



## COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, Elmhurst, and Newtown

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**Helen Marshall**  
Borough President

**Louis Walker**  
Chairperson

**Barry Grodenchik**  
Deputy Borough President/  
Director of Community Boards

**Christian Cassagnol**  
District Manager

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### COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE: TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2013

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

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

I. Chairperson Louis Walker opened the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

III. District Manager Christian Cassagnol took the roll call. A quorum was not present. Four more people were needed for a quorum.

Chairperson Walker announced due to this fact no votes would be taken tonight. As a result, the minutes of April 9 would not be voted upon.

#### IV. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson Louis Walker reported the Board's request to co-name streets in the Board area for former CB 4 District Managers Rose Renda-Rothschild and Richard Italiano have both been denied. According to the biographies presented for both Ms. Renda-Rothschild and Mr. Italiano by their respective family members, to those who oversee the street co-namings, did not feel there was sufficient documentation presented to meet established guidelines. The Board will reapply again to have both District Managers recognized for their community efforts, but it does not mean it will solve the problem. He also pointed out both served as Chairpersons as well as District Managers. Where is the line drawn on what they did beyond performing their jobs, and what was exceptional. This is determined by other sources.

District Manager Cassagnol added the biography submitted for Rose Renda-Rothschild was very vague, especially when it discussed Elmhurst Hospital. It was stated in the bio. Ms. Rothschild played a very pivotal role in the reconstruction of Elmhurst Hospital as well as Queens Center Mall, in addition to her work with the school district. However, there was insufficient information on those two items. Her role was not clear what she did for the hospital and the Queens Center Mall. Phone calls by the District Manager were made to Elmhurst Hospital as well as the Queens Center Mall to acquire supporting documentation, to no avail.

Follow up was also done for Richard Italiano. The Queens Center Mall was able to provide additional information about Mr. Italiano. However, more data is needed on what Ms. Rothschild did for Elmhurst Hospital as well as what Richard Italiano did for Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Those requests will be put on hold until next year, and if any Board member has specific information they can contribute that can be included in their bios., please let us know and the applications re-submitted again.

It was noted Richard Italiano's street co-naming was submitted through Council Member Daniel Dromm's office. Rose Renda-Rothschild's through Council Member Julissa Ferreras' office. Both Richard Italiano and Rose Renda-Rothschild had the Queens Center Mall in common, stated District Manager Cassagnol.

Discussion ensued.

At this point, Sebastian McGuire from Council Member Daniel Dromm's office reported Mr. Italiano's street co-naming may be approved.

Chairperson Louis Walker reported the City Council Parks Committee, although it is a street renaming, determines the street co-namings.

Secondly, Chairperson Walker reported regarding the USTA extension according to correspondence received the .068 acres requested, the USTA will give the City of New York back 1.5 acres. Therefore, the issue of the USTA getting more land is no longer valid. In essence, USTA will have less land overall than what they currently have. Further details were given by Chairperson Walker.

Board Member Sandra Munoz inquired would it still be an issue depending on what part they want and what part they are giving back. Chairperson Walker replied no. It is all Flushing Meadow-Corona Park. Ms. Munoz continued if USTA requests other parts of the Park used for other activities in the community. Chairperson Walker said that part of the Park they want is a roadway.

Chairperson Walker commented more than likely the USTA application will be approved.

At this point, discussion ensued on the proposed soccer stadium.

Next, Chairperson Louis Walker reported Mr. Robert Rothschild who has since resigned served on the Executive Committee as an At Large Director. According to the Board's bylaws, the Board must elect a Nominating Committee at tonight's meeting to select a replacement. Since the Board does not have a quorum, it cannot be done. It will be held over to the June CB meeting. Since the Board does not meet during July and August, a replacement officer will not be chosen until September.

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

District Manager Christian Cassagnol congratulated newly appointed Board member Jennifer Chu who officially unveiled the Elmhurst Community Garden located at the intersection of Manilla Street and Kneeland Avenue. There was an excellent turnout and the Garden is beautiful. However, the work is by no means done. Volunteers are still needed. Please contact the Board office if you would like to help.

Regarding the redevelopment of Willets Point, this is within the boundaries of Community Board 7. The application for the voting is due end of May. The Board will not have time to vote on it; however, because it is within Community Board 7 we do not have the power to be a part of the voting process, although Community Board 4 will have input into the process. Community Board 3 tried to get on board. Since our next Board meeting is June 11, the timing did not work out properly, which did not allow Board 4 a vote. However, on May 21 at 6 p.m. at the Langston Hughes Library Community Board 3 will have the developers discuss the

project and a full presentation given. Additionally, Community Board 3 has scheduled a Public Hearing on May 23, at 6:00 p.m., at ElmCor, located at 107-20 Northern Boulevard. The application will be voted on the week following the Public Hearing.

