



## COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, Elmhurst, and Newtown

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**Melinda Katz**  
Borough President

**Damian Vargas**  
Chairperson

**Melva Miller**  
Deputy Borough President

**Christian Cassagnol**  
District Manager

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March 21, 2017

### BOARD MEMBER ATTENDANCE

#### Board Members Attending:

Damian Vargas  
Priscilla Carrow  
Giancarlo Castano  
Lucy Cerezo-Scully  
Chaio-Chung Chen  
Debra Clayton  
Erica Cruz  
Judith D'Andrea  
Maria Damico  
Ann Pfoser Darby  
Ingrid Gomez  
Jennifer Gutierrez  
James Lisa  
Salvatore Lombardo  
Peter Manganaro  
Rovenia McGowan  
Edgar Moya

Sandra Munoz  
Gurdip Singh Narula  
Georgina Oliver  
Shwe Zin (Winny) Oo  
Alirio Orduna  
Albert Perna  
Alexa Ponce  
Ashley Reed  
Oscar Rios  
Cristian Romero  
Clara Salas  
A. Redd Sevilla  
Lucy Schilero  
Alton Derrick Smith  
Marcello Testa  
Louis Walker  
Rosa Wong  
Minwen Yang

#### Board Members Absent:

Safat Chowdhury  
Marialena Giampino  
Patricia Martin

Gigi Salvador  
Lester Youngblood

ATTENDING:

Pat Rosero, Queens Borough President's Office  
Christian Cassagnol, CB4 District Manager  
Margaret Silletti, CB4 Community Coordinator  
Christina Long, CB4 Community Assistant  
Barbara Jackson, U. S. Rep. Joseph Crowley  
David Burgoa, Senator Jose Peralta's Office  
QiBin Ye, Council Member Daniel Dromm's Office  
Alexander Bennett, U. S. Rep. Grace Meng's Office  
Ari Espinal, Assembly Member Francisco Moya's Office  
Nick Gulotta, Queens Borough Dir, Mayor's Office  
Stacy Eliuk, Public Advocate Letitia James' Office  
NYC DOT Queens Borough Commissioner Nicole Garcia  
NYC DOT Ted Wright, Director of Traffic  
NYC DOT Vikram Sinha, Queens Borough Planner  
Louis Emanuel, Assembly Member Jeffrion Aubry's Office  
Ernestine McKayle, 97-28 57 Avenue, Corona, NY  
Sandra Rodriguez, 99-54 63 Avenue, Rego Park, NY  
Father William Hoppe, St. Leo's RC Church  
Librada Reyes, Mujeres en Movimiento  
Monica Carrillo, Queens Museum  
Shirley Hernandez, Mujeres en Movimiento  
Stephanie Roman, Mujeres en Movimiento  
Cisandra Fraga, Mujeres en Movimiento  
Ruby Gertz, We Bike NYC  
Gigi Agius, We Bike NYC  
Rosemary Bolich, We Bike NYC  
Vero Ramirez, Mujeres en Movimiento  
David Meyer, Street Blog NYC  
Daniel Solow, Transportation Alternatives  
Juan Restrepo, Transportation Alternatives  
Eric Harold, Queens Bike  
Peter Beadle, Transportation Alternatives  
Marissa Billante, Queens Bike  
Stephen Bauman, 13810 Franklin Avenue  
John Damico, PO Box 161, Ridgewood, NY  
Cristina Gonzalez, Mujeres en Movimiento  
Pilar Sanchez, Mujeres en Movimiento  
Ingrid Garcia, Mujeres en Movimiento  
Francisca Perez, Mujeres en Movimiento  
Carmen Tercero, Mujeres en Movimiento  
Petra Valente, Mujeres en Movimiento  
Kika Lopez, Mujeres en Movimiento  
Laura Shepard, Transportation Alternatives  
Will O'Meara, Transportation Alternatives  
Jim Burke, 3346 92 Street, Jackson Heights, NY  
John Mauer, CB 5

Oscar Escobar, 133 Beach 120 Street  
Matt McElroy, 74-02 43 Avenue, Elmhurst, NY

ATTENDING (*cont'd*)

Sandra Ochoa, Newtown Civic Association  
Jennifer Ochoa, Newtown Civic Association  
Voila Ojeda  
Lhakpa Gurung, 42-49 Gleane Street, Elmhurst, NY  
Tsering Lama, 86-03 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Elmhurst, NY  
Sergio Bobadilla, Newtown Civic Association  
Madeline Garint, 21-24 79<sup>th</sup> Street, E. Elmhurst, NY  
Flor Lampert, 83-37 St. James Avenue, Elmhurst, NY  
Emily Yang, 50-23 96 Street, Corona, NY  
Hyon, 37-50 97 Street, Corona, NY  
Mara Kamoska, Queens Anti-Gentrification Project  
Cybele Grandjean, Transportation Alternatives  
Sally Wang, Elmhurst United  
Miley Wang, Elmhurst United  
Joann Lee, Elmhurst United  
Juan Gomez, Elmhurst United  
Tamen Armendariz, 40-09 76 Street, Elmhurst, NY  
Luna Younghan, 97-07 Horace Harding Exp., Corona, NY  
Kerry O'Neill, Citizen Cyclist  
Eusehio Cruz, 111-04 38 Avenue  
Delia Turino, 94-36 45 Avenue  
Gustavo Campil, 110-21 Corona Avenue, Corona, NY

COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 2017

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

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

*This meeting was streamed live.*

I. Chairperson Damian Vargas opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Chairperson Damian Vargas asked the Board to remain standing to observe a moment of silence for former Council Member and Queens Borough President Helen Marshall who had passed away.

