



## COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, and Elmhurst

46-11 104<sup>th</sup> Street

Corona, New York 11368-2882

Telephone: 718-760-3141 Fax: 718-760-5971

e-mail: cb4q@nyc.rr.com

**Helen Marshall**  
Borough President

**Anthony R. Moreno**  
Chairperson

**Barry Grodenchik**  
Deputy Borough President  
Director of Community Boards

**Richard Italiano**  
District Manager

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### COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE: TUESDAY, MAY 4, 2010

TIME: 7:50 P.M.

PLACE: FLANDERS FIELD VFW POST #150  
51-11 108 STREET  
CORONA, NEW YORK 11368

**I.** First Vice Chairperson Louis Walker called the meeting to order at 7:50 p.m.

**II.** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

**III.** Before the District Manager took the attendance, he announced revised Board agendas were placed on the tables since other items were added. District Manager Richard Italiano took the attendance. A quorum was present. He announced Ms. Ashley Cooper had resigned from the Board. New Board member Ms. Ruth Huerta was welcomed.

**IV.** Vote: Minutes of the April 06, 2010 Meeting

Ms. Lucy Schilero made a motion, seconded by Ms. Laraine Donohue, to **accept** the minutes. By a voice vote, the Board voted 27 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

### **V. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON**

First Vice Chair Louis Walker explained he is chairing the meeting tonight because Chairperson Anthony Moreno was out ill. All the Moms were wished a Happy Mother's Day!

### **VI. REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER**

District Manager Richard Italiano reported Wednesday, May 12, 2010, at 5:30 p.m. New Community Board Orientation and Training (mandatory attendance required for all new Board members) will be held in Room 213 at Borough Hall, 120-55 Queens Blvd., Kew Gardens, NY

Wednesday, June 9, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. – New & Reappointed Members Swearing In & Service Awards Ceremony will be held at the Hall of Science on 111<sup>th</sup> Street.

The Honorable Helen Marshall invites you to attend the annual Memorial Day Ceremony, Tuesday, May 25, 2010, 12:00 Noon, at Queens Borough Hall, 120-55 Queens Boulevard, Kew Gardens, NY . RSVP (718) 286-2888

From the Department of Transportation in a letter dated April 28, 2010 regarding the traffic controls at the intersection of 94<sup>th</sup> Street with Corona Avenue and 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue with Junction Boulevard. DOT conducted a one-way study which resulted in approval of a one-way request for 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue westbound from Junction Boulevard to 94<sup>th</sup> Street and 94<sup>th</sup> Street southbound from 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Corona Avenue. This change should be implemented in the next few months. Flyers to all local residents in both English and Spanish were sent to notify them of this change. It will also allow, once the change is made, to install a traffic signal at Corona Avenue/94<sup>th</sup> Street/Alstyn Avenue.

Also from the Department of Transportation, the Department recently completed its studies regarding the need for additional traffic controls at the intersection of Junction Boulevard and 40<sup>th</sup> Road. A traffic signal has been approved at this location. Installation will be performed by contract and the work is tentatively scheduled to be completed by August 31.

St. Leo's School is celebrating its 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Saturday, May 22, 2010. A dinner/dance will be held in the school auditorium from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., Flyers were available with more information.

At this point, the District Manager updated the Board on the progress of the Census. Starting May 1, enumerators will knock on doors. They can go back three times and call you three times if your census form was not returned. Operations for the 2010 Census cease on July 10.

Next, the Dominico-American Society of Queens invites you to a Community Forum with Council Member Julissa Ferreras on Friday, May 7, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., at the Dominico-American Society of Queens, Inc., 40-27 97<sup>th</sup> Street, Corona.

Next, On Friday, May 7, the feature film "THE ORANGES" is scheduled to film interior scenes at 86-46 Queens Boulevard between 54<sup>th</sup> & 55<sup>th</sup> Avenues, 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 a.m.

Lastly, the District Manager announced the 110<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council held its fundraiser last week and Board Chairperson Anthony Moreno was honored as Citizen of the Year. The next meeting of the 110<sup>th</sup> Precinct Council is scheduled for May 17, at 7:00 p.m. at the New York Bethzatha Church, 85-20 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Elmhurst.

