



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

April 8, 2014

COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE: TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2014

TIME: 7:35 P.M.

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

I. Chairperson Louis Walker opened the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Chairperson Walker asked all to remain standing to observe a moment of silence for long-time Board Member Stephen Castro who had passed away.

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

IV. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson Louis Walker turned the floor over to a service provider from the New York City Family Justice Center to explain the program. It was reported the New York Family Justice Centers, an initiative of the Mayor's Office, are walk-in centers for victims of domestic violence, elder abuse, and sex trafficking. Many agencies are located at each Center. Services are free and available to all victims. Office hours are Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Call 311 to be connected to a Center near you. The NYC Family Justice Center in Queens is located at:

126-02 82 Avenue, Kew Gardens, NY Many languages are spoken to assist you.

Next, Captain Forgione from the 110th Police Precinct reported last year we were down in crime and #1 in the borough for reduction in accident injuries and Number #1 across the Board in traffic last year. For the 28 day period, crime is down, except for one category-burglary. Windows and doors need to be checked and locked, which makes up 67% of the burglaries, specifically noting unlocked windows on fire escapes.

Traffic: Down 56 injuries for the year; up 18 accidents. Injuries down mean fewer fatalities.

Vision Zero—The Mayor's new initiative pedestrian plan. It's not new in the 110, he said.

Pedestrian, speed, and turns, enforcement has been in effect since Day 1.

He said the pass the school bus initiative was passed last week. It came from the Borough and it was a state-wide initiative. Two days of education was given. Flyers were handed out about passing a school bus. Even though motorists were pulled over, they were handed a flyer but not summonsed. On the third day, however, 36 summonses were issued for passing a school bus, which was #1 in the borough.

The men and women of the 110 Precinct are doing a good job.

The focus is not on the people, but on the child riding the school bus who can get hit by a car. Parents were the #1 drivers pulled over for passing school buses. There have been numerous deaths of children that could have been prevented. This is one way to prevent a tragedy. Do not be in that much of a hurry to pass a school bus. Speeds, failure to yield to a pedestrian, turns, and red lights are up across the board in the 110 Precinct and will continue to be up. We will continue to be #1 in the borough when it comes to enforcement etc.

April 28 – May 4 is Education Week. Areas in the 110 and 115 Precincts will be saturated along Broadway to educate the public.

Summonses will be issued-74th Street & Broadway, 41 Avenue. Pedestrians are being struck in that area. This is one of several initiatives received from the Mayor's office. The activity generated afterwards will be forwarded to the borough, compiled, and sent to the Mayor's Office.

The School, Youth, Crime Prevention, Community Affairs, and Traffic units will be handing out flyers for the whole week. During the day and at night DOT will also be out, almost all city agencies will be participating. One weekend day will also be included. Educate and then enforcement. 100% will be given to the Mayor's initiative.

He also spoke about towing cars those for sale belonging to the same person parked all over our neighborhood streets. Call Community Affairs and let Capt. Forgione know your issues and he will call you back.

Next, Board Member Judy D'Andrea said crime in the parks have increased dramatically, specifically, Central Park, Prospect Park, Flushing Meadows-Corona Park, and Riverside Park. She requested statistics be provided to the Board Chair for the crime in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park over a year's time.

Specifically, Board Member D'Andrea wanted to know about the rapes and murders in FM-CP. Capt. Forgione could not comment on specific cases, but would provide statistics including other crimes in the Park from year to date.

V. Vote: Minutes of March 11, 2014 Meeting

Board Member Priscilla Carrow made a motion, seconded by Board Member Judy D'Andrea, to **accept** the minutes of the March 11, 2014 meeting.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 37 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

(Correction: At the March 11, 2014 meeting, Board Member Sandra Munoz was marked absent when, in fact, she was present. The minutes of March 11, 2014 were approved as corrected.)