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

**IV. VOTE: Minutes February 14, 2017**

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

Before the full vote, however, Board Member Ann Pfoser Darby made the following correction:

Board Member Ann Pfoser Darby Amended Something Previously Adopted in the February 14, 2017, minutes. The minutes read Mr. Sollars said you can take someone in to help you to understand the ballot and vote.

*Correction: At that point, Board Member Ann Pfoser Darby stated to Mr. Sollars it was illegal by election law to have someone go in to help you vote and explain it.*

*Board Member Ann Pfoser Darby requested her statement be included in the minutes before the vote was taken.*

Since a motion to accept the minutes and seconded was already on the floor, Chairperson Vargas explained it cannot be changed without voting on the motion. Therefore, an amendment must be made to the previous motion already on the floor.

At this point, Board Member Alirio Orduna moved to amend the previously made motion, seconded by Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula.

A vote will now be taken on the amendment to add Board Member Ann Pfoser Darby's comments said Chair Damian Vargas.

A voice vote was taken to add an amendment to the previous motion to include Board Member Ann Pfoser Darby's comments in the minutes.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 35 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

Next, a vote was taken on the motion to **accept** the meeting minutes of February 14, 2017 with the amendment.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 35 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed. The February 14 minutes were approved as corrected.

## **V. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON**

Chairperson Damian Vargas explained a sign-in sheet is at the dais for persons wishing to speak at the Public Forum segment. Please refrain from making any other comments he requested.

Next, Chairperson Vargas announced former CB4 Chairperson Louis Walker will now serve in the capacity as the Board's Parliamentarian.

He continued if there is any other Board Member who wishes to serve as a Parliamentarian in case Parliamentarian Louis Walker is absent or only to take part in the process, please see Chairperson Vargas.

Next, Chairperson Damian Vargas brought up comments made by a fellow Board Member. The Board's stance has not changed from the comments the Chair made on March 1. The Chair's statement is as follows:

*"It was brought to my attention at Community Board 4's Transportation Committee meeting on Tuesday, November 29, a Board Member made an insensitive and hurtful comment about members of our immigrant community. This Board Member's comment is solely her opinion and does not reflect the opinion or the values of Community Board 4. Apologies were given to those members of the public who were present. Board Member Ingrid Gomez made an apology as well as Chair Vargas. Community Board 4 welcomes the free expression of diverse viewpoints as it is essential to effectively represent communities as diverse as our district. However, we will not tolerate disrespectful or disparaging comments about any member of any community.*

*Community Board 4's leadership will further investigate this matter and will work with relevant elected officials to determine a proper course of action.*

*We did investigate and it turns out the Community Board Member did not make the comments that were quoted and published by Juan Restrepo, who is a senior organizer of Transportation Alternatives.*

*Two separate recordings were made of that meeting and none of those recordings showed or exhibited that those words were made by this Community Board member. CB4 will not comment on opinions made outside the scope of Community Board matters as all members are free to voice their opinion as guaranteed by our Constitution's first amendment.*

*With regard to calls to remove the Board Member for comments she made at the Transportation Committee meeting, it is important to know that CB4, like many other Community Boards, do not play a role in the recruitment, nomination, appointment or the removal of Community Board members.*

*Those powers lie solely with local council members and the borough president. Any calls for removal of the community board member should be directed to those offices."*

## **VI. REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER**

District Manager Christian Cassagnol reported on committee related issues such as an upcoming youth fair, and the upcoming Environmental Committee event such as the first green meeting in April. He urged all to come out dressed in green if you would like to. Earth Day is April 22 and the Environmental Committee is planning on working with the Department of Environmental Protection, the local community gardens, and the Department of Parks.

In regard to naming the Elmhurst Library for Justice Antonin Scalia, the motion did not pass because of a miscount. One vote was needed for it to pass. Soon after, a letter was received by Council Member Daniel Dromm regarding the resolution. He was vehemently opposed to the Board's approval to the naming of the Elmhurst Library after deceased U. S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia.

In conclusion, Community Board 4 is partnering with the Department of Health's for a Free Rabies Vaccines for Dogs and Cats event, which will occur on Saturday, April 1, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Flushing Meadows-Corona Park (Next to the Queens Zoo), 53-51 111 Street, Corona, NY. Call the Board office if you wish to volunteer. Ten Board Members have volunteered to date, he noted. Water, food, or volunteers is requested.

## **VII. REPORT OF THE LEGISLATORS**

Alexander Bennett, representing U. S. Rep. Grace Meng's office, announced:

If you know of any veteran families that need assistance from the Department of Veterans Affairs, please contact the Congresswoman's office. Monthly office hours are conducted for veterans in the district. Veterans with issues regarding claims, benefits, make an appointment with the Congresswoman's office. All are encouraged to apply, if in need of assistance.

Secondly, the National Congressional Art Competition is starting up, which happens all across the country. It provides an opportunity for members of Congress to encourage and recognize the artistic talents of young constituents. The competition is open to all high school students attending school or living in the Sixth Congressional District.

This year's competition will be on April 29 at the Queens Museum hosted by Congresswoman Meng. Local high schools were contacted about the competition. Call the high school administrator or Congresswoman Meng's office for further details. Deadline to submit artwork for the competition is April 19.

In honor of all women, Happy Women's History Month said Mr. Bennett.

