



COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, Elmhurst, and Newtown

46-11 104th Street

Corona, New York

11368-2882

Telephone: 718-760-3141

Fax: 718-760-5971

e-mail: qn04@cb.nyc.gov

Melinda Katz
Borough President

Damian Vargas
Chairperson

Melva Miller
Deputy Borough President

Christian Cassagnol
District Manager

April 11, 2017

BOARD MEMBER ATTENDANCE

Board Members Attending:

Damian Vargas
Chaio-Chung Chen
Lynda Coral
Judith D'Andrea
Marialena Giampino
Ingrid Gomez
Jennifer Gutierrez
Patricia Martin
Rovenia McGowan
Edgar Moya
Sandra Munoz
Gurdip Singh Narula
Georgina Oliver
Alexa Ponce

Ashley Reed
Oscar Rios
Cristian Romero
Clara Salas
Gigi Salvador
A. Redd Sevilla
Lucy Schilero
Alton Derrick Smith
Gregory Spock
Vivian Tseng
Louis Walker
Rosa Wong
Minwen Yang
Lester Youngblood

Board Members Absent:

Paula Braun
Priscilla Carrow
Giancarlo Castano
Lucy Cerezo-Scully
Safat Chowdhury
Debra Clayton
Erica Cruz
Maria Damico
James Lisa

Salvatore Lombardo
Peter Manganaro
Ruby Muhammad
Shwe Zin (Winny) Oo
Alirio Orduna
Albert Perna
Neil Roman
Malikah Shabazz
Marcello Testa

ATTENDING:

Pat Rosero, Queens Borough President's Office
Christian Cassagnol, CB4 District Manager
Margaret Silletti, CB4 Community Coordinator
Christina Long, CB4 Community Assistant
Assembly Member Francisco Moya
Ari Espinal, Assembly Member Francisco Moya's Office
Barbara Jackson, U. S. Rep. Joseph Crowley
Lillian Zepeda, Council Member Julissa Ferreras-Copeland's Office
Alexander Bennett, U. S. Rep. Grace Meng's Office
Michael Mallon, Council Member Daniel Dromm's Office
Stacy Eliuk, Public Advocate Letitia James' Office
Aliya Latif, NYC Comptroller's Office
Yoselin Genao, Neighborhood Housing Services, 60-20 Woodside Avenue, Woodside, NY
Michele Gayle, Department of Corrections
Lorenzo VanNess, Commission On Human Rights
Lillian Reyes, NYC AARKS, 100 Gold Street
Haley Dercher, 42-22 Ketcham Street, Elmhurst, NY
Charlene Miranda, HANAC
Paula Duran, HANAC
Bernard Colletti, BFCI
Ernestine McKayle, 97-28 57 Avenue, Corona, NY
Pio Tsai, Bike New York
Nanci Arevalo, 108-34 42 Avenue, Corona, NY
Pedro Flores, 108-34 42 Avenue, Corona, NY
Debra Hargrove, 96-02 57 Avenue, Corona, NY
Matt McElroy, 74-02 43 Avenue, Elmhurst, NY
Phil Wong, Elmhurst United
Francisco & Ana Moreta, 108-41 Corona Avenue, Corona, NY
Farah Divers, 254-53 148 Road, Rosedale, NY
Andy Collado, 102-37 46 Avenue, Corona, NY
Mike Liquori, VFW Post #150
James McMenamin, 4153 Hampton Street, Elmhurst, NY
Carolina Mendoza, 104-31 46 Avenue, Corona, NY
Priscilla Walton, Elm Charter School
John Wang, Queens Night Market

Public Speaker's List

John Wang, Queens Night Market
Francisco Moreta
Ana Moreta
Mychele Gayle, Dept. of Corrections
Phil Wong, Elmhurst United
Pio Tsai, Bike New York

COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE: TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 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 7:35 p.m.

II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

A moment of silence was observed for Lulu Brown, who passed away. She was the sister of Board Member Lester Youngblood.

III. Executive Secretary Marialena Giampino took the roll call. A quorum was present.

IV. VOTE: Minutes March 21, 2017

Board Member Clara Salas made a motion, seconded by Board Member Judy D'Andrea, to **accept** the minutes.

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

V. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson Damian Vargas announced seven new Board members were appointed to Community Board 4Q. Their names were called out to introduce themselves to the Board:

Paula Braun – Not present

Lynda Coral – Lifelong resident of Corona. She is happy to be on the Board.

Ruby Muhammad – Not present

Neil Roman – Not present

Malikah Shabazz – Not present

Gregory Spock – He is happy to serve on the Community Board, and is also a classically trained opera singer.

Vivian Tseng – She is excited to be a Board Member and is also an expectant mother.

