



COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, Elmhurst, and Newtown

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Melinda Katz
Borough President

Louis Walker
Chairperson

Melva Miller
Deputy Borough President

Christian Cassagnol
District Manager

COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2016

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

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

I. Chairperson Louis Walker opened the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

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

IV. **VOTE:** Minutes October 18, 2016 Meeting

Board Member Clara Salas made a motion, seconded by Board Member Alirio Orduna to **accept** the minutes.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 33 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

V. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson Louis Walker did not present a report.

VI. REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

District Manager Cristian Cassagnol reported on the Department of Sanitation's Fall Leaf Collection In Queens. Lawn and leaf bags are available at the Community Board 4 office. Set out leaves on November 19 and Saturday, December 3 for collection on Sunday, November 20, and Sunday December 4.

Next, the District Manager toured the newly renovated Elmhurst Library, which is really nice. It is a super-modern building with sliver and glass and neon greens and oranges. The ribbon cutting is scheduled for December 20 (tentative date). Once confirmation is received, it will be announced.

Subsequently, three upcoming Committee meetings were announced:

- November 17 – Youth Committee
- November 28 – Transportation Committee
- November 30 – Parks Committee

VII. REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Board Treasurer Giancarlo Castano reported a collection will be made for the Sunshine Fund. Please see him at the end of the meeting.

Chairperson Walker added the Sunshine Fund covers the cost to fund the Board's Annual Holiday Party in addition to sending fruit baskets/flowers to Board members depending on the occasion.

VIII. REPORT OF THE LEGISLATORS

Assembly Member Francisco Moya reported November 17 he is sponsoring a Town Hall meeting at the VFW Post #150, 51-11 108 Street. Join him and a panel of State and City agencies in discussing quality of life issues concerning our community. He urged all to attend.

Next, he reported on November 1 the Bill he sponsored on curbstoning became law. This Bill targets the cars parked on the streets displaying For Sale signs. On October 20, he and the 110 Police Precinct collected 22 vehicles off of our streets. Locations were derived through community recommendations and his personal observance of illegally parked vehicles. Assembly Member Moya accompanied the 110 Precinct on the tour, starting out 9:00 p.m. ending at 12:00 Midnight/1:00 a.m.

Next, he spoke about the auto body shop on 47 Avenue & 108 Street because their cars are blocking pedestrian crosswalks. Those offending cars were towed off the street. This location will be monitored monthly. We are sending a message to these repeat offenders.

Next, he mentioned the traditional 36th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting on November 28.

Next, Assembly Member Moya mentioned the recent TWU rally. The bus operators and transportation workers are fighting for a fair contract, and they may not get the contract they deserve. Since a strike is possible because the contract expires January 15. We must ensure when the MTA comes to Albany for money, they are providing fair prevailing wages for the men and women who keep New York City running. As Chair of the Committee on Labor for Worker's Safety, Assembly Member Moya is committed to defending the rights of those workers who keep us safe when using public transportation. He noted the MTA has been cutting corners and explained when they come to Albany to ask for funding for projects, the money is put elsewhere and our communities are cheated out of services.

Your support is needed to lend a hand to those working class men and women.

Next, turkeys will be given out to seniors and those in need in our community, many folks in our community will not have the opportunity to sit down to a Thanksgiving dinner. He encouraged all if they have the opportunity to donate food to the local church or food bank. This is the best way to help out a neighbor or family in need. It will make a difference too many hungry families.

Next, David Burgos, representing State Senator Jose Peralta's office, wished all a Happy Thanksgiving and enjoy the holiday.

Next, Qibin Ye, representing Council Member Daniel Dromm's office, reported on the Small Business Informational Panel on Thursday, November 17, 2016, 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Saint James Episcopal Church,

8407 Broadway, Elmhurst, NY. Learn about city regulation updates, financing programs, compliance and voice your concerns and questions.

Subsequently, she announced the Elmhurst Holiday Tree Lighting ceremony at CC Moore Homestead Playground, on Wednesday, November 30, on Broadway Btw. 45th Avenue and 82nd Street at 4:00 p.m. All were invited to attend.

