



COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, Elmhurst, and Newtown

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District Manager

October 14, 2014

COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2014

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

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

I. Before the meeting opened, P. O. Janine Rivera announced the 110 Precinct held at bake sale at the Precinct today with proceeds going to Breast Cancer Awareness. The Making Strides Breast Cancer Walk will be held on Sunday, October 19, at Flushing Meadows-Corona Park at 10 a.m. Registration is between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. The Walk follows at 10:00 a.m. She urged all to come and participate. Cupcakes were brought to tonight's meeting and are selling for \$1 each. All proceeds will go directly to Breast Cancer Awareness.

II. Chairperson Louis Walker opened the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

III. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

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

V. Vote: Minutes September 10, 2014

Board Member Priscilla Carrow made a motion, seconded by Board Member Alirio Orduna, to **approve** the minutes of September 10, 2014.

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

VI. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

In lieu of the Chairperson's report, the floor was turned over to U. S. House of Representative Joseph Crowley.

Congressman Crowley reported on the effect of the upcoming elections in November on the national as well as the local offices. All state legislators are up for re-election as well as members of the House of Representative with 30% as well.

Much needs to be accomplished before the end of the year such as terrorism risk insurance. The difficulties in obtaining this type of insurance for businesses after 911, only with a federal backstop would insurance companies offer it. It's been re-authorized twice since 911 and is up for authorization again, expiring this year. For instance, all the buildings in Manhattan would carry terrorism risk insurance to continue their lease. When Congress convenes, it is very likely terrorism risk insurance will be passed.

Also, a budget for the United States must be addressed. The budget expires on December 10 and there is a continue resolution that will have be re-authorized moving into next year. All will be based on the mid-term elections who will control the House and the Senate, who will determine how things are done, and for how long those extensions will go into place.

Immigration and tax reform have had very little time in terms of the legislative time on the floor of the House, and it is anticipated not much will be accomplished legislatively on those issues in the hope they can be taken up next year.

In the absence of that, the President said he will act through Executive Order to do what he can within the confines restrictions of the Executive to do some things. However, it is still unclear and it may possibly be the President will build on to expand not only for the children but for their parents as well. Some may think it is abusive of the President to use the Executive Order, which will be open for debate.

Next, he spoke about the ISIS crises in the Middle East and explained it is the responsibility of the Congress to debate this issue and regardless of what the President believes, he has the authority under previous authorizations for war, the Congress needs to debate and vote on this again. An open hearing and a vote is needed in terms of what is happening there now—the use of force. Debate the possibility of troops on the ground, which he is does not support.

He explained he did vote for the limited use of air strikes the President is now engaging in and also supports the training of regional troops to be activated, hopefully, within six months. But also to give time for countries in the region to form a coalition and for those troops to be in the region on the ground and be prepared to attack ISIS.

It is the responsibility not to concede to the President the authority to wage war without coming to Congress for a vote.

Other issues mentioned were an infrastructure bill to be passed, a stimulus to get the economy moving, and the Wall Street market collapse in 2008 to the high now of the market to 14,000 points. The trickledown effect and a concern is that people will be wondering if they will have a job for years to come. One way to invigorate the economy is to invest in infrastructure. New York State does a good job in repairing its roads and bridges. A jobs bill needs to be passed in the form of infrastructure to get America working again.

At the point, Congressman Crowley opened the floor to questions.

The first question the Congressman addressed concerned the Ebola virus.

He provided details and said he would like to see the President address this issue to the American people to allay some of the fears people have and to be direct with the American people in terms of where we are right now with this virus. It was reported there are no direct flights to the country. They all go through another country to come United States.

Next he addressed the problem of undocumented workers who are getting sick and were at 9/11 but cannot get any type of health care.

Congressman Crowley reported they are getting some assistance if they go to hospitals like Elmhurst Hospital, if they know to seek it out. Under the Affordable Care Act, they are not eligible for health insurance.

Next, he addressed the Long Island Railroad Station in Elmhurst possibly being re-opened because of the development in that area and the overcrowding in the subway at Woodhaven Blvd. The MTA in their Capital budget have set aside \$40 million. About thirty years ago, the station (Broadway/Whitney stop) was closed because of a lack of ridership which was determined by the LIRR. After a survey was done and completed to determine there was a ridership, it is now moving forward. Although the MTA initially rejected it, it is still in the plan to progress. It will provide direct access to the city as well as a more comfortable ride, although it will be more expensive. It is a viable and much needed option for the community.