Chair Damian Vargas reported the work on the 111 Street Safety Project has already begun. Even though the Board voted to table the proposal, the Mayor decided to move forward to implement the project. Many were disappointed not with the project but as a full Board we were not given an opportunity to completely review it and to have our concerns heard. There has been much talk that Community Board 4 has been obstructing and

delaying this project. The project was brought to the full Board June, 2015, which was an informational presentation only. No vote was taken. It was presented again March 2017 when a vote was taken. The Board's vote is advisory. The Board members voiced concerns not so much there is going to be a project, but the fact that there was not enough safety, where the NYC Department of Transportation is not doing enough for safety. A meeting was scheduled to meet with NYCDOT after the vote. After the Mayor's decision to move forward with the project, the consensus was not to meet. A letter will be written to the Mayor expressing our concern about the 111 Street proposal. At this point, the 111 Street proposal is out of our hands, said Chair Vargas.

Since we are volunteers, we do want our voices to be heard. Our voices are not being heard. Although there is much support for the project, elected officials do believe we properly represent our community and know our community well, which places us in the perfect position to give advice.

He was optimistic about other upcoming projects; and stated the community depends on the Board to speak. Let's work together to get the community more involved he urged. Seniors, veterans, and neighbors should be included in outreach. Without community support, the Community Board cannot function, concluded Chair Damian Vargas.

VI. REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

In speaking about outreach, District Manager Cassagnol cited an example about how one of our new Board Members, Vivian Tseng, assisted on CB4's Youth Fair, saw what we did, and became a Board Member.

Next, District Manager Cassagnol spoke about the following major construction projects in process and their completion timeframes:

- 111 Street Project – (over a year)
- DEP – Sewer Upgrades on 43 Avenue & 108 Street (year & half)
- Corona Plaza – Phase II
- DEP – 108 Street & Horace Harding Expressway (two years)
- PS 298 – New construction behind I.S. 61
- Con Edison – Upgrade – From Community Board 3 through Community Board 4, ending at IS 61.
- National Grid – Upgrades – 41 Avenue off National Street, which affects Corona Plaza. Merchants at Corona Plaza use 41 Avenue for deliveries. Concerns have been noted and expressed and will be brought up at the District Cabinet meeting to the agencies involved.

Subsequently, District Manager Cassagnol also reported ULURP Committee Chair Alton Derrick Smith and the ULURP Committee is working on a new initiative for the Board. He also mentioned the Environmental Committee's upcoming event on April 22 Community Gardens event.

Next, shopping bags supplied courtesy of Walgreen's were on hand for distribution, he announced.

VII. REPORT OF THE LEGISLATORS

Assembly Member Francisco Moya welcomed the new Board Members and reported it is a great opportunity to have a positive impact on the community. The Board Members handle tough issues in our community, facing the criticism that comes our way. Since we live here, we have a vested interest in what is best for our community. Assembly Member Moya applauded the Board for its untiring efforts.

Assembly Member Moya spoke about the budget process in Albany, mentioning the budget was nine days late. He reported lawmakers raised the age of criminal responsibility from 16 to 18 for non-violent felony charges. Those offenders were tried in criminal court, and placed in prisons with adults. Now, those youths will be tried in family court. New York was one of two states that charged 16- and 17-year olds accused of crimes as adults. “Raise the age” legislation is a great accomplishment, he stated.

Next, Assembly Member Moya spoke about the ‘tuition free’ college, which is not free. More must be done with the Governor on this legislation. Part time students in community colleges will not qualify. The legislation is not open to everyone. Immigrant students were left out of the process. In the last six years, Assembly Member Moya has been championing this Bill; the Senate (controlled by the Republicans) refused to do that. Under the Excelsior Scholarship Program a student must have 30 credits per year in order to receive funding. If a class is dropped, the student is thrown out of the program. Another problem is students will be required to live and work in the state for the next four years after graduation. He said this is a difficult requirement to fulfill. College must be made affordable for all college students. We can’t do that on the backs of the faculty represented in SUNY and CUNY colleges. The Governor also raised tuition by \$200, which will have an effect on part time students and minority students struggling to attend college. While it is a positive step, more needs to be done.

Sponsored by Assembly Member Francisco Moya the Farm to Food Bank Bill, farmers will be able to use excess produce for donation to food banks to feed hungry families throughout the State of New York and our communities. It was not only passed in the Assembly and the Senate but also included in the Executive budget and passed. Tax breaks will be given to those farmers.

In conclusion, Assembly Member Moya reported the NY Assembly did not pass legislation that would make NYS a Sanctuary State that would create protections for non-citizens across the state. Also, the Dream Act did not pass in the budget. These are issues that must be fought for.

Next, Lorenzo VanNess, representing the Commission on Human Rights, reported this agency enforces the anti-discrimination laws. The New York City Human Rights Law prohibits discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodation or citizenship status, gender, sexual orientation, disability, marital or partnership status. In addition, the law affords protection against discrimination in employment. If you have faced discrimination, call 311 or reach out to District Manager Cassagnol who will put you in contact with Mr. VanNess.