At this point, Board Member Lucy Schilero inquired about the status of the postal facility in College Point, NY

Mr. Bennett responded Congresswoman's Meng's office was in contact with Congressman Joseph Crowley's office and the United States Postal Service notified the elected officials they would not be moving the distribution center back to Queens. Please notify Congresswoman Meng or Congressman Crowley's office if you have any specific mailing issues said Mr. Bennett.

Following, Board Member Lucy Schilero asked if an investigation had been done. An investigation is needed because residents are not getting their mortgages or credit card statements and fell behind on the payments. When there is a holiday, mail is an extra week late for each holiday. Board Member Schilero emphasized the College Point facility must open.

In conclusion, documentation is needed when reporting a mail incident said Mr. Bennett.

Next, Nick Gulotta, Queens Borough Director, Community Affairs, for Mayor Bill de Blasio reported

Mayor de Blasio stood today with Javier Valdez of Make the Road, as well as immigration advocates, in announcing new policies that the New York City school system will take to protect undocumented students in our schools.

New York City does not ask what a student's immigration status is and is committed to protecting every child. Moving forward, every school will have a protocol on how to work when and if an ICE agent would come to a school. Immigration advocates have been asking the City for this for a comprehensive plan for quite some time.

Also, 100 Know Your Rights Forums will be launched at every school where there is a need across the city. Catholic Charities and Fordham Law School will be involved. All were invited to take advantage of those forums.

Since it is Women's History Month, he is very proud to work for an administration that has more women in leadership positions than any other major city in America. Nicole Garcia, Queens Borough Commissioner for the NYC Department of Transportation was recognized

NYC DOT has worked very hard on the project to be voted on tonight. When NYC DOT goes out into a community, attends many meetings and factors in community concerns to better address issues elected officials and community members have, to arrive at a happy place is amazing. With this project we have gotten there, he said. He was optimistic the Board would support the project, but it is ultimately everyone's decision.

Board Member Judy D'Andrea asked about the policies to be implemented in the schools, If a parent is deported, will there be assistance from the Department of Education or Mayor's Office to help those students.

Mr. Gulotta responded the Mayor is aware of this issue. He explained the City's Action NYC program which provides free legal services to those immigrants facing deportation. Proper planning will be set up to protect all New Yorkers as part of the Know Your Rights Forums.

Next, Stacy Eliuk, representing Public Advocate Letitia James' office, reported on the worst landlords list, where the city's worst landlords are ranked based on the number of infractions they have as well as their severity. She spoke about one landlord in particular at 191 Prospect Street, Bronx, NY ranked the worst landlord in the Bronx. The Public Advocate's Office worked with those tenants who organized and were going to sue the landlord. The landlord said he was bankrupt to avoid legal issues. Recently, a judge ruled in favor of the tenants the Public Advocate's Office was supporting to hold the landlord accountable.

Also, she reported New York has some of the worst voter participation rates in the country. Ranking in the bottom ten percent of states nationwide who vote in elections, it very important to see people come out and stake a claim on issues.

Call the Public Advocate's Constituent Services if you need assistance at 212- 669-7250.

Next, Ari Espinal, representing Assembly Member Francisco Moya's office, reported the Assembly Member is in Albany since it is budget season. She spoke about the Mudanza trucks on Roosevelt Avenue & 104 Street, and 103 Street & Corona Plaza. Working hard with the NYC Department of Transportation, Commissioner Nicole Garcia informed Assembly Member Moya that Taxi Relief stands will be installed where the trucks park between National Street and 104 Street. As a result, improvements will be seen in Corona Plaza

Additionally, an Immigration Town Hall meeting is scheduled on Thursday, March 23, at St. Leo's Catholic Church, 104 Street & 49 Avenue. Congressman Joseph Crowley will be in attendance as well as a panel of immigration lawyers as well as coalitions to answer questions. All were urged to attend.

Next, QiBin Ye, representing Council Member Daniel Dromm’s office, reported Council Member Dromm is hosting two workshops on Immigration Law –Know Your Rights:

March 30, 2017  
6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.  
Newtown High School

And

April 6, 2017  
6:00 – 8:00P.M.  
P. S. 69  
Jackson Heights, NY

A Spanish speaking and Mandarin speaking attorney will be present.

Next, she announced the launch of the second year Restaurant Week, which will occur April 22 – April 29. More than twenty restaurants have been confirmed in Elmhurst and more are being recruited. If you know of any restaurants that wish to participate, call QiBin Ye at 718-803-6373, ext. 206.

Next QiBin Ye announced on April 24, 10:00 am – 2:00 p.m. in the Elmhurst Library, and April 27, 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., in the Jackson Heights Library, a small business service interagency event for small business owners will be held. Small business owners can acquire resources from representatives from nine city agencies.

At this point, Chairperson Damian Vargas commented on the remarks falsely attributed to our Board Member: Before reading his comment, the Chairperson stated he had hoped the Councilwoman had attended this meeting to respond.

