



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

Louis Walker
Chairperson

Melva Miller
Deputy Borough President

Christian Cassagnol
District Manager

September 8, 2015

COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 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.

A moment of silence was observed for former, long-time Board Member Ann Melchiorre who passed away in August.

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

IV. **Vote: Minutes June 9, 2015**

Board Member Priscilla Carrow made a motion, seconded by Board Member Eduardo Medrano-Salas, to **accept** the minutes.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 30 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

V. **REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON**

At this point, the floor was turned over to D. I. Christopher Manson, Commanding Officer of the 110 Precinct.

D. I. Manson reported:

- Crime is measured by: 7 days 28 days Year to Date

- Crime had been reduced for the 7 day period down 40%
- 28 day period down 15%
- Year to date crime down 6%. For over 70 major crimes overall. Doing well in all five areas.
- As of Midnight Sunday, 3,807 arrests were made and over 19,000 summonses were issued.
- Traffic accidents and injuries were about the same as last year
- Significant arrests in robberies; assaults, and burglaries
- Overall crime is going down, not up

Speaking about Flushing Meadows Corona Park, the 110 Precinct has been working with the Parks Dept. Numerous summonses have been issued. Arrests also made. The Parks Dept. is installing more speed bumps in certain areas of the Park which will reduce cars racing through the Park at night. Active trouble areas are along 111 Street by the Hall of Science.

Board Member Judy D'Andrea brought up the issue of homeless people. She reported the homeless come out of the Park, up 50th Avenue, and harass the residents on the block by asking for money.

Police will be moving in the encampments the homeless have set up in the Park, said D. I. Manson.

Discussion ensued about the homeless population.

Next, D. I. Manson answered questions about crime in the Park of the Americas (Linden Park).

Three 24-hour a day specialized teams will stop by that area. Usually, once the perps. are arrested, they do not come back, said D.I. Manson.

The homeless sleeping in the Park and on the street by the school was brought up. Also, the Mr. Softee Truck blocking the view of the cars on 41 Avenue and 104 Street (across from JHS 16) was brought up by Board Member Jim Lisa.

Board Member Judy D'Andrea brought up the traffic entering and exiting the Park during the U. S. Open. For the past two weeks the community was literally trapped because residents cannot enter or exit the parkways because everything is closed. Why can't Roosevelt Avenue be used?

D. I. Manson responded he is not involved with the traffic patterns for the U. S. Open. It is done downtown.

Board Member Georgina Oliver asked about the rape in Jackson Heights last week. The case is still under investigation. The attacker has not been caught.

Continuing with the Chairperson's report, Chairperson Walker reported the following Board members have outstandingly bad attendance:

Monzur Chowdhury

Appointed to the Board 4/14. Attended only two meetings since then.

Miriam Levenson.

Confined to a nursing home.

Myrna Littlewort

Missed seven meetings to date, plus three from 2014.

Patricia Martín

Missed seven meetings to date, plus four from 2014.

In most cases, there has not been any communication from those Board members. Chairperson Walker explained the problem with non-attendance is that it forces the quorum up by four unnecessary people. The problem needs to be addressed by Queens Borough Hall. Until those members are re-appointed, they will continue to take up unnecessary space.

At this point, Assembly Member Francisco Moya addressed the Board on the 111 Street bike lane plan. Two weeks ago, the Assembly Member met with the Commissioner of Transportation. He had a letter on hand opposing the proposal signed by Senator Jose Peralta and Congressmen Joseph Crowley and himself. He had spoken to the Borough President who was also in opposition to the proposal.

Assembly Member Moya said he had presented three alternative proposals, which would not change 111 Street to one lane. He was informed it would be looked at. Assembly Member Moya did extensive outreach on this issue to residents living on 111 Street who oppose the change. He will be holding a Town Hall meeting on Thursday, October 1, 7:00 p.m., at St. Leo's Church (lower church). (*Edit: The Meeting Date is Monday, October 5*). All were urged to attend. The Assembly Member emphasized this is an important meeting and our voices need to be heard.

When it comes to issues that matter most, Corona has been neglected so long that they think they can come in and do whatever they want and not consult the community. The time has passed. We are here to demonstrate we will fight this. We want to be part of the process. It should not be people from outside this community making those decisions.

Assembly Member Moya stated he does not oppose bike lanes. The three alternatives presented were:

1. Proposal connects the bike path, which would come in from 34th Avenue through the Hall of Science, through the Park that already has bike lanes, and go straight through the Park exiting on Van Doren Street to connect to the Bridge to Forest Hills.