Next, Pat Rosero, representing Borough President Melinda Katz’s office, welcomed the new Board members and reported on April 26 an orientation is scheduled at 5:00 p.m. at Queens Borough Hall.

Next, Stacy Eliuk, representing Public Advocate Letitia James’ office, announced:

- The Pay Equity Bill just passed in the New York City Council last week. It bans employers across the City from asking about salary history. The move is an important step to pay equity.
- A Talk to Tish Long Island City Town Hall meeting is scheduled to discuss issues in LIC and NW Queens. Come to the Town Hall meeting on May 16, at 7:00 p.m., at CUNY Law, 2 Court Square West, Long Island City, NY. A Town Hall meeting will be planned for this area sometime in the future.

Next, Aliya Latif, representing NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer’s Office, highlighted the following:

The Comptroller had released an analysis to show contributions made by the immigrant community. We not only have a moral obligation but also an economic one to protect our communities, including the immigrant community that makes a tremendous contribution to NYC and Queens. Immigrants earn about \$100 billion in total income, which is 1/3 of NYC earnings. Over 83,000 immigrant New Yorkers own businesses.

Also, the Comptroller released a report on the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). New York City is the cultural capital of the world. Last year, groups in New York City received \$14 million from the NEA. Organizations across the five boroughs were granted \$230 million, which includes \$20 million for arts education, \$32 million for theater programs, and \$42 million for media arts. With NEA funding on the chopping block by President Trump, hundreds of organizations and the population they serve could suffer.

A Save the Arts from Trump's Budget Cuts was led by Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer, joined by the Comptroller, to oppose proposed cuts that nourish humanities.

Next, Comptroller Scott Stringer is hosting a Greek Community Breakfast Thursday, April 20, 2017, at 8:30 a.m. at the Stathakion Cultural Center, 22-51 29th Street, Astoria, NY. All were invited to attend.

Lastly, the Comptroller has a mini 311 in his office. If there are any issues the community has from Intake to Resolution, please utilize the service.

Next, Lillian Zepeda, representing Council Member Julissa Ferreras-Copeland's office, reported the Council Member is in complete support of the 111 Street project. The Council Member does look forward to working with Community Board 4 that is collaborative and open and to future votes from the Board.

Regarding 111 Street, she reported the changes will not take a year, but instead two months. During the changes, disruption should be very minimal. If there are any concerns, please call Ms. Zepeda. After the project is implemented, it will be constantly monitored.

Aside from the 111 Street project, others in the Board area include:

Corona Plaza – Broke ground on Monday, and is a \$5.6 million project that Council Member Julissa Ferreras-Copeland fought with City of New York to bring to this community. Now that it is in its final phase, it will take over a year to complete but will be worth it. Located there is a Green Market, a mobile library, cultural initiatives by the Queens Museum, Zumba, and education for moms, kids, and families.

And, this Plaza is the first in Queens to have Wi-Fi and charging stations.

In April, Council Member Julissa Ferreras-Copeland held a citizenship drive with CUNY citizenship. Over 100 residents of Corona were helped, free of charge, to apply for citizenship. Citizenship is the one defense people have in this country that can never be taken away.

SCRIE enrollment is held in Lefrak City on Sunday. SCRIE is a program for seniors and people with disabilities. There is fixed at a certain income level and the City pays for the rest. Over 100 people from Lefrak City had applied.

Next, she spoke about the Town Hall meeting with Mayor Bill de Blasio at I. S. 61. Many questions were taken at the Town Hall. The Council Member's office is following up on those questions, and if there are more, please contact her office. Answers will be brought back to the community.

Lastly, its budget season and Council Member Ferreras-Copeland is the Chair of the Finance Committee, which means she oversees the process. Hoping to have an on time budget, they will be back in June with results from the Executive Budget Hearings. Negotiations are ongoing.

Free tax service is available at the Council Member's office. Income limits of 64K for free tax preparation. Call for an appointment.

Free graffiti removal is also available, but not enough people are taking advantage of this service. This service is available for private property, businesses, public property, and anywhere there is a need. Please call the Council Member's office. \$15,000 was allocated for the service.

At this point, Board Member Judy D'Andrea expressed she is very excited about the Corona Plaza project, however, refurbishing of the #7 train at the 103 Street stop needs to be upgraded.

This request has been made for many years. Not only is the 103 Street stop in need of repair, but also the train station at 111 Street, which goes directly into the Park.

Also, she mentioned the mobile library at 103 Street and suggested since the Queens Borough Public Library is two blocks from Corona Plaza, maybe the mobile library can be placed in Corona Heights because there is no library there.

Ms. Lillian Zepeda replied this should be brought up to the Queens Library system, where she will make the suggestion. A branch will open at the Queens Museum, she added.

