



COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, Elmhurst, and Newtown

46-11 104th Street

Corona, New York

11368-2882

Telephone: 718-760-3141

Fax: 718-760-5971

e-mail: qn04@cb.nyc.gov

Melinda Katz
Borough President

Louis Walker
Chairperson

Melva Miller
Deputy Borough President

Christian Cassagnol
District Manager

April 12, 2016

COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE: APRIL 12, 2016

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

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

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

Chairperson Louis Walker announced those who wish to speak during the Public Forum segment, please sign the sign-in sheet on the dais otherwise you will not be allowed to speak during the Public Forum. This includes Board Members.

II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Before the roll call, Chairperson Walker reiterated those who wish to speak during the Public Forum, please sign the sign-in sheet on the dais. Otherwise you will not be allowed to speak during the Public Forum. This includes Board Members.

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

Chairperson Louis Walker introduced the following new Board Members:

Ingrid Gomez
Alexa Ponce
Oscar Rios

Before moving on to the next agenda item, Chairperson Walker asked the new members to introduce themselves.

Ingrid Gomez is a Social Worker at the Child Center of New York in Corona. Originally from the Bronx, she has lived in Corona for ten years and is excited to have become a member of the Board.

Alexa Ponce was born and raised in Corona. She is very happy to be a part of the Community Board and have more influence over the community. She is a Social Worker currently at Catholic Charities in Corona.

Oscar Rios, who has lived in Elmhurst since 2001, works at the Walgreen's Pharmacy on Broadway, Elmhurst, NY. Working with Elmhurst Hospital and area churches, he is honored to be a member of the Community Board.

IV. VOTE: Minutes of March 8 Meeting

Board Member Priscilla Carrow made a motion, seconded by Board Member Alirio Orduna, to approve the minutes.

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

V. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson Louis Walker welcomed the new members. Also, he informed the Board Members they will be receiving new committee assignments. You will be able to make three choices on which committees you wish to serve. From this point forward, you will be required to serve on two committees. Since committees are not adequately staffed, more members are needed on committees. It will not be required to appear at every committee meeting, but please try to attend as often as possible. Committee selection forms will be mailed out. Return them at the next meeting.

VI. REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

District Manager Christian Cassagnol reported at the March 8 Community Board meeting mail service delivery problems in the community were brought up. The local newspaper carried the story and it went national. The story was posted on the U. S. Postal website too. Community Board 4 had tried to enlist the support of other Queens Community Board, but it was not an easy task as many of the other Boards were not experiencing the same issues. Other Boards were not receptive with sending one full letter to elected officials. Community Board 4 will follow up.

The Edward Guida Sr. Street co-naming is scheduled for Saturday, May 7, at 10:00 a.m. at the corner of 104 Street and 48th Avenue. As yet, no official flyer or program has been made yet. Please keep the date in mind.

A letter from the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) was received regarding the Horse Brook House at 90-22 56 Avenue in Elmhurst, NY

The agency found that due to damage from fires at this property and alterations previously made to the house, it did not merit individual landmark designation.

About a year ago, a report was made by Mr. Phil Konigsberg, Community Board 7 Queens, regarding smoke free housing. The report encouraged owners of multi-family dwellings to create smoke free housing units whenever possible. We were also asking that owners of multi housing units including co-ops, condos and rentals to disclose the building's smoking policy to both current as well as prospective tenants. A letter was received from a smoke free advocate thanking the Board for assistance with smoke free housing.

Thursday, April 14, 2016 Council Member Julissa Ferreras-Copeland will host the Fifth Annual Heart Health Event. Because there were no physical flyers and no representatives present from her office tonight, the event will be held at the Queens Museum at 6:00 p.m. A table is reserved for Community Board 4.

VII. REPORT OF THE LEGISLATORS

Ari Espinal, representing Assembly Member Francisco Moya's office, reported on April 30, from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., a bi-lingual college fair will be held at P. S. 69 in Jackson Heights. It is an opportunity for parents and children to meet representatives of colleges.

Next, the Democratic Primary election will be held on April 19, 2016. She urged everyone to vote.

