



COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, and Elmhurst

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Helen Marshall
Borough President

Anthony R. Moreno
Chairperson

Barry Grodenchik
Deputy Borough President
Director of Community Boards

Richard Italiano
District Manager

COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2011

TIME: 7:35 P.M.

**PLACE: Elks Lodge #878
82-20 Queens Blvd.
Elmhurst, NY 11373**

I. Chairperson Anthony Moreno called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

III. District Manager Richard Italiano took the attendance. A quorum was present.

IV. Vote: Minutes of the January 11, 2011 Meeting

Ms. Priscilla Carrow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Alirio Orduna, to **accept** the minutes of the January 11, 2011 meeting.

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

V. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson Moreno reported he had attended the Patrol Borough North Queens Year End Review, also accompanied by the District Manager this morning, and it was well attended. Crime statistics from all the precincts in the borough had decreased. However, there is some concern for 2011 that the 109, 110, and 115 Precincts are beginning to see greater signs of gang related activity. Precincts are working diligently to curtail this movement, but, for the most part, crime stats. have gone down considerably.

Next, Chairperson Moreno announced Board Member Tony Caminiti was nominated Citizen of the Year by Queens Borough President Helen Marshall. Mr. Caminiti received a 'round of applause.

Next, Chairperson Moreno announced the 110th Precinct Community Council at its Fifth Annual Fundraiser on Tuesday, April 26, 2011, at 6:00 p.m., at the Grandstand, 85-35 Grand Avenue, Elmhurst, NY. is honoring District Manager Richard Italiano.

More honorees are: Board members Patricia Terranova and Joseph DiMartino are being honored at the 43 Annual Corona Lions Club Dinner on March 20. Congratulations and a round of applause was given to both Board members.

Next, at the Queens Borough Board's meeting last night the guest speaker was Mr. Glen Neumann, President of the NYC Tax Commission and Mr. Lee Fiorino, Director of Business and Community Outreach for the Department of Finance, who gave an update on the Real Estate Property assessment.

A meeting will be held at the Finance and Tax Commission, Outreach Center, Wednesday, February 9, at 10:00 a.m. 144-06 94 Avenue/Sutphin Blvd., Second Fl. To correct your assessments, March 1 is the deadline to submit any changes.

Next, since the November 2 changes to the NYC Charter, all Community Board members and Staff at all Community Boards must undergo training. A representative will address the Community Board at an upcoming meeting providing more details.

VI. REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

District Manager Richard Italiano reported on the agenda for the March 2011 Community Board meeting. A public hearing will be held on the Fiscal Year 2012 Capital and Expense items. It is on the agenda for March because the Mayor's Office had delayed the release of its budget until February 25. Once the budget is released, a public hearing will be held followed by the Board response.

Before introducing the Legislator's Report, the Board Chairperson Moreno reminded the elected official's representatives of the three minute time limit.

Mr. Joe Nocerino, representing Council Member Karen Koslowitz, read the following statement by the Councilwoman regarding the tragic construction accident in Elmhurst.

"I am heartbroken at the senseless loss of life yesterday in Elmhurst at 84-16 Queens Blvd. Putting the lives of workers at stake in worksites is totally unacceptable. The history of the builder involved is very suspect. I will do everything in conjunction with the Department of Buildings to get to the bottom of what happened. My deepest condolences and sympathy is extended to the family of Humberto Sanchez."

Next, Mr. Sebastian Maguire, representing Council Member Daniel Dromm, reported on the following events:

- An upcoming Restaurant Week is planned for the first week of April. Potential participating restaurants are urged to apply by March 10. A successful Restaurant Week was held in Jackson Heights last year and the same event is planned for the Elmhurst community.
- The City Council Speaker is spearheading an event to address harassment in schools of students. Planned for next week, contact Mr. Maguire for further details.
- An Elmhurst Town Hall meeting is planned for March 10. Details will be forthcoming.
- Budget cuts were mentioned, especially to senior centers. Council Member Dromm will be fighting very hard to preserve and protect the community against upcoming budget cuts.

Next, Ms. Yoselin Genao, representing Council Member Julissa Ferreras' Office, introduced the new Deputy Chief of Staff, Patricio Barrientos who will assist Council Member Ferreras with the budget and press.

Starting next week for Fiscal Year 2012 Non-City applications will be available for those organizations who wish to apply for discretionary funding. This is an online application.