Next, Board Member Clara Salas brought up residents of Elmhurst have utilized the graffiti services offered by Council Member Ferreras-Copeland.

It was also noted Council Member Julissa Ferreras-Copeland was honored at the Metropolitan Museum of Art last week for Women's History Month. Congratulations were passed to Council Member Ferreras-Copeland.

At this point Board Member Giancarlo Castano vacationing in Columbia asked about support to the community gardens, future funding, and a new fence for the Corona Taxpayers Garden.

Ms. Lillian Zepeda answered she would take his request to the Council Member.

At this point, District Manager Cassagnol mentioned the enormous fire at 94 Street and 57 Avenue where 200 firefighters are battling the blaze.

Next, Alexander Bennett, representing U. S. Rep. Grace Meng announced:

Monthly office hours with the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs are available to those veterans and their families in need of assistance. They must live in the sixth congressional district. If not, they will be directed to the U. S. Representative for their area. Next office date is Wednesday, April 26, to stop by for assistance.

Also, for the 2017 National Congressional Art Competition, which is open to all high school students, any talented, artistic high school student who wishes to submit art and who lives or attends school in the sixth congressional district, please contact the district office. The competition is at the Queens Museum on April 29. Deadline to enter art work is April 19.

Lastly, he reported no formal complaints were received in the past three weeks regarding the United States Postal Service (USPS).

Board Member Lucy Schilero inquired whether Congresswoman Meng holds regular meeting with the USPS.

Mr. Bennett responded they met last year with the Post Office or whenever issues arise.

Board Member Lucy Schilero responded they have had meetings on their own; however, we must push it at our end to get results in our community. She requested something be done on another level. Call Congresswoman Meng's office if you need assistance with concerns.

Next, Michael Mallon, representing Council Member Daniel Dromm's office, congratulated the new board members and reported on the Anti -Fraud Bill. Immigrants have fallen victim to unscrupulous individuals to defraud them of thousands of dollars while harming their chance of eligibility for immigration benefits. This is a huge problem in our community. It requires immigrant service providers to post what they can and cannot provide and streamlines the complaint process. Previously there were a number of different agencies that fielded complaints. The legislation ensures the Office of New Americans handles all complaints and is responsible for follow up. Also, it doubles fines for those providing fraudulent services. Previously, the fine was \$5,000 now it is \$10,000 for immigration fraud, which could be incurred time and time again. The Mayor is expected to sign the Bill in the coming weeks.

Additionally, he reported on the series of Know Your Rights forums around the district. Most recently a forum was held at PS 69.

Furthermore, he reported on zombie houses, particularly those in south Elmhurst. The situation is being monitored working with local cvo's. A rapport has been established with the Departments of Health, Sanitation and Buildings. Calls have been made to the banks as well so that they know the community is aware of the situation.

Next, Mr. Mallon reported on Eat Elmhurst Restaurant Week – April 22 to April 29 - at participating restaurants and eateries in Elmhurst. At least 25 restaurants, if not more, will participate. All were invited to attend.

VIII. Speaker: Lillian Reyes, Senior Outreach Coordinator *Green Thumb*

Community Gardens Within Community Board 4

Ms. Reyes reported she works for the NYC Parks Department, Green Thumb community gardens throughout the five boroughs. Presently, she is working within Queens.

The program consists of over 600 community gardens. The program facilitates open space, green space for the whole community. In Community Board 4, there are only two community gardens, which are Sparrow's Nest and Corona Taxpayers' Community Gardens working together with Community Board 4 and parks initiatives. The program offers workshops for all community members whether parks employees or working for parks or educational programs. Also support is provided for the gardens, such as lumber, materials, soil, and plants.

She explained community gardens are an open space for everyone in the community, not just for members of the gardens. Each community garden must be open for over twenty hours for the week, and anyone can participate.

Sparrow's Nest Community Garden received a grant to help gardeners learn how to eat healthy. Sparrow Nest is located at 51-01 101 Street (the former Corona Mac Park).

If you see a vacant lot and you think you can start a community garden, please reach out to the NYC Parks Department since there are only two community gardens within Board 4.

Program guides on *How To Start A Community Garden* were on hand to provide further information.

Board Member Judy D’Andrea asked about the vegetables produced in the community gardens and who uses them?

Ms. Reyes said it is recommended gardeners give out the vegetables to members of the community. A common area is set aside to give out vegetables.

Each garden should have one vegetable bed to sample for the community. You can become a member of that garden to grow your own food.

At this point, District Manager Christian Cassagnol gave more details about the Community Gardens event scheduled for April 22, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All were invited to attend.

Board Member A. Redd Sevilla commented this is a great relationship building event.

