



## COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, Elmhurst, and Newtown

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**Melinda Katz**  
Borough President

**Louis Walker**  
Chairperson

**Leroy Comrie**  
Deputy Borough President

**Christian Cassagnol**  
District Manager

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May 13, 2014

### COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE: TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2014

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

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

I. First Vice Chairperson Al Perna opened the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

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

#### IV. **Vote: Minutes of April 8 Meeting**

Board Member Alirio Orduna made a motion, seconded by Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula, to **accept** the minutes of the April 8 meeting.

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

(Correction: At the April 8 Public Hearing, Board Member John C. Peters, Jr. was marked absent when, in fact, he was present. The minutes of April 8, 2014 were approved as corrected.)

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

Since First Vice Chairperson Al Perna had nothing to report, the floor was turned over to D. I. Ronald Leyson Commanding Officer of the 110 Precinct.

D. I. Leyson gave the following crime statistics:

3% reduction for the 28-day period; for the year 6 ½% reductions. A reduction was given for every category for the year with the exception of burglaries—35% increase, which was from earlier in the year now trending downward. For the 28 day period, a 27% decrease in burglaries. He commended the men and women of the 110 Precinct who are working very hard.

Currently, the only increase shown is for felony assaults connected in part with licensed premises. Talking about new and renewal of liquor licenses for local establishments, the Precinct works with the Community Board, the State Liquor Authority, and the Civil Enforcement Unit (within the Police Department) to keep those establishments in check. He mentioned Club Glazz where the ownership had changed hands. He had met several times with the new owner who is experienced in the industry and has worked in other areas in Manhattan and also sits on her local Community Board. Positive results are expected with Club Glazz where there were problems in the past.

Currently, there are some issues with the bars along Roosevelt Avenue and he spoke about Operation Impact and the midnight conditions on Roosevelt Avenue. There has been a slight uptick in gang violence in the neighborhood, which had been addressed. Several arrests were made. Working closely with the gang division of the organized control crime bureau within the Police Department who are very familiar with the area and its players, they can bring back help to the 110 Precinct.

The men and women in the 110 Precinct are doing a phenomenal job. Six new officers were received with the release of the last impact class. More officers will be placed on patrol and to answer 911 calls to help the community.

Deputy Inspector Leyson reminded all not to leave your windows open when you are not home. Do not become burglary victims, he cautioned.

He added the Police Department will do a free of charge crime prevention survey of your home/business. If you live in an apartment building the 110 Precinct will work with the management company not only for your apartment but also of the entire premises.

If you need assistance, call the Community Affairs Unit of the 110 Precinct, P. O. Dave Saponari or P. O. Jeanine Rivera, at 718-476-9310. Leave a message on the answer machine if no one is available. Or call Crime Prevention Officer P. O. Wen at 718-476-9327 to schedule the Crime Prevention Survey.

Next, D. I. Leyson spoke about the possibility at next month's Board meeting to set up a register to record your phones etc.

Next, he spoke about the problem of ATM skimmers. Details were explained with safety precautions you can use. Identity theft is a very difficult crime to combat.

Subsequently, he reported on the MoneyPak and Friend In Need Scam. Details were given on both scams.

He cited victims have lost from hundreds of dollars to over \$30,000 in those scams. Con artists are very good at what they do and play off of what you say. Be careful. If you do not know who the caller is, hang up. If it is an unsolicited phone call, you do not have to talk to them. Do not give out any information over the phone ever. While you are on the internet, make sure on any transactions you are on a secure site. When the address is typed in, be sure **https**. comes up for the site. If it does not say https, the site is not secure. Also, some sites use a lock icon to indicate the site is secure. The s in https. means it is a secure site. Http. can be used to surf the web, but not to enter your personal information.

Next, he reported on ATM skimmers. Always cover the PIN pad he advised.

Next, he spoke about the Cinco De Mayo Festival at Flushing Meadows-Corona Park on May 4. It was very successful. No crimes were reported, and it was well policed.