There is no reason to use 111 Street inconveniencing the people living there and taking away valuable parking space.

When the USTA is here, a Mets Game played, or the many summer events held in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park, it creates a huge problem for the residents of 111 Street. It is problematic to the business owners and people living on the side streets dealing with the parking issues. Parking is at a premium in the community.

2. *The second alternative is to create the bike lane through the medians, which would pass through the middle lane, not affecting any of the driving lanes.* The extensions for the pedestrian walkways, making it safer to cross on 111 Street, would be implemented and is supported by Assembly Member Moya.

3. *The third alternative is to use sidewalks, as used in Europe, along 111 Street near the Park where there is no residential homes and enough room to make the connection through the sidewalk to get through the Park.* As a result, those proposals do not interfere with the flow of traffic nor inconvenience the community or the business owners.

Assembly Member Moya urged all to attend the Town Hall meeting on October 5 and to vocalize your support. A representative from the NYC Department of Transportation will also be attending as well as a representative from the Mayor's Office.

Before concluding, Assembly Member Moya spoke about the crackdown on illegal cars sold on the neighborhood streets.

Assembly Member Moya wrote legislation that makes selling cars on the streets illegal, stiffens the penalties, and will make it easier for those cars to be towed. The legislation passed both the Assembly and the Senate and is now on the Governor's desk waiting to be signed into law. Optimistically, it will be signed into law before the end of the year.

He noted the technical definition for this illegal practice is Curbstoning.

Presently, there are no fines for illegally parked vehicles. Now it will be a \$5,000 fine if the offender is caught selling more than six vehicles per year on the street and will serve jail time.

The message is clear: We are proactive and serious about enforcement and it is a criminal offense.

He mentioned The Dream Act cannot be passed until we have a Democratic State Senate. We will be fighting for that.

At this point, Assembly Member Moya took questions from the Board Members.

Next, Council Member Daniel Dromm addressed the Board regarding Item 7D on the Board's agenda – *Renaming of Madison Street between 55th and 57th Avenue (Elmhurst) to 84th Place.*

Council Member Dromm had been approached by the COMET organization about renaming Madison Street in Elmhurst (which is three blocks long: Madison Street between 55th Avenue and 55th Road, 55th Road and 56th Avenue, and 56th Avenue and 57th Avenue) and 84th Street between 57th Avenue and 57th Road. (Running South, Madison Street becomes 84th Street). It is proposed those four blocks be renamed "84th Place".

Residents are concerned that Madison Street is surrounded by numbered streets and, as the only non-numbered street in the area, could not be easily located by emergency service responders in case of emergency.

Council Member Dromm provided a description of the existing street and explained the confusion about this street. He urged the Board to support the street renaming.

As Chair of the Education Committee in the City Council, a public school teacher for 25 years, and a day care center director for 6 ½ years before becoming a public school teacher, the issues of education are vitally important to the Council Member.

Council Member Dromm announced tomorrow, 65,000 UPK children will be coming into the public school system. Study after study has shown a quality UPK education has a life-long effect and will follow the children always. Part of it will be they will go to college. Subsequently, he spoke about the renewal schools, which are low performing or struggling schools where the Mayor has decided to infuse those schools with special resources (\$150 million in additional funds). More details were given on renewal schools. Unless the holistic needs of the students are addressed, any positive impact on the children will not be accomplished, according to Schools Chancellor Carmen Farina and Council Member Dromm.

This year \$2.4 million was added to schools in the district and each school received \$100,000 for computers, technology equipment, auditorium or gym upgrades etc.

The Council Member spoke about the challenges Newtown High School overcame and its successes. Also in this year's budget, Council Member Dromm was able to acquire \$24 million in initiative funds. Some of those funds will be used for social service programs and put into schools around the district. Eighty new guidance counselors were hired for the schools. Not only is pre-K important, emphasis also needs to be placed on the older students and the middle school students as well. The Mayor has added after school funding into the middle school programs.

Another issue to consider is the shortage of gymnasiums and gym classes. Students need to work out their energies because it does affect the behavior of the child. Sixty new gym teachers were hired this year as well.

For many of the community based organizations, additional funding was provided by the Council Member. Subsequently, Council Member Dromm provided a listing of support, events, and additional services he sponsored during the past few months.

And to date, over 500,000 people have signed up for the Council Member's legislation--the Municipal Identification Card, which includes benefits to 33 cultural institutions and other incentives.