IX. REPORT AND VOTE: Public Safety Committee

SLA Applications

Committee Chair Lucy Schilero reported on the five alarm building fire on 94 Street in Elmhurst at the same time the Board was in session. Black smoke can be seen for miles around. Please close your windows if you are driving in that vicinity. This is a very serious fire. Flames spread rapidly through the cockloft, a small area between the ceiling and rooftop of the seven story building. It is unclear how the fire started.

She announced St. Leo’s and CERT will do their spring Blood Drive on Sunday, April 30, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Next, she reported on the NYPD’s budget this year. Special training for the officers was included on opioid and heroin as well as training for autism and mental health issues, who will be working with the Health & Hospitals Corp. for those victims in need of help.

Furthermore, twenty precincts will be receiving surveillance cameras. The 110 Precinct is not currently on the list. Moreover, funding has been allocated to hire more school crossing guards.

Next, gangs were mentioned. There are five in the 110 Precinct. Details were given about each gang.

Following the report on gangs, she informed the Board about a major arrest made for prostitution on Roosevelt Avenue.

NYS LIQUOR AUTHORITY LICENSES

NEW APPLICANTS

<u>Establishment’s Name</u>	<u>Establishment’s Address</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
Cancun and Cancun Corp. Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider	102-14 Roosevelt Avenue Corona, NY	Denied
9/18/16 – 3C Summonses for unlicensed sale of alcohol, unlicensed storage of alcohol, unlicensed bar		
2/1/17 – 2C Summonses for consumption after hours, unlicensed bottle club		
2/1/17 – 1C Summons for unlicensed bottle club		

Billiards Sol & Luna Corp. Wine, Beer & Cider	102-02 43 Avenue, Rear Corona, NY	Approved
Duo Gastropub Corp. Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider Applicant failed to respond to our request to meet to discuss their application.	40-37 75 th Street Elmhurst, NY	Denied
Blamey Corp. Wine, Beer, & Cider	94-59 Corona Avenue Elmhurst, NY	Approved

NYS LIQUOR AUTHORITY LICENSES

RENEWAL APPLICANTS

<u>Establishment's Name</u>	<u>Establishment's Address</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
Dong Kee Restaurant Inc. Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider	75-32 Broadway Elmhurst, NY	Approved
Don Francisco Restaurant Inc. Wine, Beer & Cider	40-56 Junction Blvd. Corona, NY	Approved
3 Brothers Corp. Beer & Cider	97-22 Roosevelt Avenue Corona, NY	Approved
A.N.G. Diner Corp. <i>Silver Spoon Diner</i> Beer & Cider	58-21 Junction Blvd. Elmhurst, NY	Approved
Nevada Diner Inc. Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider	80-26 Queens Blvd. Elmhurst, NY	Approved
Pio de Gallo Inc. Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider	82-12 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Approved
Mexport International Corp. <i>El Tenampa Restaurant</i> Wine, Beer & Cider	86-14 Roosevelt Avenue Corona, NY	Approved

NYS LIQUOR AUTHORITY LICENSES

RENEWAL APPLICANTS (cont'd)

<u>Establishment's Name</u>	<u>Establishment's Address</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
Luz de America Restaurant Inc. Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider Concerned about SLA violations: 11/1/15 – 1C Summons for an unlicensed cabaret 3/5/16 – 1C Summons for unlicensed security guard 5/19/16 – 1C Summons for sale to minor	104-30 Roosevelt Avenue Corona, NY	Denied

6/24/16 – 2C Summonses for contaminated liquor, and alcohol not in original container
9/30/16 – 3C Summonses for unlicensed security guard, employing an unlicensed security guard, and sale to
intox.

Criminal complaints:

2/4/17 – Petit larceny complaint
5/25/26 – sexual abuse complaint resulting in an arrest
5/26/15 – assault complaint resulting in an arrest
5/31/15 – petit larceny complaint
5/20/15 – harassment

Horno Fratelli Corp.
Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

89-08 Queens Blvd.
Elmhurst, NY

Approved

No Committee Recommendation

Asadero La Fogata

108-40 Corona Avenue
Corona, NY

Public Safety Committee Chair Lucy Schilero reported this business has been expanding and does have a lounge. The representative that attended the Public Safety Committee meeting could not answer any questions from the Committee. Therefore a mixed voted occurred, with two abstentions and two no votes.

Questions to the applicant’s representatives were: where would patrons cars park since there is no parking in the vicinity of the establishment. Noise complaints also have been received on this location. Also, there was a major fire where two engine companies had responded--Ladder Companies #136 and #138. The fire was from an electrical problem. Being the establishment is an alteration, the Committee needed to ask more questions.

She had a letter from La Fogata to be read to the Board, adding there are residents from the community who live directly across the street in attendance who wished to be heard on this establishment. A representative from La Fogata was also in attendance.

Public Safety Chair Lucy Schilero read La Fogata’s letter to the Board.

Board Member Judy D’Andrea questioned what is the definition of a lounge as opposed to a bar?

