



COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, and Elmhurst

46-11 104th 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

COMMUNITY BOARD #4Q

MEETING

DATE: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2011

TIME: 7:50 P.M.

PLACE: ELMHURST HOSPITAL
79-01 Broadway
Auditorium A1-22
Elmhurst, NY 11373

I. First Vice Chairperson Louis Walker opened the meeting at 7:50 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 June 07, 2011

Mr. Alirio Orduna made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tom McKenzie, to **accept** the minutes of June 07, 2011.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 26 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

V. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

First Vice Chairperson Louis Walker reported CB 4's staff member, Shirley Medina-Chatel will resign her position at the Board office on September 23, 2011, after many years of service. The Board wishes her well in her future endeavors. An Executive Board meeting is scheduled to discuss staffing patterns and budgetary matters.

VI. REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

No report presented by the District Manager.

VII. REPORT OF THE LEGISLATORS

Ms. Christina Long, representing Council Member Julissa Ferreras, reported on a street re-naming, which was very well attended.

Also, the Council Member was part of a budget negotiating team and was able to vote on and approve the City budget on time.

Moreover, Council Member Ferreras added \$3,500 to the Community Board's budget earmarked for the 110 Precinct's National Night Out, which was a huge success.

Upcoming Events From Council Member Ferreras' Office:

October 15, from 12:00 Noon to 4:00 p.m., a Citizenship Drive will be conducted at Elm-Cor Youth & Adult Services, located at 107-20 Northern Blvd. Partnering with other organizations, free assistance will be provided for those in filling out the M400 citizenship application.

NYU National Youth Mobil Van will be parked at P. S. 89 for four Wednesday's In October –5, 12, 19, and 26 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Mornings students of PS 89 will utilize the van; afternoons the community will be able to avail itself of those services Flyers will be distributed when details are finalized.

At this point, Mr. Tom McKenzie requested the Council Member be notified that for the first time in 85 years, the City of New York is charging veterans organizations for an assembly permit so that the veterans can meet in the veterans' halls. In the Elmhurst Memorial Hall, the Catholic war veterans must pay \$930 yearly. \$100 is also being charged for oil storage tanks in the building. Mr. McKenzie expressed concern other fees may follow, and pointed out some veterans organizations are barely covering expenses. The money spent on fees could be spent on other things such as given to the schools or to the hospitals to buy shoes for veterans. More details were provided by Mr. McKenzie.

At this time, Ms. Georgina Oliver made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Judy D'Andrea that the District Manager writes to the elected officials from the district about those charges to the veterans' organization.

Before the vote was taken, the District Manager asked Mr. Tom McKenzie to e-mail him an overview of key points to be included in the outgoing correspondence.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 26 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

Next, Carolyn Tran, representing Council Member Daniel Dromm, reported on a successful Back to School event held at Moore Park on Broadway with the Asian Community United Services, which passed out back packs and school supplies.

Working together with residents to resolve late night noises, Elmhurst Hospital has partnered with Council Member Dromm for community action.

Ms. Trans provided more information on programs at Elmhurst Hospital.

Lastly, a Renter's Rights Forum will be held on September 22, 5:30 pm-8:00 pm, at Elmhurst Library. Legal agencies will be in attendance to answer questions about your rights as a tenant.

At this point, First Vice Chair Walker reported on loud drums beating late at night and wee hours of the morning in Hoffman Park. Mr. Walker requested this problem be brought to Council Member Dromm's attention.

Board Member Audrey Galligen added 311 as well as the 110 Precinct were called many times, to no avail.

Mr. Al Perna urged everyone to attend the 110 Precinct Community Council meetings. Working with Mr. Perna and the community, members help to resolve community problems.

Next, Ms. Lucy Schilero commented on 311's response to noise complaints. She had called in on residents who use their backyards to hold parties resulting in late night noise. She was put on hold for a very long time and informed the NYPD has up to eight hours to respond to a complaint. She also noted 311 was conducting a survey on the different kinds of noise complaints and was asked to participate by sending an e-mail, emphasizing no live person was on staff to take information after 12 midnight.

Moreover, callers to 311 are placed on hold for an hour or more. Since the noise is occurring right then, waiting eight hours for a NYPD response is problematic. Police need to take action when the noise is occurring.

Ms. Schilero summed up there is no need for a party to be heard blocks away. The community is adamant about getting neighbors to turn down the noise. Businesses also pose problems with noise.

