



COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, Elmhurst, and Newtown

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Melinda Katz
Borough President

Damian Vargas
Chairperson

Melva Miller
Deputy Borough President

Christian Cassagnol
District Manager

June 13, 2017

BOARD MEMBER ATTENDANCE

Board Members Attending:

Damian Vargas
Priscilla Carrow
Debra Clayton
Lynda Coral
Erica Cruz
Maria Damico
Marialena Giampino
Ingrid Gomez
Jennifer Gutierrez
James Lisa
Salvatore Lombardo
Peter Manganaro
Patricia Martin
Edgar Moya
Ruby Muhammad
Sandra Munoz
Shwe Zin (Winnie Oo)

Alirio Orduna
Ashley Reed
Oscar Rios
Cristian Romero
Clara Salas
Lucy Schilero
Malikah Shabazz
Alton Derrick Smith
Gregory Spock
Marcello Testa
Vivian Tseng
Louis Walker
Rosa Wong
Minwen Yang

Board Members Absent:

Giancarlo Castano
Lucy Cerezo Scully
Chaio-Chung Chen
Safat Chowdhury
Judy D'Andrea
Rovenia McGowan
Gurdip Singh Narula

Georgina Oliver
Albert Perna
Alexa Ponce
Neil Roman
Gigi Salvador
A. Redd Sevilla
Lester Youngblood

ATTENDING:

Margaret Silletti, CB4 Community Coordinator
Christina Long, CB4 Community Assistant
D. I. Christopher Manson, 110 Police Precinct
P.O. Dave Saponieri, 110 Police Precinct
Barbara Jackson, U. S. Rep. Joseph Crowley's Office
David Burgos, Senator Jose Peralta's Office
Alexander Bennett, U. S. Representative Grace Meng
QiBin Ye, Council Member Daniel Dromm
Joel Trinidad Santos, Council Member Julissa Ferreras-Copeland's Office
Steven Ettannani, Senior Policy Advisor, NYC Dept. of Consumer Affairs
Diane Dreier, NYC Department of Parks & Recreation
Jackie Harris, NYC Department of Parks & Recreation
Jennifer Ochoa, Newtown Civic Association
Fior Lampert, Newtown Civic Association
Tse Tan Chu, World Journal
Mike O'Kane, Queens Chapter #32 Vietnam Veterans of America
John Rowan, President, Vietnam Veterans of America
Debra Hargrove, 96-02 57 Avenue, Corona, NY
Maria Mach, 110-06 Saultell Avenue, Corona, NY
Sonny Lai, 94-08 46 Avenue, Elmhurst, NY
Mike Liquori, VFW Commander Post #150
Tina Maria, 110-02 Saultell Avenue, Corona, NY
Fran Roman, 110-02 Saultell Avenue, Corona, NY
Jim Galloway, LCTA, PO Box 730634, Elmhurst, NY
Matt McElroy, 74-02 43 Avenue, Elmhurst, NY
Mia & John Veresmorteau, 110-04 Saultell Avenue, Corona, NY
Cosimo Lillo, 58-31 Van Cleef Street, Corona, NY
Sabira Lillo, 58-31 Van Cleef Street, Corona, NY
Cristina Furlong, 37-35 85 Street, Elmhurst, NY
Jose Dee, 110-03 Saultell Avenue, Corona, NY
Runie Mensehe, NHS, 58-23 Van Cleef Street, Corona, NY
Baldo Roque, 58-11 Van Cleef Street, Corona, NY
Erycka Montiya, 98-40 57 Avenue, Corona, NY
Gerald Burroughs X, 103-20 53 Avenue, Corona, NY
Andy Collado, 102-37 46 avenue, Corona, NY
Alexis Vasquez, 110-01 Saultell Avenue, Corona, NY
Daphiney Vargas, 119-01 Saultell Avenue, Corona, NY
Tiffany Vargas, LoveBug Daycare 110-01 Saultell Avenue, Corona, NY
Kimberly Rivera, 57-58 Van Doren Street, Corona, NY
Maribel Diaz, 57-58 Van Doren Street, Corona, NY
John Huerth, LoveBug Daycare, 110-01 Saultell Avenue, Corona, NY
Colbeto Espinoza, 110-01 Saultell Avenue, Corona, NY
Victor Perez, 59-11 Van Doren Street, Corona, NY
Victoria Berrios, 107-30 71 Road,
Hugh Amoirini, 104-47 47 Street, Corona, NY
Hiram Monserrate, 100-13 Astoria Blvd.
Vivienne Anthony

Public Speaker's List

Runie Mensche, Neighborhood Housing Services

Erycka Montoya

Cristina Furlong

Cody Herrmann, Riverkeeper

Maria Renlo

Leeanne G-Bowley

COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE: TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 2017

TIME: 7:30 PM.

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

This meeting was streamed live.

I. Chairperson Damian Vargas opened the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

The Board was asked to remain standing for a moment of silence for Anthony “Tony” Moreno who passed away over the weekend. Mr. Moreno was a longtime Board member appointed in 1991 and served until 2014. In that time, he also served as Vice Chair and Chair of Community Board 4.