At this point, the District Manager urged Board members to return the letters supporting Community Boards asking the Mayor not to cut the Community Boards' budgets.

Next, Mr. Tom McKenzie asked at the last District Cabinet meeting, was a representative from the Sanitation Dept. present and was any explanation given why litter baskets were taken away from the streets. The District Manger replied a representative was present and the response was that Sanitation did not have the budget to pick up the baskets.

Then, the District Manager brought up the proliferation of cars with out of state plates and For Sale cars parked on neighborhood streets without plates. Unfortunately, a car with an out of state plate there is not much that can be done. However, those For Sale cars with out of state plates, no plates, and illegal plates can be reported. Basically, it is a used car dealer using public streets and taking up parking spaces to conduct business. Through the Mayor's Office and the Dept. of Consumer Affairs, an investigation will be started to see what can be done about this problem since it is worsening.

#### **IV. REPORT OF THE LEGISLATORS**

Council Member Daniel Dromm reported on the budget and funding for the Community Board office. The Council Member stated it is a top priority to ensure the Boards minimally receive the same funding this year that was given to the Boards last year, although agreeing it was not enough to operate. The Council Members do not want to see any cuts.

The Mayor will propose his budget on Thursday, May 6, and at that time the dollar amount funded for each city agency will be seen. Then, the Council Members will have an opportunity to propose their ideas.

In Albany, the budget is not settled as yet. Both the Senate and Assembly have made proposals, but nothing as been finalized.

The City budget will begin to move forward, not really knowing what aid the state will give to the city.

Without this knowledge, it is very difficult to have a real budget. Speaking to some of the state legislators, it is hoped a budget will be in place mid-May. But in New York State, we have gone for a long period of time without having a budget. By law, the City Council must have a budget in place by June 30. Even if the state is not settled, the City Council must have a budget submitted, even if it is based on estimates, which is not the ideal way to operate.

Council Member Dromm reported one of his top priorities are education, noting up to 8,000 teachers may be laid off, leading to increased class sizes. It would be a tremendous setback for our schools if it became a reality.

The Lefrak Library had lost one day a week, which we do not want to see happen anywhere else. We would like to be able to restore that one day back to the Lefrak Library. In the Mayor's preliminary budget, the possibility existed and the Queens Library had also stated that unless it secures the necessary funding, the Library will have to cut service in many of its branches.

Next, Council Member Dromm reported he is a member of the Preventative Caucus in the City Council, which is looking at alternative ways to raise revenues without putting a burden on the backs of the low income and the middle class. If a tax was imposed on those who earn \$600,000 and over per year (1% of the population) the budget gap would be closed. However the Mayor had stated he would not hear of any new taxes. The only tax he would consider is the soda/sugar tax, which would have been dedicated to education.

A press conference will be held after the Mayor releases his budget on some of the ways additional revenue can be raised for the city. A survey was sent out by Council Member Dromm and Council Member Ferreras asking constituents what their budget priorities were. He urged all to participate in the survey. Feedback is essential from everyone if cuts had to be made, and in what areas the cuts should be implemented. Everyone wants to maintain services, but if the money is not available and revenue cannot be raised, cuts will have to be looked at.

Council Member Dromm commended Elmhurst Hospital for doing an excellent job with limited resources. Elmhurst Hospital is seeking funding to expand its Emergency Room since it has been tremendously overwhelmed with the closing of St. John's Queens Hospital. Council Member Dromm is exploring ideas where an urgent care center or primary care resources can be brought into the community. Creative health care must be available for our undocumented communities to ensure they get the necessary health care they need and deserve.

Council Member Dromm reported he was able to give the Council on the Environment some funding to put a Greenmarket near Elmhurst Hospital. This is a wonderful initiative which brings in fresh food, fruit, and produce.

We are looking forward to its implementation, which will be a great asset for our community.

Next, Council Member Dromm reported on the Queens Center Mall, which is the highest grossing Mall in the United States (approximately \$1 billion in profits). He reported on problems the community was experiencing with the Mall. Mall personnel had placed cones on the street that blocked shoppers from using street metered parking and forced them to use the pay parking garage. This was done illegally for four years. A meeting was held to resolve the problem, but a similar problem occurred again although this time there was no charge to the resident, but people were not able to travel down 92<sup>nd</sup> Street.