Next he addressed questions about the Veterans Administration. He spoke about the shift of veterans from the northeast to the southeast to the south did not get much attention. Many of the retirees are moving to the southern regions. The pressure on those entities is far greater than it once was. The creation of a separate list was immoral, which was discovered and the VA has new leadership and emphasis is being placed on taking care and cutting away time of our veterans and all facilities—not just facilities in the southern region.

The VA experience here is better than other parts of the country. What was taking place was unacceptable. What is being allowed now is for individuals to ease the system to access medical attention outside the VA if they so choose. Normal medical service will not be adequate. Individuals who have been in battle or have wounds from battle or who have lost limbs are down to specialty within the VA system. Additional resources have been allocated for the VA. It is hoped in the next Congress more resources will be allocated to the VA.

Next, he addressed the accidents on Queens Blvd. and reported he supports the Vision Zero initiative. The way motorists drive and we act as pedestrians has changed dramatically over the last ten years. With the invention of the iPhone and iPad and how we treat each other has changed. Also, there are more cars on the road than ever before.

As pedestrians, life has changed. Pedestrians are listening to music, not paying attention to crossing the street or what's going on around them.

The Mayor and the City Council has reduced the speed limit on some roads to 25 mph, which will lead to safer roads. Around schools, the speed limit had been lowered to 20 mph. The purpose of this bill was to reduce the number of accidents and is enforced by police for safer streets.

Following Congressman Crowley's report, Assembly Member Francisco Moya informed the Board he had attended a kindergarten class at P. S. 19 in one of the trailers. Spending the morning session there, he as well as Assembly Member Michael DenDekker wanted to see how the children are learning as well as the conditions they have. There is a very important initiative on the ballot in November—the *Smart Schools Bond Act of 2014* which authorizes the sale of state bonds of up to two billion dollars to provide access to classroom technology and high speed internet to equalize opportunities for children to learn, to add classroom space to expand high

quality pre-kindergarten programs, to replace classroom trailers with permanent instructional space and to install high tech smart security features in schools.

It's been over 20 years and the trailers are still in use at P. S. 19 and P. S. 14 and many other schools. Queens has the most trailers in the entire City of New York. In fact, we are the most overcrowded school district in the City of New York. The Press was on site to see the conditions in which these children are learning.

Also, it is a safety issue. The gates are open. Anyone can walk in from Roosevelt Avenue. The closest security guard is inside the building. When the children need to go for lunch or gym or assembly, students must put their coats on to go outside and risk getting sick. This is not a learning environment.

He urged all to go out and vote in this important election. It could change the lives of those young students who have the opportunity to learn in classrooms and not in trailers.

Assembly Member Moya explained the Smart Bond Act money will be used for new construction citing P. S. 19 is at 126% capacity.

It's a great initiative and will help alleviate many problems.

Next, Assembly Member Moya informed the Board of his Quality of Life Town Hall meeting on Thursday, October 23, at 6:00 p.m. at the VFW-Flanders Field, 51-11 108 Street, Corona, NY. It's a great opportunity to talk to state agencies, representatives from the 110 Precinct and the Community Board, to name a few. He urged all to attend to work together and make this a better community.

Subsequently, NYS Senator Jose Peralta reported on the UPK issue.

It has been semi successful because only ¼ of the children that are eligible have been placed. More needs to be done.

Locations have been provided to the City and the Administration on where future UPK sites can be opened.

Only ¼ of the children in Senator Peralta's district are attending UPK and he represents over 315,000 constituents. This needs to be improved.

The Smart Bond Act is very important. Please spread the word. If you do not vote for it, we cannot get rid of those trailers. We have had those trailers for over ten/twenty years housing over 7,000 children. It was a temporary solution, but they are still in place.

At the local level, much-needed improvements are being sought for the subway system. Suggestions were made in the Capital Plan. As a result, painting will be done from 103 Street to 46 Street, comprising six stations. This will be a full makeover for the train stations. The MTA will spend over \$60 million dollars for this capital improvement. However, painting is planned between 2015 and 2017. This timeframe is being looked to moving it forward maybe to start in 2015. On the capital level, it was reported there was a shortage of \$15 million, where on a state level this shortfall must be funded. There is a semi-guarantee that it will not be eliminated from the plan.

He also spoke about the LIRR's opening of the Elmhurst station which was also part of the Capital plan.

Next, he spoke about the Governor signing his crossing guard safety bill, which elevates any intentional assault on a school crossing guard to a Class D felony. The legislation states a physical assault on a school crossing guard is punishable by up to seven years in jail.