VI. REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

District Manager Christian Cassagnol reported since he will be providing the details on many of tonight's agenda items, he will forgo his report. He did report, however, the Board will convene into closed session directly after the Board meeting. Please do not go.

VII. REPORT OF THE LEGISLATORS

Chairperson Louis Walker called out if there were any other legislators who wished to address the Board. Since there were none, the floor was turned over to the District Manager who presented the Transportation Committee's report on the following agenda items:

VIII. REPORT AND VOTE: Transportation Committee

A. Street Co-Naming

**“Peter Benfaremo Way” (The Lemon Ice King)
Corner of Corona Avenue and 108th Street)**

District Manager Cassagnol reported the proposal was brought to the Board about a month ago. He read a letter requesting the street co-naming to the Board. Two requirements for a street co-naming are: Community Board approval and a biography of the person. This District Manager was uncertain if the letter written would suffice for a biography. The applicant said he would submit a bio. to meet the requirement. However, the matter is before the Board tonight and needs a vote.

Board Member Judy D'Andrea made a motion, seconded by Board Chair Louis Walker, to **approve** the street co-naming.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 30 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

B. One Way Conversion of Lewis Between 102 and 103 Streets (West Bound) and One Way Conversion of Larue Avenue (East Bound) Between 102nd and 103rd Streets.

District Manager Cassagnol reported the request came to the Board a few months ago. He noted in the *City Record* Lewis Avenue is described as a one-way street. Google maps also show it as a one-way. Basically, we are making it a one-way. The request was put in through the Board office as it is a dangerous street, said District Manager Cassagnol. Subsequently, the District Manager handed out diagrams of the existing street network and proposed changes to street network. He pointed out highlights on the proposed changes.

Board Member Sandra Munoz made a motion, seconded by Board Member Lester Youngblood, to **approve** the one-way street conversions.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 30 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

C. Conversion of 76th Street to One-Way (South Bound) from 45th Avenue to 47th Avenue North of 45th Avenue

District Manager Cassagnol read the June 2 letter from the NYC Department of Transportation regarding the proposal.

An excerpt of the correspondence follows:

“ In anticipation of a Universal Pre-K opening in the fall of 2015 at 46-16 76th Street, the New York City Department of Transportation has undertaken a study of the vicinity to improve safety for all road users.

It is recommended that 76th Street should be converted to one-way southbound operation from 45th Avenue to 47th Avenue North of 45th Avenue, 76th Street currently operates one-way southbound. There will be no loss of parking with this planned conversion.

After the conversion, DOT would improve the intersection of 47th Avenue and 76th Street to reduce pedestrian and vehicle conflicts as well initiate a stop control study at 46th Avenue and 76 Street.”

District Manager Cassagnol further reported the Transportation Committee did meet and approved the proposal.

Board Member Alirio Orduna made a motion, seconded by Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula, to **approve** the proposal.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 30 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

D. Renaming of Madison Street between 55th and 57th Avenue (Elmhurst) to “84th Place”

Since this agenda item was addressed by Council Member Daniel Dromm earlier, the Board cast its vote.

Board Member Priscilla Carrow made a motion, seconded by Board Member Pasang Tsering, to **approve** the proposal.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 30 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

E. Street Activity Permit Applications:

**Eid-U1-Adha
(Religious Ceremony)
September 22, 2015
5:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
(73rd Street between Roosevelt and 41st Avenue)**

A representative from the event was present to answer questions from the Board. Petitions from area residents were submitted approving the event. District Manager Cassagnol reported no complaints were received on previous events.

Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula made a motion, seconded by Board Member Ashley Reed, to **approve** the street activity permit.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 30 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

**9-26 Block Party
(Block Party)
September 26, 2015
2:00 pm-9:00 pm
(55th Avenue between Madison Street and 85th Street)**

District Manager Cassagnol said last year this group held the block party and there were no problems and it was well received. The group met all the requirements. However, when the applicant was asked to submit the required signatures for this year's event, he had copied and paste the signatures from last year and submitted them to the Board office. When asked why he did that he apologized and explained he did not have time to collect signatures. However, he had asked for a week's time to collect the needed signatures.

Discussion ensued. The District Manager did note, however, Mr. Chin the applicant, could not attend tonight's meeting.

Board Member Patricia Terranova made a motion, seconded by Board Member Sandra Munoz, to **approve** the Street Activity application. There was no stipulation (to provide signatures) on the motion because the event was a success in the past added Board Member Terranova.