III. Executive Secretary Marialena Giampino took the roll call. A quorum was present.

IV. VOTE: Minutes May 9, 2017

Before the vote was taken, Board Member Lucy Schilero noted a correction to the May 9 minutes.

On page 6, the new legislation being prepared is on hookahs. Smoking will be brought in, but hookahs are the main subject.

Next, Parliamentarian Louis Walker noted Board Member Ruby Muhammad was not marked present at the May 9, 2017 meeting.

At this point, Board Member Priscilla Carrow made a motion, seconded by Alirio Orduna, to **accept** the minutes as corrected.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 31 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

V. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson Damian Vargas informed the Board District Manager Christian Cassagnol had an accident two weeks ago. Something heavy fell on him and he broke his collarbone. District Manager Christian Cassagnol has been in contact with the Board office and has been working remotely. By live stream, the Board waved hi to the District Manager and wished him well. It will be a slow process but he will be reaching out to the Board.

At this point, D. I. Manson was called upon but did not address the Board.

Next, Chairperson Vargas reported on the recent committee selection e-mail. Thirteen responses have been received to date. The committees may have to be reshuffled but selections will be accommodated, if possible. He pointed out the new box on the form, whether or not you would be interested in becoming a Committee Chair. Not that any Chairs will be removed, but it is more for informational purposes.

If a new Chair had to be selected that person would have an interest in serving as the Committee Chair. Chair Vargas was optimistic by September the new committees should be in place.

Two weeks ago an Executive Committee Meeting was held. Some of the subjects brought up were raises for CB4 staff, which were approved. Also, discussed was changing the Public Forum segment which is held at the end of the meeting to the beginning of the meeting. It was noted the Public gets to speak after the Board is leaving. Legislators are no longer in attendance so no one really hears what the Public has to say. Since it is very important for the community to voice their opinion while everyone is in attendance, probably in September, the Public Forum segment will be changed. If anyone has ideas, please contact Chair Vargas.

Next, he spoke about a bylaws review and appointed a Bylaws Committee. Since there is no set rule on how many people can serve on the committee, Chair Vargas will appoint five people to serve on the committee in order to get different perspectives. But because more than five Board members wished to serve on the Committee, seven Board members were selected instead. Those Board Members chosen were:

Ashley Reed
Sandra Munoz
Edgar Moya
Lou Walker
Lynda Coral
Lucy Schilero
Ingrid Gomez

Next, Chairperson Vargas spoke about the Board's Meet and Greet event. Since Board Members meet once a month during the Board meeting, they really don't get to know one another. We don't know everyone's experience or expertise. It's a good idea to get together in an informal setting and get to know each other. Sometime over the end of the summer or toward the beginning of the fall, one is planned. Any ideas please see Chair Vargas.

Next, Community Board 4 is partnering with Board Member Lynda Coral to do a screening of 50/50 Rethinking the Past, Present, & Future of Women + Power. Join in for a discussion about what it will take to get to a more gender balanced world.

Elmhurst Hospital Center
Community Room A1-22
June 21, 2017 at 7:00 PM

VI. REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

No report. District Manager Cassagnol out sick.

VII. REPORT OF THE LEGISLATORS

David Burgos, representing Senator Jose Peralta's office, reported there is a heat advisory so please check on the elderly in your neighborhood, drink plenty of water and stay in cool places. Call 311 to find a cooling center near you.

Next, QiBin Ye, representing Council Member Daniel Dromm's office, reported the new City Council has recently passed Council Member Dromm's legislation to the reporting and providing information concerning bed bugs.

This Bill would require building owners to file information bed bug history with the Dept. of Housing Preservation & Development and to either post a bed bug history in a prominent place in the building or to distribute the history to their tenants upon signing a lease renewal. This legislation would also require HPD to post a building's most recent bed bug history form on its website.

Also, Council Member Dromm co-sponsored legislation to create a sexual health education Task Force. The Task Force would be responsible for current recommended sexual health education curriculum and its implementation in New York City schools as well as to issue a report with findings and recommendations for improvements and expansion in the curriculum in grades kindergarten thru 12. The Task Force would provide an opportunity for students and parents to comment and give feedback as a way to get involved.

Council Member Dromm is hosting a HPD Clinic in his district office June 21 from 10:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. If you are a tenant and have questions regarding your housing condition or if you are a landlord with questions regarding HPD violations, please take this opportunity to meet with an HPD representative.

Next, July 15 Council Member Dromm is hosting a free Rain Barrel Giveaway at the Elmhurst Baptist Church, 9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon. Call the district office to reserve your rain barrel and pick up your rain barrel on the date of the event.

Lastly, Council Member Dromm supports the Newtown Playground project. He has added \$700,000 with another \$700,000 from the Queens Borough President's Office. He has seen the design of Newtown Playground and believes it's beautiful. He has made Elmhurst his priority and has dedicated much funding for Elmhurst parks projects. The ribbon-cutting ceremony for Veteran's Grove was held last Friday and was a nice event. Therefore, the Council Member is looking for the Newtown Playground design going forward.