For seniors, Senator Peralta announced thousands more of New York seniors will be eligible for two state programs. The SCRIE and EPIC coverage helps protect seniors on a fixed income from the ever increasing costs of rent and medications.

--For SCRIE, income guidelines were increased from \$29,000 to \$50,000.

--For EPIC, for individuals have an annual income of \$75,000 or less (increased from \$35,000). For couples have an annual income of \$100,000 or less (increased from \$50,000).

Next, year there will be a big fight for control of the Senate. Four seats will determine who has control of the Senate. Since there is a Democratic majority, it will be night and day the amount of resources that will be brought to the community. Currently, the Republicans are the majority and they get to dictate what we don't get. If we are in the majority, the Democrats will dictate what the community will get. If we do get back in the majority, the Dream Act will easily be passed.

Another issue is the minimum wage, which has already been increased. The Governor wants to match what the President has talked about. Also, the Democrats will have the opportunity to allow the localities to increase its own minimum wage. In this way, the state will not dictate the minimum wage. The City will increase its own minimum wage based on cost of living. Different regions have different standards of living costs.

Next, he spoke about the 10-point Women's Equality Act. This Act would:

1. *Close a loophole in New York's equal pay law that allows employers to justify paying female employees less.*
2. *Outlaw workplace wage secrecy policies.*
3. *Increase damages available to a prevailing litigant to 300% of unpaid wages.*

Next, he discussed Roosevelt Avenue. Roosevelt Avenue is the dividing line between 110 and 115 Precincts. Recommendations have been made to Commissioner Bratton which it is hoped he will take into consideration. The Speaker of the City Council has been alerted because it is unclear who has jurisdiction.

Next, he addressed the issue of street vendors on Roosevelt Avenue. Because the street vendors sell in front of restaurants and sell the same type of food at a cheaper price. People patronizing these street vendors drop the food or wrappings on the floor without throwing it in the litter basket, which is a problem for the legitimate business owner.

On the other hand, street vendors are dealing with a black market because of the cap on street vendor licenses issued which are only 3000. Street vendors are paying \$12,000 yearly to individuals who live in Florida so they can rent permits out. The permit is just the sticker on the cart, not the license itself. The cost for the permit is only \$200. Senator Peralta reported a Street Vendor Taskforce is called for. This proposal calls for hearings to be held at the City Council and to reinstate the taskforce to come up with solutions on how street vendors can exist with businesses. He cited new rules and regulations which would have only one or two street vendors on a block for a certain amount of time, and they cannot sell the same the same item the restaurant owner is selling where the vendor is stationed in front. Additionally, the letter grade would be implemented, which Senator Peralta has a bill pending in Albany. The Dept. of Health would inspect and both the restaurants and street vendors would receive letter grades.

Board Member Judy D'Andrea brought up this issue would only add to enforcement, which the Police cannot oversee. The Police have other priorities besides street vendors. If there was a choice between a violent crime and a street vendor problem, the violent crime prevails.

Senator Peralta responded this task force will be in charge of dealing with restrictions, rules and regulations. Four different agencies or more will be responsible for this taskforce and they will be responsible for having the hearings and ultimately for the rules and regulations they will enforce with the Police Department, Consumer Affairs, and Small Business Administration etc.

Discussion ensued about street vendors.

Next, he spoke about Flushing Meadows-Corona Park. A fully staffed Police station is being considered for the Park, if not a sub-station is essential.

At this point, Senator Peralta took questions from the Board. Board Member asked questions which ranged from human trafficking on Roosevelt Avenue to gangs to help to try to clean it up and reduce crime levels.

More discussion ensued on Roosevelt Avenue.

Subsequently, D. I. Ronald Leyson, Commanding Officer of the 110 Police Precinct, gave an update on crime in the precinct. Crime statistics are down for the 28-day period: down almost 4% for the year. Significant increase in burglaries, however, for the 28-day period and year to date 23% up in burglaries.

To combat the problem, personnel have been redeployed; the hours of personnel have been changed to earlier hours in the burglary area. Downtown had granted more overtime to deploy more personnel to designated zones where they are showing spikes in burglaries. Queens Patrol North is sending in extra personnel in the way of the Citifield Conditions Unit and the Queens North Taskforce. Extra personnel are being deployed to help out with this burglary problem.

Deployment is working—only one burglary reported last week.