Subsequently, Chairperson Walker called out the motion is on the floor and can be amended. Do you want to leave the motion the way it is?

Discussion ensued about the lack of signatures and authenticating the signatures.

Consequently, Board Member Priscilla Carrow amended the motion, seconded by Board Member Lucy Schilero, to **approve** the Street Activity application pending signatures to be received by the end of the week; otherwise, it is an automatic **denial**.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 30 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

**Queens Dia de la Familia
(Block Party)
October 4th, 2015
12:00 PM – 6:00 PM
(Junction Boulevard between 40th Road and 41st Avenue)**

District Manager Christian Cassagnol explained the procedure for a street activity permit. The Board is in contact with the 110 Police Precinct and checks for the required signatures. Speaking with the 110 Police Precinct, they are completely against this location for the block party. Their reasoning being there is too much traffic.

District Manager Cassagnol notified the applicant of the Police Department's response. Because of the magnitude of the event, the applicant inquired if there was another location where the event could be held. According to SAPO, the District Manager reported the event can be held on a street that does not require Community Board approval. The alternative was Corona Plaza. Corona Plaza does not require a street closure and numerous events are held there. More details were provided by the District Manager. If the Community Board approves the location as Corona Plaza, both the applicant and SAPO are in agreement.

Board Member Edgar Moya made a motion, seconded by Board Member Al Perna, to **approve** the block party pending the location (Corona Plaza).

By a voice vote the Board voted 30 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

IX. REPORT AND VOTE: Consumer Affairs Committee
Enclosed Sidewalk Café "Asadero LaFogata"
108-40 Corona Avenue
Corona, NY 11368

Committee Chair Erica Cruz reported the application was approved by the Committee.

Board Member Priscilla Carrow made a motion, seconded by Lucy Schilero, to **approve** the Committee's report as presented.

Before the vote was taken, Chairperson Walker asked the Board if they wanted to limit the tables to 13 instead of 20 as listed on the application.

The Board was in agreement.

District Manager Cassagnol clarified the applicant is allowed to use 20 tables, but she will be using only 13.

Discussion ensued about placing a stipulation on the motion. No stipulation was placed on the number of tables allowed. However, it was reiterated the hours of operation would change for the sidewalk café to be open later.

By a voice vote, the Board voted, 28 in favor, 1 opposed, with 1 abstention. Motion passed.

X. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Committee Chair Lucy Schilero reported on the following liquor license applications:

NYS LIQUOR AUTHORITY LICENSES

SEPTEMBER 2015

NEW APPLICANTS

<u>Establishment's Name</u>	<u>Establishment's Address</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
Super T&F Inc. <i>Icook</i> Wine and Beer Only They are not ready to open at this time. The Committee asked them to come back once they are closer to opening.	81-17/19 Broadway Elmhurst, NY	Denied
Skyline Corp. Wine and Beer only	40-20 Junction Blvd. Corona, NY	Approved
D'Luly Lounge Bar & Rest. Liquor, Wine and Beer Establishment failed to respond to Committee's request to meet to discuss their application.	42-17 102 Street Corona, NY	Denied
Roosevelt Hotel Realty LLC <i>Best Western Plus LaGuardia Airport Hotel Queens</i>	112-26 Roosevelt Avenue Corona, NY	Approved
Q-4 Lounge Corp. Liquor, Wine and Beer Not ready to open at this time. Need approval for cabaret.	40-06 Junction Blvd. Corona, NY	Denied

RENEWAL APPLICANTS

<u>Establishment's Name</u>	<u>Establishment's Address</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
RJ Macizos Place Inc. Wine and Beer Only	53-09 106 th Street Corona, NY	Denied
Tashi Delek Inc. <i>Wasabi Point</i> Wine and Beer Only Proper paperwork not submitted, did not attend meeting to discuss application.	76-18 Woodside Avenue Elmhurst, NY	Denied
Pollos Y Mas Corp. <i>Tropic Pollo</i>	90-59 Corona Avenue Elmhurst, NY	Approved
Gato Verde Sports Bar Corp. Liquor, Wine and Beer Long history of criminal complaints and arrests- 26 complaints between 2/2/13 to 8/8/15: 2 for trespassing, 2 criminal mischief, 9 assault, 4 grand larcenies, 6 petit larcenies, resulting in 12 arrests (8 for assault, 2 for trespassing, 1 for criminal possession of a weapon and 1 for menacing). SLA violations from 12/2/13 to 5/16/15, including several for failure to check ID, and 1 for sale to minor.	82-14 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Denied

At this point, Board Member Patricia Terranova made a motion, seconded by Board Member Judy D'Andrea, to **approve** the Committee's report as presented.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 30 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Environmental/ Parks

Environmental Committee Chair Giancarlo Castano reported a joint meeting was held last month with Parks representatives. Quality of life issues were discussed in the parks. Some items mentioned by the Parks Department are already being addressed by the Committee.