If you would like to testify on the application, please contact Community Board 3.

Next, District Manager Cassagnol met with the New York Hospital of Queens. A survey is being done by New York Hospital of Queens on the needs of the community. Listed on the survey are priorities needed in the community. Please rate those services from 1-5. Forms were distributed to the Board and collected at the end of the meeting.

In conclusion, he announced the Elmhurst Hospital Greenmarket is coming back to our neighborhood June 4 and will be here until November 26. The Greenmarket is located on 41 Avenue between 80<sup>th</sup> Street and 81<sup>st</sup> Street from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Tuesdays.

At this point, Chairperson Louis Walker reported Community Board 4 is comprised of 49 members. The fact that less than half of those members are in attendance is a problem. He said many Board members have not been in attendance for a long time. Borough Hall appoints Board members. The Board's bylaws were mentioned regarding Board attendance.

Chairperson Walker welcomed the new Board members and also welcomed back former Board member, Debra Clayton. Ms. Sandra Munoz and Ms. Minwen Yang were introduced to the Board.

The swearing in ceremony for new Board members is Wednesday, June 5, at the Hall of Science.

## **VI. REPORT OF THE LEGISLATORS**

Assembly Member Francisco Moya addressed the Board. Assembly Member Moya commended the Board on its fine work and recognized all work is done on a volunteer basis.

Next, the Assembly Member reported on the voting in the Assembly of fair elections. It will open up the process to become easier for candidates to run (just like the City with the Campaign Finance) and limit the amount of special interest in giving money to candidates to run. Assembly Member Moya supported the Bill and believes in the open process.

Also, he reported on equal pay. Females earn \$0.84 to each dollar a male makes, which will change. Everyone should get equal treatment and equal pay, he said.

He spoke about the Dream Act, which will be voted on May 21. It will give young, undocumented students the ability to go to college. We should never deny young people an education. This is an entitlement program of state funds. Details were provided on the guidelines.

Minimum wage was also passed in the Assembly. Five more weeks are remaining before this legislative session is closed and more important work needs to be done.

Next, Assembly Member Moya reported on his upcoming Town Hall meeting on Thursday, May 16, at the VFW Post #150, 51-11 108 Street, Corona, NY. Invited panelists from the State Liquor Authority, Police Department, Department of Labor and the District Attorney's office will be in attendance. All were urged to attend. It will give you the ability to talk one on one with the agencies. Come out and voice your concerns.

Next, Ms. Emely Paez, representing State Senator Jose Peralta's office, reported on the May 11 Job Fair. 400 job seekers attended and 35 of those left with a follow up interview or job offer.

Working with Queens Borough President Helen Marshall, Assembly Member Jeffrion Aubry, and Council Member Julissa Ferreras Senator Peralta will host Corona-East Elmhurst Family Day, scheduled for Saturday, June 1, at 99<sup>th</sup> Street/21 Avenue, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. E. Elmhurst by PS 127.

Next, Mr. Sebastian McGuire, representing, Council Member Daniel Dromm, thanked Assembly Member Francisco Moya and Senator Jose Peralta for their work and support on the Dream Act. Council Member Dromm has also supported the Dream Act but also immigration reform as well.

Next, regarding the street co-naming for Richard Italiano approval was given for it. He will be in contact with the Board office when more details are finalized. He spoke about new guidelines by the Council's Parks Committee for upcoming street co-namings and will keep the Board informed once the policy is released. Upcoming street co-namings include:

Steven Trimboli  
Guillermo Vasquez

Next, the Rock Church, located at Hoffman Drive and Queens Blvd. will host a Spring Community Fair. Constituent services representatives will be in attendance. He urged all to attend this event on Saturday, May 18 from 11:00 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Next, Mr. McGuire spoke about an internship program this program which is bringing in young people to the Council Member's office. If you know of anyone interested in applying, contact Mr. McGuire.

Next, Mr. Bruce Eiber, representing Council Member Karen Koslowitz's office reported the Council Member's district will not be serving Community Board 4 after this year under the new re-districting. He urged all to call her office if you need assistance.

Next, Mr. Don Capalbi, representing Congresswoman Grace Meng's office, reported flyers were left on the back table regarding the services available from the Congresswoman's office. Contact information is on the back of the flyers.