*“The morning after the Transportation Committee Meeting, Council Member Julissa Ferreras-Copeland released a statement condemning the false quote attributed to our member. The Council woman’s statement went on to make serious and completely false allegations about Community Board 4. The Council woman’s statement read in relevant part: These comments referring to the quote Juan Restrepo attributed to our member raised legitimate concerns that this bigoted attitude is behind the delay in necessary improvements on 111 Street which CB4 has obstructed for the past three years.*

*The Councilwoman’s statements only serve further political agenda while further dividing a community in desperate need of bridges, and trust in our elected officials and to incite supporters of the bike lanes. False unsubstantiated suggestions that the other 41 members of Community Board 4 hold racist or xenophobic views And that those views are the basis for requesting additional safety improvement studies along 111 Street are themselves shockingly inappropriate and irresponsible coming from an elected official. In an era of alternative facts, I think it is very important that we hold our elected officials to the highest standards of truth and honesty.*

*I believe from this comment, the Councilwoman did not meet that standard. I did demand the Councilwoman issue an apology for not only falsely attacking the integrity of CB4, but for falsely attacking the integrity and professionalism of each individual member. Everyone here present today can see the makeup of our Community Board (first three rows on each side). Most of the people here on their personal and professional levels have been advocating for minorities and immigrant communities.*

*She made the comments public; therefore, I request and demand that she make a public apology.”*

*Chairperson Vargas explained the Councilwoman was not present, but he wished she were so that she could respond to his statement.*

Since Council Member Julissa Ferreras-Copeland was not present, her Chief of Staff addressed the Board. She reported, “It is unfortunate that we find ourselves having to defend this comment when the Chief of Staff spoke to the Chair the night the comments were made that he himself confirmed it, and it is the only reason along with a few other confirmations they had received as well as statements that were made to the press by the Chair himself confirming these statements were made. We are here to vote on safety issues, that’s what we should be concentrating on.”

The Council Member never condemned the Board. The Council Member condemned a racist, clearly anti-immigrant, xenophobic statement. Her comments were directed at a comment, not at the Board Members. She has full respect and full belief in the members.

Next, John Wang from the Queens International Night Market addressed the Board. He announced the following:

Selling tickets for the first two nights of the Night Market to try to keep crowds and traffic congestion more manageable on the first two opening weekends, a \$5 fee will be charged. Three charities have been selected to receive half the proceeds--The New York Immigration Coalition, The New York Police and Fire Widows Benefit Fund, and the new Flushing Meadows-Corona Park Alliance. The third night will be free and open to the public starting May 6. April 22 and April 29 will be sneak preview nights.

He noted in January he was elected Chair of the Community Advisory Board for Flushing Meadows-Corona Park, which was established in conjunction with the Alliance. Feel free to e-mail Mr. Wang with any questions or wish to participate.

Working with Mayor’s office on a small business series, as well as business services, the final session is on Marketing and Social Media on Thursday, March 23 at LaGuardia Community college, from 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. RSVP in advance.

At this point, Board Member James Lisa asked why the venue cannot be changed because of traffic congestion. People are using the roadways and parkways in front of the Hall of Science plus with the addition of a new school, and a study to have an exit on the Grand Central Parkway into the Park. The venue for the Night Market should be somewhere else because parking is at a premium in the community, the traffic unreasonable, and many other serious problems exist. He suggested Citifield’s lot and gave many reasons why it should be considered.

Mr. Wang responded for the first part of Mr. Lisa’s question, he is not involved in the City’s process of changing/adding exits or the construction of a school. However as of the last two years, they have had congestion issues the last two opening nights, but the other 38/39 night markets have never had complaints.

#### **VIII. REPORT OF THE TREASURER**

District Manager Christian Cassagnol noted while Board Member Ashley Reed is the Board’s Treasurer, there is nothing to report. No budget cuts or increases have been made to the office budget. All is fine.

#### **IX. PRESENTATION: NYCDOT**

##### **111<sup>th</sup> Street Traffic Safety Improvement Plan**

*The proposed 111<sup>th</sup> Street Transportation Improvements project includes pedestrian safety enhancements, a protected bicycle lane, and additional parking spaces on 111<sup>th</sup> St/Corona Avenue between 46<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Horace Harding Pkwy. It also includes bicycle network connections to the north via 111<sup>th</sup> St.*

Before the 111 Street Traffic Safety Improvement Plan, Chairperson Damian Vargas introduced NYC Department of Transportation's Queens Borough Commissioner Nicole Garcia.

Queens Borough Commissioner Nicole Garcia introduced her colleague Ted Wright, Director Traffic Operations. She reminded all why NYC DOT keeps coming back to the 111 Street plan and its importance to improve its safety.

During a five year period, it averaged six traffic crashes with serious injury per mile, which makes it in the top worst third in the entire borough. It is a Vision Zero priority corridor. NYC DOT came to the community with some ideas in 2014. This past fall, DOT along with the local elected leaders, announced a proposal that NYCDOT gives the community the safety benefits and also addresses some of the feedback heard in relation to mobility and congestion.

The new plan, which will be presented by Mr. Wright, features shorter crossing distances for pedestrians. It gives two-way bike path along the Park, which offers a new gateway to the Park. It also creates more parking for the community, providing a net gain of over twenty spots.

With the aid of a power point presentation, the *2016 111<sup>th</sup> Street Transportation Improvements Project Update* was presented to the Board.

Log on to <http://www.nyc.gov/html/dot/downloads/pdf/111-st-nov2016.pdf> to see the plan.

At this point, Chairperson Damian Vargas stated each Community Board member can ask one question. No repeats or follow-ups. Please raise your hand to ask a question. The Chair will recognize you to speak.

First, Transportation Committee Chair James Lisa stated when the plan was first brought to the Transportation Committee; it was to close both lanes on 111 Street (one lane on one side, one lane on the other side). Go to 43 Avenue, make a right on 43 Avenue and go up 114 Street. You cannot use 114 Street because there are no sidewalks, nothing. Mr. Lisa informed the NYCDOT.

Then a second proposal was brought to the Transportation Committee. It was the same—one lane one way, one lane the other way. Put the bike lanes in, take the bicycles in, go to 43 Avenue, make a left on 43 Avenue precede to 108 Street.

