



COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, Elmhurst, and Newtown

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Melinda Katz
Borough President

Louis Walker
Chairperson

Melva Miller
Deputy Borough President

Christian Cassagnol
District Manager

COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE: TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2015

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

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

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

II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

III. Executive Secretary Lucy Schilero took the roll call. A quorum was present.

IV. **Vote: Minutes April 14, 2015**

At this point, Chairperson Louis Walker asked for a motion to **accept** the minutes.

Correction: Before the motion was made, Board Member Ann Pfoser Darby said she was marked absent at the April 14 meeting. She had answered the roll call as present, but had to leave earlier because of a home emergency.

Chairperson Walker said the correction will be noted.

Subsequently, Board Member Alirio Orduna made a motion, seconded by Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula, to accept the minutes with the noted correction.

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

V. **REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON**

In lieu of the Chairperson's Report, the floor was turned over to Deputy Inspector Chris Manson, the new Commanding Officer of the 110 Police Precinct.

D. I. Manson gave some information on his work history. Crime is down 6.8% and there are large reductions in burglaries and grand larcenies, and robberies—up somewhat in stolen cars for the year. Felony assaults were up drastically such as domestic violence. He spoke about a homicide which was gang involvement. He cited cases under investigation where a male was assaulted and three men were stabbed in the park.

Last week, 150 arrests were made in the Precinct; 28 days 603 arrests vs. 469 last year at this time. For the year 1,951 arrests were made. During the warm weather radio runs have increased, 311 calls keep the officers busy.

Discussion ensued regarding the homicide on Roosevelt Avenue. Literally, there was a mother walking with a stroller seconds before the shooting happened.

Board Member Georgina Oliver asked if there were any new updates for Lefrak City.

D. I. Manson replied no. There is nothing solid right now. Also, he was not at liberty to divulge information on police investigations.

Next, Clara Salas asked about graffiti arrests.

D. I. Manson responded graffiti arrests are always made, specifically, on Grand Avenue. A Graffiti Operation was conducted on 25 locations. Graffiti is harder to clean because of the harsh winters. Because of the chemicals used, the temperature must be above 45 degrees. Cleanups are being conducted.

When an area is cleaned, plain clothes officers are assigned to monitor the locations for a while. However, the problem is the perps. do not always return right away, and the officer can only be assigned for a short time because he is needed in other areas of the precinct.

At this point, Board Member Al Perna invited all to attend the 110 Precinct Community Council meeting on Thursday, May 14, to speak to the NYPD regarding matters of concern.

Before concluding, D. I. Manson spoke about the closing time at Flushing Meadows-Corona Park. The park should be closed at 9:00 P.M. and a system should be in place to ensure the closing and to prevent cars entering and blasting music--meeting with the Parks Department to have gates installed.

Next, Board Member Patricia Terranova asked about enforcement for the Queens Night Market, which was scheduled to run every Saturday for 16 weeks.

D. I. Manson responded the first night the event was a fiasco. The organizer was supposed to have a specific plan in place, and it wasn't. The organizer was spoken to by NYPD, and for the next two Saturdays, it was much better. Traffic was not an issue. Crowds were a fraction of what they were the first night.

Board Member Judy D'Andrea commented she attended on the second Saturday, it was very pleasant, organized, and the food was delicious. She also mentioned the excellent cleanup. However, on Monday near the handball courts full of garbage.

D. I. Manson added the group had a four week option to continue with more weeks to go, but the NYPD was going to terminate that option. Since the improvements, NYPD is now encouraging the Night Market.

Next, Board Member Marialena Giampino asked about the 110 Precinct's incentives with social media and youth cleanups.

D. I. Hanson responded they are on Twitter, coming up with 4,000 followers. The 110 Precinct does have youths assisting in cleanups such as auxiliary as well as the Explorers Program. Recently, funds were acquired from the elected officials to be used for more painting and cleanups.

Board Member Lucy Schilero commended D. I. Manson for his quick responsiveness while on vacation.