Board Member Marialena Giampino brought up e-mails have been sent to Council Member Dromm on Newtown Playground, but he has not responded. She asked about the reasoning for not responding.

QiBin Ye said she was would get back to Board Member Marialena Giampino.

Next, Alexander Bennett, representing Congresswoman Grace Meng, reported the Congresswoman was able to place an official tribute into the Congressional record on behalf of a fallen firefighter from Glendale in his memory and visited the firehouse last month. It is a very special honor for any of our servicemen in New York City to be listed in the official record.

Recently, Congresswoman Meng also introduced legislation which affects law enforcement officers who die in the line of duty. Last month during National Police Week, Congresswoman Meng introduced legislation to ensure that death benefits paid to families of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty are tax free. Last year, The Don't Tax Our Fallen Public Safety Heroes Update Act of 2017 was signed into law in order to guarantee that death benefits paid by states to law enforcement families were non-taxable. The one problem was that local governments payments were inadvertently left out of the Bill when it passed by Congress. Payment to the NYPD or local police departments paid to fallen officers families could be taxed. This Bill would correct this problem by ensuring those types of local government benefits are not counted as gross income for tax purposes. The Congresswoman's measure has been referred to the House Ways and Means Committee and optimistic it will pass the House and the Senate. This legislation is specific to law enforcement officers only.

Lastly, he reported the district office has monthly office hours in coordination with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Any families of veterans, who need assistance with claims, services, or benefits, please contact Congresswoman Meng's office. The meeting date for this month is June 28.

Please call the office at 718-358-6364 for an appointment.

At this point, Mr. Bennett took questions from the Board members.

Next, Barney Chow, a social worker and community engagement specialist for Thrive NYC, which is NYC's mental health initiative created by Chirlane McCray. He spoke about NYC Well which is New York City's mental health hotline; 1-888-NYCWELL is a great service to use. Mental health support is given by mental health counselors. Pamphlets were on hand and are printed in 13 different languages.

Also, mental health first aid training is available, which is comparable to CPR, for mental health. These are free, eight hour classes. If anyone wishes to participate, please see Mr. Chow. He added training can be brought to your organization's site. Training involves mood, cognitive disorders, as well as intervention for depression, anxiety suicides and drug or alcohol misuse. Call Mr. Chow at 646-599-0611 for more details.

Board Member Sandra Munoz asked if the agency services those who do not have insurance.

Mr. Chow replied the service is for anyone who needs it. People can call anonymously and do not need health insurance. If there is a need for long term mental health support, referrals will be given that are free and low cost. If there is an issue with health insurance, the City has Get Covered which helps people sign up for insurance. HHC Options is one service that people, especially undocumented immigrants, can utilize to obtain health insurance.

VIII. NYC DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Discussion on Predatory Lending (warning signs, consequences rights and resources)

Speaker: Steven Ettannani, Senior Policy Advisor

Mr. Ettannani reported the NYC Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) licenses over 80,000 businesses in the City of New York ranging from a local bodega to a major used car dealer. If there is money exchanged between a consumer and a business, DCA is involved. DCA enforces one of the oldest laws, the consumer protection law, which ensures if a consumer was deceived or a victim of fraud, there are consumer rights and legal options.

He spoke about predatory lending. Essentially a loan in New York State that exceeds 16% or higher in interest is considered predatory. Instances across the city and through consumer complaint data shows an inordinate number of consumers throughout the city are being taken advantage of by way of loans through alternative financial providers, which are those that fall out of the traditional banking system.

For example, check cashing establishments. Consumers use those providers because they are strapped for cash. Money is needed in a short period of time and people may not have funds available to meet monthly bills.

Specifically, regarding predatory loans from data received, it has been noted people are being taken advantage of at used car dealerships. This is an issue that affects communities in the outer boroughs where people rely on cars because there may not be easy accessibility to subways or buses.

At used car dealerships, buyers are given a stack of papers that they do not understand. In some cases, the documents are in a language people are not familiar with and told to sign on the bottom line. Those people are signing for a car with an APR in excess of 20% and are under contract for years. This practice causes tremendous debt for the consumer. In many cases, the consumer will be paying off just the interest, not the principal for twenty plus years. It becomes hard for the consumer to build up savings and to put away money for retirement etc.

Subsequently, he spoke about Major World, which is one of the most egregious businesses in the city in taking advantage of consumers. For Spanish speaking customers, they give them contracts in English and told to sign on the bottom line. Cars are sold to them that are lemons and retail contracts that are in excess of 20% APR given.

The New York City Department of Consumer Affairs has initiated a major action against Major World in excess of \$2 million, which affects about thirty consumers. Also, a legal action has been placed against USA1 located in Brooklyn for \$1 ½ million.

Flyers were distributed noting what your rights are when buying a car from a used car dealership. For example, you do not have to finance through the dealership. Or you can go to your bank or credit union to assess your options. Car dealerships are not allowed to say this deal is good for this visit only. All types of sales tactics are used to take advantage of consumers, which the consumer should be aware of.

Most importantly if you are a victim of predatory lending, contact the DCA if the loan is in excess of 16% to determine if city or state laws were broken. Call 311 if you have any complaints on anyone who may have been taken advantage of.