This weekend the World Fair celebration will be held. He said this major event may be more problematic traffic wise.

He equated it to the Maker's Faire traffic-wise. This festival along with the other cultural affairs is locals who walk into the park or take the train. 50,000 people are expected to visit the Park this weekend beside the normal Sunday park-goers. The festival is open from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. He named the events scheduled for the weekend. A traffic plan is in place, which he is awaiting approval on. Parking will be free inside the Park for all participants. A free shuttle bus will also be available.

Next, he presented the statistics for crime inside Flushing Meadows-Corona Park. Year to date crime is down 28% in all crime, 57 crimes vs. 79 crimes last year. Down 13% in the seven major crimes. Those stats. do not include the figure from the Electric Daisy Concert held last year, which was an upward of 20 felony crimes.

Subsequently, Board Member Judy D'Andrea asked what the seven major crimes are.

D. I. Leyson responded:

- Murder
- Rape
- Robbery
- Felony assault
- Burglary
- Grand Larceny
- Grand Larceny Auto

At this point, Board Member D'Andrea asked about robberies in the Park.

D. I. Leyson answered 0 robberies in the Park in 2014 vs. 1 robbery last year.

Following Board Member D'Andrea asked about Felony Assault.

D. I. Leyson responded 2 vs. 1. One of those two is on a police officer at Citifield. Inside the Park it is 1 vs. 1.

Subsequently, Board Member D'Andrea asked about reported rapes.

D. I. Leyson replied 0 this year 0 last year.

At this point Board Member Rovenia McGowan asked about the traffic on the Horace Harding Expressway and Junction Blvd. Since the traffic causes congestion and disruptions can an officer be assigned to that location.

D. I. Leyson replied he would not be able to place a police officer there to direct traffic or even to get a traffic agent there. If there was a special event in the area, additional resources would be brought it. Or if there was a high rate of accidents, it might contribute to the decision of additional resources at that location. The entire Police Department is down manpower due to retirement and attrition.

At this point, First Vice Chair Al Perna said on May 19 the 110 Precinct Council will be meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the VFW #150. D. I. Leyson will be available to answer all your questions.

Before concluding, he introduced a partner from the NYPD/School Safety Division who reported she oversees this area as far as the schools and crimes are affected. CO Suzanne Catoggio provided details on the scope of her duties and responsibilities.

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

District Manager Christian Cassagnol announced he would not be reporting at this time, but after the Public Forum segment, he is requesting a Closed Session with the Board Members only.

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

Mr. Michael Mallon, representing Council Member Daniel Dromm's office, reported Council Member Dromm held a hearing on charter school accountability. Accountability is very important to the Council Member emphasizing all schools should be held to the same high standard. There have been major concerns about how some charter schools have been operating with the system as a whole. This hearing focused on shedding light on charter schools that were located within regular DOE schools being held to the same standards. More details were provided.

He spoke about graffiti problems, especially near the LIRR overpass. Working with the 110 Precinct and COMET who were very diligent in reporting exact locations, the cleanup was a success. Council Member Dromm funded the graffiti removal project in conjunction with COMET and the 110 Precinct that went around the LIRR overpass. The Council Member paid for the material and the job was done quickly. Thanks were given to both for partnering with the Council Member's office.

Board Member Judy D'Andrea pointed out Eva Moskowitz, head of the city's largest charter school network, was not present at the City Council hearing. The Council can require DOE officials to testify but has no such power over charter schools, which are run by private non-profits that receive public money.

Mr. Mallon agreed charter schools receive public dollars from the state. Another contention about Charter schools is that the Comptroller cannot examine their books. Public officials should be able to look at charter school books, which is the position of education officials.

Next, Louise Emanuel presented an update on universal and full day pre-K. Meetings were held to give elected officials an overview on how the universal pre-K was progressing. Notices were sent out in nine different languages asking parents to enroll their children in schools. As representatives, she was asked to hand out the notices at subways, but she did not because District 24 and District 30 are the most overcrowded—no room.

