



COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, Elmhurst, and Newtown

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Helen Marshall
Borough President

Louis Walker
Chairperson

Barry Grodenchik
Director of Community Boards

Christian Cassagnol
District Manager

COMMUNITY BOARD MEEING

DATE: TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2013

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

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

I. Chairperson Louis Walker opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

At this point, Chairperson Louis Walker asked the Board to observe a moment of silence on the sudden passing of Board Member Priscilla Carrow's sister, Janet L. Townes.

Board Member Priscilla Carrow thanked all for their encouragement and support.

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

Chairperson Louis Walker announced the following are no longer Board Members:

Diego Freire
Victoria Lee
Thomas McKenzie
Nicholas Pennetti
Robert Rothschild
Javier Ramos
Nancy King Wang

Subsequently, new Board Members who were in attendance were introduced and welcomed to the Board:

Giancarlo Castano-Jimenez
Jennifer Chu
Hector Hernandez

IV. Vote: Minutes of March 12, 2013 Meeting

Board Member Anthony Moreno made a motion, seconded by Board Member Laraine Donohue, to accept the minutes of the March 12 meeting.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 33 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

V. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson Louis Walker reported at last night's meeting at Borough Hall, a vote was to be taken on the USTA Expansion, but because a quorum was *not* present, no vote was taken.

Chairperson Walker explained the matter would now move on to the City Council. This proposal came before the six Community Boards which would be affected by the expansion. The vote count by those Community Boards was 3 for the expansion and 3 opposed.

VI. REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

District Manager Christian Cassagnol welcomed the new Board Members to Community Board 4Q.

Secondly, he spoke about rebuilding the Corona Taxpayers Garden. Speaking about community gardens, on 44th Avenue and 111th Street, there is an empty plot taken over by Green Thumb. A group of community members asked the Board for a letter of support to allow them to develop a garden.

Next, he reported the 82nd Street Bid had installed the bike corral, which looked beautiful.

Next, he spoke about Veterans Grove Park. Council Member Daniel Dromm provided generous funding in the amount of \$1.3 million for renovation. Working closely with Parks Committee Chair Al Perna and the Committee and the Parks Dept., an architectural plan will be submitted. In a few months, we will be called upon to look at it and provide input.

Also, he reported new community board member Jennifer Chu received a grant for a community garden in Elmhurst from Citizen's Committee for NYC.

Next, District Manager Cassagnol announced he will be a guest speaker at the April 15 110th Precinct Community Council meeting at 7:00 p.m.

As a part of neighborhood heritage, bricks are available at the Board office from the old Tiffany Factory. If interested, please call the Board office.

Regarding the USTA Expansion, Board Member A. Redd Sevilla said this is the opportunity to obtain funding from the USTA for the Park. What happens next?

Chairperson Louis Walker said the matter will go to the City Council. It may not be the person who is currently in office because the council districts will change in November.

At this point, District Manager Cassagnol announced the upcoming CB 4's Consumer Affairs Committee Forum. Various speakers will be present to address Department of Consumer Affairs' issues such as new

regulations, street vendors, and predatory lending etc. The meeting is planned for Wednesday, April 17, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Queens Center Mall, Community Room.

Next, Chairperson Louis Walker introduced Capt. Forgione from the 110 Police Precinct.

Captain Forgione moved from the 112th Precinct to the 110th Precinct, and reported he is an expert in the tow operations, getting those for sale cars off the street.

Also, in this area, across the board, robberies are down. The number of reported incidents is down 12% year to date in the seven categories used by officer to determine crime.

He cautioned to speak to your children about not displaying their iPhones. Purse snatchings can be avoided by being aware of your surroundings. Do not be a victim of crime.

Similarly, he said do not leave personal items in the car. Not to be a victim of crime, remember to do simple things.

Since he is now based in the 110 Precinct, staff will be moved around to do more and get the job done. Good cops are in the 110 Precinct.

Board Member Georgina Oliver brought up an incident that had occurred with her calling the 110 Precinct to obtain a reference number. She had called the Precinct many times for this number, to no avail.

Capt. Forgione said he would contact Board Member Georgina Oliver to help with the problem. He also said if you are having a problem at the Precinct, get the name of the person you are speaking with and he will assist.