Next, he reminded all to close your windows when you are not home. It's a very strong intrusion and violation of your personal space when someone burglarizes your house. Be mindful, take the proper precautions and install some type of security system. Security cameras, both internal and external, are very inexpensive. Call the 110's Crime Prevention Officer Thomas Wen, 718-476-9326. He will come to your home and does a free crime prevention survey to help you better secure your home.

If you live in a multiple dwelling, a survey will be done of your apartment and also Officer Wen will work with the management company or super to do a security survey of the entire building.

D. I. Leyson reported an increase in stolen cars--3% increase in stolen cars for the year. Also, a sharp increase in the amount of motor cycles that were stolen has been seen. No links to organizations or car thieves were seen. Crime prevention material is being sent to registered motor cycle owners to help decrease motor cycle theft.

Hondas and Dodge Caravans are high on the stolen vehicle list. One of the reasons the Dodge Caravan is so desirable is that the parts are interchangeable, from a 2014 year vehicle back to the late 1990's. Car thieves will steal a new van and use the parts from the new van renovating, for example the dollar vans, with all new parts.

Next, he announced the 110 Precinct Community Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 13, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. at the VFW Post 150, 51-11 108 Street, Corona, NY. Meetings are now held on the second Thursday, except for July and August.

Next, D. I. Leyson thanked everyone for their contributions at their bake sale held at the Precinct to the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer. The Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk is planned for Sunday, October 19, at Flushing Meadows-Corona Park.

Next, D. I. Leyson reported he will be attending Assembly Member Moya's Town Hall meeting on October 23, to address any police matters.

Before concluding his presentation, he urged all to be mindful of their surroundings. Do not be so involved with your smart phone that you are oblivious to your surroundings. He advised all to be smart with your smart phone. Use only one ear bud so you can hear your surroundings. Be familiar with your surroundings, stay in well-lit areas, walk with a friend, and follow your instincts. Do not confront anyone. Do not walk onto a dark street thinking you will lose the person. Don't leave your valuable property unattended in your car. Be smart what you are doing.

Next, he spoke about the Vision Zero initiative and enforcement. Details followed.

Next, he spoke about the street co-naming at the corner of 43rd Avenue and 95th Street for Police Officer Robert Ehmer on Friday, October 17, at 11:00 a.m. Police Officer Ehmer died in 2010 from cancer while working rescue recovery at Ground Zero after the 9/11 attacks. All were invited to attend the ceremony.

Follow D. I. Leyson on Twitter. He has an official Twitter account @NYPD110Pct where he personally does all the tweeting on the account. He explained Twitter does not take the place of 311 or 911, and is not monitored 24 hours per day. He does respond to people and lists community events and information relevant to the community.

At this point, Chairperson Louis Walker appointed the following Board Members to the By-Laws Committee. Since the By-laws need to be changed, the Committee will meet and report back to the Board, hopefully, in a month's time.

The Board Members to serve on this Committee are:

Damian Vargas
Patricia Terranova
Alton Derrick Smith

Furthermore, he explained one of the changes to the By-Laws is the election cycle. Every other year, half the Board is re-appointed and those elected may not be re-appointed to the Board, therefore, it is necessary for elections to be moved to the Fall, instead of elections which are currently held in the late winter/early spring. Other matters in the By-Laws also need to be addressed.

Chairperson Walker also reported he met with the Chairs of all the Committees and asked that a committee vice chair be selected in the event the Committee Chair cannot attend a scheduled meeting. The meeting must continue in the Committee Chair's absence and meetings should be held more frequently.

At this point, Catherine Moore representing the Queens Borough President's Office presented the following Board Member with service awards:

Salvatore Lombardo – 15 Year Certificate

Judy D'Andrea – 35 Year Certificate

VII. REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

District Manager Christian Cassagnol reported on the De Blasio Administration to invest \$130 million to rebuild low-income community parks. Corona has one of the parks targeted, namely, MAC Playground.

Next, Board Members were given copies of the FY '16 Capital and Expense budgets for their review.

Subsequently Board Member Jennifer Chu requested the Board write a letter to the City of New York regarding the lack of protocol followed on the Pan American homeless shelter.

Chairperson Walker asked what purpose the letter would serve.

Board Member Chu responded to go on record.

Discussion ensued.

Board Member Chu continued the Board's letter can be accessed through FOIL and members of the public would see the community did not support the way the City of New York put the shelter in place without community input or notification, specifically citing the ULURP process.

District Manager Cassagnol responded a meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 17, with the Dept. of Homeless Services. This may not be the first time this will happen, and we may see more homeless shelters being placed in Queens. From this meeting, he was optimistic on getting more questions answered from this meeting and more input on the future of the shelter.