Next, Stacy Eliuk, the new Queens representative for the Public Advocate's Office, reported the job of the Public Advocate's office is to amplify the voices of community residents. One of the ways this is done was by putting together a Watch list of worst landlords, some of which are located in the City and in Community Board 4.

For example, at 108-42 43 Avenue there is a 12-unit building with 123 listed violations. For each unit, there are about ten violations per family. When bad players do bad things, they are not able to get away with it, which is one of the many facets of the Public Advocate's office.

With the recent election within the Board area there is much fear and concern over safety. The Public Advocate's Office will not tolerate any hateful actions that target particular individuals. Call the Police and contact her at the Public Advocate's Office at 212-669-4576 or at seliuk@pubadvocate.nyc.gov for assistance.

Next, Lillian Zepeda, representing Council Member Julissa Ferreras' office, reported on #3 on the Board's Expense list (More Funding For Graffiti Removal). The Council Member has a free Graffiti Removal Program where the Council Member had allocated \$15,000 to QEDC for graffiti removal in Council District 21. Call for immediate service on private homes or commercial properties 718-651-1917.

Also on the Board's priorities under Continued Support,--Renovation of Corona Plaza, it will occur at the middle/end of next year.

District Manager Cassagnol replied it is still relevant.

Council Member Ferreras' office is always open for any questions or concerns.

Before concluding, she added Council Member Ferreras' office is working with schools giving out free turkeys in particular P. S. 14. However if you have a particular reference, contact the Council Member's office to coordinate.

Next, Alex Bennett, representing Congresswoman Grace Meng's office, reported the Congresswoman was elected to serve her third term. The 2017 Congressional Calendars were delivered to the Board for distribution. Since there were no formal announcements, he wished Board Chair Lou Walker best of luck in his future endeavors.

IX. NOMINATION COMMITTEE

Report and Vote: Election of New Executive Committee

Eric Cruz, Chairperson of the Nomination Committee, read the Committee's recommendation for Chairperson of the Board:

Damian Vargas
Giancarlo Castano

At this point, Chair Louis Walker called for nominations from the floor. Please keep in mind since more than one person is running, Board Members will have the opportunity to ask one question to one candidate only. Questioning will be only for the Board Chair's seat, not for the other successive officer positions.

The floor was opened to nominations.

Board Member Clara Salas nominated Board Secretary Lucy Schilero for Chairperson of the Board, seconded by Board Member Lester Youngblood.

Board Secretary Lucy Schilero declined the nomination.

Board Member James Lisa nominated Board Member Marcello Testa, seconded by Board Member Patricia Terranova.

Board Chair Louis Walker announced three people were nominated and called out any for other nominations from the floor. A second call out for nominations from the floor by the Board Chair.

Since there were none, the Community Board will now meet in Executive Session for the purpose to question the three candidates selected and to elect the new Chairperson of Community Board 4. One of the reasons for going into closed session is that personal information may be revealed, said Chairperson Louis Walker.

All non-members were asked to leave, except for persons representing electing officials. Others may come back later. At the end of the Executive Session, the Board will return to open session for the remainder of the voting.

After the ballots were counted, Chairperson Walker announced the vote tally for the **Chairperson of the Board:**

Marcello Testa – 7 votes
Giancarlo Castano – 9 votes
Damian Vargas – 17 votes

Damian Vargas elected new Chairperson of the Board

At this point, Chairperson Louis Walker stated closed session had ended and reopened the meeting.

As the Board returned to an open meeting, the election of officers was resumed.

Next, the *First Vice Chair* office was voted on:

Nominations Committee Chair Erica Cruz reported the Nominations Committee selected:

Al Perna
Erica Cruz

Chairperson Walker called for any other nominations from the floor.

Board Member Priscilla Carrow nominated Board Member Giancarlo Castano, seconded by Board Member Judy D'Andrea.