At this point, Chairperson Louis Walker announced there are some Board Members that must attend mandatory orientation on Thursday, May 14, at 5:30 p.m. who have not responded. Those Board Members are:

- Judy D'Andrea
- Alirio Orduna
- Gigi Salvador
- A. Redd Sevilla

Next, Chairperson Walker addressed filling out the Committee request form. Please return it for committee assignment.

Next, Chairperson Walker reported the Borough President had a meeting with the Queens Community Board Chairs and requested they review the By-laws to determine if there is a conflict with the City Charter. The Chair will perform the analysis.

VI. REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

The District Manager met with Assembly Member Francisco Moya and the ULURP/Zoning Committee to discuss the proposal to downzone South Corona. A letter was written by the Assembly Member for the downzoning.

District Manager Cassagnol read the letter in its entirety to the Board. Assembly Member Moya is requesting a letter of support from the Board.

Board Member Judy D'Andrea made a motion, seconded by Board Member Priscilla Carrow, to **approve** the letter written by Assembly Member Moya to downzone South Corona.

Before the vote, Board member Judy D'Andrea noted the ULURP/Zoning Committee supported the proposal.

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

Next, District Manager Cassagnol reported on the various locations for Bioswales installation. Work is anticipated to begin on/about Monday, May 11 (weather conditions permitting). Work locations are:

- Junction Blvd. between 53rd Ave. & 51st Ave.
- 94th St. between 53rd Ave. & 52nd Ave.
- 92nd St. between 54th Ave. & 48th Ave.
- 90th St. between 54th Ave. & 48th Ave.
- 88th St. between St. James Ave. & Dongan Ave.
- 87th St. between Corona Ave. & 51st Ave.
- Broadway between Corona Ave. & 52 Ave.
- 53rd Ave. between Junction Blvd. & 90th St.

Bioswales Installation (cont'd):

- 52nd Ave. between Junction Blvd. & 94th St.
- 51st Ave. between 94th St. and Broadway
- St. James Ave. between Broadway and 88th St.
- Dongan Ave. between Broadway and 88th St.

Next, District Manager Cassagnol reported on a street activity permit scheduled for June 7 at 73 Street between Roosevelt Avenue and 41 Avenue. It does not appear on the agenda because the organizer may or may not have been in the country during the time the Board meeting was held. The event name is the South Asian Mela and had been approved by the Board in the past. A vote is needed on this application tonight.

Before the vote, the District Manager noted as of yet we do not have signatures in the form of petitions. But, the applicant stated he would have the signatures to the Board office by Monday, May 18.

Discussion ensued. For the record, the District Manager noted a problem occurred only when a conflicting event was held at the same time and location. Otherwise, there were no problems when the event was previously held.

At this point, Board Member Alirio Orduna made a motion, seconded by Board Member Sandra Munoz, to **approve** the street activity permit for South Asian Mela.

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

Next, the District Manager noted our Transportation Committee Chair Jos DiMartino was in in the hospital and a get well card was sent to him. Our thoughts are with him.

Lastly, the District Manager reported on the Community Board 4 Meet & Greet party held at the Board office, which is a great opportunity for Board members to mix and mingle. The party will be held again this year. The date has not been selected yet. At a closed session of the June meeting, the caterer will present a menu and provide pricing.

VII. REPORT OF THE LEGISLATORS

Mr. Pesach Osina, representing New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer, reported on the rejection of contracts for homeless shelters. Based on the NYC Department of Investigation's report which was released in March, the Comptroller had revoked the contract for Samaritan Village at the Pan American Hotel. Copies of the press release were on hand.

Board Member Judy D'Andrea asked why was the contract revoked?

Mr. Osina responded the decision was based on health and safety violations.

Next, Michael Mallon representing Council Member Daniel Dromm's office reported Council Member Dromm's office has been working very diligently with DHS, Samaritan Village, and constituents about the problems surrounding Samaritan Village and its residents. He emphasized all want to ensure the needs of the community as well as the needs of the residents of the shelter are being met. Comptroller Stringer was applauded for his action. Since the management had fallen short, the Council Member's office was very dismayed about the trash problem which dated back to the fall. But on a positive note, a trash compactor was purchased and an exterminator had been hired to address the vermin concerns. Corrective action is now in the works.