Parks Committee Chair Al Perna added more policing in the parks and budgetary items were also discussed. The Hall of Science with the Maker's Faire was also mentioned. More policing is needed to cover this event.

Board Member Judy D'Andrea brought up the food vendors in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park who are there every weekend.

At this point, Board Member Judy D'Andrea brought up whenever the media reports on events held in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park the park is also referred to as Flushing Meadows or Flushing or Flushing Park. For reporters, please note the correction.

Board Member James Lisa reported the zip code for Flushing Meadows-Corona Park is 11368. The only area not in Corona is after the pool (next to Home Depot) and south of Willow Lake. 80% of the grounds are physically housed in 11368. Signage should read Flushing Meadows-Corona Park.

Health

Committee Chair Sal Lombardo reported the Committee did not meet. But a meeting is planned for next month.

Postal

Committee Chair Gigi Salvador reported the Committee did not meet. But a meeting is planned for the coming month.

ULURP/Zoning

Committee Chair Alton Derrick-Smith reported the Committee did not meet over the summer. However, a meeting is scheduled for this month.

Youth

Committee Chair Pasang Tsering reported since the members of the committee are all new, the Committee did not meet. However, an upcoming meeting is planned.

At this point, Board Member Lucy Schilero reported on the parking problem for teachers as a result of the new schools.

Parking against the railroad wall was given as a suggestion to alleviate the parking problem. Discussion ensued.

XII. PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. John Schaffer said since the ULURP Committee will meet on September 16 regarding an application for Manilla Street to permit the development of five two-story two-family attached residential buildings, he asked the Committee inquire about the parking for those proposed buildings.

Next, he addressed the bike lanes on Queens Boulevard which would eliminate parking on Queens Boulevard; actually adding more cars into the neighborhood. Also, he questioned were they ADA accessible. More details were given. As a result, Mr. Schaffer said it's a bad decision to put bicycle lanes on Queens Boulevard. It will also increase pollution because traffic will be moving slower. Similarly, whose responsibility it will be to clean it, Mr. Schaffer asked and emphasized ADA compliance is necessary.

Subsequently, Chairperson Walker reported it is Vision Zero causing the bike lanes on Queens Boulevard to slow cars down.

Discussion ensued.

Consequently, District Manager Cassagnol reported NYC DOT is planning workshops on the changing of Queens Boulevard soon so please come out and voice your opinion.

More discussion ensued.

A resident pointed out traffic lights are for cars not for cyclists and detailed potential problems. Traffic devices must be designed strictly for cyclists otherwise Vision Zero poorly implemented is worse than not having it.

Board Member Sandra Munoz reported there are traffic lights for cyclists mentioning Manhattan. Not to reject the plan altogether but ask for whatever is necessary to make it safer for all pedestrians.

Next, Maxine Davila, representing the grass-roots organization 1+One: Networking for a Better World addressed the Board. She works on an individual basis to create networks for a better world with a project called SDGNYC to inform New Yorkers and the ten most improvised neighborhoods in New York City (Elmhurst and Jackson Heights included in those neighborhoods).

She introduced the Sustainable Development goals. This plan for the world includes 193 world leaders who will be signing on September 27 at the U.N., including our President. Additionally, many celebrities are involved in the project. Grassroots style she wanted people to know about the global goals, which were on handouts given out at the meeting. There are 17 SDG's that will hold our world leaders accountable and make for more transparency. The My World survey where people can vote and world leaders must look at those votes.

American is failing at the votes. She was targeting the improvised neighborhoods to raise awareness. Moreover, she explained the goals can be used for self-advocacy. This is for all ages, gender, languages and ethnic groups.

At this point, Chairperson Walker announced the Board would convene into Closed Session. All audience members were asked to leave. The Board convened into Closed Session at 9:00 p.m.

The Board came out of session at 9:15 p.m.

With no objection, Chairperson Louis Walker adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.