Discussion ensued about the terminology lounge and restaurant.

There was no documentation or photographs of the alteration at the Public Safety Committee. The rep. was also questioned about the fire; however, she could not provide any information. It was also brought up the business would be looking to park cars at the Park.

Being there was two abstentions and two no votes at the Committee level, the vote comes to the Board.

Chairperson Damian Vargas clarified the applicant is not applying for a liquor license since they already have one. The issue is the alteration. Public Safety Chair Schilero inquired what their terms for an alteration are.

Public Safety Chair asked what was the alteration, however, the establishment’s rep. could not provide an answer to questions such as, what work was done? What type of repairs was performed?

Discussion ensued.

Public Safety Committee Chair Lucy Schilero explained the Committee looks at the whole picture. The Committee does not want to hurt a business nor do they want to hurt the neighbors.

Noise and overcrowding, because the establishment is expanding, is an issue said Public Safety Chair Lucy Schilero.

At this point, the representative of the establishment was asked to explain the alteration. She explained a counter was made to display the liquor. No plumbing or electrical work was done. A wood counter was made because there was no display for the liquor, which is on the second floor of the establishment. There is no bar downstairs, only upstairs.

The representative explained the establishment did not have a fire. It was an electrical problem. She was frightened and immediately called the Fire Department who said it was nothing.

Public Safety Chair Schilero the Fire Companies reported they had to break into the roof to let the smoke out, and had photographs on hand where the firefighters went on top of the roof.

Chairperson Damian Vargas asked if there was any structural damage.

The Manager from Asadero La Fogata replied no.

Chairperson Damian Vargas commented two motions are needed--one on the Committee's report for the other applicants and one separately for the Alteration on Asadero La Fogata.

At this point, Board Member Judy D'Andrea made a motion, seconded by Board Member Alexa Ponce, to **accept** the Committee's report on the three denials as presented, not including Asadero La Fogata.

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

A neighbor stated she did not see a problem with the Alteration for La Fogata.

Next, District Manager Cassagnol asked if we have questions, and the Manager of the establishment answered them tonight, is that good enough. Is it because she answered them last minute, or because they were not answered at all, he continued.

All the questions we had tonight, were they answered by the restaurant manager? If they were, we need to vote on it, he said.

Public Safety Chair Schilero responded the manager said there was no damage, but there was damage with the fire.

Chairperson Damian Vargas clarified either a Board Member make a motion to allow the alteration or a Board Member makes a motion to deny the alteration.

Board Member Sandra Munoz made a motion, seconded by Board Member Ingrid Gomez, to **accept** the alteration.

At this point, staff member Christina Long explained why an Alteration needs to come to the Board.

Discussion ensued.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 25 in favor, 0 opposed, with 3 abstentions. Motion passed.

Board Member A. Redd Sevilla commented although it is a simple alteration, it is also recognized there are complaints from the neighborhood.

Those complaints are not germane to the alteration, it will become germane when the establishment applies for its liquor license, said Chairperson Damian Vargas.

District Manager Christian Cassagnol explained the Board keeps a running file on each complaint against each restaurant and when the time comes, it is brought up.

This establishment's license has been active for the last six months.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Consumer Affairs

Although the Committee Chair was not in attendance, District Manager Cassagnol announced the Committee will meet on April 27 at the Queens Center Mall, 7:30 p.m. A representative from the NYC Department of Consumer Affairs will be the guest speaker.

Environmental

Committee Chair not in attendance.

Health

Committee Chair not in attendance.

Parks

Committee Chair not in attendance.

Transportation

Committee Chair not in attendance.

ULURP/Zoning

Committee Chair Alton Derrick Smith reported an application was submitted for HANAC for the senior citizen building on 101 Street. Work hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. but they are asking to work from 8 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

District Manager Cassagnol said as of today there was a change. There was a problem on the site with the ground water; therefore, they are asking for an extension of the work hours instead of operating from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays, they are requesting 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. As of today, HANAC's construction company states the construction is only for two Saturdays, not four Saturdays.

From the Board office, a letter was sent to residents living within a 500' radius, including the Queens wood Apartments, of the site to reach out to the Board office if there are any complaints.

Based on the fact there was no response from the community, the ULURP Committee's response was to **approve** the application.

Board Member Sandra Munoz made a motion, seconded by Board Member Judy D'Andrea, to **approve** the HANAC project construction permit extension.

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

Next, ULURP Committee Chair Alton Derrick Smith reported on Queens Community Board 4 and the Municipal Arts Society event “Creative Placemaking & Cultural Planning in Queens Community Board 4” scheduled for Saturday, April 29, from 10 am – 3 pm, at Italian Charities of America, 83-20 Queens Boulevard, Elmhurst, NY.