VI. REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

District Manager Christian Cassagnol welcomed the new Board Members:

MD. Monzur Chowdhury

Erica Cruz

Shwe Zin OO

John C. Peters

Eduardo Medrano-Salas

Pasang Tsering

Rosa Wong

Next, District Manager Cassagnol reported on the Green Team Park Clean-Up. For the first time ever, three committees: Environmental, Parks, and Youth, have banded together to create a group of community board members and community residents to improve our parks. The Park Clean-Up is scheduled for Saturday, April 12, 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., O'Connor's "Tail" Park at 78th Street and Broadway. Since tools and supplies are limited, the RSVP is very important. Call the Board office to confirm your attendance.

Next, he reported on the NYC Department of Consumer Affairs Inspection Checklist: General Retail. Use the checklist to learn the laws and rules businesses must adhere to. Specifically, the Board's Consumer Affairs Committee may be interested in this checklist. You may be surprised how many businesses do not follow those rules.

Finally, the USTA had provided the Board with literature on upcoming events. Review the many programs available and see what the National Tennis Center has to offer.

At this point, Ms. Catherine Moore announced new and re-appointed community Board members must attend orientation on Thursday, May 8, from 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Hall of Science. A letter will be sent with the particulars.

Next, Ms. Lisa Atkins announced tomorrow evening, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Borough Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room, a meeting will be held to assist taxpayers who have received a tax lien sale notice. The Department of Environmental Protection, HPD, and the Dept. of Finance will be present to assist property owners. The City of New York no longer holds a lien against a property for an extended period of time. The lien will be sold on the steps of City Hall. In order for the property owner to remedy the situation with the City of New York, this service is being made available. Payment plans may be worked out so that the property owner may keep his property.

VII. REPORT OF THE LEGISLATORS

Joel Trinidad Santos, representing Council Member Julissa Ferreras office thanked the Board for its support and attendance at the 3rd Annual Women's Heart Health & Fashion Event held on March 27. It was a great success for the third year in a row.

Next, he reported on the on New York City's paid sick leave law, which took effect April 1. There are ten key points about the law which should be noted. Flyers were available on the back table with the supporting information.

Next, Council Member Ferreras is co-sponsoring with Business Outreach Center, a seminar/workshop for start-ups that are looking to finance their own business. The first workshop began today, April 8. The next two

workshops are scheduled for May 13, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and Tuesday, June 10, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., at the Business Center Outreach office, 96-11 40th Road, Corona, NY.

Next, Free Tax Preparation, in conjunction with the Food Bank of New York, will be offered at Transfiguration Church of Corona until April 15. The Church is located at 38-05 98th Street, Monday thru Thursday, from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Subsequently, Mr. Trinidad Santos also reviewed the services available at the Council Member's office. The mobile office is up and running located at Lefrak Library, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Next, Michael Mallon, representing Council Member Daniel Dromm's office, also mentioned the expanded paid sick leave law. The Council Member has teamed up with the Mayor on the Vision Zero plan to protect the public to expect safe streets so that more lives are not lost because of reckless driving.

A Town Hall meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 23, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at LaGuardia Community college. Open to the public. A flyer will be forthcoming. He urged all to attend and learn more about this campaign to reduce citywide traffic deaths and serious injuries to zero. This is the first of many conversations on this initiative.

The Department of Transportation will be also holding workshops as follow-ups to this very important issue. Later in May, Council Member Dromm will be holding his Springtime Shredding Event in front of the Jackson Heights Post Office, located on 37th Avenue between 78 and 79 Streets, south side of the Avenue. Please bring your personal documents that you do not want to throw out in the regular trash to be shredded.

Mr. Mallon spoke about the Council Member's staff helping seniors to apply for the SCRIE benefit. Partnering with an attorney from CUNY to offer legal advice to constituents, the Council Member Dromm's office has help available in regard to issues with housing, immigration law, and employment are just a few of the areas covered.

Next, Assembly Member Francisco Moya updated the Board on the events in Albany. Last week, the state budget was passed by the legislature, but the Dream Act was not included. A great effort was made to be included in the assembly house budget for \$25 million which would have given the opportunity to young undocumented students to receive financial assistance in the State of New York. The Bill fell somewhat short in the Senate, but the fight will go on. Senator Peralta was carrying the Bill in the Senate, and it fell short by two votes. However, the majority of lawmakers voted for the Bill.