Asking the Chancellor since we are the most overcrowded and we have no room what would happen with our children, the reply was they would be placed wherever they could. Unfortunately, on the northern end of the district, there is no room. There are a few slots in Middle Village. The question arose would the children be able to go to another district where there is room. The answer was yes, but there would be slim pickings because those children living in the new zone would be given priority.

Another meeting was held to discuss expansion. Booklets and applications were handed out and asked the parents to go to the Borough offices and a directory was given. Since we will be considered in the schools the other option was a community based organization. The listing was not ready yet, and won't be until May. Community based organizations are not up to par yet, that is why this is phased into two years. Maybe, by the second year they may be phased in.

Since they may take into consideration the home community based organizations, but most of the parents in the group homes do not have the degrees necessary in order to house the children. As it currently stands, not many children from our community will be attending pre-K in 2014.

However, if they are eligible, the criteria is there will be 18-20 children in a classroom, attend five days and 180 days for the school year.

Following this report, she spoke about the new school set to open in September. P.S. 315 is located at 96-18 43 Avenue and will serve students from kindergarten to fifth grade and house 1100 students.

A new map with the new school borders was given out, a new zone created. Children in the rezoned area must attend PS 315. The new zone will impact PS 16 and PS 19.

Some of the parents were asking if they could stay at their present schools, and 1100 seats are not enough to reduce overcrowding.

The parents had asked if they have one child attending one school can they bring them to the new school. The criteria are any child beginning school 2014/15 beginning kindergarten would be zoned for P.S. 315. Addresses are now in focus. Children are coming from College Point; some from Long Island City. Utilization at PS 19 does not include those children in the portables and their numbers citywide.

More details were presented.

Board Member Judy D'Andrea asked how will the school open with what grades.

Ms. Emanuel responded kindergarten to third as part of a step process. Slowly, the other grades will be phased in. Staffing is another problem she reported.

Next, Joel Trinidad Santos, representing Council Member Julissa Ferreras office, reported on the following:

Manuel de Dios Triangle, located at 83rd Street & Roosevelt Avenue, May 1-30. See flyer for the many events scheduled.

Next, Mr. Trinidad Santos outlined some of the service provided at the Council Member's office. To name a few:

Free HRA Screenings (SNAP)

Free Legal consultations for Domestic Violence and Family Court issues

Free screenings for the NYC Healthcare market place with qualified navigators

See flyer with additional information.

Next, Mr. Alex Rodriguez, representing Senator Jose Peralta, invited all to a Vision Zero Pedestrian Safety Workshop Two meetings is scheduled:

Wednesday, May 21

Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Bohemian Hall

29-19 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Astoria Boulevard

Thursday, May 29

Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Jamaica Performing Arts Center

153-10 Jamaica Avenue

See Flyer for more details.

Additionally, he invited all to a forum, Caregiving: A Labor of Love. A distinguished panel will share their expertise on issues that are relevant to caregivers and their families, on Saturday, May 17, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Elmhurst Hospital, 79-01 Broadway, Elmhurst, NY.

Next, Ari Espinal, representing Assembly Member Francisco Moya’s office, reported a quality Town Hall meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 22, with Congresswoman Grace Meng. The short notice is due to the fact the date had to be planned around the Congresswoman’s schedule. The Town Hall will be held at Elmhurst Hospital, Auditorium, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Flyers/e-mails will be sent out, and she urged all to attend.

On behalf of Chairperson Louis Walker, District Manager Cassagnol announced Roseann Geiger had recently resigned as a Board Member. However, she had chosen to stay on her committee and still remain active with the Board.

Because she was a member of the Executive Committee as an At-Large Director her slot will need to be filled. A Nominations Committee will be formed at the June CB Meeting and can meet before the Board recesses for the summer. Report and Vote to be presented at the September 2014 CB meeting.