The ULURP/Zoning Committee had reached out for resources and contacted the Municipal Arts Society that has been in existence for 120 years, which offered a competitive opportunity. Applications were sent to all Community Boards and non-profit organizations. Through the competitive process, Community Board 4 won the program.

Two workshops were granted to learn about the land use review process. Workshop dates are April 29 and May 20. Volunteers and support are needed. He thanked the ULURP Committee for their hard work.

Youth

Committee Chair Cristian Romero reported the two tentative dates for the upcoming Youth Fair are September 30 or October 7. Although the event was planned for the summer, it was determined outreach would be more difficult because schools are closed.

The Youth Fair would be held in the same street (Hoffman Drive) it was last year.

At this point, Youth Chair Cristian Romero reported Priscilla Walton had addressed the Youth Committee about opening a charter school in the neighborhood.

She is a resident of District 30, grew up in Elmhurst, and attended church nearby. For the last few years, she has been an educator.

Ms. Walton is the proposed principal of ELM Charter School in Elmhurst. It is a K – 5 elementary school, proposing to open in District 24, specifically, Elmhurst. She provided the Board with her family background and how the idea of a charter school in Elmhurst evolved.

- Vision: To see every child in Elmhurst discover their passions, talents, and power to enrich their community.
- Mission: To challenge our students in cultivating their identities and engaging with the world through integrated discovery learning and rigorous inquiry based learning.
- Design Principles: All ELM staff and students will discover, integrate, create and advocate.

She said the school is needed in Elmhurst. There are disparities between different student groups, and provided statistics on those disparities.

Our schools are overcrowded she said. Pointing out there is a kindergarten wait list. Kindergartens are looking for more seats. Parents would like to see a dual language program for their child and their specific needs. An arts program is also needed for the specific needs of the child. Then, there are parents asking for schools that are smaller.

After talking to families over the course of the last year, this design was created. The school was created specific for District 24 and specific for Elmhurst. All Elm staff and students will:

- Discover – Diverse courses; Research based learning; Problem-based learning
- Integrate – Interdisciplinary Studies, Topic based learning, Arts-integration, Authentic literature
- Create – Student initiated projects; Excellent student products; Portfolios
- Advocate – Service-learning; Place-based learning

She stated the Community Board has a historical perspective and any thoughts and concerns the Board has is very valuable to Ms. Walton and her team. After talking with elected officials and community associations some of their feedback has already been implemented to their proposal.

The proposal is now in the application phase. The Board's partnership would be valued as Community Board members.

Youth Committee Chair Cristian Romero stated the Committee's recommendation was to support the Charter School.

At this point, Ms. Walton took questions from the Board Members.

Board Member Georgina Oliver asked where the school would be located.

Ms. Walton responded since the greatest need is in Elmhurst and Corona and applying through SUNY in District 24. Recruiting, enrollment, and where to find the facilities and location is in Elmhurst and Corona. Part of the application process was to put out possibilities, hoping to open in 2018, those properties will be gone. Talking to public schools to acquire space, where space is overcrowded, they also had talked to private facilities. The space also was long gone. Working with an organization called Civic Builders, who helps to find space that can be renovated, at the present time; there is not a definite location, only possibilities. By the time, it is time to open, those possibilities will disappear, she stated. It is an ongoing process.

Board Member Judy D'Andrea brought up one of the issues about charter schools is sharing space with public schools, which is an important issue because District 24 is overcrowded. The faster schools are built, the faster they become overcrowded. To give up public school space to a charter school in this district, is almost criminal. The students in our community need to go to community schools. Our schools should service the students in our community.

Also, the vision of the Elm Charter School is incorporated with the Common Core, which New York City public schools had been implementing before any other city within New York State. New York City and the NYC public schools were in the vanguard of introducing the Common Core. As an early childhood educator, all these ideas talked about bringing children's artistic ability, scientific ability, thinking and personal skills is all part of the Common Core, and is being implemented within the NYC public schools. Children in New York City public schools get this education.

Board Member Rovenia McGowan said in her school there were approximately 1200 students, only on one floor. She asked, is there a unit in the charter school for special ed. Children?

Ms. Walton responded yes, there is a program specifically for special education students.

What happens with children with disciplinary problems, Board Member McGowan asked.

Ms. Walton explained you are able to write those governance and bylaws policies. There is a tiered system that focuses when a child creates/participates in a situation create tension between them and the community, instead of shunning them away, it does not work to throw them out further. Instead, the community comes together, which means the community needs to be equipped and trained. In the bylaws, there are suspension policies, but their program and tiers is slightly different because there is more intervention before a student is suspended. Also, it is a non-punitive school.

Board Member Jennifer Gutierrez asked about the lottery process and funding.

Ms. Walton said no public space is available, so they must go private. Regarding the lottery, she explained both processes. She noted there are no private dollars.