Next, Board Member Judy D'Andrea stated there has been an upsurge in graffiti throughout the neighborhood. Captain Forgione reported they do know who the perpetrator is, and it very difficult to catch them in the act. When the arrest is made, they will be locked up for 30 to 40 counts. He urged all if you see someone with a marker in the act, call 911.

Captain Forgione reported the Police do know who the perpetrators are and where they live, referring to a particular tag. A new system has been set up listing where these perpetrators live and when they have been arrested.

Board Member Tony Moreno brought up the illegal vendors parked at Queens Place parked overnight on Queens Blvd. Captain Forgione said he would visit the location tonight. Vendors cannot park after 9:00 p.m. or before 6:00 a.m.

Board Member Lucy Schilero brought up a stabbing off Roosevelt Avenue. Capt. Forgione said the incident was captured on video and he has not received a report as yet.

At this point, the Board Members brought up incidences and problems that had occurred in the neighborhood.

Before moving on to the next agenda item, Mrs. Catherine Moore announced the new Board Member orientation, which is mandatory, will take place Wednesday, May 1 at Queens Borough Hall at 5:30 p.m. Food will be provided. The Swearing-In Ceremony will take place on Wednesday, June 5, at 6:00 p.m., at the New York Hall of Science. Correspondence will be sent out for both meetings. Please mark your calendar accordingly.

VII. REPORT OF THE LEGISLATORS

Mr. Sebastian McGuire, representing Council Member Daniel Dromm's office, reported an agreement had been reached on paid sick days. It will be phased in over two years. Therefore, in 2014 businesses with over 20 employees will be required to provide paid sick days to full time employees. In 2015, the threshold will be lowered to 15 for businesses.

Mr. McGuire also mentioned Immigrant Heritage Week. He announced the following upcoming events:

April 15 – Immigrant Heritage Awards, Elmhurst Hospital Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.
Light Refreshments. Six distinguished Community Members will be honored.

April 18, 19, 20 – DeNovo, a play by Jeffrey Solomon. All performances are free.
7:00 p.m., Elmhurst Hospital Center Auditorium, (Rm. A1-22)

Next, Ari Espinal, representing Assembly Member Francisco Moya's office, reported Saturday, April 20, at NSA Supermarket Lot, 99-30 Corona Avenue, Corona, NY, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Earth Day will be observed. All were invited to attend. The shredding truck will be on hand. Bring everything you have to shred. Make the environment green.

Next, Don Capalbi, representing Congresswoman Grace Meng, reported the Congresswoman's office is temporarily located at Gary Ackerman's office in Bayside. However in the next couple of months, they will be moving. District offices will be located in Forest Hills and Flushing.

In addition, Congresswoman Meng is conducting a program called, "Congress on Your Corner". Last month, it was held in Middle Village and this month it will take place in Fresh Meadows.

To communicate with their office, you can either visit the office or call 718-423-2154 or log on to meng.house.gov to send an e-mail. Also, you can sign up for the Congresswoman's Newsletter. Additionally, he invited all to join United States Representative Grace Meng to commemorate her first 100 days in office as a Member of Congress at her Inaugural Ceremony Sunday, April 14, at 2 p.m., at Francis Lewis High School, 58-20 Utopia Parkway, Fresh Meadows, NY.

Next, Emely Paez, representing State Senator Jose Peralta's office, reported on the following community events:

In conjunction with AARP, a Healthy Day for seniors is being promoted. Presentations will be given by The American Diabetes Association and the American Heart Association. They will be providing information on how to prevent and manage diabetes and how to keep your heart healthy. The event will take place on Saturday, April 27, from 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., at Elmhurst Hospital, Auditorium A-1, 79-01 Broadway, Elmhurst, NY. Space is limited, so please register.

Also, she announced a spring Job Fair sponsored by State Senator Jose Peralta, in collaboration with Elmcor Career Pathways and United Healthcare on Saturday, May 11, 2013, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., at St. Paul the Apostle Church, Parish Hall/Community Room, 98-16 55th Avenue, Corona, NY.