Ms. Genao reported legal counsel, by appointment, is available at the District Office. February 25-28 commemoration will be held in honor of Black History Month. Details on more upcoming events were given. At Elmhurst Hospital on March 10, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., a meeting will be held with city agencies to address concerns of community residents.

Next, Mr. Yonel Letellier, representing Senator Jose Peralta, reported on two events Dominican Heritage on February 17 partnering with the Borough President. Black Heritage Month, together with Mr. Bill Thompson and Borough President Helen Marshall, on February 24 at the Langston Hughes Library. All are invited.

Mr. Letellier spoke about the Executive Budget and noted it will be a tough year in Albany because of the state's financial woes. He also provided specific details about certain Bills the senator had signed for the protection of the consumer.

Lastly, he spoke about the Doe' Funds efforts in clearing the snow from Roosevelt Avenue to Astoria Blvd. to Northern Blvd.

Before concluding, Mr. Letellier presented more updates of interest to community residents.

VII. VOTE COMMUNITY BOARD 4Q AREAS SERVICED

Vote: No vote taken tonight. Chairperson Moreno announced this agenda item is being held over.

Before the Consumer Affairs Committee report was presented, Chairperson Moreno announced Mr. George Onuorah is now Chairperson of this Committee. However, Mrs. Helen Landaverde will present her last Committee report at tonight's meeting.

VIII. CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Vote: Cabaret

**Priama Inc./Club Glazz
79-51 Albion Avenue**

Mrs. Landaverde reported this is a large establishment serving 900 patrons and has been in business for more than ten years. All permits were in order and there were no complaints. Mrs. Landaverde had visited the establishment about three months ago and all was in order.

Discussion ensued about the establishment and its location and the change in use for a cabaret, including its nearness to a school.

At this point, the Chairperson reported the establishment did not need the Board's vote since the establishment had its C of O and is licensed.

Subsequently, Mrs. Landaverde was thanked for all her good work as Chair of the Consumer Affairs Committee.

Mrs. Judy D'Andrea mentioned the gas company, National Grid. Sometimes consumers do not use the actual gas in their homes, for example, the cost of their actual gas might be \$12, although the service charge may be \$25 resulting in the consumer paying more for the service to be brought into the home than the actual gas usage. Mrs. D'Andrea questioned this practice.

The Chair said Mr. George Onuorah, as Chair of the Consumer Affairs Committee, will look into it and report back.

Discussion ensued.

At this point, a discussion ensued to accept the report of the Consumer Affairs Committee for Priama Inc/Club Glazz.

However, the District Manager clarified this application is not for a sidewalk café with six tables outside. The application before the Board is for a cabaret license for 950 people.

After more discussion, the consensus of the Board was to **table** the application. By a voice vote, the Board voted 33 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Unanimous. Motion passed.

This application will be brought up again next month by the Consumer Affairs Committee for review.

IX. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Vote: SLA Applications

Committee Chair Lucy Schilero presented the Committee's report. The Committee meeting scheduled for February 2 had to be cancelled because of weather conditions, however, a subsequent meeting was held for the following applications:

New Applicants

<u>Establishment's Name</u>	<u>Establishment's Address</u>	<u>Committee Recommendation</u>
Key Choice, Inc. dba UFC Restaurant Wine	71-22 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY 11372	Approved
Wrong Way Bar, Inc. On Premises Liquor	87-33 Britton Avenue Elmhurst, NY 11373	Denied. Based on correspondence from U. S. Post Office, "No Such Address". Also, 110 Precinct Police Could not find this address. Addresses found were 87-35 or 87-37 Britton Avenue.

Renewal Applicants

<u>Establishment's Name</u>	<u>Establishment's Address</u>	<u>Committee Recommendation</u>
Angelo's Continental Cuisine Café, Inc. Restaurant Wine	95-58 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY 11372	Approved
Bodegon Asturias. Inc. On Premises Liquor	40-12 83 Street Elmhurst, NY 11373	Approved
Restaurant Emilio III On Premises Liquor	42-18 Junction Blvd. Corona, NY 11368	Approved

Renewal Applicants (cont'd)

<u>Establishment's Name</u>	<u>Establishment's Address</u>	<u>Committee Recommendation</u>
Page II Corporation On Premises Liquor	107-01 Corona Avenue Corona, NY 11368	Approved
Sabor Latino Corp. On Premises Liquor	95-30 40 th Road Elmhurst, NY 11373	Denied. Assault. Robbery. Numerous Noise Complaints. Police always called to location.