Next, Fernando Fernandez, representing Public Advocate Letitia James, said the Public Advocate is a fighter and involved with many issues. A report was on the back table. Mr. Fernandez will be reporting at future Board meetings. One of the main services of the Public Advocate’s office is Constituent Services.

He explained the Public Advocate is the watchdog agency for city agencies. Their job is to ensure city agencies are carrying out their duties. Call the Public Advocate’s office at 212-669-7250 for assistance, or Mr. Fernandez directly at 212-669-5371.

**VIII. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Vote: SLA Applications

Public Safety Committee Chair Lucy Schilero reported the Committee met on May 6 to discuss the following liquor license applications:

**NYS LIQUOR AUTHORITY LICENSES  
MAY 2014  
NEW APPLICANTS**

<b><u>Establishment’s Name</u></b>	<b><u>Establishment’s Address</u></b>	<b><u>Recommendation</u></b>
12 Corazones Rest. Bar Corp. Liquor, Wine and Beer	86-22 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Approved
Taqueria Juarez Restaurant Inc. Wine and Beer Only	91-09 43 Avenue Elmhurst, NY	Approved
Twins Billiards Coffee Corp. Wine and Beer Only C of O was not submitted.	108-45 Corona Avenue Corona, NY	Denied
7951 Albion LLC Liquor, Wine and Beer	79-51 Albion Avenue Elmhurst, NY	Pending

*The Public Safety Committee has been working with this group for almost a year. They have a new partner and did not realize a C of O was needed. Also, their contracts needed to be notarized. A letter was sent the following day by this applicant informing the Committee they hired an architect and needed a couple of more weeks to obtain the C of O. A denial was given by the Committee, with the exception if they get it in within the*

next week or two, everything will be rescinded. The documents will be reviewed and a vote taken without them having to come back.

### NEW APPLICANTS (cont'd)

<u>Establishment's Name</u>	<u>Establishment's Address</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
Rung Chareon Sub Inc. "8 Paet Rio" Liquor, Wine and Beer	81-10 Broadway Elmhurst, NY	Rescinded

### RENEWAL APPLICANTS

<u>Establishment's Name</u>	<u>Establishment's Address</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
The Little Chinantla Rest. Corp. Beer Only	96-06 43 Avenue Corona, NY	Approved
Nuevo Tacos Al Suadero, Inc. Beer Only	97-22 Roosevelt Avenue Corona, NY	Approved
Winners Bar Inc. Liquor, Wine and Beer Numerous complaints	82-67 Broadway Elmhurst, NY	Denied
Diskal Inc. "Georgia Diner" Liquor, Wine and Beer	86-55 Queens Blvd. Elmhurst, NY	Approved

At this point, Committee Chair Lucy Schilero noted the application for 79-51 Albion Avenue. The Committee has received opposing petitions from residents from that whole area. Feedback is applicants are looking to open gentlemen's bars. Residents do not want any more night clubs. We are saturated by liquor license requests. By law, if all documents are intact, they have a right to open. She wants to raise awareness about excessive drinking and is concerned so many drinking establishments are located within the confines of our Board.

Committee Chair Lucy Schilero emphasized more strength is needed by legislators as well as the laws strengthened to get back residential quality of life. She would like to see more enforcement. The biggest problem is enforcement.

Board Member Judy D'Andrea made a motion, seconded by Board Member Georgina Oliver, to **accept** the Committee's report as presented.

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

Board Member A. Redd Sevilla agreed a letter needs to be drawn up regarding the proliferation of nightclubs and bars.

Public Safety Chair Lucy Schilero noted Community Boards 3 and 4 were the most congested in night clubs and bars, and liquor licenses. A moratorium on SLA licenses is needed.

She pointed out many times the Public Safety Committee does not adjourn until 11:00 p.m. after reviewing the liquor license applications. When there is a substantial number in a month, it is a lot of work.