We need to make sure we can pass those progressive issues in our budget and look forward to having a partnership with the Governor. The Governor needs to look at the issues affecting communities of color throughout the State of New York. We are hoping to get it done this year as well. We are hoping to bring the Bill to another vote in the Senate to see if it can be passed so that it will provide an impact on the lives of young students and give them the opportunity to go to college. These students are valedictorians, and have achieved academic excellence and met the criteria. As a society, we should be supporting these young students to have the same opportunities as we have. Although the Bill did not pass, we will continue to push forward.

For seniors and SCRIE, the threshold has been extended. The income levels have been increased from \$25,000 to \$50,000/per year for two years. This will give a new pool of seniors the opportunity to get financial assistance they need.

Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) was fought for many years in the Assembly. Now, \$300,000 million will be given to the schools in the City of New York. Overcrowding in the schools was also brought up, which is a growing problem in our school districts. Before the Assembly Member signed off on anything dealing with getting universal pre-K and money here, he needed to ensure the administration in the City and the administration in the Governor's office understood there is a greater need in the communities such as Corona, which are the trailers. Removal of the trailers from our public schools was a top priority. The State legislature

has put forth in this budget a bond act, which must be voted on. The referendum to be included states that the money can be used to remove trailers in schools. More information was given. The pre-kindergarten application deadline has been extended to April 23, 2014.

Next, Assembly Member Moya spoke about the problem of our students being bused out to other communities. We should have the same attention other schools have. Help is needed to vocalize. He urged all to get out in November to approve the Bond Act. Our participation is very much needed on the referendum to take away those trailers.

Next, Assembly Member Moya spoke about his mobile office. Mobile office hours include Saturday in front of the Jackson Heights Post Office on 79th Street and 37th Avenue.

A Town Hall meeting in Elmhurst is also being planned in the spring. Partnering with Congresswoman Grace Meng, federal legislators will be invited to provide information.

Next, he spoke about legislation passed to protect the local pharmacies for their service to the community. A call center and a mail order pharmacy is taking away from the local business. Protection for small local businesses was sorely needed.

Next, the Assembly Member spoke about the Bills he was introducing. On Roosevelt Avenue, there are many employment agencies that are not providing the services advertised. Many people are being duped who are victims from the immigrant community and folks that do not speak the language very well. New legislation being introduced will not allow those agencies to charge money upfront when applying for a job in a specific area such as housekeeping and nanny. Those industries have not been regulated.

Next, legislation for those in the construction industry is also being introduced that would oppose efforts to repeal the Scaffold Law, which is the only law that protects construction workers on site. He cited the recent death of a father of two children who died at a work site because of unscrupulous contractors who did not provide safety equipment. This law will protect the workers and put them first.

Before concluding his presentation, Assembly Member Moya took questions from the Board Members.

VIII. Presentation: Jason Fuhrman, Senior Advisor NY State Senator Jose Peralta Senator Peralta's legislative priorities

Mr. Fuhrman reported on the Dream Act and the state budget. Since Assembly Member Moya had covered many of the legislative priorities Mr. Fuhrman had intended to present, Chairperson Walker asked the Board if there were any specific questions.

Since there were none, Mr. Fuhrman was thanked for his efforts.

IX. ULURP COMMITTEE

A. Vote: 86-10 Roosevelt Avenue

ULURP & Zoning Committee Chair Miriam Levenson made a motion to approve the application for a Special Permit to operate a Physical Culture Establishment (PCE), for Enterprise Fitness Gym, seconded by Board Member Priscilla Carrow.

Before the vote was taken, however, Board Member Lucy Schilero added since there were problems with this location in the past, and families live behind the site, and also taking into account the statement of the resident who resides behind the establishment, to amend the motion to include the noise factor issue.

Chairperson Louis Walker reiterated the motion will be amended to include the noise concern.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 23 in favor, 0 opposed, with 1 abstention. Motion passed.

X. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Vote: SLA Applications

Public Safety Committee Chair Lucy Schilero reported the Committee met on April 1 to discuss the following liquor license applications. All were approved.

NYS LIQUOR AUTHORITY LICENSES

APRIL 2014

RENEWAL APPLICANTS

<u>Establishment's Name</u>	<u>Establishment's Address</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
Hornade Ecuatoriano Liquor, Wine and Beer	81-10 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Approved
Terraza Coffee Bar & Art Corp. Liquor, Wine and Beer	40-19 Gleane Street Elmhurst, NY	Approved
Alfonso's Tapas Bar Corp.	75-15 Broadway Elmhurst, NY	Approved

COPORATE CHANGE

House Bar Inc. "Deum"	71-26 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Rescinded
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Applicant notified CB4 they would be rescinding their application as the sale is not going forward.

Board Member Lester Youngblood made a motion, seconded by Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula, to **accept** the Committee's report as presented.

By a voice vote, the Board voted, 37 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

Additionally, Committee Chair Schilero commented on the CERT Team's success regarding the outreach event 2014: St. Leo's Blood Drive.

IX. ULURP COMMITTEE (cont'd)

B. Discussion & Vote: 421-A Partial Tax Exemption – 81-05 Queens Blvd.

Chairperson Walker informed the Board regarding the above ULURP subject matter, the applicant did not attend the ULURP meeting and is not present tonight to answer any questions. What would the Board like to do, he inquired.

Board Member Miriam Levenson made a motion, seconded by Board Member Priscilla Carrow to **deny** the application.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 36 in favor, 0 opposed, with 1 abstention. Motion passed.

XI. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

A. Vote: One-way conversion of 42nd Avenue between Junction Blvd. and 94th Street

Committee Chairperson Joseph DiMartino reported the block at present is very narrow for two way traffic. The Committee approved the recommendation.

At this point, Board Member Lucy Schilero commented many of the people in the neighborhood did not know about the one-way conversion. She questioned if the Board had received a petition on this matter. No one had received notification about this one-way conversion.

The concern is not so much for the one-way street, but rather if safety bumps can be installed because of the speed vehicles travel down that block. She suggested safety bumps can be installed on the north side—94th to 95th Street (one safety bump) and 95th Street to Junction Blvd. (a second safety bump). A request is being made for those safety bumps.

Chairperson Louis Walker pointed out since the Transportation Committee did not have a quorum at its meeting, this request cannot be approved by the Committee. Therefore, the Transportation Committee had not approved this request.

Board Member Lucy Schilero said she spoke to Capt. Forgione who spoke to the Inspector. As a result of the discussion it was learned one parking space on each side of each corner (there are three corners), which means six parking spaces, plus the four mentioned in the plan equals ten parking spaces to be eliminated from a very short area. Those cars would need to find parking elsewhere. In addition, the Precinct loses four parking spaces. Therefore, she requested time to talk to the neighbors and come up with a plan for more feasible parking.

Discussion ensued about delaying the vote or to table the matter.

The District Manager suggested an option to the Board to the effect we will approve it on the condition that within the next two weeks a petition is submitted to the office so that it can be processed before the next Board meeting. In this way, it will give the community time for its input.

The District Manager said a date and cut off time must be established. Board Member Schilero said one to two weeks lead time was necessary to contact the neighbors.

At the point, Chairperson Walker asked the Board what it wanted to do with this motion. The general consensus of the Board was to table it.

Board Member Priscilla Carrow made a motion, seconded by Board Member Lester Youngblood, to **table** the matter.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 36 in favor, 0 opposed, with 1 abstention. Motion passed.

**B. Vote: Bike Corral in Front of Terraza 7
40-19 Gleane Street, Elmhurst, NY**

Committee Chairperson Joseph DiMartino reported the Committee approved the request.

District Manager Cassagnol added a meeting was held with representatives from DOT, the Committee Chair, and District Manager at the Board office. A petition was received with signatures from neighborhood residents and businesses supporting the bicycle parking facility.