Next, Mr. Joel Trinidad-Santos, representing Council Member Julissa Ferreras' Office, thanked Community Board 4 for its help with assisting in their outreach event, "Tax Lien Assistance Outreach Session" held on April 8.

Representatives were present from DEP, Department of Finance, and the Dept. of Housing Preservation & Development to resolve issues with homeowners for exemptions that could exclude a property from the lien sale, water debt assistance, and set up no money, no down payment plans.

He spoke about the improvements on Roosevelt Avenue such as increased sanitation, new lighting and painting, better business environment for Roosevelt Avenue, community focused public safety, updated zoning of the entire commercial corridor, Corona Plaza, and the implementation of the Roosevelt Avenue Taskforce. Moreover, he spoke about an upcoming sanitation clean-up. Details will be forthcoming.

Board Member Judy D’Andrea asked if it were feasible for Council Member Ferreras to meet with the MTA regarding cleaning the train stations at 103 and 111 Streets. These stations are extremely filthy with pigeon droppings.

Mr. Trinidad-Santos responded this was one of the topics of conversation at the Council Member’s office, among staff members as well as in staff meetings. The Chief of Staff had already started the process to see what can be done to resolve this issue.

Board Member D’Andrea continued this is a bad reflection on our community.

Next, Mr. Bruce Eiber, representing Council Member Karen Koslowitz, stated he would not be attending the Board meetings for too much longer because the Council lines are changing, and Council Member Koslowitz will not represent Community Board 4. Mr. Eiber said he enjoyed his two years as liaison to Board 4.

VIII. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Vote: SLA Applications

Committee Chair Lucy Schilero reported she was unable to Chair her monthly committee meeting. However, since District Manager Cassagnol conducted the meeting, he reported on the following establishments:

NYS LIQUOR AUTHORITY LICENSES April 2013

NEW APPLICANTS

<u>ESTABLISHMENT NAME</u>	<u>ESTABLISHMENT ADDRESS</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
Pollos Y Mas Corp. Wine and Beer Only “Tropic Poll”	90-59 Corona Avenue Elmhurst, NY	Approved
Pizzeria Primera LTD Liquor, Wine, & Beer	55-09 97 th Place Corona, NY	Denied. Address on application was incorrect. All reports that proved Negative may be affected By the error.
Six Brothers 41 Corp. Liquor, Wine and Beer	108-10 41 Avenue Corona, NY	Approved

RENEWAL APPLICANTS

<u>ESTABLISHMENT NAME</u>	<u>ESTABLISHMENT ADDRESS</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
Los Cailpoties Corp. "Los Chilpotles" Wine and Beer Only	77-04D Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Denied. No show. No relevant docs. Submitted. 09/12/12-Arrest for Assault IFO location
Thai Son Queens Inc. Wine and Beer Only	40-10 74 th Street Elmhurst, NY	Approved
Tacos Mexico Corp. Wine and Beer Only	41-10 102 Street Corona, NY	Approved

RENEWAL APPLICANTS (cont'd)

<u>ESTABLISHMENT NAME</u>	<u>ESTABLISHMENT ADDRESS</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
Ramona C. Sierra "El Caramelo Coffee Shop" Wine and Beer Only	99-27 43 Avenue Corona, NY	Denied. No show. No relevant docs. Provided.
Heroico Paysandu Inc. Wine and Beer Only	89-08 Queens Boulevard Elmhurst, NY	Denied. No show. No relevant docs. Provided. 06/02/11- 2 C Summonses After Hours Consumption 12/11/11
Betty's Catering Corp. Liquor, Wine and Beer	94-33 Corona Avenue Elmhurst, NY	Approved
Mama Leti's Inc. Wine and Beer Only	40-07 Junction Blvd. Corona, NY	Approved
Luz de America Restaurant Inc. Liquor, Wine and Beer	104-30 Roosevelt Avenue Corona, NY	Approved
Fiesta Latina Sports Bar Corp. Wine and Beer Only	102-30 43 Avenue Corona, NY	Approved

CORPORATE CHANGE

<u>ESTABLISHMENT NAME</u>	<u>ESTABLISHMENT ADDRESS</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
La Marina Restaurant Corp. Liquor, Wine and Beer	101-17 43 Avenue Corona, NY	Denied. No show. No relevant docs. Provided

Subsequently, Board Member Georgina Oliver made a motion, seconded by Board Member Alirio Orduna, to **accept** the Committee's report as presented.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 33 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

At this point, Board Member Judy D'Andrea inquired if the Board denies an application, do we receive correspondence back acknowledging the Board's denial.