Additionally, she added the SLA 500' rule should be extended to much longer. She said what are they using as a 500 foot rule. For example, she found distances less than what is required.

Discussion ensued.

Public Safety Chair Lucy Schilero would like to see input from other Community Boards on this issue recommending a letter be sent to other CB's to see if they are having the same problems.

More discussion ensued about the 200' rule and the 500' rule. As a result, more needs to be done and more action taken.

At this point, Board Member A. Redd Sevilla made a motion, seconded by Board Member Giancarlo Castano, to draft a letter to other Community Boards to obtain feedback on this issue.

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

At this point, District Manager Cassagnol provided an explanation about how other Community Boards handle the liquor license applications.

## **IX. VOTE: STREET ACTIVITY PERMITS**

District Manager Christian Cassagnol reporting:

1. May 25, 2014 Sheba's Multicultural Event 73<sup>rd</sup> Street between Roosevelt and 41 Avenue

The first applicant decided not to proceed with the event. It was too much work for her and had lost interest.

Next, District Manager Cassagnol discussed:

3. June 14, 2014 South Asian Mela 73<sup>rd</sup> Street between Roosevelt and 41 Avenue

This group submitted a substantial number of signatures in favor of the event. However, at last month's Community Board meeting a discussion ensued about fake signatures on an opposing petition. This entire petition had to be dismissed because there was no way of telling which signatures were authentic.

He said a few fake signatures are grounds for rendering the entire petition invalid.

If anyone on the floor makes a motion, it would be to either approve or deny this application, said District Manager Cassagnol.

Board Member John Peters made a motion, seconded by Board Member Clara Salas, to **approve** the event.

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

2. June 14, 2014 Christian Fair 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue between Corona Avenue and 90<sup>th</sup> Street

District Manager Cassagnol gave the exact location for this event. A spokesperson for the event said she did get signatures for the event and further reported there are only two houses involved; for the second house the owner lives there. However, the owner of this house owns a business, and needs access to the street to come in/out with his van.

Residents on the block do approve the street closure.

Based on this fact, District Manager Cassagnol stated he would like to see the approval for a ¾ street closure to allow the business owner access.

At this point, Board Members asked questions, and discussion ensued.

Board Member Judy D'Andrea made a motion, seconded by Board Member John Peters, to **approve** the event. By a voice vote, the Board voted 36 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

Following this vote, the full Board cast its vote on Sheba's Multicultural Event, scheduled for May 25, 2014, at 73<sup>rd</sup> Street between Roosevelt and 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue.

Board Member Lucy Schilero made a motion, seconded by Board Member Jennifer Chu, to **deny** this event. By a voice vote, the Board voted 36 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion to deny passed.

## X. PRESENTATION

### **Giovanni A. Mata-Emblem Health**

#### ***Community Relations Event Planner***

#### **--Health and Wellness**

#### **--Products and Services**

#### **--Community Events and Community Partnerships**

Mr. Mata reported on community events the organization has provided as well as Health and Wellness programs. To provide more information on EmblemHealth benefits, he turned the floor over to his colleague, Ms. Tamar Ogburn, Community Relations Event Planner, who reported on health and wellness initiatives.

Legacy companies are Group Health Incorporated (GHI) and the Health Insurance Plan of Greater New York (HIP). From the many programs at EmblemHealth, she first spoke about the Caregiving Program. At EmblemHealth, resources are available to help caregivers. A free booklet entitled, Care For The Family Caregiver: A Place To Start can help ease the family caregiving experience.

EmblemHealth offers online tools, discounts and programs that make it easy to manage your health.

Next, EmblemHealth offers Education outreach. Representatives visit churches, school boards, community events and speak about diabetes or heart disease. Classes offered are diverse. What is true about heart disease as well as Vegetarian classes to name a few of the educational classes offered to the community.