Gleane Street a small, side street directly off Roosevelt Avenue. Directly in front of the business requesting the bike corral is a curb cut, where people do not park because they think it is a driveway—but it is not. It's a parking space rarely used. An employee from the business was present tonight.

It is the same bike corral that was put on 82 Street, with two planters on the side. It is an ideal location for the bike corral, stated the District Manager.

Board Member Priscilla Carrow asked how many bikes the rack can accommodate. The District Manager responded six bikes, but a parking space and a half is lost. No barriers will be placed at the site.

In response to the question if this were the blue bikes from Citi Bike Share Program. District Manager Cassagnol said no and explained it is a bike rack that holds six bikes and used by the local businesses for deliveries and local residents and open to everyone.

Board Member A. Redd Sevilla made a motion, seconded by Board Member Judy D'Andrea to **approve** the petition for a bike corral in front of 40-19 Gleane Street, Elmhurst, NY.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 37 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

XII. VOTE: STREET ACTIVITY PERMITS

Before reviewing the SAPO Applications, the District Manager clarified the fifth applicant (June Block Party) is scheduled for June 21, not August 10 as listed.

District Manager Casaagnol reported the procedure for street closures is very basic. The applicant applies online and a copy of the application is received at the Board office. A petition from the local residents and surrounding businesses is a requirement. For the most part, signatures are scrutinized. Then, the application comes to the full Board for a vote. Once the Board votes on it, the next day the District Manager informs other city agencies affected by the street closure. All applicants were informed 30 to 60 days prior to their permit being voted on by the Board regarding the procedure. Of the five applicants on the agenda, only one had completed the entire process.

Next, he discussed the following applications:

#2. Sheba USA (Block Party) May 25, 73 Street between Roosevelt Avenue and 41 Avenue, and

#4. South Asian Mela – (Cultural Block Party), June 14, 73 Street between Roosevelt Avenue and 41 Avenue.

While the Board did not receive a petition in favor of any of these events, a substantially large petition was received from area residents opposing those events.

Also, the District Manager informed the Board they are not one-time events and have occurred over the course of the last couple of years. #4 has been occurring for the last four or five years. District Manager Cassagnol also reported area residents came to the office with complaints. He read a letter from those residents and owners to stop the event from occurring. At 25 to 30 signatures per page, six pages were received. He also brought up the signatures were dubious --with the same handwriting and duplicated.

Board Member A. Redd Sevilla asked if the addresses were authentic. District Manager Cassagnol replied the addresses are on the block. More discussion on the signatures. No petition is on file in favor of the event; while a letter was submitted opposing it.

At this point, Board Chairperson Louis Walker announced Applications #2 and #4 will be discussed.

2. May 25 Sheba USA (Block Party)

73 St. bet. Roosevelt Ave. and 41 Ave.

Chairperson Walker informed the Board we have petitions against holding the event. There was no documentation supporting the event.

The Chair called out if anyone was here to represent the organization. A representative was in attendance and explained to the Board the reasoning no petition was submitted. The representative stated she was not here for a month and was missing information. She asked for more time to collect signatures.

Discussion ensued.

To clarify, District Manager Cassagnol replied the opposition was against all events on 73 Street in general, not only her event. This event is one of two events planned for the same block.

Mr. Michael Mallon, representing Council Member Daniel Dromm's office, said they had worked with the applicant in the past and she does serve low income immigrants, especially in the Jackson Heights-Elmhurst areas, with special focus on immigrant women. The Council Member's office supports her good work.

After a lengthy discussion, it was brought up can she be given more time to secure the petition.

Board Member Edgar Moya made a motion, seconded by Board Member Hector Hernandez, to **table** the application until the next Board meeting. A petition must be submitted to the Board from the residents who reside in the block.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 36 in favor, 0 opposed, with 1 abstention. Motion passed.

4. June 14 South Asian Mela (Cultural Block Party) 73 St. bet. Roosevelt Ave and 41 Ave.

District Manager Cassagnol reported same location, same rules apply, and the same petition opposing the event.