Next, Board Member A. Redd Sevilla said he became part of Ms. Walton's Board after much discussion and because of some of the tensions he had experienced as well. In many of the buildings that have been constructed along Queens Boulevard, none were schools, which is very frustrating. The enemy is not public school or charter. The enemy is poor education.

To clarify, Chair Damian Vargas said Ms. Walton was asking for a support letter and feedback from the Board.

At this point, Board Member A. Redd Sevilla inquired if he can make a motion on the school since he serves on its Board.

Chair Damian Vargas said he did not see a conflict since Board Member Sevilla disclosed he is a Board Member of the Elm School and did not have a financial interest in the school, but the Chairperson rather Board Member Sevilla did not make the motion. Board Member Sevilla was asked to abstain from the vote. However, it was up to Board Member Sevilla to decide whether or not he wished to vote.

Board Member Ingrid Gomez made a motion, seconded by Board Member Ashley Reed, to write a letter to **support** the Elm Charter School.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 24 in favor, 3 opposed, with 1 abstention. Motion passed.

XI. PUBLIC FORUM

Queens Night Market, represented by John Wang, reported April 22 and April 29 is opening night and will open publicly May 6. Tickets are limited. To date, 1500 tickets have been sold. Tickets sell for \$5, and half the proceeds goes to charities. Tickets are sold only online.

As the Director of the Community Advisory Board for Flushing Meadows-Corona Park, a volunteer day will occur April 22 between 9 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. (cleaning, painting, gardening, and planting) go to Alliance For FM-CP.org. for more information. Meeting at the Unisphere, it is a big cleanup day.

Next, Francisco Moreta, who lives very close to Asadero La Fogata Restaurant located at 108-40 Corona Avenue, said he is worried what the restaurant would do in the future. Initially, the Restaurant said they would close at 12:00 Midnight, but they close at 2:00 – 3:00 a.m. Music plays for hours. First, the Restaurant had asked for a beer license, then for a full liquor license, and now an Alteration. There is no parking at the site of the restaurant. The building is small. He questioned how many patrons the building can hold.

Next, Ana Moreta questioned who went to see the alteration and how can she be issued a permit if there was no inspection. She mentioned the Restaurant took six feet from the sidewalk for a glass structure. Initially, the

business was opened for a restaurant, now it is a bar. She questioned if this is a shelf for bottles, why is it before the Board. Ms. Moreta knows of five families in the vicinity and no one signed in favor of the restaurant. She asked who signed for her. Business owners do not live there; neighbors do. There is no parking in the vicinity. She related an incident where a person with a truck parked in front of the hydrant. People park in places they should not park because of the lack of parking. A tow truck operator was patronizing the bar until 4 a.m., after five hours. Talk to the neighbors when a vote is taken she suggested. As the property owner is very frustrated and thinking of moving.

Come to the Board's Public Safety meetings Board Member Alexa Ponce suggested to Ms. Moreta. The more information that is heard at the Committee level can be brought to the Board before a decision is made. A suggestion was also made to Ms. Moreta to join the Committee.

District Manager Cassagnol said two years ago the business applied for a standard beer and wine license. After a year, the owner applied for a full liquor license. At that time, there were no complaints. All information is kept on file at the office and when the time comes to renew the liquor license the files are reviewed. He urged the Restaurant operators to be a good neighbor.

Next, Mychele Gayle, Recruitment Director, the Department of Corrections, talked about internships and jobs. Uniformed and non-uniform positions are available. Internships are a great way to get involved and get an understanding of what is offered. Exams are coming up as well as current vacancies.

Next, Pio Tsai, Bike New York, reported Bike New York is a five borough bike tour. The organization is a not-profit that conducts free classes. The nearest education center is Flushing Meadows-Corona Park. Learn to Ride, Bicycling Basic, and Street Skills classes are held. Separate classes are held for adults and children. Classes are free and bike helmets are provided. Volunteers are needed to help with the Five Borough Bike Tour. Log on to Bike.nyc for more information. All classes are online.

Next, Yoselin Genao, Neighborhood Housing Services of Queens, reported the agency has been in the community for 23 years and provide tools for community residents to be able to buy, keep, and maintain their homes. Although the office is located in Woodside, the agency coves many residents that are able to save their home or buy their first home. Partnering many times with Community Board 4, she looks forward to continuing the relationship. She spoke about a cleanup event at the Park of the Americas (Linden Park) on May 6. An event for June is also planned. In addition, the Housing Expo. Is scheduled for June 24 at the Queens Museum.

Next, District Manager Christian Cassagnol thanked Board Member Oscar Rios for the Walgreen's bags given out at tonight's meeting.

Before adjourning, Board Member Oscar Rios made a motion, seconded by Board Member Jennifer Gutierrez, to write a letter to the Governor to tax plastic bags.

By a voice vote the Board voted 21 in favor, 7 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

Since there was no further business, Board Member Edgar Moya made a motion, seconded by Board Member Sandra Munoz to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.