#### EmblemHealth Neighborhood Care.

Neighborhood Care are free classes offered on aerobics, fitness, Zumba, health and wellness at three neighborhood locations: south Queens (Cambria Heights), Harlem, and Chinatown.

A program called Small Steps To Healthy Living is offered with the Queens Community House. Partnering with Queens Community House at the Renaissance School in Jackson Heights, low impact exercise is offered. She gave information on how the community can partner with the Small Steps Program. Go on line to [www.emblemhealthlivehealthy.com](http://www.emblemhealthlivehealthy.com) to register. The Small Steps program helps you manage with small steps one day at a time. Overwhelmed by the process of the day, it educates you on living healthy through demonstrations, health and wellness seminars, and free fitness classes. Classes are offered at various locations.

The EmblemHealth Experience: Is a truck out in the community to help you make pledges such as drink more water, healthy living etc. Stop by the truck make a pledge, take a photo, and receive that photo back with your commitment.

EmblemHealth also sells insurance. In addition to selling insurance, the company provides information because knowledge is power. She spoke about the Affordable Act Care. The law requires most Americans to have health insurance starting in 2014 or pay a penalty. Informational seminars are held by Emblem Health on the

Affordable Care Act. Seminars include seniors. Information is brought to the senior centers as well as given to small businesses.

Ms. Ogburn would be happy to collaborate with the Community Board on community initiatives. Please contact her or Mr. Mata.

Before concluding she mentioned the Spring Fair at the Rock Church on Saturday, May 17. All were urged to attend.

## **XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### ***Environmental***

Committee Chair Giancarlo Castano reported the Committee met April 30 discussing the best way to create structure on the Green Team. Also, the Committee decided to meet on the third Wednesday of the month. Additionally, discussed was the Green Team Clean up at William F. Moore Park on May 31.

Board Member Lucy Schilero, on behalf of residents, complimented the Green Team on the Park cleanup in Elmhurst.

Speaking about the last Park cleanup, Board Member A. Redd Sevilla added he was proud to be part of the Community Board for sponsoring this event. It cannot be overstated what was done in the Park. Anyone can complain about the neighborhood, but it takes a lot to do something about it. The committees partnered together to improve our neighborhood. Celebrate the Green Team!

### ***Health***

Committee Chair Clara Salas reported the Committee met on April 29, 2014 was attended by the District Manager Christian Cassagnol and CB4 Health Committee Chair Clara Salas. None of the members, or the speaker attended.

World No Tobacco Day: May 31, 2014

The World Health Organization established an annual World No Tobacco Day, to aim to protect the shattering health consequences due to smoking, including the social, environmental and economic burdens of tobacco. This year WHO's 2014 campaign has specific goals which include pushing governments to increase taxes on tobacco and for individuals and civic-society organizations to encourage their governments to increase taxes on tobacco to levels that reduce consumption.

Elmhurst Hospital Center will hold the following events:

- "A Healthy Taste of Queens"-Wednesday, June 11, 2014
- Healthy Living for Women- Wednesday, May 21, 2014

For information, call 718-334-2500.

### ***Youth***

Committee Chair Lucy Cerezo-Scully reported a Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 20. She also reported on District 24's Town Hall Meeting with Chancellor Carmen Farina, on May 27, 2014 at PS/IS 128, 69-10 65<sup>th</sup> Drive, Middle Village, NY. Flyers were available. As the Town Hall meeting is being held in Middle Village, parents would like to have a Town Hall meeting for our area. A petition is being sent to

the Chancellor to get someone to address concerns in our area. District 24 is the most overcrowded in the city-- 1400 seats are missing in this district. If you would like to sign the petition to Chancellor Farina and the School Construction Authority, see Committee Chair Lucy Cerezo-Scully. The upcoming Town Hall meeting is very important. If you have children in the public school system in District 24, please attend. The Community Education Council does allow people on the Council. They do have two seats for IS 49.