He did not understand where NYC DOT had received its information, but that plan will not work either.

Then NYC DOT came back with another proposal, which is the proposal presented tonight—one lane on one side, two lanes on the other side.

Statistics were presented from people NYCDOT had spoken to about going to the Park. The majority of zip codes of the people polled did not come from this community. They came from Brooklyn and other outside zip codes. The minority of people spoken to was from the Corona community.

Subsequently, he asked his neighbors if anyone came to their door to ask about the 111 Street proposal. No one knew what was going on. Mr. Lisa asked community residents and people at church if they were aware of the 111 Street proposal. No one in Corona Heights knew about it, other than the people who made the statistics of those who do not live here.

Also, no one was taken into consideration. Buses go into the Hall of Science that back up traffic on 111 Street when children go to the Park.

The Manager at Queens County Savings Bank said it took him almost two hours to exit the Grand Central Parkway to come to 111 Street to get to the bank because of bus traffic to the Hall of Science. NYC DOT was informed there was a problem with buses on 111 Street. With the new plan, no one will be able to pass. Moreover, 108 Street is the only way in and out of Corona Heights. It is the only way to get to the Long Island Expressway and to Roosevelt Avenue. 111 Street is the escape valve. Everyone uses 111 Street because 108 is now a parking lot. So are 102 Street and Corona Avenue.

For 25 years Community Board 4 had asked the NYC Department of Transportation and City Council Members to refurbish the islands and put in traffic signals. Mr. Lisa had called the federal Department of Transportation and spoke to the attorney and gave more details about federal government's guidelines for installing traffic lights. But the street does not have enough traffic to warrant them, the agency said.

Conversely, he mentioned there is a bike lane in the Park from 34 Avenue through the Park to Forest Hills. Why must 111 Street be used, he questioned.

Now, the Transportation Committee has asked for a feasibility survey to be done for an exit off the Grand Central Parkway

into the Park. The traffic coming off the Parkway (one lane on Corona Avenue) will back up traffic on 111 Street. This will result in nothing but traffic problems reiterating buses will not be able to get through. The Fire, EMT's and Police Departments use 111 Street to enter and exit Corona fast because of all the traffic on 108 Street.

He spoke about on-going construction projects on 108 Street and 43 Avenue and the re-route of the bus which caused an accident on 46 Avenue.

Statistics given on safety issues were on 111 Street and Roosevelt Avenue and 111 Street and 43 Avenue. On the adjoining avenues there were minor incidents that did not create a problem. It was not a safety issue on this end of town.

This plan will destroy the Corona Heights community's ability for the cars to have mobility to get in and out of Corona. With the new exits on the Parkway, everyone is using the Hall of Science to get through to get on the parkways. The Transportation Committee keeps asking the NYCDOT to come back because the Committee was not satisfied with what was presented. Their proposal is not logical and makes no sense to the residents of the community. The residents of Corona Heights do not want this proposal to happen because it will create more traffic problems.

The Transportation Committee's recommendation was to decline the proposal and ask that the islands be refurbished and to install traffic lights. Wait for the new school and wait for the survey to be done before a vote is taken on the proposal and added it should be tabled for another year said Board Member James Lisa.

Next, Board Member Lucy Schilero expressed concern about 111 Street and 43 Avenue. This area is always congested and was not clear in the presentation she stated. During rush hour and the schools dismissal, and with the addition of another school, will the bike lanes narrow the area even more she asked?

Mr. Wright responded they are not physically narrowing the roadway there. There will be chevrons with bike markings. There will be capacity or parking loss he stated. She stated traffic lights are needed in that area and spoke about the safety issue for children. She understands there is a budget in place.

Queens DOT Commissioner Nicole Garcia stated traffic signals have nothing to do with the resource issue. It is an engineering calculation. It is not a resource issue.

Next, Board Member Judy D'Andrea commented the bike lanes should be in the Park and detailed the bike route. What is the problem with that route, she inquired. Why must they be on 111 Street?

Queens DOT Commissioner Nicole Garcia replied this project is more than just a two-way bike lane. As described in the presentation, this is about traffic calming. The bike lane against the Park helps narrow the roadway. More details were provided, and added one of the major concerns residents of the community cited

were speeding. Putting the bike lane in the Park is not solving the speeding concern, it's not shortening the distances for school children, families, and seniors, she said.

Other than the bike lanes proposal, Board Member Judy D'Andrea supports all the other suggestions DOT has made.

Next, Board Member Alton Derrick Smith said when pipes were being laid on 108 Street, 111 Street was the only way the bus could turn to come around, and that was not the only time that area was not available. Anytime work is done on 108 Street, the bus turns on 111 Street because that is the only way to get through. He noted this statement was for the record because it was left out of the presentation.

Next, Board Member Sandra Munoz thanked Queens NYC DOT at the Transportation Committee meeting she had attended DOT heard the member's suggestions and went out into the community for input. She drives on 111 Street and remarked about the increase in traffic and it is well worth putting the safety measures into place. Although some people may have an aversion to bike lanes, bike lanes are just a means of narrowing the roadway. There is no reason to have three lanes bottleneck into one toward Roosevelt Avenue. Discourage the traffic she said. Let people find another way to go, she continued.

Next, Board Member Giancarlo Castano asked if there are any plans by the USTA, Night Market, or USTA to transport people from Roosevelt Avenue's train station to the events?

Queens NYCDOT Commissioner Nicole Garcia it has not been brought to their attention.