Chairperson Walker said a motion is on the floor, made by Board Member Jennifer Chu, seconded by Board Member Lucy Schilero, to write a letter to the City of New York stating the Board did not approve of the process the City used to place a homeless shelter in the community without due process which does not serve our community's needs.

Although Board Member Jennifer Chu rephrased the motion, Chairperson Walker cautioned the use of the last part of the wording of the motion, in particular, "*does not serve the community's needs or does not serve Elmhurst and Corona's needs*". Be careful of the wording used, specifically, who it serves said Chairperson Walker.

Board Member Sandra Munoz amended the motion to use *the breach in protocol*, to replace "*does not serve the community's needs*".

Before the vote was taken, Chairperson Louis Walker reiterated the revised motion as follows:

The letter written will convey there was a breach in protocol on how the homeless shelter was established at the old Pan American.

By a roll call vote, the Board voted 16 in favor, 13 opposed, with 1 abstention. Motion passed.

Discussion ensued.

At this point, Chairperson opened the floor to discussion on the FY '16 Capital and Expense budgets.

Discussion ensued.

After the discussion, Board Member John Peters made a motion, seconded by Board Member Clara Salas, to **approve** the FY'16 Capital budget priorities.

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

Next, the Board discussed the FY '16 Expense budget priorities.

Board Member John Peters made a motion, seconded by Board Member Judy D'Andrea, to **approve** the FY '16 Expense budget priorities.

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

VIII. REPORT OF THE LEGISLATORS

Mr. Tristian Massalay-Ellis, representing Council Member Julissa Ferrreas' office, reported the Council Member is holding her first annual Hispanic Heritage Award Reception. It is free and open to the Public. It is an awards ceremony to recognize the influential members of our community, including a Board Member of Community Board 4 Mr. Damian Vargas. The ceremony is planned for Wednesday, October 15, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m., at the New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111 Street, Corona, NY. Flyers were on the back table.

Next, Mr. Sebastian Maguire, representing Council Member Daniel Dromm's office, mentioned legislation and budget issues.

The city's municipal identification cards will come out in January, with free yearlong memberships to 33 cultural institutions around the city.

He reported the threshold for SCRIE has been raised to \$50,000 per year. Any seniors under the guidelines are eligible for this program to pay their rent.

Speaking about Sanitation issues on Roosevelt Avenue and Broadway, there will be two more days of Dept. of Sanitation collection along Broadway from Roosevelt Avenue to Queens Blvd. for the 20 peak weeks throughout the year through Council Member Dromm's initiative.

In addition, the Doe Fund will be extended on Roosevelt Avenue, the portion the Council Member represents.

\$2 million in funding has been allocated for schools capital focusing on technology and security issues.

A scathing report was issued concerning the conditions at Rikers Island. Council Member Dromm has been very busy working on the problem. Finally, a bill passed in August to increase oversight at Riker's Island.

He relayed an incident of a 16 year old arrested on a burglary charge and ended up spending three years on Rikers without ever facing a trial. He spent nearly 800 days in solitary confinement alone in a tiny cell.

IX. PRESENTATIONS

A. Michael Yunger, Manager Queens Adult Care Center Assisted Living (formerly Leben Home) --Discussion on programs

Chairperson Louis Walker announced the presenter had to leave and will be re-scheduled for next month's meeting.

B. Milorad Ubiparip, Project Manager NYC DOT --Proposal for corridor traffic safety improvements along Broadway In Queens between Roosevelt Avenue and Queens Blvd.

While DOT was setting up the projector, District Manager Cassagnol announced Mr. Daniel Zausner, CEO of USTA, will make a presentation at the November 12 CB meeting.

Subsequently, Mr. Vikram Sinha of the NYCDOT Queens Borough Commissioner's Office, introduced the proposal for corridor traffic safety improvements along Broadway in Queens between Roosevelt Avenue and Queens Boulevard.

The floor was turned over to Mr. Milorad Ubiparip, Project Manager, NYCDOT, who explained the project.

Why Broadway – Elmhurst?

- High crash corridor, ranking in the top 10% of Queens corridors
- 301 injuries (15 severe) in 5 years (2008-2012)
- 1 fatality in 2013

- Requests from local elected officials and community members for traffic calming measures to improve pedestrian/bike safety along Broadway.

