



COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, Elmhurst and Newtown

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Helen Marshall
Borough President

Anthony R. Moreno
Chairperson

Barry Grodenchik
Deputy Borough President
Director of Community Boards

COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 07, 2012

TIME: 7:30 PM

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

I. Chairperson Anthony Moreno opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Chairperson Anthony Moreno asked the Board to remain standing to pay tribute to District Manager Richard Italiano. It is with deep regret that we pause to remember Mr. Richard Italiano, a wonderful man, friend and father. It is very difficult to find words to express at the untimely death of this splendid man.

Chairperson Anthony Moreno turned the floor over to Mrs. Catherine Moore, from the Queens Borough President's office, who read the following statement:

In Tribute To District Manager Richard Italiano

I ask for a few moments of your time for us to reflect on our beloved District Manager, Richard Italiano, whose untimely death has left a great void in our community. It was my privilege to have known and worked with Richard over the past 20 years. In all of that time, I can honestly say that I never heard him raise his voice to anyone at any time. He was a good man—a man of integrity. To his family, the Borough President and I extend our condolences to his beloved Mother Mary and his devoted Wife Carol. To his children and grandchildren, they have suffered a great loss. Richard's love of the community was only surpassed by his love for his family.

To all of the Community Board Members, the Borough President and I offer our deepest sympathies to all of you.

May he rest in eternal peace.

Next, Second Vice Chair Patricia Terranova read the following statement sent in by Mrs. Carol Italiano:

Dear Mr. Chairman, CB 4 Members, Margaret and Christian:

On behalf of Richard's mother, Mary, myself, and children Brian and Cristina, I would like to send a very heartfelt thank you for all of your comforting words and condolences during this sad time. Through your kindness and support, we are able to cope during the most difficult time in our life. I am truly sorry that I could not spend more than a few moments with each of you at Richard's wake. But the amount of people that came to pay their respects to Richard and our family was amazing. It was a beautiful tribute to Richard so many came to Guida's to comfort us out of respect for Richard.

Community Board 4 was a huge part of Richard's life and when I say he ate, drank, and slept the communities of Corona, Corona Heights, and Elmhurst, it would be an understatement. I am so grateful that he loved his work along with its challenges and rewards and anxiously awaited each new day serving the people and the community that he loved.

To Richard's colleagues, friends and acquaintances, Thank You for enriching Richard's life and I only hope Richard enriched yours in some small way. I know his absence will be felt. We miss him every day as I am sure you do.

Next, Mrs. Catherine Moore read the following response regarding Mr. Nicholas Pennachio's resignation from Community Board 4:

Good evening ladies and gentlemen. As the Borough President's liaison to Community Board 4, she has asked me to address the resignation of Mr. Nicholas Pennachio.

On behalf of Borough President Helen Marshall, she wants everyone to know how much she values Mr. Pennachio's dedication and service to this Board since 1989. He has volunteered his time and given his energy to make his community a better place for more than 20 years. She would also like to recognize his dedicated service to our country as a veteran of the Korean War.

However, in light of this, as your Borough President, she cannot accept his resignation from Community Board 4. It would be a great loss to the community. His experience and dedication are needed, especially since the untimely death of our beloved District Manager, Richard Italiano.

Therefore, your continued service is greatly appreciated.

Mrs. Catherine Moore had also requested the Press, when reporting on this matter, to please be kind and noted this meeting place is given by the VFW, which does a great deal for the veterans of our community and we are very grateful to them for the use of the hall. She hoped this will be reflected in any story the Press covers.

At this time, the Board was asked to be seated.

III. First Vice Chairperson Louis Walker took the attendance. A quorum was present.

IV. Vote: Minutes of January 10, 2012

Ms. Judy D'Andrea made a motion, seconded by Ms. Laraine Donohue, to **accept** the minutes of January 10, 2012.

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

V. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson Anthony Moreno reported on the Queens Borough President's Office Budget Hearings FY 2013 held on Monday, February 6, 2012, at 9:30 a.m., at Queens Borough Hall. The Borough President's Office provides capital and expense grants for the development and improvement of public and/or private space in Queens as well as programmatic support to eligible not-for-profits in Queens.

VI. REPORT OF THE LEGISLATORS

Mr. Bruce Eiber, representing Council Member Karen Koslowitz's office, reported serving as Chair of the City Council's Economic Development Committee and presiding oversight hearings. Council Member Koslowitz is proud to announce in 2011 New York City had over 50 million tourists. The result of those hearings was to extend tourism to the outer boroughs, including Queens.