Next, Board Member Alirio Orduna brought up the safety issue. He liked the plan and said we cannot be greedy with your, your loved ones, and other people's lives. Speeding is a big problem on 111 Street, which is not a speedway. Access is very important, especially for those who are wheelchair bound. Safety first he stressed.

Next, Board Member Erica Cruz asked if anyone in the room can confirm the construction of the new school on 111 Street.

Chairperson Damian Vargas said plans are being formulated for an elementary and pre-school. She expressed concerns about the lack of crosswalks and children crossing the street.

Mr. Wright confirmed her statement and stated all they have done is to narrow the crosswalk. There should be a stop and some type of signalization, he added.

How a mother and child would cross from one side to the side, she asked.

NYCDOT Commissioner Nicole Garcia responded the original plan removed one southbound and northbound car lane had marked crosswalks at intersections. When DOT heard input to retain the second southbound lane, they were removed. NYCDOT cannot add crosswalks to an intersection that has more than one lane and does not have a stop sign or traffic signal she further explained.

Stop sign needs to meet a warrant, said Mr. Wright.

Next, Board member A. Redd Sevilla was in favor of the plan. Is there a survey from the residents of the 11368 zip code he asked?

Chair Damian Vargas responded 84 were from the 11368 zip code.

Next, Board Member Clara Salas stated bike lanes slows traffic and creates more traffic congestion. Have less people died, has there been less vehicle crashes on Queens Blvd. & 57 Avenue, she inquired. She wanted to see data if this will be an improvement to benefit our lives to make us safer.

NYCDOT Commissioner Nicole Garcia presented the slide again which depicted the data requested by Board Member Clara Salas.

Chairperson Damian Vargas said the actual numbers are important.

Next, Board Member Priscilla Carrow stated no one is riding the bike lanes on Queens Blvd. She travels on Queens Blvd. every day and sees no one in the bike lane. She felt the bike lanes should be inside the Park.

Next, Board Member Ingrid Gomez stated her concerns were some of the concerns brought up already that when 108 Street is congested, 111 Street is the way out of Corona. She has never seen any bikes, and is concerned about the type of congestion that will occur because of the decrease in two lanes to one northbound, and decrease three lanes to two southbound. Parking will also take up space.

She spoke about having safe crosswalks as well as traffic signals. How is this identified as a Priority Corridor she inquired? She did not see how six crashes in five years is a justification.

NYCDOT Commissioner Nicole Garcia responded it was an average of six per mile. Over a five year period, there were 19 pedestrian crashes, 22 bicyclist injuries.

The bike lanes will be along the edge of the Park replied Mr. Wright when asked where the bike lanes will be.

Discussion ensued about installing traffic signals instead of bike lanes because of the crashes on 111 Street.

Next, Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula asked about installing speed bumps as a safety factor. Because a traffic signal is not installed, a speed bump will deter speeding, and also asked if crosswalks will be in place for the handicapped.

NYCDOT Queens Commissioner Nicole Garcia replied no speed bumps will be installed.

In the original plan, there were crosswalks included. It is a treatment the engineers will allow if there is one lane of traffic in each direction. Based on feedback given in 2016, the plan was modified to include the two southbound lanes, which does not allow for the crosswalks. She gave more details about the plan.

Discussion ensued about the guidelines for installing speed bumps.

Next Board Member Edgar Moya stated safety is paramount to all. If a school is constructed, why consideration can't be given to install a traffic light/stop sign to add additional safety, he inquired.

NYCDOT Queens Commissioner Nicole Garcia answered where the school entrance will be a treatment is being included to make the street safer immediately for everyone. This will be in place for the students. As time goes on, the project will be monitored.

NYCDOT is committed to working with the community, she continued.

A division of school safety will continue to monitor at the project as the school comes online, said Mr. Wright.

More details were provided by Nicole Garcia NYCDOT Queens Commissioner.

Next, Board Member Chaio-Chung Chen said not only speed bumps but cameras are needed. Cyclists do not respect laws. We care about life, he stated.

Next, Board Member Salvatore Lombardo was in favor of the plan. Safety is an issue. Twenty five more parking spaces are terrific. But, did anyone consider the possibility instead of bike lanes having cars park perpendicular to the Park not horizontally to the Park, more parking would be gained.

Mr. Wright said you need a lot more space in New York City to accommodate that and we do not have that amount of space on the street.

Board Member Sal Lombardo said instead of the bike lanes, park the cars.

It's very difficult responded, Mr. Wright.

Next, Board Member Jennifer Gutierrez said she wholeheartedly supported the proposal. She stated she visited Flushing Meadow-Corona Park every day for her first 20 years of her life. She did not understand why every time we talk about safety improvements at CB4, we dissect and dissect and only focus on bike lanes. Some members want bike lanes in the Park considered, but there is no safe bike access to the Park.

It's insanely dangerous for anyone crossing the street as a pedestrian, as a cyclist and for us to sit there and nit-pick numbers versus percentages and devalue humans that could endanger themselves is not a reflection of every board member of Community Board 4.

Next, Board Member Rovenia McGowan asked where does it begin and, in particular, where does the bike lane end. She agreed with Board Member Priscilla Carrow that no one uses the bike lanes. New York City is not a bike city as she compared other territories with bike lanes. Safety is a concern.

Mr. Wright responded it ends at Corona at the pedestrian bridge to cross over the Long Island Expressway.