Location

- From 75th Street to Queens Blvd.: Two-way roadway with one travel lane and one parking lane in each direction
- Inconsistent roadway and moving lane widths (50' -73')
- Commercial corridor with local retail, major hospital, and residential land uses
- High pedestrian and vehicular volumes
- Subway stations at Roosevelt Avenue, Elmhurst Avenue, and Grand Avenue

- Local truck route, Q18 & Q53 buses

*Safety Data
Broadway -75 St to Q Blvd.*

A chart was presented which displayed Injury Summary, 2008-2012 (5 years) listing Pedestrian, Bicyclist, Motor Vehicle Occupant, total injuries and total fatalities from 1/1/2008-8/11/2014.

Recommendations and Benefits

Redesign 1.0 miles of high crash corridor

- Restripe one standard moving lane in each direction (11') with improved channelization and street geometry
- Reduce speeding
- Better Organize traffic-create consistent number of travel lanes
- Less merging near Elmhurst venue

Upgrade high visibility crosswalks:

- Provides safer pedestrian crossings

Install left-turn bays:

- Creates safer left turns with less conflicts

Stripe 13' wide parking lane:

- Marking parking buffer where street widens (1.e. from Britton to Elmhurst Aves)
- Allows for safer bike travel

Proposal

After analyzing the data, two proposals were devised. A chart was shown of the existing and proposed conditions. Mr. Ubiparip explained the proposed changes

Design Plan: Britton to Elmhurst Avenues

Option 1

- Install wide 13' parking lane stripe
- Install left turn bays and flush painted medians
- Upgrade to high visibility crosswalks

Option 2

- Install left turn bays and flush painted medians
- Extend sidewalk/raise concrete
- Install left turn bays and flush painted medians
- Install wide 13' parking lane stripe
- Upgrade to high visibility crosswalks

At this point, Board Member A. Redd Sevilla inquired about the absence of bicycle lanes on the proposal.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Sinha explained a study of roadway was done as a segment and found there were two high crash locations, which were on Broadway from Northern Blvd. to 65 Street and from Roosevelt Avenue to Queens Blvd. The bike lane discussion can be brought up later if the Community Board wishes. Space was created within the roadway to better organize traffic and allow bikes to move more freely. But, it is not a part of the package currently. First, DOT wanted to ensure the intersection is safer overall, before extra improvements were looked at.

Chairperson Louis Walker commented the project consists of painting a lot of lines to try to regulate traffic.

Discussion ensued.

At this point, Board Member John Peters made a motion, seconded by Board Member Judy D'Andrea, to **approve** the Broadway – Elmhurst Corridor Safety Improvement Project.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 27 in favor, 1 opposed, with 1 abstention. Motion passed.

Before the next agenda item was presented, which was a ULURP matter, Chairperson Walker reported ULURP Chair Miriam Levenson was not present tonight because she had fallen and will be out for a while.

X. ULURP COMMITTEE

Report and Vote: 421-A Tax Exemption

90-05-90-19 Corona Avenue

47-19 & 47-20 90th Street

Mr. Thomas Berinato, Attorney at Law, for the applicant, 90 Queens Inc., addressed the Board.

The property owner has built ten buildings in the community. The buildings are located at 90-05, 90-07, 90-09, 90-11, 90-13, 90-15, 90-17, and 90-19 Corona Avenue and 47-19 & 47-20 90th Street.

Each building has four residential apartments on the upper floors with a commercial space on the ground floor. The owner of the property has applied for a Tax Exemption pursuant to Section 421-a of the Real Property Tax Law. This is a very common application, but this one has certain unique features.

In general, a 421-a tax exemption is a reward to someone who agrees to certain restrictions on the use of their property. Generally, the restrictions they agree to are for a period of fifteen years for their units, although new, are subject to rent regulations established by the Rent Stabilization Law, which means if someone resides in one of those apartments that for a period of fifteen years there would be maximum rental increases that would be built into their unit and they would be prevented from asked to leave their apartment, except under certain circumstances such as non-payment of rent.

The tenant can stay in the apartment for fifteen years, and the initial rent would be established based on market conditions. For fifteen years, there would be increases consistent with the Rent Guidelines Board plus 2.2%.

This particular project contains additional restrictions. Those restrictions are referred to as affordable units. This area is known as a geographic exclusion area. For someone to have this type of partial tax exemption in that area, it is required Affordable Units are built. This type of building is referred to as an 80-20 building, which means 20% of the units are affordable. Affordability is determined by 60% of area median income.

For example, the owner of one of the buildings has agreed that one of his apartments, a 3-bedroom apartment, will rent for no more than \$1,000 per month.