Financial empowerment services are located in the city that can assist. The service is free with one on one professional counseling for anyone who lives or works in the city. Call 311 to schedule an appointment. Talk to them about alleviating credit card debt to building up savings to student loan questions. Staff at the empowerment centers are professionals contracted through DCA.

At this point, Board Member Louis Walker said many retail stores charge 29% to use their card in their store. Are you looking in that as well?

Mr. Ettannani responded any interest rate above 24.99% is criminal in New York State. If you know of any cases, please contact DCA. A legal team is on staff to investigate the matter. Pay day lending is also outlawed.

Subsequently, Chairperson Vargas with regard to the lawsuit against Major World, can anyone who is not part of the class action join the suit and be compensated?

Mr. Ettannani responded this legal action is only pertaining to thirty consumers, but the ramifications are potentially Major World will not be able to do business in the city. Being there was such egregious fraud, depending on how the legal case goes, Major World's license is being threatened to operate in the city. Additional consumer complaints and information is also being acquired by consumers who have visited Major World or any used car dealership.

He reported on legislation that has been introduced which will make actions that Major World and other used car dealerships criminal penalties.

IX. PRESENTATION REPORT AND VOTE - Parks Committee

Diane Dreier and Jackie Harris NYC Dept. of Parks

**Newtown Playground Redesign – Presentation of the redesign of
*Newtown Playground (92nd Street & 56 Avenue)***

Diane Dreier and Jackie Harris introduced the design of the Viet Nam War Memorial with the aid of a slide presentation.

The floor was turned over to A Parks Department representative who explained the design for the Viet Nam Veterans Memorial in Elmhurst Park. Goals with creating this space in conjunction with the veterans of Chapter 32 were to create a memorial space honoring those in Queens.

300+ members will be honored, educational information about the conflict provided, create a space for small memorial presentations, and eliminate the existing flagpole as well as elements shown.

The design space is off Grand Avenue. It's the oval space next to the Comfort Station is the location for the memorial. A few existing photos were shown and explained. Different views were shown from the Comfort Station looking into the green oval and flagpole. This space was designed initially to be a memorial. When the master plan for this park came about, the space was specifically designated for a Viet Nam Veterans Memorial. The Park completion was done and it came back to presently work on the memorial.

Pointing out the memorial as intended, she said you come into the space and ramp down into another space. There are two walls. One wall has the names of the fallen as well as a brief history of the war. The other wall is a title wall that has the title as well as the five crests of the military as well as the Viet Nam Service Medal etched on the outside. Planted areas were also noted.

With this design, there is a quiet space which existed before. Therefore if you do not want to go into the memorial, you can still have the contemplative quiet space that exists today.

A picture of the intended memorial was shown as well as the existing flagpole. A bench for those who want to sit is also included. A map of Vietnam is in the center so that those can come and read the history and see the corresponding area on the map. Along the backside of the wall is etched bamboo, one of the plants symbolic with Viet Nam and symbols of the war. The ramp will have additional plantings.

A different view looking from the other side with the title wall, the five crests of the military and the title the Vietnam Memorial will have low planting in front of it which will also be illuminated as well as another wall was pointed out. So that you can see the names, illumination will be in place.

The location of the wall was decided so that the sun hits the names the entire day.

Elevations from the wall itself were further described. It is also designed that for those in a wheel chair as well as those standing who will have easy reach of the names. The intended bench and how the text will look were further described.

Next, she presented the plan for Newtown Playground, which was funded by the Queens Borough President Melinda Katz and Council Member Daniel Dromm.

This project started with a scope meeting June 2016 where community members, Council Member Dromm, the Borough President's representatives, Queens Parks Commissioner Dorothy Lewandowski's representatives were in attendance. At the scope meeting, direction was given and subsequently a design was created, which was given to the Public Design Commission for conceptual review. A good report was received. The Council Members were contacted and the Borough President who became supportive of the design. Following, the design was presented at CB4's Parks Committee where a quorum was not present, but the members present supported the plan. Afterward, the Parks Dept. was asked by the committee to present the plan to the full Board for support and vote.

The floor was turned over to Jackie Harris who explained the design. She explained Newtown Playground is located on 92 Street and 56 Avenue. The focus area for the project was pointed out. The goals of the project are to focus on the upper portion of the site. The main focus was to apply a design that is sensitive to the archeology of the site. Also to create a passive sitting area around the flagpole, discourage active play with new plantings in the site and improve park security and accessibility.

Next, the site's history was discussed. It is the first cemetery of settlers in Queens and was first used as early as 1652 and active for 200 years. In the mid 1800's it was also used as a pauper's field. In 1915 Toledo Avenue, which is now 92 Street, came through the site. At that time, families relocated some of their family members to other sites in Queens.

In 1917, the Park was transferred to New York City Parks with existing play equipment on site (it had been used with play equipment for a number of years).

In 1937, the first formal design was installed. She pointed out pavement over the majority of the site and a wading pool. Play equipment did surround the wading pool with a small area of green on the outside of the site and explained the current state of the Park. Furthermore in 1997, Parks had an archeological report done which informed the current design with the raised area and play equipment on the side of the site.