In addition, Council Member Koslowitz had introduced legislation for parks regarding private dumping of garbage. Details were provided.

For constituents in the district with landlord/tenant issues, Tuesday nights from 6:15 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. an attorney is on staff to answer questions and offer assistance. Come in or call if you need help.

On behalf of Council Member Koslowitz and her staff, Mr. Eiber expressed sincere condolences to the family of Mr. Richard Italiano on his untimely death. Deepest sympathy was also expressed to the Board on its loss.

At this point, Board Member Tom McKenzie asked Mr. Eiber to remind Council Member Koslowitz homeowner taxes have risen 142%. No one's income has kept up with such a large increase.

Next, Ms. Yoselin Genao, representing Council Member Julissa Ferreras' Office, invited all to the State of the 21st Council District Address on Thursday, February 9, 2012, at 6:00 p.m. at Langston Hughes Library.

Also, Ms. Genao reported on a special fund by the Transfiguration of Christ Greek Orthodox Church of Corona called Save USA Program. Save \$250 and the organization will match your savings (up to \$1,000).

Next, Ms. Genao reported the Queens Business Outreach Center & Council Member Ferreras Present **Financing Your Business Workshop Start-ups** – Queens Business Outreach Center, 96-11 40th Road, Corona, NY on February 21, 2012, 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Next, Council Member Ferreras & the Food Bank For New York City & The City University of New York invites you to Free Tax Preparation January 19, 2012, Through April 17 At the Transfiguration of Christ Greek Orthodox Church of Corona NY, 38-05 98th Street, Corona, NY. Hours are: Monday-Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Friday 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

On behalf of Council Member Ferreras and her staff, sincere sympathy were extended to the family of Richard Italiano and Community Board 4.

Ms. Genao expressed kind words and praise and was very glad to have had the opportunity to have known and worked with Richard Italiano and expressed optimism that his legacy continues.

At this point, Board Member Tom McKenzie asked Ms. Genao to remind the Council Member homeowner real estate taxes have rise 142% in the last ten years.

Next, Ms. Carolyn Tran, representing Council Member Daniel Dromm's office, invited all to the Lunar New Year Celebration at St. James Episcopal Church, 84-07 Broadway, Elmhurst, NY, on February 11, 11:00 a.m. to

12:00 Noon free art-making workshop for kids and 12:00 Noon – 2:00 p.m. traditional drumming, lion dancing and more.

At this point, Board Member Tom McKenzie reminded Ms. Tran to remind Council Member Dromm homeowner real taxes have risen 142% in the last ten years.

Next, Ms. Emily Paez, representing Senator Jose Peralta, reported in honor of Black History Month, Senator Jose Peralta invites members of the community to A Celebration of Black History and Heritage Honoring former Mayor David Dinkins, Assemblyman Jeffrion Aubry, Melinda Murray, Reverend Marvin J. Bentley, Reverend Patrick H. Young, District Leader Barbara Jackson, District Leader Veta Brome, District Leader George Dixon and NYPD Detective Adriane Johnson, on Thursday, February 16, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., at the Langston Hughes Library.

Ms. Paez expressed sincere regret to the family and the Board on the passing of District Manager Richard Italiano.

At this point, Board Member Tom McKenzie asked Ms. Paez to ask Senator Peralta if something can be done about the estate tax by raising the threshold to match the Federal's government's estate tax.

Next, Ms. Louise Emanuel, representing Assembly Member Jeffrion Aubry's office, expressed heartfelt condolences to District Manager Richard Italiano's family. Her last remembrance with Mr. Italiano was at a walk through of St. John's Queens Hospital. She spoke in further detail about this property. Ms. Emanuel also spoke about redistricting and a recent meeting held at Queens Borough Hall. More details were provided.

At this point, Chairperson Moreno reported a walk-through of the St. John's Queens Hospital property was held a few weeks ago which included Council Member Daniel Dromm. The first three stories of the building will be retail space, in the basement a supermarket/health food market is planned, the third floor will be professional offices, the fourth floor will be medical facilities, and the fifth/sixth/and seventh floors will be apartment rentals (primarily studios with one and two bedroom apartments). Representatives for the property will address the Board's ULURP Committee on February 21.

Next, Ms. Ari Espinal from Assembly Member Francisco Moya's office expressed heartfelt condolences to the Board on the passing of a special person, Richard Italiano. He will be missed by all his friends and associates who admired him.

