



COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, Elmhurst, and Newtown

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Melinda Katz
Borough President

Louis Walker
Chairperson

Melva Miller
Deputy Borough President

Christian Cassagnol
District Manager

March 10, 2015

COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2015

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.

The Board members were asked to remain standing to observe a moment of silence for former Board member Audrey Galligan who passed away last week.

III. District Manager Christian Cassagnol took the roll call. A quorum was present.

IV. **Vote: Minutes 02-10-2015 Meeting**

Correction: At the February 10 Board meeting Board Member Lucy Schilero asked Mr. Michael Mallon, representing Council Member Dromm's office, if it were mandatory to have the municipal ID. He replied no. You can still use your driver's license as a form of ID. You do not need to get the city ID.

Board Member Alirio Orduna made a motion, seconded by Board Member to **accept** the minutes with the noted correction.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 28 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

At this point, Chairperson Louis Walker turned the floor over to D. I. Ronald Leyson, Commanding Officer of the 110 Police Precinct, who cautioned motorists to be mindful of the icy patches on streets due to the inclement

weather and the potholes on the roadways. Call 311 to report potholes or download the 311 app via smartphone to notify 311 of the pothole condition.

With the warmer weather approaching, be mindful not to leave windows open and unsecured. Perpetrators will climb in your windows and steal your property.

Also, he spoke about leaving cars unattended with the engine running. He gave an example of an incident where someone left the vehicle running while loading up the car. A drunk climbed in the vehicle, traveled half a block and crashed into some parked cars, and flipped the car over. The window had to be broken to get the drunken driver out. Subsequently, the victim's car was destroyed and parked cars were damaged. Thankfully, there were no major injuries. Moreover, you can receive a summons if you leave your vehicle idling for three minutes.

Unattended property theft is on the rise. Do not leave your purse, cellphone, laptop, MacBook Pro, or any personal property not taken care of. Also, do not leave unattended property in your vehicles. Perpetrators have smashed windows to steal valuable personal property.

Crime is down 5% for the year, relatively flat for the 28-day period down 40% last week, although there is a marked increase in felony assaults and domestic violence is also up. Most of the felony assaults are close to arrests because most of the time it is known perpetrators. There has been an increase in bar activity, leading to felony assaults. Inspections of licensed premises are being increased. The precinct works closely with CB4's Public Safety Committee when the establishment comes up for renewal or an applicant is applying for a new license.

The Special Operations Lieutenant meets with Public Safety Chair Lucy Schilero once per month before the Committee meeting. Also, D. I. Leyson works closely with the NYS Liquor Authority and the Police Department's Civil Litigation Unit, which is the unit that closes down the establishment after violations are issued.

He spoke about the MARCH Operation (Multi Agency Response to Community Hotspots). D.I. Leyson chooses the five worst offenders. City agencies partner, go in, and check for violations specific to its agency.

NYPD's School Safety Division Queens Officer Catoggio was present and acknowledged by D. I. Leyson.

Before concluding D. I. Leyson announced the 110th Precinct Community Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 12, at 7:00 p.m. He urged all to attend. Follow D. I. Leyson on Twitter at @NYPD110PCT.

V. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson Louis Walker reported on the revisions to Community Board 4's bylaws. He explained under the current bylaws, board elections were held in February. New appointees come on board as of April 1. It is possible under the actual bylaws newly elected officers may not be reappointed. Or, Board members may not reapply or elected officials may not approve a particular board member. Under the revised bylaws, Board elections will be held in the fall.

At this point, Chairperson Walker opened the floor to discussion. Copies of the revisions to the bylaws and the actual bylaws were distributed. He explained elections will still be held every two years.

The Board Chairperson called for questions or comments. Since there were none, Chairperson Louis Walker called for a motion.

Board Member Priscilla Carrow made a motion, seconded by Board Member Joseph DiMartino, to **approve** the revisions to the current bylaws.

By a voice vote the Board voted 27 in favor, 1 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

Following the vote, Chairperson Walker reported once again the Committees must be re-vamped due to a variety of reasons such as people have stopped attending or people are not Chairs anymore. After April 1 when new members are in place, the Committees will be reworked.