Mr. Mallon also applauded the Mayor's office for sending an inter-agency task force to address the many problems. This is about the people within the shelter system and the people in the neighborhood to be sure all needs are being met. He noted the City has a legal requirement to house everyone that requires shelter. We will continue to do that ensuring the safety of the residents housed and the neighborhood.

Saturday, May 16, Council Member Dromm is hosting the annual Shredding Event at 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at the Jackson Heights Post Office, 78-02 37th Avenue, Jackson Heights, NY. Bring your old papers and documents!

Next, Elyse Nagiele representing Council Member Francisco Moya's office, reported on the Justice for Job Seekers Bill. There are many predatory employment agencies in the district which are taking advantage of low wage workers and new immigrants. A fee is charged, job seekers are sent to a job that does not exist. The fee is not refunded. Assembly Member Moya is working on legislation to fight this scam.

Next, she reported on legislation Assembly Member Moya is working on to prohibit curbstoning, which is called *The Curbstoning Bill*. Curbstoning is the sale of vehicles by unlicensed vendors parked on the side of the road. This practice takes up more space on the street and causes more congestion.

Also, Assembly Member Moya commends the Comptroller on his action regarding homeless shelters.

Next Louise Emanuel, representing Assembly Member Jeffrion Aubry's office, reported on the Pan Am shelter. The Assembly Member's position is the state has a moral obligation to house those people that need shelter. For that reason, he is not backing down. His stand is that he supports and will continue to support the shelter. As far as the surrounding issues, it is understood. They need to be resolved, and the community needs to work to settle those issues and not to throw out people who have been evicted and are already homeless.

Next, Alexander Bennett, representing Congresswoman Grace Meng, reported on the following:

Congresswoman Meng introduced legislation to assist small businesses that seek to sell their products abroad called the *Increasing Small Business Exports Act*.

With the FAA failing to reduce increased airport noise over Queens, Congresswoman Meng has asked the head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to increase the agency's role in federal efforts to decrease aircraft noise in the borough because the FAA seems to be stalling.

Recently, Congresswoman recently took part in a North Shore-LIJ health event to bring free health services to women in our community in recognition of Women's History Month. The event was held in Flushing, and she remains supportive of all services to women.

Lastly, Congresswoman Meng was selected to serve as the Assistant Whip in the House of Representatives. She was appointed to the position by House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer (D-MD). Congresswoman Meng will assist by advising House Democrats on upcoming legislation.

VIII. PRESENTATIONS

Vanessa LeSure Walker, RPh

The AphTI Project

--Discussion on Medication Safety

Vanessa LeSure Walker reported she is a licensed pharmacist in New York State and Medication Safety Advocate talked about medication safety. Reaching out to several federal organizations, this topic is highly important. There are different aspects of medication safety. Since the pharmacist is the drug expert, you can ask questions and the pharmacist will have a response for you. Statistics indicate that in the prescriber's office the time allotted is 8 to 10 minutes to examine you, ascertain your issue and diagnose the right treatment for you. More and more, the onus is on the patient to ask the right questions.

Ms. LeSure speaks about Medication Safety at length because she feels the topic is vital for all. For children, the parents need to be educated, senior citizens as well as caregivers all need to be advised. Flyers were on hand.

Next, Move NY, not a scheduled agenda item, presented its plan. Jess Nizar explained the Rider's Alliance works on improving public transportation across the city and is part of the coalition working citywide to improve public transportation, as well as public infrastructure.

Subsequently, The Move NY Fair Plan was presented. This plan will raise \$1.5 billion in net revenue annually, even after covering the costs of lost toll revenues on existing tolled crossings and installing and administering the new tolling system. A quarter of those funds will be used to improve roads and bridges with the remaining three-quarters dedicated to transit. There will be far-reaching benefits to drivers, riders, cyclists, and pedestrian alike, as well as to the region and economy as a whole.

The problem is our roads are clogged with traffic and are ridden with potholes. Mass transit is outdated, trains and buses are overcrowded, and transit options are scarce in certain parts of the city. Tolls and fares are skyrocketing.