Chairperson Walker called out for representation on the application. A representative addressed the Board on this event and provided details.

Chairperson Walker called for his petition for this year's event. The representative said he would provide it by next week.

District Manager Cassagnol recapped that the applicant would have two weeks to bring the petition to the Board office and voted on at the next Board meeting.

More discussion ensued.

Board Member Lester Youngblood made a motion, seconded by Board Member Lucy Cerezo-Scully, to **table** the application until the next Board meeting. A petition must be submitted from the residents on the block.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 36 in favor, 0 opposed, with 1 abstention.

More discussion on authenticating signatures and addresses on petitions.

XIII. PRESENTATION

Meira Berkower & Janice Melnick

NYC Dept. of Parks & Recreation

--Update on the NYS Pavilion

With the aid of a power point presentation, the improvements and reconstruction of the New York State Pavilion was explained to the Board.

Volunteers had painted the bottom structure of the Tent of Tomorrow. Other improvements include a new gate to be installed on the eastern side. A pro bono study was done to determine how much it would cost to repair the structure. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the site's construction as well as the 1964-65 World's Fair.

The goals were to determine the overall condition of the observation towers and Tent of Tomorrow, sample foundation conditions beneath the Towers and Tent structures; and provide schematic recommendations and cost estimates for stabilization and restoration. Cost estimates start at \$43 million up to \$72 million.

Upgrading the electrical system and installing a roof over the three towers to prevent further structural damage is needed now.

Board Member Priscilla Carrow asked where is the funding is coming from for the restoration.

Ms. Berkower responded Borough President Melinda Katz stated she supports saving the structure and will form a task force consisting of elected officials, community leaders and advocates to create a plan for the Pavilion's future.

Ms. Berkower also reported the restoration will be done in phases. Priorities were established as to what needs to happen first. First, it will be stabilized before talks commence determining what the uses should be. It will be a lengthy process.

Discussion ensued about funding. Ms. Berkower reported let your elected officials know about the restoration. Some legislators have supported repairs; others have not said anything.

Borough President Katz has made rebuilding the Pavilion one of her priorities and led a tour of all the elected officials and will hold a press conference on April 22 to bring attention to the restoration.

At this point, Board Member Lucy Schilero made a motion, seconded by Board Member Ann Pfoser Darby, to write letters to our elected officials to restore the structure since it is an important, historical structure in the borough of Queens.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 37 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

XIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Environmental

Committee Chair Giancarlo Castano reported the Committee met last month. On the agenda was:

1. The Green Team Park Clean-up for Saturday, April 12, at O'Connor's "Tail" Park. Join us for this first time joint effort.
2. Open fire hydrants or fountains in public parks, notify the Committee.

3. Noise related to neighbors. A plan is being implemented to send out letters to reduce the noise and to expand it further.

Before concluding, he mentioned he will be collecting for the Sunshine Fund at the May 13 CB meeting, but if you wish to see him after the meeting, please do.

Health

Committee Chair Clara Salas reported on the following:

1. Measles cases rise in New York City as health department urges vaccinations.

The Health Department has now confirmed 25 cases of measles including 12 pediatric and 13 adults—since February 5. “Measles is highly contagious and can spread easily through the air”, said New York City Health Commissioner Dr. Mary Bassett.

“I urge all New Yorkers to ensure all household members, including young children 12 months and older, are vaccinated,” said New York City Health Commissioner Dr. Mary Bassett. “Measles is highly contagious and can spread easily through the air.”

2. Elmhurst Hospital Center will hold the following events to benefit CB4 Queens and the borough at large:

- Thursday, April 24, 2014 – Free oral, head and neck cancer screening.
- Wednesday, May 21, 2014 – Healthy Living for Women-Free Testing: Blood Pressure Screening, Pregnancy Testing, HIV Testing,
Where: Elmhurst Hospital Center/Call 718-334-2500.