After the ballots were counted, Chairperson Louis Walker announced the results for the First Vice Chair Office

Al Perna – 11 votes
Erica Cruz – 9 Votes
Giancarlo Castano – 13 votes

Board Member Giancarlo Castano is the First Vice Chair

Next, the Nominations Committee Chair Erica Cruz reported the Nomination Committee selection for Second Vice Chair

Alton Derrick Smith
Lucy Schilero

Chairperson Walker called out for nominations from the floor.

Board Member Ingrid Gomez nominated Board Member Erica Cruz, seconded by Board Member Ashely Reed

Board Member Giancarlo Castano, nominated Board Member Alirio Orduna, seconded by Board Member Damian Vargas

Board Member Alexia Ponce, nominated Al Perna, seconded by Board Member Maria Damico

After the ballots were counted, Chairperson Louis Walker announced the results for Second Vice Chairperson

Alton Derrick Smith – 12 votes
Lucy Schilero – 6 votes
Erica Cruz – 6 votes
Alirio Orduna – 4 votes
Al Perna – 5 votes

Board Member Alton Derrick Smith is the Second Vice Chairperson

Next, Nominations Committee Chair Erica Cruz reported the Nomination Committee selection for Treasurer

Board Member Winny Oo

Board Member Winny Oo declined the nomination.

At this point, Chairperson Louis Walker called out for nominations from the floor.

Board Member Priscilla Carrow nominated Board Member Ashley Reed, seconded by Board Member Ingrid Gomez.

Board Member Alirio Orduna nominated Board Member Lucy Cerezo-Scully, seconded by Board Member Maria Damico.

After the ballots were counted, Chairperson Louis Walker announced the results for **Treasurer**

Ashley Reed – 18 votes
Lucy Cerezo-Scully – 14 votes

Board Member Ashley Reed is the Treasurer

Next, Nominations Committee Chair Erica Cruz reported the Nomination Committee selection for Executive Secretary

Lucy Schilero
Marialena Giampino

Board Member Priscilla Carrow nominated Minwen Yang, seconded by Board Member Judy D’Andrea

Board Member Lucy Schilero declined the nomination.

After the ballots were counted, Chairperson Louis Walker announced the results for **Executive Secretary**

Marialena Giampino - 20 votes
Minwen Yang – 11 votes

Board Member Marialena Giampino is the Executive Secretary

Next, Nominations Committee Chair Erica Cruz reported the Nomination Committee selection for At Large Directors (Choose 4 Names Out of the 6)

Gurdip Singh Narula
Debra Clayton
A. Redd Sevilla
Alirio Orduna
Erica Cruz
Lucy Schilero

Chairperson Louis Walker called out for other nominations.

Chairperson Louis Walker announced the results for the **At Large Directors**

Board Member Ashley Reed, nominated Board Member Cristian Romero, seconded by Board Member Judy D’Andrea.

Chairperson Louis Walker called out for other nominations.

After the ballots were counted, Chairperson Louis Walker announced the results for **At Large Directors**.
The following Board Members are the new At Large Directors:

Debra Clayton
A. Redd Sevilla
Erica Cruz
Lucy Schilero

X. REPORT AND VOTE – Public Safety
SLA Applications

Committee Chair Lucy Schilero reported the Committee met on November 1. She added the 110 Precinct has been busy with the protestors in Manhattan

NYS LIQUOR AUTHORITY LICENSES

NEW APPLICANTS

| <u>ESTABLISHMENT'S NAME</u> | <u>ESTABLISHMENT'S ADDRESS</u> | <u>RECOMMENDATION</u> |
|--|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| A New Sunrise Inc. Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider <i>LaPollera Colorado</i> | 40-15 Junction Blvd. Corona, NY | Denied |
| Applicant was out of the country. Advised them to resubmit 30 day notice to be placed on agenda. | | |
| La Nortena Dinner Corp. Wine, Beer, & Cider | 111-12 Roosevelt Avenue | Approved |
| Brian 74 Inc. <i>Chung Kiwa Restaurant</i> | 40-06 74 Street Elmhurst, NY | Approved |
| El Zocalo Restaurant Inc. Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider | 40-10 83 Street Elmhurst, NY | Denied |