### ***Consumer Affairs***

Consumer Affairs Chair Pat Martin reported a meeting was held on May 1. The Committee is in the process of planning an open community meeting. The tentative date is June 19—to be confirmed. Several city agencies will be invited as guest speakers. Also, a meeting on May 22 will be held with the 82 Street Partnership at St. Paul's Church at 7:00 p.m.

### ***ULURP/Zoning***

Committee Chair Miriam Levenson reported no meeting was held.

### ***Postal***

Committee Chair Gigi Salvador reported a meeting will be held when the committee's membership is finalized.

### ***Parks***

Committee Chair Al Perna reported the Green Team's event was great. All had a great time and everyone had something to do inside the Park. We all made a big difference that day. Debris that had accumulated for months was picked up, benches painted, and mulching. It was a great success! Likewise, all were invited to another Green Team Park Clean-up on May 31 at William F. Moore Park, 51<sup>st</sup> Avenue and 108 Street.

Next, he mentioned the World's Fair Anniversary Festival Celebration in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park Sunday, May 18 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. NYC Parks is celebrating the anniversaries of two World's Fairs held in what is now Flushing Meadows Corona Park. The giant one-day festival will offer many free activities for all to enjoy. Performances by the Queens Symphony Orchestra and other musical groups, and a fireworks display will conclude the celebration. He urged all to attend.

At this point, Board Member Jennifer Chu announced the event, It's My Park Day clean-up at Clement Moore Homestead Park (45 Avenue and Broadway, Saturday, May 17, 10 am to 1 pm). Painting parks benches and handrails around the park.

### ***Transportation***

Committee Chair Joe DiMartino reported the Committee met May 5 and approved a speed bump on 42nd Avenue between 103<sup>rd</sup> Street and 104<sup>th</sup> Street.

At this point, District Manager Cassagnol reported earlier in the month an application was received for a casino bus stop in front of 83-10 Queens Boulevard. The Transportation Committee met on May 5 and discussed the application. Members in attendance were Committee Chair Joe DiMartino and Ann Darby. The Committee did approve this request. However, notices were sent out to the local businesses where the bus stop site was planned. A letter was received from a doctor's office opposing the bus stop in front of their location. Because of the short notice and not many members of the Committee were present, Board Chairperson Louis Walker, upon consultation with District Manager Cassagnol and the Department of Transportation, overruled the Committee's decision and the application was denied.

## **XII. PUBLIC FORUM**

Mr. Steven Mayerson, an Elmhurst resident, complained about the service on the #7 train. Details were given.

Discussion ensued.

Next, Jessica Vasquez, from the NYC Department of Consumer Affairs provided details on the Paid Sick Leave Law. Fact sheets were handed out regarding the law. Go to [nyc.gov/PaidSickLeave](http://nyc.gov/PaidSickLeave) for more information.

Next, Board Member and new State Committeeman of the 35<sup>th</sup> Assembly District Melvin Morgan reported on the Mattone Group's construction of three new restaurants near the Queens Center Mall. Jobs are not being given to the community. What direction do we go in to allow people from our community to have those jobs, which are being outsourced. What can be done to keep the jobs in our community, he asked. The Board's help is needed. At present, jobs are non-union, he added.

Discussion ensued.

Ms. Louise Emanuel explained she had received a constituent call regarding this issue and she had spoken to the Mattone Group. She spoke to Mr. Mattone who said the contract goes out to bid. Whoever wins the bid can bring in whomever they want. More details were given.

Discussion ensued and suggestions were given by the Board Members.

Next, Board Member Erica Cruz invited all to the Fourth Annual Spring Community Fair on Saturday, May 17, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at the Rock Church, 57-02 Hoffman Drive, Elmhurst, NY.

Before adjourning, First Vice Chair Al Perna reminded the Board Members to stay after the adjournment as the Board will go into an Executive Session.

There being no further business, Board Member Judy D'Andrea made a motion, seconded by Board Member Joe DiMartino, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.