Next, Board Member Ann Pfoser Darby commented bike lanes do not work and are empty in Elmhurst. People are having lots of problems in Elmhurst crossing the street and driving across Queens Blvd. She reiterated it will not work, did not work in Elmhurst and will not work here. This is a waste of taxpayer money and asked for the cost of the project.

Mr. Wright was not prepared to provide this information right now. However, the money is ready for the project.

Next, Board Member Al Perna supported the plan. He is for safety and bike lanes and more traffic signals on 111 Street. Three months out of the year many school buses use 111 Streets and questioned where will they park? Certain measures must be put into effect regarding safety, especially crossing the street. Bikes come down too fast. This plan will help stop cars speeding and help more people to cross the street. We do need stop signs and lights. Factor it in because it is 100% necessary, he stated.

At this point, Chairperson Damian Vargas said he did not like DOT's answer about the crosswalk. With the school coming, he understands the primary concern is safety, to leave it as is dangerous. Please look at the crosswalks again. It is not a satisfactory answer. If it was in the initial proposal, why can't we do it now, he questioned.

Subsequently, Chairperson Vargas called for a motion on the 2016 111 Street Transportation Improvements project update.

Board Member Alirio Orduna made a motion, seconded by Board Member James Lisa, to **table** the NYC DOT plan.

Parliamentarian Louis Walker said the motion is on the floor and open for discussion.

Discussion on the motion ensued.

Board Member Sandra Munoz said this has been going back and forth for years. We have to start somewhere. She lost an uncle to a vehicular accident, and did not want to lose anybody else. What are we waiting for?

District Manager Christian Cassagnol explained the vote now taken is to **table**.

Subsequently, by a roll call vote, the vote was taken.

The vote was 25 in favor, 10, opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion to **table** passed.

Board Member Alirio Orduna suggested the NYCDOT have six months to come up with stop signs, cameras, crosswalks, and traffic lights to the plan.

Board Member Sandra Munoz said the next accident her conscience would be clean the next time a pedestrian or motorist got into an accident on 111 Street.

## **X. REPORT AND VOTE: Public Safety Committee SLA Applications**

Public Safety Committee Chair Lucy Schilero reported during the recent snowstorm, the CERT Team was out helping people shovel out their homes and clear some of the hydrants in the area.

From the NYC Fire Department, she reported on single room occupancies (SRO's), occupants are using space heaters with improper wiring, using wires not designed for heating. The NYC Fire Department and the manufacturers of the heating units emphasize units must be plugged directly into the electrical socket, not to use an extension cord. For appliances such as microwaves, hair dryers, toaster ovens, a special cord must be used. Contact your landlord to install an electrical socket designed for those appliances. Fires are expanding in our area because people are using the wrong wiring.

She had electrical cords on hand and explained the proper uses for each one.

Subsequently, she reported on live fire, for example, fires from candles, and cooking on top of the stove. Please be aware, she urged.

Next, check batteries in the smoke alarm/carbon monoxide detectors.

Following, she requested all to look at the cast iron fire alarm boxes. More and more boxes in our area are being shut down. She is compiling a list, and if anyone has locations please see her. The older, cast iron boxes survived all the storms, the newer ones did not.

Next, she reported she had attended a meeting on March 13, 2017 regarding a 17 gang member arrest, which was handled by the 110 and 115 Precincts. Many agencies were in attendance. Planning to reach out to the young children, outreach to schools and parks on regular basis will be done to introduce the children to

explorer, enforcement and cadet programs. Also to include programs in nearby churches. The goal is to get children away from parks being infiltrated by gangs. A meeting will be planned either for April or May on the types of gangs infiltrating our community.

Next, the NCO, the neighborhood cop, our community should be receiving ours in the summer of 2017.

Regarding the mail phishing, mailboxes will be retrofitted with a thin slot. It has been done in Williamsburg and Washington Heights areas. So far, it is working. If it is successful, all mailboxes will be retrofitted. The only exception is small packages will not fit in the local mailbox. Those packages will have to be taken to the Post Office.

At this point, the liquor licenses were presented.

### **NYS LIQUOR AUTHORITY LICENSES**

#### **NEW APPLICANTS**

<b><u>Establishment's Name</u></b>	<b><u>Establishment's Address</u></b>	<b><u>Recommendation</u></b>
82-63 Bakery Corp. Liquor, wine Beer & Cider	82-63 Broadway Elmhurst, NY	Approved
Manila to New York Steak House Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider	89-06/08 Queens Blvd. Elmhurst, NY	Approved
Leticia's Rest. Inc. Wine, Beer & Cider	40-32 National Street Corona, NY	Approved
Udon Thani Inc. Wine, Beer & Cider	77-16 Woodside Ave-Grd. Fl. Elmhurst, NY	Approved

### **NYS LIQUOR AUTHORITY LICENSES**

#### **RENEWAL APPLICANTS**

<b><u>Establishment's Name</u></b>	<b><u>Establishment's Address</u></b>	<b><u>Recommendation</u></b>
Tacos Mexico Corp. Wine, Beer & Cider	41-10 102 Street Corona, NY	Approved
El Sardinero Inc. Liquor, Wine Beer & Cider Applicant failed to respond to Committee's request to meet to discuss their application.	75-18 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Denied
Luz De America Rest. Inc. Wine, Beer & Cider Applicant contacted Board office to say they are withdrawing their application.	104-30 Roosevelt Avenue Corona, NY	Denied
Baxter Fellows Corp. <i>El Tequila</i>	82-16 Baxter Avenue Elmhurst, NY	Denied

Liquor, Wine, Beer & cider

Applicant failed to respond to Committee's request to meet to discuss their application.