Also, P. S. Q721 had an internship program with the Mall, where students held various jobs in the Mall. The Mall had discontinued the program. Since the Mall had received millions of dollars in tax abatements, it should be giving back to the community it serves, especially in the Elmhurst community.

Council Member Dromm is not opposed to development or tax breaks but if millions of dollars are given out in benefits, something should be given back to the community.

Lastly, the Council Member reported on his first piece of legislation, which involved foster care children who were undocumented children, who could not be returned to the country they originated from. They would have gone back to a family that might have been abusive or neglectful so they were put into foster care here. Those children were eligible for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status; however, they were not being properly identified. A hearing was held which advocates attended and a law was written. Subsequently, the Administration for Children's Services must establish a plan and they have 90 days to create the plan. The needed paperwork was also specified. This legislation will put the children on the path to citizenship. More details were provided on this important piece of legislation.

The Council Member's Office is open on 75<sup>th</sup> Street, and he noted many constituent problems have been resolved. Please stop by and utilize the office.

Before concluding, Council Member Dromm thanked the Community Board for its valuable service and input into the community.

## **V. ULURP & ZONING COMMITTEE**

### **Discussion & Vote BSA #189-96 BZ**

Committee Chair Miriam Levenson reported the Committee's recommendation was to deny the permit based on the following:

The potential capacity of 400 patrons (200 patrons on the first floor and 200 potential patrons waiting in the cellar to gain access to the establishment) poses a severe danger to the patrons and the surrounding area in the event of an emergency.

- ❖ The establishment is located adjacent to a residential area and has generated noise complaints with loud music emanating from the establishment.
- ❖ Parking is inadequate; patrons park their vehicles in the surrounding residential area and disturb the area while exiting the establishment in the early morning hours.
- ❖ The stated use of the establishment (eating and drinking establishment of any capacity with dancing) seems to differ from its intended use. Refer to copy of palm card this establishment hands out in the neighborhood).

Mrs. Miriam Levenson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tom McKenzie, to **deny** the Special Permit. By a voice vote, the Board voted 27 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

At this point, Mr. Diego Freire brought up there was no discussion on the motion.

The First Vice Chair called for discussion on the motion. Mr. Freire pointed out as far as underage drinking and employment of underage workers, the establishment had not been cited for those claims.

The District Manager explained this application is strictly for capacity. This application deals with patrons' safety. If there are 200 people in the cellar and a fire breaks out, those 200 people must be able to get out safely.

More discussion ensued about the *potential* of the establishment holding 200 people in the cellar.

## **VI. Transportation Committee**

Committee Chair Joseph DiMartino reported on the following applications for Street Activity Permits.

1. Sponsor: Bangladesh Hindu Mandir

Name of Event: Rath Yatra

Type of Event: Religious Ceremony

Location: On 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue between Junction Blvd. and 94<sup>th</sup> Street

Date: Sunday, July 18, 2010

Event Time: 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The District Manager explained originally the organization's church wanted to hold a religious procession around 43<sup>rd</sup> and 44<sup>th</sup> Avenues. However, the Police Department turned it down because on July 18, the Colombian Day Festival will be held in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park and there would not be enough police manpower to cover both events. On the recommendation of the Precinct, the application was filed to close 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. This event had been held in prior years without incident.

2. Sponsor: Fundacion Ciudad De Milagro

Name of Event: Father's Day

Location: Corona Plaza-National Street to 104<sup>th</sup> Street

Date: Sunday, July 25, 2010

Event Time: 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The District Manager explained this is the first time for this event. He did not see any problem with the event.

3. Sponsor: Corona Community Ambulance Corp.

Name of Event: CCAC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

Location: 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue between 108<sup>th</sup> Street & 104<sup>th</sup> Street

Date: Sunday, August 22, 2010

Event Time: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Corona Community Ambulance Corp. had held events in the past without incident.

4. Sponsor: Residents of 92<sup>nd</sup> Street

Name of Event: Neighborhood Party

Location: 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue between 92<sup>nd</sup> Street and 94<sup>th</sup> Street

Date: Saturday, July 31, 2010

Event Time: 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The District Manager explained neighbors on this block are requesting to do an old fashioned block party where neighbors get together. The District Manager had asked the organizers to obtain signatures in agreement for this event. Thirty signatures were obtained from people on the block to support the event.