Currently, the Parks Department is looking to maintain the passive use of the upper portion of the site. Existing area is sand and gravel, a pot mark lawn, and a majority of the plantings from the 1997 design are damaged or have died. This certain area does not have the appeal it once did. A particular corner of the site where the existing pillar is has been climbed over and damaged. The security of the site is no longer because people are hopping this pillar and scaring people who are trying to enjoy the Park.

The wall at the east end needs some attention, which is included in the project.

The scope items for this project are:

- Improve the accessibility on the site
- Improve site security
- Create a passive seating area
- Create a passive strolling area
- Improve the plantings

While considering the history of the site, the Parks Department understood they needed to respect its history while creating its design. And to create a beautiful design with simple plantings.

At this point, the design was shown to the Board.

To improve the accessibility of the site, the Parks Department proposed to open a gate, currently locked, which will allow an at grade entrance for the entire Park. Currently, people have to go down a ramp which is very steep. People with strollers and wheel chairs must also access this ramp. Improvement of this is planned whether people have a stroller or wheelchair. And, it opens up a passive seating area to enjoy the rest of the Park.

A variety of blooms and plantings will now enhance the experience. A mounded lawn will discourage ball playing on the site.

A rendering of what the entrance may look like was shown with the seating area, the path coming up from the playground and the enhanced plantings. Materials were kept very simple. Benches will match what is on site. A few cherry trees in a row can be seen and a few dogwoods in a row and simple perennial palette to keep the site calm and interesting throughout the year.

At this point, Chair Damian Vargas introduced John Rowan who was the first District Manager of Community Board 4 and a Viet Nam veteran. Mr. Rowan reported he was actually a member of Community Board 4 while in college attending grad. School, after the military. He was hired as District Manager in 1977.

When he was District Manager the population was about 125/130,000 for this district, now the population has grown to about 180,000 on the same land. The Board was highly densely populated at that time, now it's worse. The changes in the community are reflected in the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Looking at the names, from the late 1960's to 1972, when the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was done on the triangle at 75th Street and Broadway for the KIA's (Killed In Action), there were five Hispanic names (one was Ecuadorian killed in 1972, one from Colombian and no idea what the others who were killed were.) He spoke about the makeup of Queens at that time, which is clearly reflected on those who went to war.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parks

Since the Committee Chair was not in attendance, the vote was taken on the Newtown Playground proposal.

At this point, Chairperson Damian Vargas called for a motion on the proposal.

Board Member Marialena Giampino made a motion to **deny** the proposal. The design should include a memorial to the deceased still buried at the site and to work with Community Board 4 and community groups to ensure it is funded and to take into account the trees at the site. Signage and historical information for the community should also be added. Board Member Jennifer Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Simultaneously, Board Member Jennifer Gutierrez stated due process was not followed. There was no quorum at the Parks Committee. The Community Board's process must be followed. The Parks Department should work with the Community Board on a more detailed and inclusive level.

At this point, Board Member Priscilla Carrow brought up since Parks Committee Chair Al Perna is not in attendance, the Board should not move forward tonight. There was no quorum at the Parks Committee meeting. The Board should not vote on a proposal that the Parks Chair is not a part of.

As a rule of order, a motion was made and unless it is rescinded, another motion is needed to table the first motion. A vote on that motion is needed first, said Chairperson Damian Vargas.

Discussion ensued between Chair Vargas and Parliamentarian Walker on the proper vote to the motion.

Board Member James Lisa stated according to literature passed out the Board should deny the Park proposal as is until the Parks Department has the correct proposal which incorporates the memorial. He emphasized we are asking for them to revisit the Board with a better proposal.

At this point, Board Member Sandra Munoz pointed out all our parks are being used up. A better plan is needed to include the community. She also questioned how children can play next to a memorial. What good is an empty memorial? Let's use our parks for the children.

Board Member Marialena Giampino responded children can still play in another area.

Discussion ensued.

Board Member Clara Salas also agreed to table the motion on Newtown Playground until Parks Chair Al Perna is in attendance.

Chairperson Damian Vargas reiterated the motion on the floor is to deny the proposal. If you vote yes, it means to deny, meaning the proposal will not go forward.

By a roll call vote the Board voted 29 yes, 0 opposed, with 1 abstention. Motion to deny passed.

Public Safety

Public Safety Committee Chair Lucy Schilero reported CB4's CERT Team won the Mayor's award for the best team in New York City. Members serving on the team Ruby Muhammad, Malukah Shabazz, Ashley Reed, and Chair Damian Vargas were recognized. A round of applause was given to the team.

Since it is hurricane season, tips were read to prepare for a hurricane (from June to November) and check up on hurricane sites.

Next, Public Safety Committee Chair Lucy Schilero reported more and more cast iron fire alarm boxes are being shut down. She was unclear why Board 4's boxes were shut down while Forest Hill and Jackson Heights had kept theirs. She is looking into the reasoning.

From the Police Department regarding missing persons, familial blood samples will be taken to find missing persons. With the family blood sample given, it will help identify the missing person, noting the program has been quite successful.