Next, David Burger, representing NYS Senator Jose Peralta's office, reported if you have any issues, please call Senator Peralta's office for assistance. Pamphlets with important phone numbers to federal, state, and city agencies were hand.

Next, Michael Mallon, representing Council Member Daniel Dromm's office, announced the following upcoming events:

Council Member Dromm will sponsor the Second Annual Thai New Year Celebration Saturday, April 16, in Woodside between 76 & 77 Streets, from 12 Noon to 6:00 p.m.

Performances, food samplings, yoga and Pilates classes, and more cultural performances are on the agenda. All is free.

The Council Member's Annual Shredding Event will be held at 77 Street and 37 Avenue, Jackson Heights, NY, Sunday, May 15, 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. FREE.

Next, Vikram Sinha, Borough Planner-Queens, NYC Department of Transportation, reported on the Queens Blvd. proposal. Mr. Sinha made a report at CB 4's Transportation Committee on March 1. A full presentation will be at the Board's May 10 CB meeting to review the plans. Feedback received from a number of touchpoints within the community including a workshop on November 12, interviews were conducted within the community and corridor surveys with businesses on the Boulevard. Over 90 businesses were visited. Much data was compiled; however, DOT is still enlisting feedback. Please see Mr. Sinha outside if you have any questions.

Meetings were also held with some stakeholders on the Boulevard and more visits are planned to get a general sense of their concerns. View the proposal on the DOT website. Or, go to CB4's Facebook page.

At his point, District Manager Cassagnol announced CB4 is now on Twitter (at Queens CB4).

Regarding the Queens Boulevard Safety Study, Chairperson Walker announced it will be presented formally at the May 12 CB meeting.

Next, District Manager Cassagnol announced the following two Committee meetings:

Parks/Environmental Committee

Wednesday, April 20, 6:00 p.m. at the Board office

A representative from the NYC Department of Sanitation will discuss community issues

Consumer Affairs Committee

Club Amadeus, 79-51 Albion Avenue, Wednesday, April 20, 7 p.m. (on-site visit)

For a Cabaret license at 79-51 Albion Avenue

Conversely, District Manager Cassagnol announced the Cheesecake Factory is no longer requesting a sidewalk café. Instead, they will be using their own footprint. The sidewalk café will be behind their property line.

VIII. GUEST SPEAKER

Sean Torres, NYC DOE Pre-K For All “Round 2 of Pre-K Admissions”

Mr. Torres reported on Round 2 of pre-K opportunities. Over the past few years, 68,000 children were enrolled in pre-K. Mayor De Blasio put forth the underling pre-K initiatives. The pre-K options are on a full day schedule (6 hours and 20 minutes). Extended day whether it be after school programs and early drop off services are options.

Round 1 ended in mid-March. A month and a week for parents to apply for free pre-K. All parents who applied in Round 1 will receive their offers in early May. Options were available to pre-register to the offer by May 20.

For pre-registration, bring the child’s immunization forms, birth certificate, two proofs of address, and the child needs to be present with a relative of the child.

Apply to Round 2 from May 2 to May 20 of pre-K applications. Round 2 offers more availability to those parents who did not enroll in Round 1. Find the easy to use application at nyc.gov/pre-K.

Pre-K gives children stronger math and reading skills in elementary school and a better chance of success in life. Studies show that early childhood education improves performance throughout a child’s school experience. In these programs, children develop and learn how to interact with others, share, wait their turns, and listen.

The Department of Education also offers *Talk To Your Baby*, which promotes talking, reading, and singing to young children. Parents are provided with caregivers from young infants to 3 (infants to 3 year olds). Resource materials are provided and also donations by first Lady Chirlane McCray. For more tips, text TALK TO 877877. Join the campaign and be part of this early childhood development initiative.

Lastly, he spoke about the NYC Men Teach. Over 40% of the teaching population is people of color. Of those 40% only 8.5% are men. NYC wants to provide more men of color to become teachers in New York City. NYC Men Teach will bring more diverse cultures and perspectives into classrooms by increasing the number of male educators of color in schools. The initiative also provides:

- The opportunity for getting a Master’s degree to be put on the right path to a mentorship to becoming part of the community
- Serving as a role model and
- To provide a better environment in the classrooms

Log on to [NYC Men Teach.org](http://NYCMenTeach.org) for more information.