5. Sponsor: Sherwood Village Tenants Association (By Priscilla Carrow)

Location: 98-45 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue

To Be Held in a Dead end Street: 98 Place (Near St. Paul's)

Date: Saturday, August 14, 2010  
Event Time: 12:00 Noon to 8:00 P.M.

Ms. Carrow stated this event is held every year without incident.

Mr. Tom McKenzie made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Roseann Geiger, to **approve** all of the Street Activity Permits presented.

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

Next, Committee Chair Joseph DiMartino reported on the following TLC Base License Renewals:

1. Base #B00350  
Champion Car and Limo Svc. Inc.  
40-33 Junction Boulevard  
Corona, New York 11368

Committee Chair DiMartino reported this base has a lease to park 35 cars at 35-20 Junction Blvd. No problems listed with the Police Department on this Base.

Mr. Tom McKenzie made a motion, seconded by Ms. Clara Salas, to **approve** the Base license renewal. By a voice vote, the Board voted 27 in favor, 0 opposed with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

2. Base #B01568  
NY Mexicana Car & Limousine Service  
49-06 Junction Boulevard  
Elmhurst, NY 11373

The District Manager reported in a letter from the Base dated March 17, but was not received by him until April 26. On the application, it stated there was parking for 25 cars at 92-30 59<sup>th</sup> Avenue, which is the Mattone Parking Lot that had been closed down about a month ago by the Dept. of Consumer Affairs because of the lack of the proper licenses and permits. . As a follow-up, The District Manager had e-mailed the Base on April 26 to provide the number of vehicles at the Base and the number of off street parking spaces along with a signed, certified lease where the off street parking is located, including the expiration date of the Base license. No response by the Base. On April 30, the District Manager had sent a second request for this information, but still no response.

Mr. Tom McKenzie made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Miriam Levenson to **deny** the Base license renewal. By a voice vote, the Board voted 27 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

At this point, the Transportation Committee Chair reported a meeting was held with the Department of Transportation on the Roosevelt Avenue Bridge, over the Van Wyck Expressway and near Citifield, to College Point Blvd.

Slides were presented that illustrated the corrosion is deplorable . \$80 million had been obtained from the Federal government for repair, however, instead of the present two lanes each for vehicular traffic moving each way, the renovation will provide one lane each way for cars. Work is tentatively scheduled for 2011.

The District Manager explained this proposal was presented to Community Board 7 since it is within the confines of Board 7, but DOT wanted Boards 3 and 4 present because of the impact of traffic flow along Roosevelt Avenue. Since Board 7 will hold regular meetings on this proposal, the District Manager suggested to DOT to include the Board in the mailings when the meetings are held.

Mr. DiMartino added a bike lane and pedestrian walkway is also planned. More details were provided by the District Manager. Copies of the power point presentation were available for those who want more information. Come to the Board office to view the presentation.

**VII. Public Safety Committee**

**Vote: SLA Applications**

Committee Chair Lucy Schilero presented the Committee’s report. The Committee held a meeting on May 3 to review the following applications:

**NEW APPLICANTS**

<b><u>ESTABLISHMENT’S NAME</u></b>	<b><u>ADDRESS</u></b>	<b><u>COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION</u></b>
Kumar Pizzeria LLC Restaurant Wine	40-25 82 <sup>nd</sup> Street Elmhurst, NY 11373	Approved
Mama Leti’s, Inc. Restaurant Wine	40-07 Junction Blvd. Corona, NY 11368	Approved
Pasion Bar Restaurant	102-06 43 Avenue Corona, NY 11368	Approved
Sweet Yummy House Restaurant Wine	83-13 Broadway Elmhurst, NY 11373	Approved