Next, there are ten new cadets at the 110 Police Precinct that started this May.

With the Spicer K2 illegal marijuana, the police reported there are no problems with it here at this time.

Skimmers for ATM's are under control. However, if you use your credit card in an ATM machine and it is stiff to use the machine may have been tampered with.

Noise, there are two new officers trained with a noise device. She spoke about complaints with Rhumba classes and parties given at private homes and businesses. This will help with 311 complaints.

July 4 fireworks are still illegal so please call 911 and give specific locations.

Following, the liquor licenses were brought up. Unfortunately at the June 6, 2017 Public Safety Committee meeting, a quorum was not present, therefore, the applications must be broken down into three categories and voted on: Clean Police Report, New Applicants, and Renewal Applicants.

NYS LIQUOR AUTHORITY LICENSES

CLEAN POLICE REPORT

<u>ESTABLISHMENT NAME</u>	<u>ESTABLISHMENT ADDRESS</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
El Dorado Café Corp. Wine, Beer & Cider	102-02 Roosevelt Avenue Corona, NY	
Kido Sushi Queens Inc. Wine, Beer & Cider	90-15 Queens Blvd. Elmhurst, NY	
La Morenita Ecuatoriana Restaurant Corp. Wine, Beer & Cider	109-06 Corona Avenue Corona, NY	
Taiwanese Gourmet Corp Wine, Beer & Cider	84-02 Broadway Elmhurst, NY	
El Gauchito II Corp. Wine, Beer & Cider	94-60 Corona Avenue Elmhurst, NY	
J&I Products Corp. <i>Spicy Shallot</i> Wine, Beer & Cider	77-01 Woodside Avenue Elmhurst, NY	
The Little Chinantla Restaurant Corp. Beer & Cider	96-06 43 Avenue Corona, NY	
Roka Japanese Food Inc. Wine, Beer & Cider	89-14 Queens Blvd. Elmhurst, NY	

At this point, Board Member Sandra Munoz made a motion, seconded by Board member Oscar Rios, to **approve** those applicants with Clean Police Reports.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 29 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

Next, Public Safety Chair Lucy Schilero discussed the **New Applicants**, mentioning the 500' rule and the 200' rule. The 500' rule is designed when a new bar wants to come into the community and they are in a 500' radius of three other businesses with a full liquor license (hard liquor). Usually, the Public Committee denies the applicant. They can sell wine and beer only but not hard liquor.

The 200' rule pertains to schools. If a business is within a 200' radius of a church or school, hard liquor cannot be sold. Beer and wine can be sold.

Individual votes will be needed for the following applicants because a quorum was not present at the PSC meeting June 6, 2017:

NEW APPLICANTS

<u>ESTABLISHMENT NAME</u>	<u>ESTABLISHMENT ADDRESS</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
La Mexican Inc. <i>La Nortena</i> Wine, Beer & Cider	111-12 Roosevelt Avenue Corona, NY	Clean Record. Nothing Wrong and not within the 500' rule. Very good record.

Before the vote was taken on La Mexican Inc. discussion ensued regarding the 200' and 500' rules. A more in depth explanation was provided by Public Committee Chair Lucy Schilero on the schematics of how the SLA approves liquor licenses and what the Public Safety Committee takes into account while reviewing the applications.

At this point Board Member Sandra Munoz made a motion, seconded by Board Member Priscilla Carrow, to **approve**, La Mexican Inc.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 29 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passes.

Cancun and Cancun Corp. Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider	102-14 Roosevelt Avenue Corona, NY
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A new person took over. When a new person takes over, they are exempt from previous violations explained Committee Chair Lucy Schilero. Many violations on this establishment in the past. She explained the prior history of the establishment and the current status with the new owner.

Because there are too many liquor licenses currently, for the ones that are questionable he does not wish to support, Board Member Gregory Spock made a motion, seconded by Board Member Alirio Orduna, to **deny** the application.

By a voice vote, the Board 23 in favor of denial, 4 opposed with 2 abstentions. Motion to **deny** passed.

Duo Gastropub Corp. Liquor, Wine Beer & Cider	40-37 75 th Street Elmhurst, NY
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Whenever an establishment is under construction, the Public Safety Committee does not approve the application, explained Public Safety Chair Lucy Schilero. It is also under the 500' rule. The Committee deems this an automatic no because the business is not ready. The applicant must come back.

Board Member Jennifer Gutierrez made a motion, seconded by Board Member Malikah Shabazz, to **deny** the application.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 29 in favor, 0 opposed, with 1 abstention. Motion to **deny** passed.

El Mordisco Sport Bar Restaurant Corp.	85-14 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY 11372
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Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

Location does have a history. No representation at the Committee meeting. It is already a no and they would have to come back. Under the 500' rule.

Board Member Malikah Shabazz made a motion, seconded by Board Member Sandra Munoz, to **deny** the application.

By a voice the Board voted 29 in favor of denial, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion to **deny** passed.