Next, Alex Bennett, representing U. S. Rep. Grace Meng’s office announced:

Happy early birthday to District Manager Christian Cassagnol!

The following tax reliefs available to Queens Residents were given:

- The Child Tax Credit
- Consumer Tax Credit
- The American Opportunity Tax Credit
- The Earned Income Tax Credit
- Teachers' Tax Credit
- Research and Development Credit
- Landlord, Restaurant, Retailer Tax Break

All of these tax breaks will be available this filing season.

Secondly, airplane noise continues to plague our borough. Congresswoman Meng is working diligently to have change effected in Congress. Residents have reported daily disruption from low flying planes and recently wrote a letter to Congress. Congresswoman Meng had urged to include specific noise mitigation measures in its annual spending bill. Increased funding also has been requested for FAA programs that address aircraft noise. Her request also asks for increased community involvement in determining flight paths, regulations and guidance for quieter airplane and lowering the acceptable noise threshold.

Lastly, he spoke about the fire in Elmhurst which claimed the life of a 71 year old man, who was a Navy veteran. Mr. Devereux's family had reached out to the Congresswoman's office that was able to secure military documentation regarding his military service for his funeral on March 31. The documentation was probably destroyed in the fire.

Regarding veterans, the NYC Department of Veterans Services, the Queens Satellite office, is now open at Queens borough Hall, Suite 222, 120-55 Queens Blvd., Kew Gardens, NY. Hours of operation are Tuesday through Thursday, 10:00 a.m. – 2 p.m., phone number 718-286-2868, announced Chairperson Walker.

IX. REPORT AND VOTE: PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

SLA Applications

Before Committee Chair Lucy Schilero began her report, she announced the Cash for Guns is starting now for each borough. The location for Queens is at 227-10 Merrick Blvd., April 16. Handguns and assault rifles will be worth a \$200 cash card. For rifles, shotguns and air guns, it's a \$25 cash card. The buyback takes place at the Evangel Temple.

Next, she pointed out the 110 Precinct Grand Larceny Alert flyers. Take one of the flyers and read the valuable tips.

CERT will conduct its annual Blood Drive with St. Leo's Church on April 17 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Please volunteer to donate blood.

A meeting was held in Jackson Heights with Assembly Member Francisco Moya to acquire funds for a satellite police precinct at Flushing Meadows-Corona Park. The Assembly Member had found settlement funds from banks that owe the city money (billions of dollars) that could be used for this purpose. A request will also be put in to renovate the current 110 Precinct.

Committee Chair Lucy Schilero reported on the following SLA applications:

NYS LIQUOR AUTHORITY LICENSES

NEW APPLICANTS

<u>ESTABLISHMENT'S NAME</u>	<u>ESTABLISHMENT'S ADDRESS</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
Deum Inc. Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider	71-26 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Approved
El Patron Billar Grill Corp. Wine, Beer & Cider Applicant failed to respond to our request to meet.	102-02 43 Avenue Corona, NY	Denied
Oasis K. D. Bar Corp. Wine, Beer & Cider	102-30 43 Avenue Corona, NY	Approved

RENEWAL APPLICANTS

<u>ESTABLISHMENT'S NAME</u>	<u>ESTABLISHMENT'S ADDRESS</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
Alfonso's Tapas Bar Corp. Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider	75-15 Broadway Elmhurst, NY	Approved
Albion Venue LLC <i>Da Mikele Illagio</i> Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider	79-17 Albion Avenue Elmhurst, NY\	Approved
Chiflez Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider	95-02 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Approved
Penang House Inc. Wine, Beer & Cider	82-84 Broadway #2 Elmhurst, NY	Approved

Board Member Patricia Martin made a motion, seconded by Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula, to **accept** the Committee's report as presented.