**RENEWAL APPLICANTS**

<b><u>ESTABLISHMENT’S NAME</u></b>	<b><u>ADDRESS</u></b>	<b><u>COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION</u></b>
Alfonso’s Tapas Bar, Corp. On Premises Liquor	75-15 Broadway Elmhurst, NY 11373	Approved
Catacocha & Deleg Restaurant Corp. On Premises Liquor	102-03A 44 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Corona, NY 11368	Approved
El Dorado Café, Corp. Restaurant Wine	102-02 Roosevelt Avenue Corona, NY 11368	Approved
GM Roosevelt Avenue Corp. Eating Place Beer	81-16 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY 11372	Approved
Mi Bakery Restaurant Restaurant Wine	40-43A Junction Blvd. Corona, NY 11368	Approved
Tacos Mexico, Corp. Restaurant Wine	41-10 102 St. Corona, NY 11368	Approved
Talo’s Pizzeria Restaurant Inc. Restaurant Wine	58-28 99 <sup>th</sup> St. Corona, NY 11368	Denied. Did not submit proper papers.
Valdez and Tepi, Inc.	102-14 & 102-16	Denied. History of problems.

On Premises Liquor	Roosevelt Avenue Corona, NY 11368	Slated for closure by SLA.
Winners Bar, Inc. On Premises Liquor	82-67 Broadway Elmhurst, NY 11373	Approved

**ALTERATION**

<b>ESTABLISHMENT'S NAME</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION</b>
WB 44 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Restaurant Corp.	102-01 44 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Corona, NY 11368	Denied. Under 200' Rule. No Parking for the 130 or more patrons brought in.

The District Manager explained the address is 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue, which physically puts them more than 200' away from the Church on 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, which is how their license was originally approved. However, a new entrance on 102 Street is being erected, which brings them within 200' of the Church. A Resolution must be drafted to that effect.

Committee Chair Lucy Schilero added the actual location was on 102<sup>nd</sup> Street, but not around the corner on 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue so it was within the 200'. Now, the establishment took over a bodega which is further and closer to the Church. In actuality, the establishment created its own problem, noting families are nearby. Now, the establishment is definitely within the confines of the 200' Rule and on 102 Street.

Mr. Tom McKenzie made a motion, seconded by Ms. Laraine Donohue, to **accept** the Committee's report as presented.  
By a voice vote, the Board voted 27 in favor, 0 opposed with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

**VIII. PRESENTATIONS**

***A. Council On The Environment***

After much research looking throughout Queens for market sites, the District Manager had put the Council in touch with Elmhurst Hospital. Meetings were held and after several visits there and taking customer counts, the space settled on was the south side of 41 Avenue between 80<sup>th</sup> Street and 81<sup>st</sup> Street, along Elmhurst Hospital Clinic. It will take up some of the ambulette area and five parking meters. A photo with map was distributed of the intended site.

Starting July 13, hours of operation will be every Tuesday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., until the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. Support is being sought to open the Greenmarket in Elmhurst this year.

At this point, Mr. Dario Centorcelli read the following letter of support from Chris Constantino, Executive Director, of Elmhurst Hospital.

Dear Mr. Italiano:

“It is my pleasure to write a letter of enthusiastic support for the proposed Greenmarket at Elmhurst Hospital Center. EHC is on the front lines of fighting diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and other illnesses linked to diet, so we understand the importance of ensuring community access to fresh produce. By offering regionally grown fruits and vegetables at affordable prices, the Greenmarket will give our patients and employees the opportunity to explore a wide range of healthy dietary options.

Elmhurst Hospital Center has long sought to educate our patients and their families about the role diet plays in treating many ailments. We also believe promoting community wellness through healthy eating is one of the

best ways to reduce overall healthcare costs. The presences of a thriving farmers' market on our campus will enhance both these initiatives. In addition, we think the Greenmarket will be a creative and beneficial use of public space in front of our Community Medical Center on 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue and 79<sup>th</sup> Street.

I look forward to working with you to bring this much-needed resource to the community.”

Mr. Centrocelli stressed the importance of the Greenmarket for the community. The Hospital supports a healthy diet and the Greenmarket will ensure healthy foods are available to support that lifestyle.

Before concluding, Ms. Chambers thanked Community Board 4 and Elmhurst Hospital for their support on the project.

The District Manager expressed optimism for a third Greenmarket on Queens Boulevard, maybe in the vicinity of Hoffman Park.

Ms. Priscilla Carrow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Diego Freire, to accept the Greenmarket at Elmhurst Hospital.