Congresswoman Meng has been interested in a number of areas such as immigration reform and the interest rates on student loans.

Log on to the website, and sign up for the newsletter.

Next, Mr. Joel Trinidad-Santos, representing Council Member Julissa Ferreras' Office, thanked Community Board 4 for its help on spreading the word on their Sanitation town Hall meeting held on May 8. Council Member Ferreras is in full support of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Street BID expansion. Presentation to follow by Mr. Seth Taylor later this evening.

Council Member Ferreras office offers assistance with immigration and an HRA screening will be held at the office every third Thursday of the month from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Board Member Clara Salas brought up eviction prevention services are severely lacking in Queens. She requested the Council Member to explore eviction prevention services in the area because many people targeted for eviction in housing court do have the money to pay for legal services. Ms. Salas stated more help is needed.

## VII. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

### Vote: SLA Applications

Committee Chair Lucy Schilero reported the Committee met on Tuesday, May 7, at the Board office.

## NYS LIQUOR AUTHORITY LICENSES

May 2013

### NEW APPLICANTS

<u>ESTABLISHMENT NAME</u>	<u>ESTABLISHMENT ADDRESS</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
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Corona Café Diner Wine and Beer Only	108-40 Corona Avenue Corona, NY	Resubmit. Due to insufficient docs.
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Sabor Latino Lounge Inc. Liquor, Wine, and Beer Harassment.	40-15 Warren Street Elmhurst, NY	Denied. Assaults inside. Grand Larceny.
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History of problems from the same owners who operate above location 95-35 40<sup>th</sup> Rd, Elmhurst. 40-15 Warren Street is the basement area. Hires staff that is not licensed. Although they had political backing, it is a very serious location that brings in an element of people who are heavy drinkers. There is a lengthy police report on this establishment.

### RENEWAL APPLICANTS

Miyoun Ko "Midang Corp" Wine and Beer Only	75-14 Broadway Elmhurst, NY	Approved.
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El Dorado Café Corp. Wine and Beer Only	102-02 Roosevelt Avenue Corona, NY	Approved
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Taiwanese Gourmet Corp. Wine and Beer Only	84-02 Broadway Elmhurst, NY	Approved
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Queens Coffee Shop Inc. of Corona Beer Only	108-80 Roosevelt Avenue Corona, NY	Approved
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El Gauchito II Corp. Wine and Beer Only	94-58/60 Corona Avenue Elmhurst, NY	Resubmit. Due to insufficient docs.
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### RECONSIDERATION

La Marina Restaurant Corp. Liquor, Wine and Beer	101-17 43 Avenue Corona, NY	Resubmit, due to insufficient docs.
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Herico Paysandu, Inc. Wine and Beer only	89-08 Queens Blvd. Elmhurst, NY	Resubmit. Due to insufficient docs.
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Even though a quorum was not present to vote, Chairperson Louis Walker said since this report contains time sensitive data, the Board would approve it as a Committee report. It cannot be voted on officially from the floor. By a show of hands, the Board supported the Committee's recommendations. 0 opposed with 0 abstentions. Unanimous Board approval on the Committee's report as presented.

## **VIII. PRESENTATIONS**

**Seth Taylor, Executive Director**

**82<sup>nd</sup> Street Partnership**

**--Proposed Jackson Heights-Corona Business Improvement District  
(Proposed boundaries and services, outreach plan).**

Mr. Seth Taylor, Executive Director, 82<sup>nd</sup> Street Partnership reported it is a non-profit organization founded in 1990 and manages the Business Improvement District located on 82<sup>nd</sup> Street. The BID encompasses 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue north side, across Roosevelt Avenue to Baxter Avenue, 2 block long district. Booklets were passed on with information about the proposal.

The proposal will expand the boundaries. It is a major expansion. The boundaries would extend to 114<sup>th</sup> Street along Roosevelt Avenue to include a stretch of Junction Blvd. from Roosevelt Avenue to 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Going from a 44 property lot district to a 570 lot district, this expanded area includes about 1,000 businesses, commercial tenants, numerous residents, and about 550 property owners.

The idea for this expansion came out of Council Member Ferreras' office. The process was started in January 2013. A steering committee was formed comprised of property owners, businesses, and residents in the neighborhood. Working with this committee, details of the plan are being worked out. Points looked at include what the boundaries would be (mentioned beforehand), and what the services and budget would be.

Mr. Taylor spoke about why a BID is needed in Jackson Heights and Corona. With future development projects such as nearby Willets Point, more is needed to strengthen the commercial corridors of Jackson Heights and Corona in order to stay competitive and vibrant.