At this point, NYPD School Safety Officer Catoggio reported she oversees eight precincts, almost two hundred schools, and almost 500 agents. There are specialized units just like the local Police Department and there are FIO's that investigate crimes if youths are caught outside and arrested with a gun to be sure they do not bring it to the schools or have any problems in the future at the school. Gang activity as well as graffiti is also watched. There is also a crime prevention unit. Etching of computers in the school is done when computers are obtained for free. Phone identification is also done as schools are now allowing cellphones inside the schools. Etching on the phone is made in the event it is stolen.

Presentations are given on bullying, cyber bullying and how to prevent themselves from becoming a victim of a crime. Presently, the most common school crime is cellphone theft. If a cellphone is stolen and is less than \$1,000, it is petit larceny. Yet, if property is stolen in the building over \$1,000 it is considered grand larceny. If the phone is left on a desk and there is no code to input and the phone is turned on to use the phone it would have been a petit larceny. Now if the phone is used to text or place a call, it is considered grand larceny. Many times youths are being charged with grand larceny.

In addition, there are two youth camps to get young children off the streets. One camp is located within the confines of the 114 Precinct in J.H.S. 204. It's free of charge starting at a young age to 18 years old. Another camp is located at J.H.S. 145 in the 115 Precinct. Also, the Explorer Program, which is free of charge, is located in every precinct School Safety Officer Catoggio has an affiliation with.

VI. REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

District Manager Christian Cassagnol reported:

A guest speaker from DEP was planned for tonight to discuss several green infrastructure projects, but at the last minute, there was a cancellation. DEP is scheduled for the April CB meeting.

The first Green Street will be in the Board area very soon. It has been officially approved! 85th Street between 55 and 57 Avenues is the location. A lighting study along that block will also be done, which will take place within the next week or so.

Environmental Committee Chair Giancarlo Castano and the District Manager had met with the Queens Botanical Garden. They are trying to bring in food scrap sites to Community Board 4. The Board is extremely supportive of Composting. The Board was asked to recommend a few sites for composting in the district. The District Manager and Environmental Committee Chair submitted five different locations, which will be narrowed down to two or three sites for the sake of materials. Very strict guidelines must be met such as: high traffic, next to a train station, etc. Sites will be fully staffed, three or four hours per day, a few days out of the week. Tables will be set up and compost bins placed on site.

Suggested sites are:

Corona Plaza – 104 Street and Roosevelt Avenue

William F. Moore Park – 108 Street & 51 Avenue

O'Connors Tail Park – A block away from Elmhurst Hospital. The Greenmarket serves this area.

83 Street & Roosevelt Avenue (Manuel De Dios Unanue Triangle)
Hoffman Park

The Queens Botanical Garden is asking the Board for help whether it is community outreach, translation services, or being on site.

Board Member Judy D'Andrea asked if it were all year round.

The District Manager replied no. Maybe, three or four months out of the year (seasonal).

Board Member Sandra Munoz asked if anyone suggested the triangle at 90 Street & Roosevelt Avenue.

The District Manager said he would suggest it.

Next, the District Manager announced Friday, March 13, 4:00 p.m., at CC Moore Park (81 Street and Broadway), a scoping meeting will be held and provided details. He urged all to come out and share your thoughts and ideas.

Lastly, District Manager Cassagnol addressed the issue with garbage at Samaritan Village. Members of the public were asking to be put on their Community Advisory Board. Samaritan Village did honor the request. Members of COMET and Newtown Civic were added as well as members of the local community. According to the Dept. of Sanitation, there is nothing wrong the way garbage was being picked up, however, it is not being stored in a way that the community is too happy with. Accordingly, Samaritan Village is fully willing to work with the community whether it means storing garbage in bins rather than plastic bags.

VII. REPORT OF THE LEGISLATORS

Joel Trinidad-Santos, representing Council Member Julissa Ferreras' office, reported on the Council Member's Fourth Annual Women's Heart Expo. to be held at Elm-Cor. The basketball court is turned into a fashion show. Food and health screenings are just a few of the events offered. The event is planned for Thursday, March 26, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. More information will be forthcoming in the coming weeks.