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

### **B. Queens Library: Jennifer Manley Update**

Ms. Jennifer Manley reported on the budget situation. The Queens Library is facing a budget reduction of \$14.4 million in FY 11. Over the last couple of years the Queens Library was able to restore six-day service, which was a restoration by the City Council that had rescued Lefrak City and all the libraries. Budget cuts were imposed a few times in the past, but the cuts being proposed now are by far the most devastating. With the new proposed cuts, it means a serious reduction in service. Many libraries would be open only two/three days per week. The Mayor's Executive Budget will be presented the end of the week and at that time; we will be able to get a better sense of the situation.

This community has already felt the effects of budget cuts. Ms. Manley mentioned the recent demonstration held at Queens Library in Lefrak City on April 29 to protest the proposed budget cuts and reduction in library hours.

Petitions were passed around for signatures to keep the libraries open and to restore the proposed budget cuts. These petitions also can be found in every community library. On May 27, a rally will be held at City Hall to fight the proposed cuts to the Queens Library.

At this point, Ms. Manley reported City Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer had passed legislation to make it easier for students to apply for library cards. This legislation requires the Dept. of Education to supply students with library card applications and information on how to apply for library cards. The Bill will require the DOE to supply library card applications and information on how to apply for library cards to students entering into kindergarten, sixth grade, and ninth grade.

Moving ahead on capital projects which include the Elmhurst Library, groundbreaking is scheduled for the fall. More details will follow. Temporary library services will be offered during construction and demolition phases both for the Adult Learning Center and regular library services.

Mr. Tom McKenzie asked Ms. Manley to inform the Queens Library personnel that the Board did not approve the \$180,000 art project for the Elmhurst Library. The Board is upset that George Washington, who camped on that very property and prayed in that very church, was not mentioned anywhere in the new library.

Discussion ensued. Mr. McKenzie reiterated the Board had no input into the project.

Before concluding, Ms. Manley any support given to the Queens Library by the Board would be much appreciated.

Ms. Manley also distributed *The Guide To Free Events At Queens Library*.

**Queens Library: Ms. Eileen Sabino  
Elmhurst Cancer Action Council**

Before Ms. Sabino began her presentation, the District Manager announced both he and Health Committee Chair Priscilla Carrow, serve on the Elmhurst Cancer Action Council.

Ms. Sabino reported through the National Cancer Institute, this is a grant funded program with federal dollars, and Queens was selected because of its very high rate of late stage cancers. Breast cancer is three times the national level, which is unacceptable. Colorectal cancer is two times the national level. People are not detecting their cancer until it is very advanced when it is harder to treat and to survive, which impacts on communities and families. By coordinating health programs to reduce late-stage cancer diagnoses, cancer survival rates can be improved.

This program values the community members as the experts. Queens's residents' know what the needs of the community are in terms of health, prevention, and other community issues that affect health. This knowledge is used to plan health programs that address the community's needs.

Ms. Sabino's role is to bring the members together to talk about what the needs and assets are in the community, to pool all of the knowledge and resources within the community, and to target those needs.

Partnering with the American Cancer Society, the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, who tracks the research collected on a national level, and also the Queens Cancer Center which is part of the Queens Hospital Center, and it is through them health care is provided for screening and treatment for all individuals regardless of ability to pay.

At this point, Ms. Sabino invited all to an upcoming meeting on May 27, 2010, at 2:00 p.m., at the Elmhurst Library, 86-01 Broadway, Elmhurst, NY, noting a Council was also started at Lefrak City. With all the closures, it is extra important that the services are brought outside the library into the community. Outreach is essential in residents' buildings, community organizations, and churches.

Look for the Mobile Mammography Van at St. Paul's Church, 98-16 55<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Corona, on Sunday, June 20. An appointment is necessary for a no-cost mammogram. Eligibility Criteria: Women age 40 and older, New York City resident, no mammogram in the past 12 months.

Ms. Georgina Oliver asked if the van was equipped to do pap smears. Ms. Sabino responded the Queens Health Network van was able to provided cervical cancer screening. However in April of 2009, the state cancer services program was cut dramatically. Queens was hit particularly hard and funding for cervical cancer screening was nearly eliminated. However some dollars did come through at the end of the fiscal year, and the service was offered to women over 40 but the higher risk groups are age 21 and over.

In terms of mammogram screenings, two fiscal years ago 12,000 women without insurance were screened, however, only 1,200 were screened in the past fiscal year. For this fiscal year the organization is still operating at 10% capacity, also making it very difficult to follow up on suspicious mammograms.