At this point, Chairperson Anthony Moreno asked Ms. Claudia Filomena, Community Assistance Unit, what DEP's role is regarding noise complaints?

Ms. Filomena responded DEP investigates the complaint to determine how loud the sound is. On a repeat noise complaint, DEP will ask to be called in on it. Noise crews go out to locations that are consistently problematic and take decibel readings. Noise meters can be brought to a resident's home where DEP personnel will take a meter reading of the loudness of the sounds. Those noise levels can also include auto body shops or construction sites working after hours.

Ms. Beth Anna Moon Ray Ferguson asked if crews will be dispatched at 3 a.m. Ms. Filomena responded there are overnight crews, especially for parties.

A Board member asked if there is any follow up to a complaint. Ms. Filomena said it is important to witness the noise at the time it is occurring.

Mrs. Judy D'Andrea said when the NYPD responds to a noise complaint, the sound is turned down. However when the Police leave, the noise starts up again.

Ms. Filomena noted repeat offenders. DEP will respond to the complaint, rather than the NYPD.

Mrs. D'Andrea asked what the final outcome on the complaint is. Ms. Filomena responded offenders will receive noise violations from DEP.

Next, Mr. Bruce Eiber, representing Council Member Karen Koslowitz, commented on the unjust surcharges to the Veterans groups. He will bring this information back to the Council Member.

Next, a Police Sergeant from the 110th Precinct reported there is only so much the NYPD can do when they respond. The violation must be present at the time the Police respond to take action. If the noise is turned down, Police can come back again. Unlike DEP, Police do not have sound meters.

Next, Mrs. Judy D’Andrea inquired about the regulations regarding For Sale cars parked on city streets with no registration, and no license plates.

The Police Officer responded vehicles cannot be parked on streets without license plates.

Mrs. D’Andrea further stated she had called the 110 Precinct to report, documented by photographs, of the numerous For Sale cars parked on the corner of 50th Avenue blocking the sidewalk and without plates. Nothing was done.

Next, Mr. Tom McKenzie reported on the parking meters on Queens Blvd. The Dept. of Sanitation will summons vehicles, but must wait 24 hours before the cars are towed away. The owner seeing the write up drives the vehicles away before the tow. This routine is repeated again and again.

Mr. McKenzie mentioned overnight parking by tractor trailers.

VIII. ULURP AND ZONING COMMITTEE

Vote: BSA #71-11BZ

Committee Chair Miriam Levenson reported the Committee met on June 21, 2011 and had no objection to the application.

Mr. Tom McKenzie made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Judy D’Andrea, to **approve** the variance.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 25 in favor, 1 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

IX. VOTE: FY 2013 CAPITAL AND EXPENSE BUDGET

Before the vote was taken, Ms. Lucy Schilero commented she was pleased to see included – NYPD - Parking Provided for the 110th Precinct (Capital #27).

Mr. Tom McKenzie made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Miriam Levenson, to **accept** the FY 2013 Capital and Expense Budget as shown in its entirety for fiscal year 2013.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 25 in favor, 0 opposed, with 1 abstention. Motion passed.

X. PUBLIC SAFETY

Committee Chair Lucy Schilero reported on the following applications:

NEW APPLICANTS

<u>ESTABLISHMENT’S NAME</u>	<u>ESTABLISHMENT’S ADDRESS</u>	<u>COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS</u>
Los Callpotes, Corp. On Premises-Liquor	77-04D Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY 11372	Approved

RENEWAL APPLICANTS

<u>ESTABLISHMENT’S NAME</u>	<u>ESTABLISHMENT’S ADDRESS</u>	<u>COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS</u>
China Pearl Seafood Rest. Restaurant Wine	82-22 45 th Avenue Elmhurst, NY 11373	Approved
Eustaquio Cortez Cabanas dba Paraiso Azteca Rest. Restaurant Wine	102-53 43 Avenue Corona, NY 11368	Denied. Violations from Alcohol Beverage Control. Numerous Adm. Code Violations. Sealed Docs. on file

Committee wants an explanation from owners. Noise complaints.

Hai Feng Restaurant 83-31 Broadway Approved
Restaurant Wine Elmhurst, NY 11373

Stareast Glory, Inc. 87-18 Queens Blvd. Approved
dba Sushi Island Elmhurst, NY 11383
Restaurant Wine

Ms. Lucy Schilero made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Judy D'Andrea, to **accept** the Committee's report as presented.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 26 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

At this point, Ms. Schilero added CERT was called out to set up shelters at Newtown High School during Hurricane Irene. The team was congratulated for their commitment.