Also free tax preparation, in conjunction with the Food Bank of New York, is available at P. S. 19, Monday thru Friday, 3:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., Saturdays 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Flyers were on the back table.

Before concluding, he mentioned the services available by appointment at the Council Member's office. This includes:

- CUNY Citizenship Now immigration assistance
- Family Court guidance & Domestic Violence assistance
- Human Resources Administration screenings

At this point, Board Member Judy D'Andrea inquired if the Council Member was aware that in the Hall of Science there is a New York Public Library and to use the Library you have to pay.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Trinidad-Santos responded he would check the details about the charge and the affiliation to the Queens Borough Public Library and get back to Board Member D'Andrea with the results.

Subsequently, Board Member Lucy Schilero complimented Mr. Trinidad-Santos on his efficiency in handling community problems.

VIII. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Vote: SLA Applications

Committee Chair Lucy Schilero reported on the following liquor license applications:

NYS LIQUOR AUTHORITY LICENSES

March 2015

NEW APPLICANTS

<u>Establishment's Name</u>	<u>Establishment's Address</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
Cyber Bar & Billiard Corp. Wine and Beer Only	102-02 43 Avenue Corona, NY	Denied
Public Safety Committee asked to see paperwork showing that the space this establishment will be occupying is in fact legal and up to building code.		
El Rincon Criollo Inc. Wine and Beer Only	40-09 Junction Blvd. Corona, NY	Denied
No show. No paperwork submitted.		

RENEWAL APPLICANTS

<u>Establishment's Name</u>	<u>Establishment's Address</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
Delicias Cuencanas Bar Restaurant Deli Corp. Wine and Beer Only	41-07 99 th Street Corona, NY	Denied
No show. No paperwork submitted. 9/21/14 Complaint and arrest for assault.		
High Flying Birds "NY Chevillotte" Liquor, Wine and Beer	78-14 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Denied
Refused to meet with the committee, as the representative claimed that the Board is biased against the owner. 5 noise complaints from 3/24/12-Present 2 criminal complaints for assault, 1 criminal possession of a weapon dating from 2/11/14-9/02/14, resulting in 3 arrests. 2 C Summonses from 4/18/13-8/15/13, both for sale to minor.		
La Fiesta Rest. Inc. Liquor, Wine and Beer	80-32 Baxter Avenue Elmhurst, NY	Approved
Dong Kee Restaurant Inc. Liquor, Wine and Beer	75-22 Broadway Elmhurst, NY	Approved
Nevada Diner Inc. Liquor, Wine and Beer	80-26 Queens Blvd. Elmhurst, NY	Approved
Los Chilpoties Corp. "Los Chilpotles" Wine and Beer Only	77-04D Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Denied

Asked the owner to come back when his intentions are clearer, 30 day notice stated that it was a renewal, but he stated that he was seeking to upgrade his license to full liquor, as well as possibly add another bar in the upstairs portion of the establishment.

CORPORATE CHANGE

<u>Establishment's Name</u>	<u>Establishment's Address</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
Forest Hills Spa	59-21 Calloway Street	Denied
Wine and Beer Only	Corona, NY	
Paper work was not submitted showing proof of the new owner. Public Safety Committee was not content to approve this application without seeing proof of who would be taking over this establishment.		
81-22 Baxter Avenue Lounge Inc.	81-22 Baxter Avenue	Denied
Liquor, Wine and Beer	Elmhurst, NY	
Paperwork was not submitted showing proof of the new owner. Public Safety Committee was not content to approve this application without seeing proof of who would be taking over this establishment.		

At this point, Board Member Priscilla Carrow made a motion, seconded by Board Member Pat Terranova, to **approve** the Committee's report as presented.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 28 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Consumer Affairs

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

Health

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

Parks

Committee Chair Al Perna urged all to attend the scoping meeting at CC Moore Park on Friday, March 13, at 4:00 p.m.

Youth

Committee Chair Lucy Cerezo-Scully reported on a meeting today with Public Advocate Letitia James at P. S. 69 about mayoral control of schools. Teachers fully support mayoral control of our schools, especially since the state has shortchanged our schools by over \$2 billion. She urged all to call their elected officials to support mayoral control. The fight with the Governor continues and there are many rallies as well.

