst Hospital Center will have a ribbon cutting ceremony on March 28, 2014 at the new Women's Health Pavilion. These buildings will have the offices for delivery of women's health services such as GYN, mammography and related programs.

A meeting of CB4Q's Health Committee will be scheduled for April, 2014. Date, time, and location will be announced. Contributions of ideas for this meeting from CB#4Q members will be appreciated.

At this point, Chairperson Walker asked why the Corona Health Center was closed.

Committee Chair Clara Salas responded because of budget cuts. More details followed about obtaining free vaccines.

Board Member Helen Landaverde added for free vaccines check on 311, and qualified Health Centers do provide free vaccines, including private offices. Details followed, including duplication of services by other health sites.

Youth

Committee Chair Lucy Cerezo Scully reported the Committee did not meet, but plans to hold a meeting.

Consumer Affairs

Committee Chair Pat Martin reported the first meeting for the New Year meeting will be scheduled.

ULURP/Zoning

Committee Chair Miriam Levenson reported the committee did not meet in December, but a meeting is scheduled January 21, 2013 at the Queens Center Mall.

Postal

No report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

Parks

Committee Chair Al Perna reported a meeting will be held forthcoming. He thanked the Environmental Committee for having him as a guest speaker at its committee meeting tomorrow evening. If anyone sees trash or any other problem in the parks, please report it to Mr. Perna. Also, he spoke about the many summer events coming to the parks.

Board Member Judy D'Andrea brought up the length of the tree pruning cycle. Discussion followed.

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Mario Spotorno, who lives two doors away from the Hill Tap Tavern at 83-03 Grand Avenue, voiced objection to its liquor license application. He said there are numerous complaints with the establishment. He called many city offices including 311 and the police and did not receive a response.

Chairperson Walker responded the liquor license for the establishment was denied.

Subsequently, Mr. Spotorno named specific complaints encountered such as patrons urinating on neighbor's property, people congregating all night, loud music by a live band, throwing bottles to name a few. Police were called and said they were not permitted in the back yard of the establishment.

Committee Chair Lucy Schilero thanked him for attending tonight to voice his concerns, and reiterated the liquor license was denied and also mentioned the serious problems at the establishment. If you can see the property from your backyard and give the police officers permission, they can come in and look also from Mr. Spotorno's premises.

There being no further business Board Member Judy D'Andrea made a motion, seconded by Board Member Miriam Levenson to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.