Reconsideration

<u>Establishment's Name</u>	<u>Establishment's Address</u>	<u>Committee Recommendation</u>
Blue Bird Restaurant On Premises Liquor	79-21 Queens Blvd. Elmhurst, NY 11373	Denied. No C of O. Questions from SLA on owner Conviction record and relationship With previous owners. Questions On certain construction work. This is the former Krystal's site.

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 33 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Unanimous. Motion passed.

X. PRESENTATIONS

1. GrowNYC – Jon Klar

Ms. Christina Salvi, Assistant Director, Office of Recycling Outreach & Education, gave the presentation for the organization. GrowNYC is a non profit organization that is 40 years old and best known for the City's Greenmarket program. Greenmarket operates over 50 farmer's markets in the five boroughs.

Services to the community include:

A weekly textile recycling collection at the Jackson Heights Greenmarket.

The average New Yorker tosses 46 pounds of clothing and textiles in trash each year, totaling 6% of residential waste. By offering this recycling service, those commodities are kept out of the landfills. Bring your textiles every Sunday, between 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., to 34th Avenue between 77th & 78th Streets. Accepted items include clothing, paired shoes, coats, linens, scarves, hats, bags, and belts. Materials will be sorted for reuse or recycling.

Other Free Services Include:

Residential Recycling Assessments to evaluate your recycling program and identify areas for improvement

Tenant training sessions for apartment buildings, cooperatives, and condominiums

Seminars for Building Superintendents

Special Waste Collections such as its weekly clothing & textile drop off sites

Special events such as community swap days

Assistance with planning recycling collection at events

Information and an e-newsletter on waste reduction, reuse and composting programs offered by the City and other local groups.

Ms. Salvi urged everyone to contact her with ideas on how to increase awareness of recycling and waste prevention.

Before concluding, Ms. Salvi reported GrowNYC compliments the Department of Sanitation's efforts. Not only is it better for New York City to recycle, it costs a great deal of money to export our trash to other states. There is no place to put it in the City. It must be sent to other states that charge us for their service. Information was passed out on the organization's free services.

2. New Life Fellowship – Redd Sevilla

Mr. Sevilla, Executive Director, of New Life Community Development reported on programs offered:

A ten year old help center open on Tuesdays and Saturdays (A picture book was displayed documenting the ten year history serving Elmhurst and Corona).

Food and Clothing Pantry

Cub Scouts

English Classes

All Services Are Free.

He spoke about an exciting program called *Young Governors*, which is geared toward 15 to 18 year olds. Mr. Sevilla mentioned gang violence and relayed a personal account about a friend who was shot in the head. Research shows in areas with gang violence, there is a correlation with the lack of youth programming. The general consensus of teenagers and parents and community residents is the absence of youth programs in the Elmhurst and Corona areas, also noting one public school teacher had reported a drop in youth programs.

As an employer, Mr. Sevilla strives to employ one or two teenagers to try to teach them soft skills as well as hard skills so that they are productive to society. Since teenagers do not have a lot of skills, teaching job development and skills is essential.

The *Young Governors Program* encourages local Corona – Elmhurst teenagers to identify the issues of the neighborhood and then do something about it, with adult supervision and support. Imagine what Corona – Elmhurst might be. The *Young Governors* is an effort to address some of the issues and challenges that teens face.

Mr. Sevilla also gave details about another youth program called City Year. As a tutor and mentor, young people will work in high-need neighborhoods and become powerful role models and help create solutions for community problems.

The best solutions to problems will come from people closest to those problems, summarized Mr. Sevilla. The people that can best identify those problems or challenges in Elmhurst/Corona are those that actually live in the community. If teenagers are given the opportunity to meet those challenges, more than likely some of the gang violence activities and drop out rates will drastically change.

Mr. Sevilla said 15 to 18 year olds should be paid when they join the *Young Governors Program*. As a result, outreach is being done to big box stores such as Target, Best Buy, and other employers to hire our youth.

Secondly, if you can identify some teenagers that need support by adults to engage in community concerns and challenges, please let Mr. Sevilla know. Teenagers who would make a good fit with those programs are urged to apply.

Significantly, Mr. Sevilla's key mission is to strengthen initiatives for youth and children.

Before proceeding to the next agenda item, the District Manager announced a committee is needed to set up and clean up after the Board meeting when it is held at the VFW Post in Corona. See the District Manager at the end of the meeting for more information.