Additionally, Ms. Espinal reported on an upcoming immigration forum to be held February 28, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Location to be announced. Attorneys will be present to answer immigration questions.

VII. NOMINATION COMMITTEE

Vote: Election of New Executive Committee

March 01, 2012 to February 28, 2014

Mr. Alirio Orduna, Chair of the Nominating Committee, reported the Committee met on January 31, and the following were nominated as officers for Community Board 4Q:

Chairperson of the Board - Louis Walker
First Vice Chairperson - Patricia Terranova
Second Vice Chairperson - Anthony Moreno
Treasurer - Joseph DiMartino
Executive Secretary - Clara Salas

At Large Directors:

Lucy Schilero
Roseann Geiger
Robert Rothschild
Alirio Orduna
Priscilla Carrow
Diego Freire (withdrew his name from the nominations)

Five names were on the floor for consideration, although there are four director at large slots.

For the office of **Chairperson**, nominations were called for from the floor.

Mr. George Onourah nominated Mr. Melvin Morgan. Nomination declined.

Mr. Louis Walker– Nominations Committee nominee.

Since there was no opposition, Mr. Louis Walker was elected as Chairperson of the Board.

For the office of **First Vice Chairperson** –

Mrs. Patricia Terranova - Nominations Committee nominee.

Nominations were called for from the floor.

Since there was no opposition, Mrs. Patricia Terranova was elected as First Vice Chairperson.

For the office of **Second Vice Chairperson**

Mr. Anthony Moreno – Nominations Committee nominee

Nominations were called for from the floor.

Mr. George Onourah was nominated, but declined the position.

Since there was no opposition, Mr. Anthony Moreno was elected as Second Vice Chairperson.

For the office of **Treasurer**

Mr. Joseph DiMartino – Nominations Committee nominee.

Nominations were called for from the floor.

Since there was no opposition, Mr. Joseph DiMartino was elected as Treasurer.

For the office of **Executive Secretary**

Ms. Clara Salas – Nominations Committee nominee.

Nominations were called for from the floor

Since there was no opposition, Ms. Clara Salas was elected as Executive Secretary.

Mr. Alirio Orduna made a motion, seconded by Ms. Laraine Donohue, to **accept** the slate of unopposed officers.

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

At Large Directors:

Ms. Lucy Schilero
Ms. Roseann Geiger
Mr. Robert Rothschild
Mr. Alirio Orduna
Ms. Priscilla Carrow

Nominations were called for from the floor. Ms. Laraine Donohue nominated **Mr. Al Perna**. Nomination seconded by Ms. Pat Rosero.

Ballots were distributed for voting. Chairperson Moreno instructed Mr. Al Perna's name had to be written in at the bottom of the ballot.

At this point, Ms. Priscilla Carrow withdrew her name from the election.

This left a total of 5 nominees for 4 At Large Director slots.

Before the vote was taken, Mr. Alirio Orduna repeated the five nominees for **At Large Directors**:

Lucy Schilero
Roseann Geiger
Robert Rothschild
Alirio Orduna
Al Perna

After the ballots were collected, the Nominations Committee was requested to step forward for a count.

After the votes were counted, Mr. Alirio Orduna announced the new **At Large Directors** For Community Board 4Q:

Term of Office: March 1, 2012 – February 28, 2014

Chairperson of the Board –	Louis Walker
First Vice Chairperson –	Patricia Terranova
Second Vice Chairperson –	Anthony Moreno
Treasurer –	Joseph DiMartino
Executive Secretary –	Clara Salas

At Large Directors:

Roseann Geiger	(27 votes)
Al Perna	(26 votes)
Lucy Schilero	(26 votes)
Robert Rothschild	(30 votes)

Congratulations were extended to all.

Ms. Laraine Donohue made a motion, seconded by Ms. Myrna Littlewort, to **accept** the newly elected slate of officers for Community Board 4, 0 opposed with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

VIII. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Vote: SLA Applications

Committee Chair Lucy Schilero reported the Committee met on February 6 regarding the following applications:

New Applicants

<u><i>ESTABLISHMENT NAME</i></u>	<u><i>ESTABLISHMENT ADDRESS</i></u>	<u><i>COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION</i></u>
Picode Gallo Inc. Wine and Beer Only	82-12 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY 11372	Approved
Charles DiCarlo Tomei or Entity Wine and Beer Only	97-12 Roosevelt Avenue, 2 nd Fl Corona, NY	Denied Committee would like to see papers when Mr. DiCarlo officially took over Business. Docs. Cof O & bldg. permits
Tacos Tulcingo Corp. Liquor, Wine, and Beer	40-12 83 rd Street Elmhurst, NY	Approved