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

X. REPORT AND VOTE – ULURP COMMITTEE

Block 51-99, 51-101, 51-105, 51-107, 51-111 Manilla Street
Block 2467, Lots 205, 206, 207, 208 & 209
BSA Calendar Nos. 191-15-A thru 195-15-A

This application seeks a waiver of General City Law ("GCL") 35 to permit the development of five two-story, two-family attached residential buildings partially within the bed of a mapped but unbuilt portion of Kneeland Avenue which runs through the Premises.

ULURP/Zoning Committee Chair Alton Derrick Smith reported the Committee met on March 30 to discuss the Manilla Street application. An attorney from Sheldon Lobel's office representing the applicant was in attendance. Mr. Smith explained it is a physical mapped street application. About a hundred years ago when it

was just land, New York City, while never intending to build on those streets, mapped them out. But over time, the land was never used and sold to individuals. If someone wanted to build on the land, they must come before the Board and BSA for approval. The Community Board cannot approve or disapprove the application, but can offer its recommendation.

The Committee agreed to **approve** the application based on certain conditions:

1. The owner maintain (clean) the property
2. Proper site plans must be approved by appropriate city agencies

Correspondence was received from the NYC Fire Department stating there was no objection to the application. However, the NYC Department of Transportation's (DOT) notification is still pending because there are certain concerns that must be addressed.

At this point, ULURP Chair Alton Derrick-Smith turned the floor over to Amanda Iannotti, representing Sheldon Lobel's office, Attorney At Law. Ms. Iannotti explained the application was referred out to DOT by the Board of Standards & Appeals. A Comment Letter was issued December 3 by the DOT with the following comments:

The site plan indicates that an existing pedestrian ramp falls within the proposed curb cut. The applicant must either relocate the existing pedestrian ramp or the proposed curb cut.

Any proposed curb cut must be a minimum of 7' from existing/proposed tree.

The survey does not show the street width of Kneeland Avenue as it curves and becomes Manilla Street. The applicant must provide this information and resubmit the survey for the agency's records.

Ms. Iannotti reported those concerns had been addressed. There is an existing pedestrian ramp which will stay. No curb cut will eliminate it. All street trees existing and proposed are at least 7' away from the curb cuts and they did dimension the curb of Kneeland Avenue on the survey. The attorney's response was sent to DOT and they are now awaiting DOT's final approval letter. She noted BSA will not approve the application unless it receives DOT's final letter.

Subsequently, Committee Chair Alton Derrick Smith informed the Board one of the Committee's concerns about the property was that it was not maintained in a satisfactory manner. The Committee's recommendation was the owner must clean/sweep and maintain the property for the Committee's approval.

In addition to maintaining the property, the owner must have the Department Of Transportation's approval.

At this point, ULURP/Zoning Committee Chair Alton Derrick Smith made a motion to **approve** the application with the conditions the owner maintain the property (clean/sweep) and DOT's approval is given. The motion was seconded by Board Member Clara Salas.

Before the vote was taken, Board Member A. Redd Sevilla said it was brought out at the Committee meeting that maintaining (clean/sweep) should be defined as twice per week.

ULURP Committee Chair Smith replied there is a pending law which states any owner that has nine or more units must have superintendent services. In this case, the superintendent will live within one block of the site.

Chairperson Louis Walker brought out whenever a request is made to maintain the property is all you can do. You cannot specifically tell them how many times per week the property is cleaned.

Discussion ensued.

The ULURP Committee emphasized at its last meeting this owner did not take care of his property, said the ULURP/Zoning Chair.

This property was the former Elmhurst Community Garden added District Manager Cassagnol.

Following the discussion, the Board voted 30 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed with the stipulation of maintenance, superintendent will live within one block of the site, and DOT's approval.

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Consumer Affairs

Committee Chair Erica Cruz reported a meeting is scheduled for next week.

Environmental/Parks

Environmental Chair Giancarlo Castano reported he had attended the last Public Safety Committee meeting and it was a rewarding experience.

An Environmental Committee meeting is planned for April 20 with a representative from the Department of Sanitation to discuss ongoing community issues. Contact the Board office if you have any issues you would like to be presented at the meeting or feel free to attend. Also, he mentioned three graffiti locations in Corona, which were reported.