Next, the District Manager announced the September 20 ULURP Committee meeting was cancelled since there are no items for discussion.

XI. PRESENTATIONS

Health Care Reform - Ms. Heidi Siegfried

Ms. Siegfried, of the Metro NY Health Care for All Campaign, reported there is health care reform happening on the Federal level as well as in New York State to the Medicaid program.

The health care bill at the Federal level passed on March 23, 2010. Some reforms have already gone into effect, but the major portion of the Bill is slated to go into effect in 2014 when a state-based "health insurance exchange" will be established. If the state does not put it in place, the Federal government will implement it.

In 2014, people without employer based health coverage will be able to access an exchange, either by phone, walk in or on the web.

There are a number of ways to obtain health care coverage:

1. By an expansion of Medicaid. The income level for Medicaid will rise by 133% of the Federal poverty level. Medicaid will cover more low-moderate income adults.
2. If a person is above the income level, commercial coverage can be bought and a subsidy can be obtained to help pay for that coverage, up to 400% of the Federal poverty level.

Depending on individual income for the subsidy, you would be paying about 5% of your income for a premium. The concept is that you should not be paying more than a certain percentage of your income for health coverage.

Right now in the private market, buying health care coverage is very expensive.

Ms. Siegfried reported during this year's legislative session, the organization had been trying to get a Bill passed to begin establishing this exchange in New York State. And, New York State is moving forward with establishing an exchange. \$30 million had been obtained from the Federal government for planning etc. In order to get more funding from the Federal government, a legal authority must be in place to establish and implement an exchange.

The New York State Senate membership did not fully understand the Bill and as a result, the Bill did not pass in the Senate. However, a special session may be held in the fall.

At this point, she described other health reforms that occurred this year.

Next, Ms. Siegfried said in the New York State budget, the New York State Medicaid Re-Design Team was established by the Governor. This team was created to study the Medicaid Program. This team was charged with coming up with \$2.3 billion in savings from the Medicaid Program. Cuts were made and did pass in the budget end of March this year. Also, a spending cap was created. Spending in the Medicaid Program is being monitored and if costs rise above the spending cap, cuts will be implemented. Cuts could be in the form of benefits, eligibility, or to providers' rates.

Better preventative care is essential. Examples were given on managed and preventative care.

Upcoming changes in the Medicaid Program as of October 1:

1. People on Medicaid receiving their prescriptions through Medicaid will now have to get medications through a national managed care program.
2. Limits will be placed on physical and occupational, and speech therapy, limiting visits to 20 per year.

CENTRAL QUEENS ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL

Ms. Suyin So, Founding Executive Director, explained charter schools are public schools with autonomy in how they are managed and how they are operated.

Charter schools are publicly funded and are subject to all of the same provisions of the law and regulations by the NYS Dept. of Education and the State University of New York.

Ms. So reported Charter schools receive public money but are not subject to some of the rules and regulations that apply to other public schools in exchange for some type of accountability for producing certain results, which are set forth in each school's charter.

Central Queens Academy (CQA) will open in the Fall of 2012. CQA is currently seeking approval from the State University of New York to open with an initial class of 100 5th grade students. The school will serve as a public charter middle school serving grades 5-8 within Community School District 24.

There will be no admissions criteria, although admissions will be an open lottery. No screening or testing will be conducted.

Ms. So reported District 24 was chosen because of its large English Language Learner students (ELLs).

Ms. So compared the ELLs drop out rate of high school students in the US compared to 8% of native born students.

Additionally, ELLs experience a high risk of school failure unless they become proficient in English.

Ms. So reported Charter schools are not guaranteed facility space in New York City. However private facilities in the area are being looked at. A few locations have been identified as suitable for the Charter school.

CQA does not have a location as yet since it was not formally approved, but suitable locations are being considered to house the 100 fifth graders students next year. Each year one grade of 100 additional students will be added. Central Queens Academy will be able to serve the residents of Community School District 24, an area of New York City that has not yet had a public charter school to provide an additional choice for students.

The school will feature a smaller school environment, a longer school day and year. Including enhanced literary instruction, as well as focus on serving recent immigrant and English Language Learners. The school will hold classes from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. An afterschool program will end at 6:00 p.m. Transportation by bus will be available.

A social and emotional learning element is just as important as academic learning she explained.