Renewal Applicants

<u><i>ESTABLISHMENT NAME</i></u>	<u><i>ESTABLISHMENT ADDRESS</i></u>	<u><i>COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION</i></u>
El Rincon Criolla Rest. Restaurant Wine	40-09 Junction Blvd. Corona, NY	Approved
Chila City Escape Corp. On Premises Liquor	89-56 Elmhurst Avenue Elmhurst, NY	Denied. History of problems. Numerous ABC Violations. Alcohol purchase to minor Sale to minor. Unlicensed Cabaret.
Mamita's Rest. LLC Restaurant Wine	40-43 Junction Blvd. Corona, NY	Approved
Angelos Continental Cuisine Café Inc. DBA: Angelo's Rest. Restaurant Wine	95-58 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Approved
104 th Street Rest. Inc. DBA: Tony's Pizzeria Restaurant On-Premises Liquor	45-18 104 Street Corona, NY	Approved
WB 44 th Avenue Rest. Corp. dba: Divine On Premises Liquor	102-01 44 th Avenue Corona, NY	Denied History of problems. Unlicensed sale of alcohol. ABC violations. Summons After hours consumption. Summons Disorderly premises. Security w/o license. All summonses issued in one year.

Before concluding her report, Committee Chair Schilero commented the CERT Team was present at the St. Leo's Blood Drive.

Mr. Thomas McKenzie made a motion, seconded by Ms. Priscilla Carrow, to **accept** the Committee's report as presented.

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

IX. CONSUMER AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

VOTE: Gaming Cafes

Chinatown #1 Gaming Corp.

D&SNY Enterprise Corporation

Committee Chair George Onuorah reported the Committee met on Friday, January 27, 2012. At this meeting, the Committee Chair paid a tribute to District Manager Richard Italiano who passed away January 18, 2012. Mr. Onuorah described Mr. Italiano as a dedicated public servant who worked tirelessly for CB 4 and Queens. The following concerns were raised by those present at the meeting. Senior discounts at Food Bazaar. Mr. Melvin Morgan stated he went to make some purchases and was not given the senior discount. Those 62 years and older are entitled to discounts at the store. Upon discussion, it was evident that entitled seniors are the ones who should request discount and are usually credited with such discounts. The Chair plans to remind the store manager at the Food Bazaars to post information.

Concerns were also raised about hiring practices. The number of minorities at the Food Bazaar needs further investigation. For example, how many African-American employees work in the store or the percentage of other minorities?

At this point, Ms. Georgia Oliver asked major cable providers who use the threat of pulling their content from rival service providers to receive a better deal from that provider for their content.

Chairperson Moreno responded Consumer Affairs Chair George Onuorah will present information on this issue. He is currently researching legislation sponsored by State Senator Tony Avella, who is seeking the Board's support.

Next, Mr. Onuorah reported on the Chinatown #1 Gaming Corporation. The Committee recommended approval of the application.

Ms. Nancy King Wang said a suggestion was made to change the name of the business and it should be made more educational. If students do not have internet or computers at home, it would be a place to do their homework, and not during school time.

Although the age limit is 18, high school students finish at age 21. Under 21 years of age, students should not patronize the business unless they graduated from high school.

Mr. Nick Pennachio said there are still many questions to be answered. Ms. Priscilla Carrow also said this business is not yet ready to open. We don't know what it will look like.

Ms. Carrow made a motion, seconded by Ms. Miriam Levenson, to **table** both applications.

Before the vote to table the motion was taken, Mr. Robert Rothschild pointed out Chinatown #1 Gaming Corporation did not have the necessary computers needed to open.

Secondly, for D&SNY Enterprise Corporation, the hours of operation were in question, said Mr. Rothschild.

By a show of hands, the Board by a majority consensus, with 1 opposed, and 0 abstentions, voted to **table** both applications since more information is needed. Motion passed.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parks

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

Health

Committee Chair Priscilla Carrow reported the Committee did not meet. But a health fair is being planned for the month of July. A location is needed, preferably outside. Suggestions were taken from the floor.

At this point, Chairperson Anthony Moreno called for a Board Member to Chair the Parks Committee. Mr. Al Perna accepted the Parks Committee Chair position.