Call 311 if you see graffiti in the neighborhood.

Transportation

Committee Member James Lisa reported a meeting was scheduled, but was cancelled by the individual who had requested it. The resident had concerns about Martense Avenue. Another meeting is planned.

Health

Committee Chair Sal Lombardo reported a meeting was held, and a speaker scheduled for next month.

Postal

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

Youth

Committee Chair Cristian Romero reported the Committee met on April 11. New members were welcomed. Many great suggestions were made and moving forward to making those suggestions a reality.

XI. PUBLIC FORUM

Good & Welfare of the District

Former Board Member Helen Landaverde addressed the Board and thanked the members of the Board. She reported she was selected to serve on the Health & Hospitals Executive Board and is the representative for Queens. She cannot serve on the Board for five years as a voting member because they are both elective positions. However, she will still serve on CB 4's Youth Committee, as long as she does not vote.

While serving nine years on Community Board 4, she enjoyed her tenure on the Board. She loved every minute of it and will miss all the members.

Next, Board Member Alirio Orduna reported on an educator's workshop he had attended. It was a wonderful trip and enjoyed family day and a graduation. All expenses are paid by the government. He will share more details on how to sign up when he receives them.

Next, Board Member Giancarlo Castano shared his views about the bike lanes on Queens Blvd. He does not think the idea of the bike lanes is fair to the majority of people living within our district. Many are being left without a voice in the plans. Where in the plans does it talk about small business owners, like him, who depend upon Queens Blvd. to deliver materials? Workers depend on it to put food on their tables. Secondly, he disliked the fact the plan has torn the community apart by playing with the hopes of the minority that are being led to believe in supporting the plan they are one step closer to being heard and understood. We should be looking to address those issues first before voting on this plan.

Next, Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula spoke about a temple's computer files that were hacked and the hacker tried to enlist a lot of money wired to Albany from the temple. More details more provided about how many ways the perpetrator tried to obtain the money. He wanted to alert every one of the scam.

Next, Alex Rubin, a volunteer for Transportation Alternatives and the leader of the Queens Blvd. campaign, reported Transportation Alternatives advocates for safer streets citywide. Queens Blvd. has been in the works for years now. Data was gathered and also testimonials from neighbors, business owners and residents talking about the importance of making Queens Blvd. safer for everyone. Packets were distributed to the Board Members to review. Also, Transportation Alternatives thinks it is very important for everyone to be educated about their role and staying safe on the street. *Biking Rules the Street Code For NYC Bicyclists* includes many tips and advice for bicyclists, pedestrians, and public transit users.

Next, Ahmedur Ruhman, college student and Elmhurst resident, reported the Community Board should reach out to more college students to get youth more involved in local politics. He is glad there are bike lanes on Queens Blvd. Biking 60 miles per day, he travels the Queens Blvd. bike lane every day to reach home. He was glad to see the bike lanes are being expanded and progress made. He supports the expansion of the bike lanes. Also, he mentioned gentrification coming to our neighborhoods in the future.

Next, Peter Beadle, member of Community Board 6 and Chair of Transportation Alternatives, reported on the proposed bike lanes including pedestrian upgrades. Installation protected bike lanes increases safety and better road design for all road users were explained, with an emphasis on promoting an enhanced environment for businesses.

All were urged to support the DOT plan.

Next, Cristina Furlong, the PTA President for PS 89, reported on her request to close Gleane Street as a play street for two hours a day when the children are dismissed. Much support was received for this purpose. 2,000 children and their parents are dismissed at the same time.

District 24 is the most crowded in the city. There are over seven schools that have over 1500 children enrolled. Traffic patterns are being looked into and no one respects the pedestrians or children. She cited examples of people killed because of lack of safety measures. She spoke about Queens Blvd. and how dangerous it is to cross. There are serious dangerous conditions on that road and it needs to be made safer, she said.

A Thank You card was received by Board Member Lester Youngblood.

Since there was no further business, Board Member Priscilla Carrow made a motion, seconded by Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.