Environmental

Committee Chair Giancarlo Castano reported although the Committee has not met, he had been meeting with the District Manager to discuss composting sites within the district and to plan upcoming events for the district. An Environmental Committee meeting is planned for March 18.

Transportation

Committee Chair Joe DiMartino reported the scheduled meeting of the committee had been cancelled.

At this point, Board Member Judy D'Andrea requested a bus shelter installation at the corner of 49 Avenue and 108 Street.

The District Manager responded a request would be put through.

Board Member Al Perna brought up a request was made about a designated area to drop off and pick up seniors in front of the VFW Post 150. He requested a follow-up.

At this point, Board Member Lucy Schilero requested representatives from the Department of Sanitation address the Board especially with the recycling and the illegal posting of flyers.

Subsequently, District Manager Cassagnol remarked in the future he is planning to invite one city agency per month to address the Board in addition to the non-profit organizations.

Following this announcement, Board Member A. Redd Sevilla there is a commitment from City Hall to set aside \$100 million for the re-design of Queens Blvd. Transportation Alternatives was one of the organizations that have been fighting for this cause for a while.

Board Chair Louis Walker continued with the Committee Reports:

Postal

Committee Chair Gig Salvador reported the committee had not yet met, but will be meeting soon.

Discussion ensued about the problems with postal services.

ULURP/Zoning

Committee Chair Alton Derrick Smith reported the Committee did not meet since there were no issues.

X. PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Phil Konigsberg, member of Community Board 7, addressed the Board on efforts to expand smoking restrictions by recommending to the owners of multi-family dwellings that their housing units become smoke free residences.

He explained secondhand smoke negatively impacts the health on non-smoking persons and the disabled by causing or exacerbating asthma, upper respiratory infections, ear infections and sudden death syndrome.

Mr. Konigsberg, who is a smoke-free advocate for 26 years, had visited all 14 Community Boards presenting the resolution.

Community Board 7 had already passed the Smoke Free Multiple Housing Resolution, and Mr. Konigsberg was seeking a resolution from the Board to encourage owners and landlords of multi-family housing to create smoke free housing units and to establish a smoke free environment in their developments wherever possible and legislatively require owners of multi-unit housing including rentals, condos and co-ops to disclose the building's smoking policy to current and prospective tenants. Smoke seeps through hallways, vents, floorboards, air ducts, and electrical outlets.

Next, a representative from the Queens World Film Festival reported the festival runs from March 17th through the 22nd. It is a wonderful event and the activities are entertainment with all different types of films shown. Animation, live action, documentaries, narratives, short films, and feature length films are featured. Even through the days the film festival takes place, there are flick nicks on 78th Street/34 Avenue & Northern Blvd. She spoke about the Rockaway Beach Flix with free movies shown on the beach. As part of the young filmmakers program, she visited P. S. 69 and worked with fifth graders who had made a film with five other

mentors and fifth graders. Those films will be shown at P. S. 69 on March 18. It's an ongoing activity for youth and filmmakers throughout the year. This is a good activity for youths to try and be creative and to have an outlet. Call or e-mail the sponsors of the festival who want to reach out and are open to suggestions. 117 independent films are being shown, which is great entertainment. There are three venues the Museum of Moving Image on March 17 (opening night). Films will also be shown at P. S. 69 (auditorium) and at the Secret Theater in Long Island City. She encouraged all to log on to queensworldfilmfestival.com to see some films.

At this point, Chairperson Louis Walker called for a discussion on the Smoke Free Multiple Housing Resolution presented by Mr. Konigsberg.

Chairperson Walker stated he thought it was a good idea, but the only problem with it is enforcement.

Subsequently, Board Member Priscilla Carrow made a motion, seconded by Board Member Alirio Orduna, to **support** the Resolution for Smoke Free Multiple Housing.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 28 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

Before the adjournment, Mr. Konigsberg explained this is not a law; it is a Resolution. Eventually if it becomes a law, people will generally follow the law.

There being no further business, Board Member Priscilla Carrow made a motion, seconded by Board Member Lucy Schilero, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.