District Manager Cassagnol replied No.

Committee Chair Lucy Schilero added we must do the follow up to find out what action the State Liquor Authority has taken.

IX. PRESENTATIONS

SHANNON MANCUSO

SCO-Families Building Community Program Overview

Ms. Shannon Mancuso, Community Coordinator, reported the organization was established in the community July 2008. The group is under the SCO Family Service, which is a very large human service agency, which operates in the five boroughs and Long Island. Its program is called Family Building Community.

The program has four goals:

1. To recruit foster parents meaning to recruit families in Queens to take care of our community's children. For example, there are over 200 children in foster care in C.D.'s 1 through 4. Foster and adoptive families are being sought in our community. Families that speak English as well as other languages are needed.

Other requirements must be met. Brochures were handed out with more information.

While it is important to recruit foster parents, it is very important to support adoptive parents. New Life Fellowship Church hosts their support group for foster and adoptive parents. Community resources are used to support families. In other words, recruit parents and support foster parents.

2. Many families in northwest Queens have child safety issues with the Administration for Children Services (ACS). 95% of cases involve domestic violence, which is an on-going, serious issue. What the program does is to prove a community person which gives resources and support to those families. Many families are from all over and the world and still processing what is Child Protective Services and what are the rules in New York City. Families Building Communities provides a community representative who is able to converse with the family and provide assistance.

3. Visits are provided to children in foster care. They are taken out into the community under supervised visits. A family friendly, happy visit with a parent is arranged. Children can go to Chucky Cheese, McDonald's Restaurant, or the Hall of Science, to name a few outings. Community resources are used.

4. Resource and Referral Group – SCO does not provide direct resources but rather referral and support services so the family is directed to the right agency for assistance.

Families Building Community is a community based organization. It does not matter about documentation status. All programs are free.

If interested, you can request to be added to their e-mail blast to keep current with information. Call or e-mail your information to be added to their mailing list.

Before concluding, Ms. Mancuso announced the Third Annual Spring Community Fair scheduled for Saturday, May 18, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at the Rock Church, 57-02 Hoffman Drive, Elmhurst, NY. The purpose of the Spring Community Fair is to inform the community about resources available to them, to address health and safety issues that affect children and the community at large. Numerous community based organizations across New York City will be participating.

Board Member Lucy Schilero inquired about how many children in the immediate area is part of the program.

Ms. Mancuso responded for every 100 families that offer to become foster parents, one will be certified. Service is for five years. In five years, five families were certified. The process is very stringent. Requirements include: speak English, and if there is a spouse involved, they must be in agreement, and space. 45 sq. ft. of room with a window is needed, which is sometimes difficult living in an apartment.

The organization is also a direct foster care agency; however, the program is not.

X. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Vote: Capital Car Service

Cibao Radio Dispatch

Dominicana Limo Service

Committee Chair Joseph DiMartino reported the Transportation Committee met and discussed the Base license renewals.

At this point, District Manager Cassagnol reported on the requirements needed by the Taxi & Limousine Commission (TLC).

At the last CB meeting, documentation was submitted showing that multiple drivers and/or vehicles employed under the name Cibao Radio dispatch had a substantial amount of parking and/or moving violations.

According to the owner of Cibao, drivers are independent contractors and the car service acts as a dispatcher only.

Pursuant to TLC's guidelines, those violations do not affect the licensing process.

The TLC only wants to know, how many cars the Base has, how many spaces they provide to park those cars, are they good to the community, which means not taking up street parking etc.

He noted all three Bases have crystal clear records with the TLC. No further research is needed by the Board.

All three Bases were invited to the Committee meeting and to provide a copy of their policy (to establish what they tell their drivers).

Despite the violations issued to the car companies, the majority of those violations were for a red light camera offense, which goes to the car rather than the driver. Bases do reprimand their drivers. It is also illegal for cars to have multiple Base stickers on the same car.