3. A CB4 Queens Health Committee has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 29, at 7:00 p.m. at the Board office. A speaker will present information related to the present state of public health in Queens and also will discuss the implementation of a Health Survey in Queens.

Consumer Affairs

Committee Chair Pat Martin reported the Committee held its first meeting April 3, 2014. On the agenda, was to redefine the Consumer Affairs, specifically, its objective. One of the suggestions was to go back to originally how the committee operated. The next meeting is scheduled for May 1 at St. Paul’s, at 7:00 p.m. An open community meeting is planned. Various agencies are being looked how to see who should bring information.

Parks

Committee Chair Al Perna invited all to the Green Team Park Clean-up on April 12. Also, a meeting of the USTA was held regarding numerous events specifically, he mentioned an Easter egg hunt which is scheduled for April 13 from 10:30-12:30. Also, he mentioned the Perna Foundation For Kids Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, April 19. All were invited to attend this fun event, which will be held at William F. Moore Park. He also reported on issues regarding 111 Street. Cars are parking after hours. The Red Cup Party, \$20/cup buys beer all night long, music, dancing, inside the parking lot. People are complaining and Parks Chair Al Perna is working with Janice Melnick to end this. Working with the Police Department, they are trying to close those gates. More details followed.

Discussion ensued.

Subsequently, Park Chair Al Perna asked for more people to join his Committee. It’s essential to have meetings and talk about the parks.

At this point, Chairperson Louis Walker reported, at present, there are 44 Board members serving on the Board. Board Committees must be restructured. Before next month's meeting, you will be receiving a form asking for your choice of committee to serve on. Although you may not get your preference, you must choose a least three committees. Restructuring will include not only committees but also may include the Chairs of those committees as well as adding Vice-Chairs.

Youth

No report. Committee Chair Lucy Cerezo-Scully reported the committee did not meet.

However, she reported on the pre-K movement, especially in our area of Corona and Elmhurst. Details were given on a study done in District 24. Our area has the least amount of pre-k seats 358 pre-k seats in District 24 vs. 782 for Bayside; further out 1200 seats. Children most in need of the service are in our district. We are the most overcrowded district in the City of New York.

More information followed.

At this point, First Vice Chair Al Perna updated the Board on efforts to save the Corona Community Ambulance Corps. He urged all to support this endeavor. A grand opening is planned and fundraising will be done. Please help the ambulance corps. It means a lot to our community.

Subsequently, Chairperson Louis Walker announced on April 17 the Executive Board will hold a meeting. Notices will be mailed.

XV. PUBLIC FORUM

Board Member Georgina Oliver invited all to St. James Church on Broadway, May 10, in conjunction with the United Nations Women which is sponsoring an event.

At this point, Board Member Roseann Geiger announced a Blood Drive is being held on Friday, April 11, at the Criminal Court on Queens Blvd. and also at the Supreme Court located on Sutphin Blvd. from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Next, Mr. Jacob Li, Chinatown Planning Council—Queens Smoke Free Partnership, reported on the hazardous Effects of smoking on youth.

Details were given. Asking the Board for its support in creating a smoke free community for our youth, brochures were on the rear table with more information.

Next, Mr. Jose Pelaez from the Corona Community Ambulance Corp. provided more information on how the Board can help them. Specifically, he cited a reduction in utility rates for the ambulance corps. to pay residential utility rates instead of the higher commercial rates they are currently paying. Legislation is pending. Next, he spoke about the restrictions on how ambulances work. Specifically, they cannot directly pick up people out of certain areas. Support is needed so that they can expand to cover the entire Community Board 4 area.

Next, Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula spoke about recent scams.

Next, Youth Committee Chair Lucy Cerezo-Scully reported on her upcoming Youth Committee meeting scheduled for May 20. Council Member Daniel Dromm will be guest speaker.

Before concluding, District Manager Cassagnol reported at Council Member Julissa Ferreras' Heart Health Screening event, Board Member Lucy Schilero was named Elmhurst Woman of the Year.

There being no further business, Board Member Judy D'Andrea made a motion, seconded by Board Member Priscilla Carrow, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.