RENEWAL APPLICANTS

<u>ESTABLISHMENT NAME</u>	<u>ESTABLISHMENT ADDRESS</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
Ayada Thai Inc.	77-08 Woodside Avenue	
Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider	Elmhurst, NY	

Establishment has an impeccable record; however, there was a petit larceny complaint on 2/28/17. Public Safety Committee Chair Lucy Schilero explained the nature of the complaint.

Board Member Sandra Munoz made a motion, seconded by Board Member Oscar Rios to **approve** the application.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 29 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion to approve passed.

Pizzeria Primera, Ltd.	40-21 108 Street
<i>Vincio's Restaurant</i>	Corona, NY
Liquor, Wine Beer & Cider	

Noise complaints on 8/14/16, 9/11/16, 9/29/16
Assault complaints on 7/20/15 (resulted in arrest) and 3/27/16. Harassment complaint 3/22/17.
Normally not a bad location. Police watching them carefully.

Board Member Ruby Muhammad made a motion, seconded by James Lisa, to **approve** the application.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 29 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

El Aventurero Bar Rest. Corp.	80-14 Roosevelt Avenue
Wine, Beer & Cider	Jackson Heights, NY

Noise complaints on 8/14/16, 9/11/16 and 9/24/16
Six Assault complaints between 7/24/16 and 3/20.17, 3 of which resulted in arrests
1 petit larceny complaint on 5/6/17
There was a MARCH operation on 4/10/17 which resulted in 12 C Summonses

Additional violations:

1/8/16 – 1C Summons for sale to minor
2/4/16 – 1C Summons for accepting improper ID
5/14/16 – 1C Summons for sale to intox
10/27/16 – 1C Summons for unreasonable noise
1/14/17 – 1C Summons for sale to intox.

Board Member Patricia Martin made a motion, seconded by Board Member Sandra Munoz, to **deny** the application.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 29 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions to deny. Motion passed.

XI. REPORT AND VOTE – Transportation Committee

Creating a Play Street in the vicinity of IS 311

(98-11 44 Avenue, Corona)

Transportation Committee Chair James Lisa reported a meeting was held on June 7 regarding the subject matter with representatives from IS 311 in attendance. They were asking to close the street from 97 Street/National Street in the morning when children were entering the school and at dismissal when children are leaving the school. The Transportation Committee had no problem with this request. However, the school was also asking for a break around lunchtime to close the street so that the children could go out. Since there are two businesses in the vicinity, the Committee asked the representatives to check with those businesses. If the businesses do not have a problem, their consent should be provided to the Committee. Also, the Transportation Committee requested a list of the people (teachers or school employees) responsible for monitoring the street. He explained in the morning and at dismissal there is an assigned crossing guard. However, in the afternoon there is no crossing guard. The list should be received at the Board office before school starts. Then, another Transportation Committee meeting will be held to provide a follow-up report.

Since more information was needed, no vote would be taken tonight.

However, Chairperson Damian Vargas reported a Board decision was necessary in June.

Discussion ensued about when the Board vote should be taken.

As a result, Board Chairperson Damian Vargas stated the matter must be voted on tonight.

Subsequently, Transportation Committee Chair James Lisa reported the Committee's recommendation was in favor of closing the street.

At this point, Transportation Chair James Lisa made a motion, seconded by Board Member Priscilla Carrow, to **approve** a play street in the vicinity of IS 311.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 29 in favor, 0 opposed, with 1 abstention. Motion passed.

XII. REPORT AND VOTE - Youth Committee

Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City

Plan to bring a synthetic soccer field to PS 19Q, as part of the NYC Soccer Initiative to bring 50 soccer fields to underserved neighborhood.

Committee Chair Cristian Romero explained Mr. Irfan Ahmed, Mayor's Fund To Advance New York City, addressed the Youth Committee on the NYC Soccer Initiative at P. S. 19. Initially, the Youth Committee had supported the proposal. However, concerns were raised during the aftermath of the discussion.

P. S. 19 is located at 98-02 Roosevelt Avenue and is the Mayor's initiative. It was noted there was no letter of support from the principal of PS 19. Information was distributed to the Board regarding the proposal which was presented to the Youth Committee.

Youth Chair Cristian Romero explained it is the Mayor's initiative given to a school with a set amount of money. People will train the children to play soccer on the synthetic fields. It will also come with a free afterschool program.

Safety concerns arose with after the training takes place, which ends approximately at 6:00 pm, about the gate left open for anyone to come onto the field at night and for the remainder of the day.

Many people congregate on Roosevelt Avenue late at night. Vendors are also situated along Roosevelt Avenue. Homeless people walking by look for a place to stay.

The Youth Committee felt they did not want to provide space for activities that require more of a police presence. The initiatives are great, however, it was agreed this does not work everywhere and not in every school. Although the Committee voted to support the proposal, a full Board vote is needed.

Youth Committee Chair Cristian Romero pointed out the dangers in having the gate opened for the rest of the night.

At the Youth Committee meeting, Mr. Ahmed reported the closing of the gates was the responsibility of the school principal or community.

Discussion ensued about closing the gate.