The Move NY Fair Plan charges more where there's more traffic and better transit options, and lowers tolls on all other MTA bridges; crossing into and out of Manhattan's Central Business District, whether on a bridge or at 60th Street, will be tolled at the same rate as the Queens Midtown Tunnel and the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel.

Lower tolls and charges during off-peak hours. Surcharge collected south of 96th Street. Tolls will be reduced. Bond covenants will ensure the revenues are fully reinvested in our transportation system.

The Move NY Fair Plan would be authorized by enabling legislation enacted by the NYS Legislature as part of the 2015-2015 State budget. If enacted, it would fill the projected \$15.2 billion dollar funding gap in the MTA's 2015-2019 Capital Plan—as well as the City's road and bridge program—but only if it is combined with existing MTA sources such as gas and sales taxes, car registration fees, license surcharges and the payroll mobility tax. There is a \$14 billion shortfall, meaning the Governor and the Legislature need to find funds before the legislative term ending in June. The MTA must find the money, which is why there are fare increases. Public funding is essential benefiting everyone and sustaining drivers and riders.

Ms. Nizar turned the floor over to her colleague, Jonathan Matz, who with the aid of a slide presentation explained the proposal further.

Mr. Matz explained the goals of the plan which included generating the revenue stream to make those investments in our transportation system. Transportation infrastructure has been key to New York's growth as a city in allowing us to occupy the five boroughs as we do today. However, that system is grinding to a halt with dilapidated infrastructure, uncomfortable stations, overcrowded trains etc. All the while it has been getting more expensive with tolls on bridges operated by the MTA. By 2030, tolls could reach as high as \$50.00.

Move NY's mission is to build support for a master transportation plan-developed by "Gridlock": Sam Schwartz and the Move NY team for the New York metropolitan region. The first part of the plan was road improvements.

The Move NY Fair Plan slide presentation included the following:

- New Rates
- Taxis & Car Services
- The Better Line For Commuters
- Revenue Sources
- Revenue Uses (General)
- Good For The Economy
- Protecting The Economy
- What Are The Alternatives?

Log on to iheartmove.ny.org for more information. Also, handouts were given out explaining the proposal.

At this point, Chairperson Louis Walker asked who you represent.

Mr. Matz responded Move NY is a non-profit organization supported by the philanthropic communities such as the Rockefeller and Ford Foundations, New York Community Trust etc.

Chairperson Walker pointed out one of the things not mentioned is what about the MTA running more efficiently than they currently do?

Mr. Matz responded he does not work for the MTA. Move NY fully supports more transparency for the MTA and efficiency within the agency. Nevertheless, the MTA is a severely underfunded agency, even if its efficiency was increased by 1000%.

Lastly, how do you propose to put tolls on the bridges mentioned, asked Chairperson Walker. There is no room to collect the tolls. Will you have cameras to capture license plate photos? Isn't that going to require an agency to be formed? Who will look at the photos, get the names and address of those individuals cars and bill them? This is another agency being created that has costs.

Mr. Matz replied there will be no toll booths. It will be complete electronic such as E-ZPass. It is already being done in the City of New York on the Henry Hudson Bridge. Infrastructure is already there to do this. Actually, it already exists nationwide as well.

The Mayor and Governor have not endorsed the plan, but said they are very open to it, said Mr. Matz. Right now, the plan is at the community and legislator level.

Discussion ensued.

Why can't the arms be eliminated and do it electronically asked Board Member Judy D'Andrea?

Mr. Matz was unclear about why it had not been done.

More questions ensued by the Board Members.