The maximum rent will start at \$1,000 for those particular units and only be increased as set forth by the regulations of Rent Guidelines Board, plus 2.2%. There are ten such apartments, which will rent for 1/3 of the market price for a comparable unit.

A Board Member inquired how someone from the public can get one of those apartments.

Mr. Berinato responded they put their names on a list established by HPD. The owner must choose someone from that list, but not necessarily the person at the top of the list.

The unique feature of this tax abatement is the affordable units. The owner of the building can either comply and has tax abatement or not to comply and pay a substantially higher real property tax. The owner will obtain the C of O within three months.

At this point, the floor was opened for questions.

Discussion ensued on how much the apartments would rent for both market and reduced rents.

After the discussion, Board Member Alirio Orduna made a motion, seconded by Board Member Priscilla Carrow, to **approve** the 421-a Tax Exemption Application.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 28 in favor, 0 opposed, with 2 abstentions. Motion passed.

At this point, Chairperson Louis Walker said the Transportation Committee items on the agenda were out, and he called for the Public Safety Committee to report.

XI. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Public Safety Committee Chair Lucy Schilero reported the Committee met on October 7, 2014 to discuss the following liquor license applications.

Before the report was presented, Committee Chair Schilero informed the Board the Public Safety Committee takes complaints at the end of the meeting and CERT was at Target on September 20. Problems have surfaced with the new owners who took over the nightclub Exotics. Based on the complaints that were made, the location must be addressed again.

**NYS LIQUOR AUTHORITY LICENSES
OCTOBER 2014**

NEW APPLICANTS

<u>Establishment's Name</u>	<u>Establishment's Address</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
DK & DS Inc. Wine and Beer Only	49-10 Junction Blvd. Elmhurst, NY 11373	Approved

**NYS LIQUOR AUTHORITY LICENSES (cont'd)
OCTOBER 2014**

NEW APPLICANTS

Angel's Club Inc. Liquor, Wine and Beer <i>"NY Chevillotte"</i> No show. No paperwork submitted.	78-14 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY 11372	Denied
85-16 Food Corp. Liquor, Wine and Beer <i>"Cevicheria El Rey"</i> 500 ft. rule: Guadalajara de Noche (85-09 Roosevelt Avenue), Editas Bar & Restaurant Inc. dba Flamingos (85-10/12 Roosevelt Avenue), Latino Regal Corp., dba El Tucanazo Bar (83-17 Roosevelt Avenue).	85-16A Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY 11372	Denied
Tacos Gloria Corp. Wine and Beer Only No C of O. No paperwork.	103-07 Martense Avenue Corona, NY	Denied
El Rinco Criollo Corp. Wine and Beer Only No show. No paperwork submitted.	40-09 Junction Blvd. Corona, NY	Denied
El Palacio del Sabor Rest. Inc. <i>"Oxigeno"</i> Liquor, Wine and Beer No C of O.	90-18 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Denied
Golden City New York Restaurant Inc. Wine and Beer Only	40-13 82 Street Elmhurst, NY	Denied

The owner stated they were not ready to go forward and would come back to the Board once they were ready to proceed.

RENEWAL APPLICANTS

<u>Establishment's Name</u>	<u>Establishment's Address</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
Osvis Bar Restaurant Corp. "El Canelazo Bar Restaurant" Liquor, Wine and Beer	80-04 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Denied

Improper Power of Attorney, thus we did not meet with the representative (not notarized, signatures did not match).

CORPORATE CHANGE

<u>Establishment's Name</u>	<u>Establishment's Address</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
Tropicoso Bar-Grill No II Corp. Liquor, Wine and Beer	111-10 Roosevelt Avenue Corona, NY	Denied

No show. No paperwork submitted.

ALTERATION

<u>Establishment's Name</u>	<u>Establishment's Address</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
Mangos Steakhouse & Bakery Inc. Liquor, Wine and Beer	78-14 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Denied

No show. No paperwork submitted.

Following the report, Board Member Judy D'Andrea made a motion, seconded by Board Member Gigi Salvador, to **approve** the Committee's report as presented.

By a voice vote, the Board voted, 27 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

At this point, Board Member John Peters inquired about making a motion about the proposed street closure to the School Construction Authority regarding the cancelled Public Hearing item on tonight's agenda.