Chairperson Damian Vargas added since it is a public place, the gate must stay open at all times, mentioning on weekends no one will be able to close the gate. After the soccer field is installed, it is up to the school or the community to take care of it.

Board Member Sandra Munoz asked if it is open now, if it is fenced now, and is it closed after hours.

The response was it is a school yard.

Once the field is installed, it will be open responded Youth Chair Christian Romero.

Board Member Alirio Orduna said the school is closed every day at 7:00 p.m.

More discussion ensued.

At this point, Board Member Sandra Munoz made a motion, seconded by Board Member Priscilla Carrow to **table** the proposal until more information is received, the school is contacted, and questions raised are answered by the city.

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

XIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Consumer Affairs

Consumer Affairs Chair Erica Cruz thanked her Committee and remarked it was a great committee meeting and the feedback from the NYC Dept. of Consumer Affairs was valuable. She also explained about reporting businesses to 311 to make a complaint.

Environmental

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

Health

Committee Chair Sal Lombardo reported a meeting is planned.

ULURP/Zoning

Committee Chair Alton Derrick Smith reported the MAS workshop was very informative and on June 28 a debriefing of the exercises is scheduled. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Queens Center Mall.

XIII. PUBLIC FORUM

Runie Mensehe, Board President of NHS for twenty years, spoke about a problem presently in the neighborhood, which is the illegal homeless shelter in the Holiday Inn. Examples of problems that occurred during the past year were given. Particularly, he noted sex offenders living in the hotel.

This is not fair to the neighborhood. Mr. Mensehe gave more examples of community crime. He also brought up the hanging cable wires.

Chairperson Damian Vargas responded the Board office is doing as much as it can do regarding the homeless shelter at the Holiday Inn. The District Manager has reached out to the Dept. Of Social Services that will plan a community advisory board meeting. A concrete response has not as yet been received. Senator Peralta's office, Assembly Member Aubry's office, and Council Member Julissa Ferreras-Copeland's office has been contacted. At this point, only Senator Peralta had responded. Lastly, CB4 had suggested signatures be collected regarding the problem. Addresses were also given of the elected officials to contact. Community Board 4 is ready and willing to meet on the issue, but we are waiting for other agencies such as DHS to get back to us. Community Board 4 is aware of the problem and will follow it up, said Chairperson Damian Vargas.

Next, Erycka Montoya addressed the Board. She introduced herself and informed the Board she is running for City Council seat District 21 (Julissa Ferreras-Copeland's District).

Next, Cristina Furlong addressed the Board. She reported on P. S. 89's school yard. The yard is open and is being destroyed and it's not the Parks Department. It's the Trust for Public Land and they say they have nothing to do with it; they just built the playground. When she calls to complain, the custodian gets in trouble. The custodian states he cannot lock the door because he gets paid extra money to maintain the yard. The principal responds we cannot lose the extra money. She has been following this issue at P.S. 89 for about a year and has gotten nowhere.

Subsequently, she spoke about a play street between 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Gleane Street for dismissal and arrival. However, the principal will not allow it during the day because there are known sexual predators in the neighborhood. Don't move forward without knowing who is paying for it, who will clean it up and who will come she cautioned regarding P. S. 19's proposed soccer field.

Next, Cody Herrmann addressed the Board who is at present with Riverkeeper and Guardians of Flushing Bay. Riverkeeper just received a big grant to do visioning plans in New York City. The two places they chose were Newtown Creek and Flushing Bay/Creek. A visioning session will be held at the Queens Museum on Friday, June 23 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. It will be an opportunity to talk to local experts about zoning and other topics. Join Riverkeeper and Guardians of Flushing Bay in creating a cohesive community vision for the Flushing Waterways. Flyers were on hand.

Next, Maria Renlo addressed the Board. She reported on the problems with the Holiday Inn Express. A resident of the neighborhood for 27 years she said a letter was written to the Division of Criminal Justice and 200 signatures were collected on two registered sex offenders who are living at the Holiday Inn Express. Although it was reported as a city problem, it is uncertain what types of people are put in the hotel. No one she reached out for assistance has helped.

Chairperson Damian Vargas responded the Board had reached out to the Assembly Member, Senator and Councilwoman as well as DHS. The Board is doing everything it can.

A community advisory meeting has been requested to talk about those problems.

At this point, Christina Long on staff at Community Board 4 reported the Board discovered a sex offender was living at the Holiday Inn Express several months ago. CB4 had spoken to DHS and the sex offender was removed. According to the sex offender registry, there is another sex offender at the hotel. Again, we reached out to DHS who said he was placed there for a short time, but is no longer there as he was moved to Manhattan. However, the sex offender registry still lists him as living at the Holiday Express. Currently, no sex offenders are living at the Holiday Express. The sex offender registry needs to be updated, she said.

Next, Leeanne G-Bowley, a resident of 82 Street, addressed the Board. She spoke about the new development at the 82 Street Movie Theater slated for a Target. She is concerned about the traffic and sanitation problems the new development will bring. She asked for Community Board input and if there is any collaboration with local organizations because there is not much transparency with this development.

Since there was no further business, Board Member Alirio Orduna made a motion, seconded by Board Member Lucy Schilero to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.