Looking at Junction Boulevard today, you can see it is suffering with graffiti, a lack of basic infrastructure and amenities, no benches nor bike racks—the same scenario along Roosevelt Avenue exists. Also, the lighting is low. Aside from the Council Members, there has been no organization amongst the business community and the property owners who have been able to advocate for improvements to the neighborhood. Therefore, the time has come to organize.

BIDs are publicly authorized and privately administered nonprofit organizations made up of property owners and commercial tenants. BIDs are also governed by other Board of Directors, and elected officials and representatives from City government such as from Small Business Services, Comptroller's Office etc. In addition, another class of directors is the community members which are non-voting, very important to management and decision making.

The primary services a BID provides to a neighborhood are advocacy, a liaison between the business community and the property owners and city government, maintenance and sanitation (graffiti removal, sidewalk sweeping, pressure washing), and business development. Marketing is another big service BIDs provide to neighborhoods. He gave an example about using the website and shopping guides were mentioned to

promote the district as a great shopping area. Capital improvements were mentioned such as working with a lighting consultant to come up with a master plan for the lighting. Custom litter receptacles were installed with the BID logo and working closely with the Parks Department to renovate a public plaza.

Next landscaping and beautification were mentioned such as focusing on horticulture.

Mr. Taylor said the mission of the new BID is to improve the District's quality of life and to promote economic activity by creating a cleaner, safer, and more enjoyable place for everyone.

The Steering Committee is made up of members such as commercial property owners, commercial tenants, local elected officials, residents, and community organization.

At this point, Mr. Taylor turned the floor over to Ms. Cheryl Tse who reported the project had started in January and the first round of outreach has been done. She spoke about the outreach phases using the handout booklet as a guide. The Outreach Plan includes:

Door to door flyering with tri-lingual team  
Collaborating with community based organizations through public seminar series  
Website  
[www.jhcoronabid.org](http://www.jhcoronabid.org)  
Twitter and Facebook  
Mailings  
Public Meetings

At this point, the project Timeline was reviewed.

Board Member Lucy Schilero said merchants in the area are opposed to this project. In a bad economy, the merchants do not think they could afford to pay for this. Also, residential people are on a very tight budget. To those people, they are calling it an extra tax they are being forced to pay. In a bad economic climate when you ask people for a large amount of money to pay for this, is a concern.

Discussion ensued about the cost involved. Mr. Taylor said the budget is just over \$1 million, with over 500 contributing members would factor out to about \$5 a day.

More discussion ensued about the cost.

At this point, Board Member Redd Sevilla said after the vote, if it is in agreement, everyone will be required to pay for this service. Mr. Seth Taylor said that is correct. There are 67 BIDs across the City of New York and that's how they are formed. When a BID is formed, a contract is drawn up with the City of New York and those contracts are typically for five years. After five years, the City of New York will do a performance evaluation. The assessments show up on the property tax bill and collected by the Department of Finance so there is a steady revenue stream coming into the BID. The average cost per property is \$1800, and properties have multiple commercial tenants. The cost is divided amongst the tenants.

The biggest expense for this BID will be on Sanitation. The budget is just over \$1 million, and about \$600,000 will go toward the sanitation contract.

Board Member Judy D'Andrea asked if the larger businesses could pay a higher portion of the fee, rather than the smaller property owner. Mr. Taylor responded it would be too complex to set up that type of model.

Ms. Tse spoke about the assessment fee and the length of the front footage of the property, which also determines cost.

Board Member Ann Pfoser Darby said this proposal will make high paying jobs, the City will get more money, and it will create more taxes and bureaucracy.

Mr. Taylor responded by investing funds back into the neighborhood it is creating a cleaner, safer, more enjoyable district. Hiring would be done locally, which would be stipulated in the contract with vendors. BID money is invested back into the neighborhood through neighborhood improvements and advocacy.

At this point, Ms. Minwen Yang provided details about the accomplishments of the Flushing BID.

## **IX. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

### **Vote:**

#### **A. Champion Car Service**

Since no members of the Transportation Committee were present, District Manager Cassagnol presented the report. The Committee chose to approve the application. Details on the application were provided by the District Manager.

#### **B. Corona Slow Zone Request**

District Manager Cassagnol reported Board Member Judy D'Andrea submitted the application to request a large area of Corona into a slow zone. The area is too large, covers too many main roads and far larger than possible. Therefore, it was suggested by the Committee smaller sections around each school are slowed down. The minimum space needed to do a slow zone is a 5x5 block radius. The District Manager will sit down with Board Member D'Andrea and the Department of Transportation to discuss details.