Subsequently, District Manager Cassagnol explained the SCA had wanted to close the street for a full 24 hours for the entire four months. SCA did not want to bring the proposal to the Committee nor to the Board. They had requested the Board just sign off on it, which could not be done. A meeting was held with the Transportation Committee and it was explained to the SCA the Board would hold a Public Hearing on the matter, whether or not representatives were present from the SCA. Just right before this meeting, after two weeks of silence, SCA called District Manager Cassagnol stating they would not attend tonight's meeting and explained the street closure would be temporary, not permanent.

The letter proposed to the SCA would state any request for a partial or permanent street closure must be addressed and voted on by the Board. Public Hearing notices were sent by the Board to about 500 area residents notifying them of tonight's Public Hearing, which is a waste of Board staff time, postage and paper, only to have the Public Hearing cancelled last minute.

Both Chairperson Walker and District Manager Cassagnol agreed the letter would be sent to SCA.

Discussion ensued.

XII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Environmental

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

Youth

Committee Chair Lucy Cerezo-Scully reported no meeting was held, therefore, no report.

Consumer Affairs

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

Parks

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

Postal

Committee Chair Gigi Salvador reported a meeting will be planned.

Health

Committee Chair Clara Salas reported on the following:

1. Joint Project Health Committee CB4, Newtown High School and Elmhurst Hospital Center. Community Board 4 Health Committee met on Monday, September 29, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at the CB 4 office, 46-11 104 Street, Corona, NY. Attending were Clara Salas, Chair of Health Committee CB4Q, Christian Cassagnol, District Manager, Christina Long, Community Assistant, Dr. Myrna Littlewort, Cecilia Gullas, and Nancy King Wang, assistant Principal of Newtown HS (Ms. Wang participated in the meeting via phone conference).
Subject of the meeting: Planning of Health Project, with Elmhurst Hospital Center and Newtown High School to educate and inform students and CB 4 at large.
Prior to the meeting, Ms. Salas asked Ms. Wang to obtain the approval from the Newtown High School Principal Lorrie Rodrigue, as to structure and subject of the information that would be more appropriate for this Project. Principal Rodrigue informed that the preferred structure is the classroom and not the assembly and that the preferred subject is HIV Prevention and not Vaccinations. Discussed was the reason HIV Prevention was selected by the Principal.

The next meeting for the planning of this project will be at the Elmhurst Hospital Center on Wednesday, October 14, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. and the next Health Committee meeting of CB 4 will be on Monday, October 27, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. at the CB 4 office.

2. **Enterovirus D68**, which has rapidly spread across the U. S and sickened hundred, is now linked to four deaths, health officials reported Wednesday. Read on for the latest about this respiratory infection and how to handle it.

Four people who died recently—including a 10-year old girl—tested positive for Enterovirus D68 health officials announced on Wednesday.

So far it's unclear whether the virus, also called EV-D68, played a role in their deaths, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

About 10 million to 15 million people are infected with the common virus every year. But this year's outbreak sent more children to hospitals than usual, according to the agency.

EV-D68 causes severe respiratory symptoms, which sometimes leads to hospitalization, especially in children with asthma. No vaccine for it exists yet.

On October 1, CDC confirmed 472 cases of the infection in 40 states and the District of Columbia; it's believed that many more people are infected, experts say.

(Respiratory Articles, E alth Writer Enterovirus 68 Is Connected to Four Deaths By Diane Wedner, Life script Published October 02, 2014).

3. **Ebola Virus Disease Update**

Nurse Nina Pham, in Dallas, Texas, in isolation and receiving plasma treatment of donated blood from former Ebola patient (Doctor from Samaritan Purse). EVD cases are now in several European nations.

Airports and other port of entries in the USA have developed and established procedures for the detecting of Ebola. Please go to internet to find more updated information.

Save the Date!

October 15 through December 7 2014 – Medicare open enrollment.

November 15, 2014 through February 15, 2015 – New York State Open Enrollment (qualified health plans)

November 6, 2014 – 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. – **Free Health Insurance 101 Workshop**

Elmhurst Hospital Center, 4th Floor Conference Room (D417) Call 212 788-3450 by **October 30, 2014** to register.

Tuesday, October 14, 2014 – Clara Salas

Save the Date!

1. Public Forum – CB4

Tuesday, October 21, 2014 – Parents Know Your Rights

Presented by: CED District 24 – Special Education Committee.

Time: 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Where: I.S. 93 66-56 Forest Avenue, Ridgewood. See flyer.

2. Saturday, November 22, UFT

Parent Education Conference

Time – 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Where: Sheraton LaGuardia East Hotel

135-20 39 Avenue, Flushing, NY

There being no further business, Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula made a motion, seconded by Board Member Gigi Salvador, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.