RENEWAL APPLICANTS

| <u>ESTABLISHMENT'S NAME</u> | <u>ESTABLISHMENT'S ADDRESS</u> | <u>RECOMMENDATION</u> |
|---|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 9601 Corona Avenue Rest. Corp. <i>Il Triangolo</i> Wine, Beer & Cider | 96-01 Corona Avenue Corona, NY | Approved |
| Soneros Bar Restaurant Inc. <i>Soneros Night Club Bar</i> | 92-02 Corona Avenue Elmhurst, NY | Approved |
| La Esquina Criolla Rest. Inc. Wine, Beer, Cider | 94-67 Corona Avenue Elmhurst, NY | Approved |

RENEWAL APPLICANTS (cont'd)

| <u>ESTABLISHMENT'S NAME</u> | <u>ESTABLISHMENT'S ADDRESS</u> | <u>RECOMMENDATION</u> |
|--|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 7951 Albion LLC Amadeus Night Club Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider | 79-51 Albion Avenue Elmhurst, NY | Approved |
| Crab Addison Inc. Joe's Crab Shack Liquor, Wine, Beer, & Cider | 92-50 59 Avenue Elmhurst, NY | Approved |

ALTERATION

| <u>ESTABLISHMENT'S NAME</u> | <u>ESTABLISHMENT'S ADDRESS</u> | <u>RECOMMENDATION</u> |
|--|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Soneros Bar Restaurant Inc. <i>Soneros Night Club Bar</i> | 92-02 Corona Avenue Elmhurst, NY | Denied |

Applicant never provided proof that DOB has cleared the work that was done at the premises.

Board Member Georgina Oliver made a motion, seconded by Board Member Lucy Cerezo-Scully, to **approve** the Committee's report as presented.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 33 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Consumer Affairs

No Report said Committee Chair Erica Cruz

Environmental/Parks

No Report said Committee Chair Giancarlo Castano

Health

Committee Chair not in attendance

Transportation

Committee Chair James Lisa reported a meeting is scheduled for November 28. On the agenda, 111 Street Traffic Safety Plan, this includes bike lanes. Also a TLC license is on for renewal.

ULURP/Zoning

Committee Chair Alton Derrick Smith reported the Committee met on November 9 on two applications. For the first application, the ULURP Committee voted to deny the 103 Street & Alstyn Avenue application because there was no representation for the applicant (50-11 & 50-15 103 Street and 103-10 & 103-16 Alstyn Avenue). This application has been ongoing for ten years. The owner is making a new application to tear down the structures currently on site to build a new structure. For this new structure, the owner is asking for a variance. At the ULURP Committee meeting held on November 9 the Committee took a vote to deny the variance.

Board Member Judy D'Andrea reported the applicant had been to the Board previously. Photographs of the property were shown to the Board. The Committee's recommendation is to **deny** the variance. The applicant

can build as of right. The decision of the ULURP Committee is not to endorse any type of variance for this property said Committee Chair Alton Derrick Smith.
The second application for 85-10 Roosevelt Avenue is for an extension of term of existing eating and drinking establishment is scheduled for report at the December 13 meeting.

District Manager Cassagnol reported the Dept. of Sanitation has summonsed the premises.

Board Member Priscilla Carrow made a motion, seconded by Board Member Marcello Testa, to **approve** the Committee's report requesting denial of the variance.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 33 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

Youth

Committee Chair Christian Romero reported a joint meeting with the Health Committee is scheduled for November 17. The Committees are planning a coat drive geared toward Elmhurst; more specifically, toward the Pan American Hotel.

District Manager Christian Cassagnol commented Health Committee Chair Sal Lombardo is willing to put a coat collection bin in his pharmacy. Also the Queens Center Mall is willing to place a bin in their stores. Moreover, on overstocked teddy bears Queens Center Mall stores had in stock, they were willing to donate those to the shelter.

The Community Board 4 office is the conduit between the Queens Center Mall and the shelter for delivery of the coats.

XII. PUBLIC FORUM

No speakers.

Since there was no further business, Board Edgar Moya made a motion, seconded by Board Member Ingrid Gomez, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.