At this point, Mrs. Catherine Moore announced re-appointment applications are missing for:

Mr. Stephen Castro

Ms. Gigi Salvador

Ms. Maria Lourdes Garcia

Mr. Edgar Moya

Blank applications were available at tonight's meeting. However, the due date is past and applications need to be submitted as soon as possible.

Budget hearings will be held at Queens Borough Hall on Wednesday, February 23, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Speakers are allotted three minutes and 20 copies of your testimony must be submitted.

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Transportation

Committee Chair Joseph DiMartino did not present a report.

Parks

No report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

Youth

Committee Chair Clara Salas reported on a Joint Public Hearing scheduled for Wednesday, February 9, 6:00 p.m., at Metropolitan High School, 91-30 Metropolitan Avenue, Forest Hills, NY. Details were provided and supporting flyers were on hand.

Another meeting was announced scheduled for February 15, at 6:00 p.m., at P. S. 19 Marino Jeantet, 98-02 Roosevelt Avenue, Corona, NY. Agendas were on hand.

Next, the UFT needs volunteers to enroll in its campaign to fight cuts to our schools. Flyers were also on hand about the campaign.

Next, Committee Chair Salas spoke about City Year hiring full time tutors and mentors. More details were provided and flyers were on hand with specifics.

Environmental

Committee Chair Tom McKenzie reported on the snow cleanup. Snow was put in mounds, piling so much snow in one corner.

Next, Mr. McKenzie reported on the latest tax bill for homeowners. In the last ten years, taxes have risen 120%. How many of us have had our salaries or pension raised by 120%?

Subsequently, Mr. McKenzie spoke about the recent census count. In the year 2000 in Corona, there were almost 99,000 people living in Corona, including North Corona. Interestingly, of that count 36% were registered white, 17.5% Black/African American, less than 1% American Indian, 10.1% Asian, and 1/10 of 1% Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islanders, 29% some other race, and 6.4% two or more races. Of 100% of the people of all those groups, 63 ½% said they were also Latino and Hispanic.

In comparison to Elmhurst which counted 105,000 people-- 33.7% white race, 2% Black/African American.

At this point, Mr. Diego Freire asked why Mr. McKenzie was presenting this ethnic breakdown of the population and what his point.

Mr. McKenzie responded to show how the different demographics have changed and certain ethnic groups have shifted. As a point of fact, 6.7% said they are Latino/Hispanic. Is that representation here, Mr. McKenzie inquired?

More discussion ensued about things changing. Mr. McKenzie brought out if you are not interested in what we are representing here or who we are trying to help in this community. What do you want? he asked.

Mr. McKenzie pointed out to truly represent our community, noting some ethnic groups are not represented on the Board—we need quality people to serve on the Board.

Discussion followed about the different cultural groups and its representation on the Board. “We are good”, commented Beth Anna Moon Ray Ferguson.

Health

Committee Chair Priscilla Carrow reported on health care news and hospital closings. The Health Care Education Project is a community based advocacy organization committed to improving healthcare in New York State, affiliated with Local 1199, and the Greater New York Hospital Association. State legislature leaders need to know hospital closings hurt the New York community.

Hospital closings disrupt care for thousands of New York patients. If you or family has been affected by a recent hospital closing, such as St. John’s Queens Hospital or Mary Immaculate, North Central or St. Vincent’s, you need to be heard. Tell your story how hospital closings impact lives and hurt real people.

Log on to www.healthcareeducationproject.org/story.

Updates and important health care news will be posted to this website and on Twitter.

Postal

No report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

ULURP & Zoning

Committee Chair Miriam Levenson reported the Committee did not meet last month. No meeting is scheduled for this month either since there are no ULURP applications to review.

XII. PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Robert Rothschild provided letterhead from other Queens Community Boards which lists every area served separately. He suggested for Community Board 4 to do the same.

Next, a resident spoke about the empty St. John’s Hospital property and how this unused property can benefit the community in health care. Wellness programs are sorely needed in the City and State and Borough, and can be housed in the St. John’s Hospital building.

Next, Mr. Joseph D’Martino reported on the Sunshine Fund, which has a balance of \$20. Ms. Audrey Galligen asked for a copy of expenditures to the fund. One will be presented at the next meeting. See Mr. DiMartino after the meeting for payment of dues.

There being no further business, Mr. Robert Rothschild made a motion, seconded by Ms. Audrey Galligen to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.