District Manager Cassagnol also reported if the TLC application is received at the Board office, the agency had already done the first level of screening.

Committee Chair Joseph DiMartino made a motion, seconded by Board Member Tony Moreno, to **accept** the base applications for Capital Car Service, Cibao Radio Dispatch, and Domincana Limo Service.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 33 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Consumer Affairs

Consumer Affairs Committee Chair George Onuorah reported the Consumer Affairs Committee Forum will be held on Wednesday, April 17, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., at the Queens Center Mall, Community Room, 90-15 Queens Blvd., Elmhurst, NY. O the agenda, New Regulations, Street Vendor Issues, Predator Lending, and much more consumer related issues. All were urged to attend.

Health

Health Committee Chair Priscilla Carrow reported the Committee did not meet.

ULURP

ULURP Committee Chair Miriam Levenson reported the Committee did not meet.

Parks

Parks Committee Chair Al Perna reported the Parks Dept. is preparing the parks for summer, cleaning them up. A meeting is planned for Friday, April 12, at 12 Noon, to tour the neighborhood parks.

District Manager Christian Cassagnol reported the Board's Parks Dept. liaison, Eileen Connolly, had been replaced by Eric Gietz. Mr. Perna added Mr. Geitz had already assisted in providing supplies to a park.

Environmental

No Report.

Postal

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

Youth

Committee Chair Clara Salas reported the Queens UFT and CAPSC have scheduled a Parent Education Conference on Saturday, April 27, 2013, at 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Sheraton LaGuardia East Hotel, 135-20 39th Avenue, Flushing, NY. Open free of charge to all parents with children in NYC schools. Pre-registration is required. For more information, call Rose Walker-Yates at Queens UFT 718-275-4400.

The following 15 new schools will open in Queens next fall:

Elementary Schools:

--Elm Tree Elementary School

--East Elmhurst Community School

Middle Schools:

- Corona Arts and Sciences Academy
- Hawtree Creek Middle School
- The Emerson School
- Queens United Middle School
- Hunter Point Community Middle School
- Middle Village Prep Charter School

Middle/High School

- The Riverview School (District 75)

High Schools:

- International High School for Health Sciences
- Veritas Academy
- Queens High School for Language Studies

High Schools/CTE (Career Technical & Educational High Schools):

- Institute for Health Professions at Cambria Heights
- Energy Tech School

Transfer High School:

- Voyages Prep—South Queens

At this point, Board Member Anthony Moreno inquired whether an Education Committee could be formed. Board Chairperson Louis Walker replied not at this time, and further explained we do not have the attendance at the Committees now. We must get the Committees we have now in order first. The Youth Committee covers the education component.

According to the Board's bylaws, the Youth Services Committee has oversight responsibility for the Department of Education, School District 24, C.U.N.Y and the Department of Youth and Community Development. The Committee also handles all relations with education system and all aspects of youth including recreation programs (public and private), drug programs, etc.

Chairperson Louis Walker noted the Board's by-laws would have to be changed to do this.

Discussion ensued.

At this point, Chairperson called for a show of hands by the Board members whether they would like to separate the Youth Services Committee into two committees. The general consensus was not to establish separate committees.

More discussion followed. Chairperson Walker stated if this were done the Board would have to consider establishing other committees to handle other specialty issues such as housing and telecommunications, to name a few. We do not have the resources right now to do so. Let's deal with the committees at hand.

XII. PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Eric Howard, Queens Library at Lefrak City invited all to attend an Open Forum with Congressman Joseph Crowley on Tuesday, April 30, 6:30 p.m., Lefrak City, 98-30 57 Avenue, Corona, NY.

Next, Mr. Walter Sanchez spoke about his affiliation with the National Ecuadorian Alliance. He reported on a hate crime affecting our community where some Ecuadorians were attacked by Italian-Americans with African-

Americans. This racial issue is unjust to humanity. The organization he represents is based in Corona. He reported on upcoming events sponsored by the organization.

Next, Board Member Alirio Orduna gave an update on the activities of the New York Military Youth Cadets.

There being no further business, Board Member Tony Moreno made a motion, seconded by Board Member Judy D'Andrea to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.