1/3/17 – Petit Larceny complaint

1/18/16 – 1 C Summons for sale to minor

9/30/16 - 3 C Summons for exit door blocked, no exit sign, and failure to display occupancy sign.

Thai Son Queens Inc. Wine, Beer & Cider	40-10 74 Street Jackson Heights, NY	Approved
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TBLS, Ltd. <i>Queens Theatre in the Park</i> Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider	56-09 Grand Central Pkwy. Flushing, NY	Approved
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Corona Park Café Inc. Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider	Flushing Meadows-Corona Park Ederle Terrace	Approved
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Board Member Jennifer Gutierrez inquired if there was any follow-up to the liquor licenses by the SLA after the Board vote.

Committee Chair Lucy Schilero said the SLA receives our recommendation but the agency has the final say.

District Manager Christian Cassagnol added its public information. Log on to the SLA's web site for more information.

Or, call the Board office for the establishment's license number and more.

Board Member Georgina Oliver made a motion, seconded by Board Member James Lisa, to **approve** the Committee's report as presented.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 35 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

## **XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### ***Consumer Affairs***

No Report said Committee Chair Erica Cruz.

At this point, District Manager Cassagnol reported on the NYC Dept. of Consumer Affairs. This agency was not sending their representatives to our District Service Cabinet meetings. With the input of Committee Chair Erica Cruz, a strong letter was written to the agency. Subsequently, the Board office received a call back from the agency's Director informing the Board they are willing to send representatives at our District Service Cabinet meetings.

Next, Board Member Judy D'Andrea inquired if it could be looked into all the fees consumers are being charged by the cable company. Fees are getting out of hand. When the cable company is called, the consumer does not receive a clear answer. Sometimes fees for the cable and wireless services can reach \$15-\$20.

### ***Environmental***

Committee Chair Giancarlo Castano reported the Committee met with Green Thumb's new liaison, who would reach out in the Elmhurst community to see what lots are available for a community garden to include children

to manage it. The Environmental Committee is also planning for Earth Day. More information will be presented at the next Board meeting.

He also reported on the Corona Cement company located near IS 61. Photos were taken and a letter, regarding cement draining from their trucks barrels clogging nearby catch basins, was sent to the company with copies to Hon. Melinda Katz and to the Chair of the City Council.

Board Member Judy D'Andrea inquired about the pooper-scooper for dog waste signs.

District Manager Cassagnol said the City of New York is no longer printing those signs.

Board Member Judy D'Andrea the signs are needed and need to be put up.

Board Member Lucy Schilero brought up hanging cable and telephone wires all over the community. She asked this issue be looked into.

### ***Health***

Committee Chair Sal Lombardo reported a meeting will be held in the spring.

### ***Parks***

Committee Chair Al Perna reported on Tuesday, April 4, at 7:00 p.m., a meeting will be held at the Olmstead Center on the schematics for the Fountain of the Fairs and the Pavilion.

Sunday, March 26, 8:00 a.m., a half marathon (20 miles) in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park.

He added many summer events will take place in the Park. He mentioned an Open Run held at Tony's Pizzeria, from 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. the Open Run to be brought to Flushing Meadow-corona Park.

For veterans, Troop for Fitness, which are health and fitness classes held in the Park. The program includes track and field, boot camp, mediation, and CPR. Contact Mr. Perna for more information.

### ***ULURP/ZONING***

Committee Chair Alton Derrick Smith reported the Committee did not meet, therefore, no report.

### ***Youth***

Committee chair Christian Romero did not present a report. Although he did comment, the Committee is in the early planning stages for the next Youth Fair.

At this point, Board Member Chaio-Chung Chen reported on the following community problems:

- Roosevelt Avenue 7 Train Station, 103 Street Corona Plaza dark and dim – needs more light poles and cameras
- Broadway & 79 Street – Frank d., O'Connor Playground Children section wooden platform needs repainting
- Moore Homestead Playground – Broadway, 82 street, 46 avenue – needs good care, maintenance and police patrolling; men, women idling, smoking, gambling, and younger children urinating everywhere
- Littering, garbage, dirty and filthy
- 82 Street – between Broadway & 45 Avenue by the park's side, 4-5 light poles need to be repaired, more light poles and cameras needed inside the park.
- Veteran's Grove, Whitney Avenue, between Judge St and Ketcham St., needs cleaning

## **XII. PUBLIC FORUM**

Chairperson Damian Vargas said comments are limited to two minutes.

Public Forum participants included:

Laura Shepard – supported the 111 Street Transportation Improvements 2016. She read her statement to the Board.

Eric Harold – supported the 111 Street Transportation Improvements 2016

Myrna Gatica – (We Bike NYC) supported the 111 Street Transportation Improvements 2016

Claudio Casino – supported the 111 Street Transportation Improvements 2016

Board Member A. Redd Sevilla – It doesn't make sense when we have a big vote like this to hear from the public afterwards. It's something to consider. It is important to hear, especially for some of these folks who took the time to write something out, like it's not easy going in front of people. It does not make sense to vote on a project this big without hearing from the community.

Chairperson Damian Vargas said he and the Executive Committee discussed this issue and is working on the structure of presentations at the meeting.

Christina Furlong, co-founder of Make Queens Safer supported the 111 Street Transportation Improvements 2016 and said CB4 members were playing political football with people's lives. She knew there would be no Board vote tonight. This Board does not intend to vote on 111 Street.

Since there was no further business, Board Member Clara Salas made a motion, seconded by Board Member Rosa Wong, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.