Board Member Judy D'Andrea clarified she was not the sole initiator of the proposal. She acted on behalf of P.S. 28. The proposal was also supported by P.S. 14, P.S. 16, P.S. 19 and P.S. 143, all schools within our district.

Discussion ensued about the streets in the Board area and slow zones.

Chairperson Louis Walker added slow zones mean fewer parking spaces. Gates take up space.

Chairperson Louis Walker said based on the Committee's report and taking into account time constraints, the approval would be given on the application, although no quorum was present.

## **X. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### ***Consumer Affairs***

Committee Chairperson George Onuorah reported on the Town Hall meeting held on April 17 at the Queens Center Mall. Attendees included Council Member Daniel Dromm, Council Member Julissa Ferreras, Council Member Karen Koslowitz and Deputy Inspector Leyson. The Consumer Affairs forum was very successful. Issues discussed included a variety of community issues and the panelists very informative. Also, the "Queens Chronicle" carried a press release of the meeting.

### ***Health***

Committee Chairperson Priscilla Carrow reported the Committee did not meet.

### ***Youth***

Committee Chairperson Clara Salas reported on the following:

1. April 11, 2013 – Newtown High School in partnership with Elmhurst Hospital Center held a Health Point Presentation about AIDS Prevention. Over 500 students and school personnel and parents attended. The presentation was a success.
2. April 27, 2013 – The UFT held the annual Free Queens Parents and Teachers Conference at the Sheraton LaGuardia East Hotel in Flushing. Amongst the most important workshops were the ELA Common Core Standards and Mathematics Common Core Standards. In these workshops parents learned how to support at home. The new ELA and Mathematics curriculum. The next Free Parents and Teachers Conference will be held on Saturday, November 23, 2013 at the LaGuardia East Hotel, Flushing, save the date. More information will follow shortly.
3. Wednesday, May 15, 2013 at 10 a.m. Elmhurst Hospital Center will hold its Annual Health Living for Women Fair. For more information call 718-334-2500. EHC/H-Building Lobby (enter on 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue & 80<sup>th</sup> Street).
4. Tuesday, May 28, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. CEC District 24 will hold a Town Hall Meeting with Chancellor Dennis Wallcott. Location PS/IS 113 Anthony J. Pranzo auditorium, 78-23 87<sup>th</sup> Street, Glendale, NY.
5. Summer Youth Employment Program 2013. Ms. Salas distributed flyer with information on how youth in the community can apply for summer work. For further information, call DYCD's Youth Connect at 1-800-246-4646.

***Parks***

No Report. Committee Chair not present.

***Environmental***

No Report.

***Postal***

No Report. Committee Chair not present.

***ULURP/Zoning***

No Report. Committee Chair not present.

At this point, Chairperson Louis Walker announced over the summer all the Committees will be re-vamped.

**XI. PUBLIC FORUM**

Board Member Lucy Cerezo-Scully reported on the Department of Education's rezoning plan for Maspeth I.S. 73. Parents and students held a rally in the neighborhood on Sunday, April 28. The plan would transfer students to a school in another community.

The *Times Newsweekly* carried the press release regarding this plan. The following quote was listed under the Readers Comments:

*IS 73 is nothing but a holding pen for animals from Corona and other hell holes. Way to ruin Maspeth!*  
Copies of this article were passed out to Board members.

Discussion followed.

At this point, Carmen Li, an organizer for the vacant lot on 111<sup>th</sup> Street and gave details on the community garden. The lot is located on the corner of 111<sup>th</sup> street and 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue, adjacent to the railroad. Green Thumb now owns that garden.

Next, Mr. Eric Howard, Queens Library at Lefrak City, reported the libraries are facing an enormous proposed cut. More than five consecutive years, the libraries budget had been cut more than 35%. Clerks and libraries have been lost through the years. If the budget cut is enacted, half of the libraries would close.

Together with Elmhurst Library and Langston Hughes, the three libraries have had ½ million visits in the last year and circulated over 600,000 items. In addition, the three libraries have provided over 1500 programs. He spoke about programming and health and housing services provided and much more.

Petitions were left on the back table or go online to support restoration of the budgets to the libraries.

Also, Mr. Howard spoke about the Open Forum on May 28 at the Library where elected officials are invited to speak about issues in the community such as education, etc. More details were provided.

There being no further business, Priscilla Carrow made a motion, seconded by Clara Salas to adjourn. Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.