Youth

Committee Chair Clara Salas reported the Committee meets as needed. Presently, the main concern is the closing of schools and teacher evaluations.

Discussion ensued on school closings followed by a detailed report by Ms. Nancy King Wang on the educational system.

Environmental

Committee Chair Tom McKenzie reported on the following:

- Cable wires hanging all over by the cable and phone companies
- Long Island Railroad spent over \$30 million on the right of way for our community and has done nothing about water freezing on the sidewalk in winter.
- For the last three months, 24/7, the Hess Gas Station on Queens Blvd., runs the vacuum non-stop. Mr. McKenzie made numerous calls, but no one returns his calls.
- Favorable update on the Queens Blvd. establishment Exotics given.
- A law was passed that no commercial vehicles left unattended on any street for three hours. For a year and a half trucks have been parking in front of McDonald's Restaurant. An example was given about a truck parked in front of McDonald's Restaurant last year 127 full days *without* getting ticketed. Details were given on his efforts to remove the truck. He would appreciate any help in this matter.

ULURP & Zoning

Committee Chair Miriam Levenson reported on the progress of the St. John's Queens Hospital property. Mrs. Levenson also reported on the zone green text amendment. The proposal is to update and clarify standards for green features. For example, it would promote solar electric and hot water systems. It would also support storm water management, open space, and other beneficial rooftop uses. She suggested representatives from the Dept. of City Planning address the Board on this subject matter.

Next, Assembly Member Francisco Moya addressed the Board. He expressed great sorrow on the passing of District Manager Richard Italiano, who not only improved our community, but also was a great friend. He will leave a lasting impact not only on the Assembly Member but also everyone present tonight. We all know how much Richard Italiano cared about the Community Board and neighborhoods he represented. His legacy will continue in all of us. Deepest condolences were extended not only to the family of Mr. Italiano but also to the Board.

Next, Assembly Member Moya spoke about the budget hearings in Albany. The minimum wage was increased to \$8.50/hr. We are one of three states that have increased the minimum wage. The legislature intends to do more good so that some of the cuts will not affect this community. The fight will continue to ensure our senior centers are not closed and no cuts to CUNY and SUNY are implemented. Great discussions were held with the Governor. The fight will continue for money and resources that have been promised to this area.

Assembly Member Moya has been working, along his colleagues on both the city and state levels, to ensure that all efforts are combined to support the district's constituents. Next week, budget negotiations will be held with the focus on an on-time budget, with the goal being to drive our State out of the budget deficit it is in. We have been able to do that under the Governor's leadership. Great economic development for the borough of Queens is forthcoming. In the State of the State message, the Governor talked about bringing in a state-of-the-art convention center in Queens, which will not only create jobs but bring in much needed revenue. More details followed.

Assembly Member Moya thanked the Board for denying the liquor license to Club Divine because of numerous problems. He spoke about the current timeframe for liquor licenses. Ms. Lucy Schilero and her committee were thanked for all their great work. A Bill was introduced to extend the timeframe to 60 days from 30 days. Another Bill will be introduced in a few weeks regarding owners changing their names when their liquor license is denied and then change the name of the corporation to get a brand new license. This will not longer be effect under this new Bill.

Ms. Rovenia McGowan requested more information on "fracking" Assembly Member Moya responded "fracking" can have a potentially negative effect on our drinking water. The Assembly had passed a Bill asking for a moratorium on "fracking". No real studies have been done on the impact those chemicals have on our drinking water. More details followed.

Mr. Tom McKenzie mentioned earthquakes in Ohio caused by "fracking". Assembly Member Moya was asked to do something about the estate and property taxes.

XI. PUBLIC FORUM

Board Treasurer Joseph DiMartino reported 20 Board members have paid their dues and 20 have not paid. See him at the end of the meeting if you have not paid.

Under the Transportation Committee, he reported a study was implemented by the Department of Transportation and new traffic control signal was granted for Corona Avenue and 94th Street.

Next, Mr. Eric Howard, Queens Borough Public Library, invited all to its civic engagement program that meets monthly. Speakers from one level of government are in attendance so that the public can learn what government is doing for them and also to help the community answer questions. Last month, the Queens Borough President was the guest speaker. For this month, guest speakers are Assembly Member Jeffrion Aubry and Ms. Claudia Filomena, Community Assistance Unit.

Next, Board Member Alirio Orduna presented an update on the New York Military Youth Cadets' upcoming humanitarian mission to the Dominican Republic. Details followed.

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