At this point, the District Manager asked anyone who is interested to join the Council. All are welcomed. More dedicated members are needed to serve. Once more people are enlisted, community health events can be planned. The District Manager spoke about an upcoming luncheon for all the Councils in Queens at the Queens Center Mall.

## **IX. Committee Reports**

### *Consumer Affairs*

No Report. Committee Chair not present.

### *Health Committee*

No Report. Committee Chair Priscilla Carrow reported the Committee did not meet.

### *Postal*

No Report. Committee Chair not present.

### *Environmental.*

Committee Chair Tom McKenzie stated no report.

### *Parks*

Committee Chair Tony Caminiti announced on Saturday, May 8, the Corona Lions will have a Flea Market outside Moore Park and at the VFW Post #150 to raise money for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life fundraiser. Hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Citifield Relay will be on June 12. The Corona Lions has five teams to date. All are invited to attend.

### *Youth*

Committee Chair Clara Salas reported the Youth Committee met on April 20 at Elmhurst Hospital Center in Room A1-15. Members present were Judy D'Andrea, Maria Lourdes Garcia and the Committee Chair. The guest presenter was Peter J. Vercessi, Vice President of Community Education Council 24.

### Important Points of the Presentation:

1. Chancellor Joel I. Klein had stated that the money for this program is in the budget. Mr. Vercessi explained that if the construction is not implemented as per instructed in the Capital Plan, the money will be transferred to other projects in other Districts.
2. Identification and referral to the School Construction Authority and the Community Education Council 24 Queens, of available sites for development of schools. Judy D'Andrea suggested four sites, such as the parking lot of the St. John's Hospital. The now closed M&A lumber at 108<sup>th</sup> Street between 50<sup>th</sup> and 49<sup>th</sup> Avenues.
3. School closings were briefly discussed. The only school in danger of closing in District 24 is Grover Cleveland High School because of poor performance.

Next, the Committee Chair mentioned the status of the Summer Youth Program. Status is still unsure, however, applications are available to be completed. Depending on the budget if it is passed, there will be a program. The application must be completed and submitted by May 21, 2010.

Next, she spoke about the possible layoffs of teachers. A budget meeting will be held on May 12 at 7:00 p.m. at P. S. 58 on Grand Avenue. All were urged to attend.

Mr. Tom McKenzie added for a number of years, the Newtown Civic Association received an \$8,000 discretionary grant from the City Council. Newtown Civic did not receive it this past fiscal year nor will it

receive it this fiscal year since funding will not be continued because there is no discretionary funding. However, the money received was used to buy musical instruments for Newtown High School, uniforms and equipment for Boy Scout Troop 17, help the St. Bartholomew's Sports Program, and two pieces of equipment were given to Cathedral Preparatory High School. However, the Department of Youth and Community Development congratulated the Newtown Civic Association on how the funds were spent i.e. no one received a salary, no money was wasted, and everything was paid for below the budget level.

At this point, the District Manager updated the Board on e-mails sent to the School Construction Authority about possible school sites. As yet, no response was received. Also, regarding the high school on the Horace Harding Expressway, the principal reported there are no windows in the school. Details were provided.

## **X. PUBLIC FORUM**

### **Good & Welfare of the District**

Ms. Vincenza Guillen, reported on a house located at 108-64 49 Avenue. It had been residential property for over 50 years (a lot with 2 structures). A year and half ago, it was sold. Now, the front house is being used on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday as a place of worship, and added it takes up what little parking there is. She questioned how this could be done without signs and permit. The District Manager said he would look into the matter.

Furthermore, Ms. Guillen reported on an offender who fixes cars on the street resulting in broken sidewalks and taking up parking spaces. She will call the Board office with the exact location.

The District Manager said another problem occurring in the district is that residents are renting out their backyards for parties. Complaints have already been received at the Board office to this effect.

Next, Mr. Steve Mayerson reported on unhealthy conditions at a private house located at 41-02 Benham Street where children live and play. The garage was torn down and a carport installed. This carport houses an abandoned car with much garbage strewn about. He reported seeing rats coming from the carport. The District Manager said he would report the complaint.

There being no further business, Ms. Priscilla Carrow made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Miriam Levenson, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.