IX. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

VOTE: SLA Applications

Committee Chair Lucy Schilero reported on the following liquor license applications

NYS LIQUOR AUTHORITY LICENSES

May 2015

NEW APPLICANTS

<u>Establishment's Name</u>	<u>Establishment's Address</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
Q4 Lounge Corp. Liquor, Wine and Beer No show, no paperwork submitted	40-06 Junction Blvd. Corona, NY	Denied
Jose El Patron Corp. Wine and Beer Only	53-09 106 th Street Corona, NY	Approved
Skyline Corp. <i>Los Tres Potrillos</i> Liquor, Wine and Beer No show, no paperwork submitted	40-20 Junction Blvd. Corona, NY	Denied
Blue Water Restaurant Corp. Liquor, Wine and Beer	102-14 Roosevelt Avenue Corona, NY	Approved
Asadero La Fogata Corp. Wine and Beer Only	108-40 Corona Avenue Corona, NY	Approved

RENEWAL APPLICANTS

<u>Establishment's Name</u>	<u>Establishment's Address</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
Midang Corp. Wine and Beer Only No show, no paperwork submitted.	75-14 Broadway Elmhurst, NY	Denied
Mexporty International Corp. Wine and Beer Only Numerous criminal complaints for assault from 3/26/13-11/13/14, most resulting in arrests, 1 criminal complaint for criminal mischief on 4/15/15.	96-14 Roosevelt Avenue Corona, NY	Denied

RENEWAL APPLICANTS (cont'd)

<u>Establishment's Name</u>	<u>Establishment's Address</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
LGL Internet Access Inc. Wine and Beer Only	83-02 Broadway, 1 st Fl. Elmhurst, NY	Approved
La Morenita Ecuatoriana Restaurant Corp. Wine and Beer Only	109-06 Corona Avenue Corona, NY	Approved
Taiwanese Gourmet Corp. Wine and Beer Only	84-02 Broadway Elmhurst, NY	Approved
El Gauchito II Corp. Wine and Beer Only	94-60 Corona Avenue Elmhurst, NY	Approved

ALTERATION

<u>Establishment's Name</u>	<u>Establishment's Address</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
7951 Albion LLC <i>Club Vitro</i> Liquor, Wine and Beer	79-51 Albion Avenue Elmhurst, NY	Denied

Representative contacted the office to say that they were not ready to proceed at this time, and would be reapplying for next month.

Board Member Sandra Munoz made a motion, seconded by Board Member Lester Youngblood, to **approve** the Committee's report as presented.

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

Before the next agenda item was given, the report on the Sidewalk Café renewal, Chairperson Louis Walker announced Board Member Erica Cruz is the new Consumer Affairs Committee Chair.

X. REPORT AND VOTE: CONSUMER AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Sidewalk Café (Renewal) – Sabor Latino, 95-35 40th Road

Committee Chair Erica Cruz reported an on-site inspection was done and everything looked fine. However, a few days later the structure was gone. Although the café's representatives were invited to attend the Consumer Affairs Committee meeting, they did not appear. There has been no contact.

Subsequently, Board Member Priscilla Carrow made a motion, seconded by Board Member Pat Terranova to **deny** the sidewalk café application for Sabor Latino.

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

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Environmental

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS (cont'd)

Health

Committee Chair Sal Lombardo thanked the guest speaker Vanessa LeSure Walker on behalf of the Health Committee for her report.

Parks

Committee Chair Al Perna reported a meeting of the Committee was held a few weeks and the plans for Louis Simeone Park were approved. Join us on Sunday, June 7, from 1:00-5:30 p.m. for a free festival to celebrate the World's Fair Anniversary. Many activities are planned.

Youth

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

Postal

No Report. To be discussed at a later date.

ULURP/ZONING

No Report. No items to meet on.

Transportation

Since Committee Chair Joe DiMartino was not in attendance, District Manager Cassagnol reported a meeting had been scheduled to discuss the 111 Street construction plans. However, the meeting was cancelled because Committee Chair DiMartino was in the hospital. Another meeting is planned for the first week of June.

XII. PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. John Wang, organizer of the Queens International Night Market, reported the event is entering its fourth week. They have been working very hard to improve the event since the first week, which did not go very well. The District Manager added there was a notably marked improvement since the event started the first week.

Board Member Al Perna provided more information on the safety and cleanup at this event.

Before the meeting adjourned, Board Member Alirio Orduna gave an update on the New York Military Youth Cadets.

There being no further business, Board Member Judy D'Andrea made a motion, seconded by Board Member Edgar Moya, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.