Community Partners and Advisors are Apex and the CQA Advisory Board were mentioned.

At this point, Ms. So took questions from the Board members.

Mrs. D'Andrea asked why the DOE cannot locate sites for public schools but a charter school can find a location. She asked about the leasing of the school and questioned why the DOE can't look at those sites. Leasing charges will come from the CQA's budget, said Ms. So. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Gurdip Singh Narula asked about grades starting grades at 5-12 instead of at earlier grade levels. Ms. So responded ultimately the goal would be to have students from K to 5. Currently, there is a strong need for students at the middle school level.

There is a tremendous need across the city for special services for all students, but particularly for this student population.

Mr. Redd Sevilla commented he appreciated CQA exerting this type of energy to get a school established in CSD 24. How can we assure the success of this school over another school he asked?

Ms. So replied to encourage more schools to open up and to get the system to work better for the communities they serve. A good relationship with the Community Board, families, and the community is essential.

More questions followed before Ms. So concluded her presentation.

XII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parks

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

Postal

No Report

Health

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

Transportation

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

Consumer Affairs

Committee Chair George Onuorah reported he is compiling a listing of issues such as the street vendor problem and challenges that occurred during Hurricane Irene. A detailed report will be given next month.

Youth

Committee Chairperson Clara Salas reported she had attended the Annual Business and Calendar Meeting of CEC 24 on August 23, 2011, 6:00 p.m., at PS 58 School of Heroes, 72-24 Grand Avenue, Maspeth, NY.

The main items on the Agenda were:

1. Elections of Officers of CEC24
2. Vote on Resolution #61, which is CEC D24's Position on Sex Education Mandate. The CEC24 voted as follows:"
3. Be it resolved that CECD 24 is opposed to mandated sex education instruction for all students, but wishes to continue the current DOE practice of allowing schools and school communities to opt out of such instruction."

Additionally, Committee Chair Salas informed the Board on the information table, were flyers of the following:

1. PS/IS 113 Proposed Zoning Change Meeting/Affecting PS IS 119. Where: PS 113 Date: Sept. 15, 2011 Time: 7:00 p.m.
2. PS/IS 49 Proposed Zone Change Meeting/Affecting PS/IS 87 and PS. 58 to be held at PS/IS 49 on September 22, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.
3. The UFT will hold it annual Queens Parent Education Conference on Saturday, November 5, 2011, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Flushing Sheraton, 718-275-4400.
4. The Latino Justice PRLDEF will hold its Free 29th Annual Law Day, on Saturday, October 8, 2011 at New York Law School. To register, call 212-739-7497.

There will be a Youth Committee Meeting in February 2012. Date and location will be announced by December 2011.

Environmental

Committee Chair Tom McKenzie reported a new Post Office had opened in Elmhurst. See the [Newtown Crier](#) for more information.

A Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 28.

Next, he reported there was a great deal of trouble with leaking pipes on Queens Blvd. The Police Department was called in to protect people from falling into a hole made by the water escaping. Repeated calls were made by Mr. McKenzie on this serious problem before agency people were dispatched. When you report through 311 and reach the Water Dept. Mr. McKenzie was informed that within 8 hours the leak would be inspected. After more calls were made, the Police came out, put down flares, and directed traffic. The next day, the Water Dept. came to take care of the leak.

But as a result of the long wait, gas and telephones were disturbed, which resulted in more chaos. However, the good news is that the City is repairing its own pipes, not putting it out to contract.

Next, Mr. McKenzie urged outside people to join the Environmental Committee. More people are needed from all parts of the community so that they can monitor on going problems such as sanitation and noise and catch basins. Once a problem is seen, a call to the Board office immediately, can greatly improve quality of life issues in the community. More eyes and ears on the Committee is very much needed

Next, he reported on 311 in relation to business noises. 311 will take the complaint and send it to the Police Department. 311 offers to transfer you, but one picked up.

As a result, Mr. McKenzie called the Commissioner's office and something was done. Mr. McKenzie provided more details about community complaints that are not acted upon immediately and ultimately pose more of a hazard.

Before concluding, Mr. McKenzie relayed the story of an 85 year old man in Elmhurst who checked every fire hydrant in Elmhurst and Corona to see if the knobs were turned off. Locks were installed on the fire hydrants because of his efforts.

XIII. PUBLIC FORUM

No speakers.

There being no further business, Mrs. Miriam Levenson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Lucy Schilero, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.