



## COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, and Elmhurst

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Corona, New York 11368

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**Helen Marshall**  
Borough President

**Louis Walker**  
Chairperson

**Karen Koslowitz**  
Director of Community Boards

**Richard Italiano**  
District Manager

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### COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE: TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2009

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

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

**I.** Chairperson Louis Walker called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

**II.** The District Manager, Richard Italiano, took the roll call. A quorum was present.

**III.** Vote On The Minutes (March 3, 2009)

Ms. Laraine Donohue made a motion, seconded by Ms. Clara Salas, to **accept** the minutes.

Before the vote was taken, however, the District Manager noted the following correction:

On the Board Member Attendance listing those Community Board members present, Ms. Laraine Donohue and Ms. Miriam Levenson were inadvertently omitted as attending. Both members were in attendance at the March 3, 2009 meeting.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 38 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

### **IV. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON**

The Chair instructed the Board members to ask one question during the course of the meeting so that everyone will have an opportunity to participate.

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

District Manager Richard Italiano reported on the opening of SCO Family of Services, which he had attended. A new branch was opened at 103-24 Roosevelt Avenue, Suite 306, Corona, NY. The Community Service Programs provide a variety of free services to the community that is available daily, year-round. Service include professional consultation and support to address financial, legal and personal issues; Advocacy Clinic to help individuals and families access and use government services and resolve matters related to healthcare, housing utilities, tax credits and immigration; ETC tax filing, and Early Childhood programs.

Next, the District Manager reported the World Ice Arena at Flushing Meadows-Corona Park is open. The skating rink and the entire building, which includes a pool next door, is a must see.

Next, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Shred Fest will be held Sunday, May 3, 2009, 10 am – 4 pm, at locations in the five boroughs. Shred your personal papers for free at one of the designated locations. In Queens, go to Flushing Meadows-Corona Park, Parking Lot 111<sup>th</sup> Street and 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Flyers were available.

Next, Mayor Michael Bloomberg kicked off the City's efforts to ensure a full and accurate count of all NYC residents in the 2010 Census by announcing the signing of an executive order establishing the NYC 2010 Census Office. The new City Census office will work closely with the U. S. Census Bureau Regional Office coordinating efforts among city agencies and forming partnerships across the city with community organizations, cultural and educational institutions, faith based organizations, labor unions, immigrant advocacy groups and others.

At this point, the District Manager introduced Mr. Jeff Gottlieb representing State Senator Joseph Addabbo Jr., who covers part of our district.

Senator Addabbo represents the 15<sup>th</sup> District which encompasses many Queens's neighborhoods including parts of Elmhurst. This is the area bounded by Calamus/ Kneeland Avenue/ Van Horn and Seabury Streets.

Mr. Gottlieb cited the closings of St. John Queens Hospital and Mary Immaculate Hospitals which were both shut down in one day and unacceptable for Queens. Those hospitals will not be reopened.

The state budget had been passed. Being in Albany, the Senator's staff must attend community and civic meetings on his behalf. Although the Senator would prefer to attend personally to answer questions first hand.

Important projects needed to remain funded to repair and maintain our transit systems, including preventing the deterioration of the infrastructure. Investing in our infrastructure repair is an important project.

As Chair of the Senate Committee on Elections, public hearings are being scheduled to solicit public comment on recently introduced and upcoming election reform proposals. Each hearing will emphasize a different theme such as voter registration, absentee ballots, Election Day and voting issues, Board of Elections oversight, new voting machines and other related matters.

In 2011, re-apportionment will occur. As Chair of this committee, Senator Addabbo will study the re-apportionment of state senate lines.

Senator Addabbo is a member of several committees such as the Transportation Committee. The MTA should be under the jurisdiction of the state legislature. The government should control the MTA, not the MTA forecasting a doomsday budget where service cuts and hikes are imposed because its budget is below forecast.

Furthermore, Senator Addabbo is a member of the Aging Committee. Proposals are in Washington to cut Medicare funding. Medicare is the lifeline to seniors. It covers 80% of health care, but what about the other 20%? What about escalating drug pricing? What about the gap in coverage? These are vital concerns which need to be addressed. Seniors need to be protected from gaps in Medicare coverage.

Regarding the hospital closings, Mary Immaculate and St. John's Queens Hospital cost \$6 million per week to operate. A \$50 million loan was given to those hospitals by the state government, which did not prevent their failure. To meet the transition, the state had allocated \$25 million to the surrounding hospitals such as Jamaica

Hospital, New York Hospital, North Shore, LIJ, and Forest Hills. More details were provided about the problems within the administration of those closed hospitals.

Moreover, Senator Addabbo is a member of the Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs Committee. More information was provided on how Senator Addabbo was instrumental in assisting veterans. An example was provided about the tearing down of the St. Alban's Veterans Hospital to build condos. Because of the efforts of the Vietnam Veterans of America, this is now on hold. Twenty-two years ago, the Senator's father had saved the veterans hospital from closure.

Other committees Senator Addabbo serves on are Civil Service & Labor and Education.

Senator Addabbo's District Office is located at 159-53 102 Street, Howard Beach, NY. Call Senator Addabbo at 718-738-1111 if you need additional information or have concerns about issues in Queens.

## **VI. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

### ***Street Activity Permit Request***

- 1. Corona CAN & QMA    6/13/2009    Corona Plaza**
- 2. July 4<sup>th</sup> Block Party    7/04/2009**  
**On 53<sup>rd</sup> Avenue Between 111<sup>th</sup> Street & Corona Avenue**

Ms. Naila Rosario, representing the Queens Museum of Art, reported the festival is planned in conjunction with Corona CAN at Corona Plaza. Right now, the date of the event is uncertain. Tentatively speaking, the date may be either June 13 or July 13 subject to confirmation.

Planned as a street festival with performers and vendors, Corona CAN vendors will also participate.

Mr. Ruben Pena, President, of the Corona Community Action Network (Corona CAN) reported on details of the event and invited all to attend.

Additionally, Ms. Rosario reported the Queens Museum of Art will conduct healthy workshops throughout the district. The first part will be geared toward the seniors at seven local senior centers. The Healthy Taste of Corona Cookbook will be used as an educational tool to teach people how to eat better and control obesity. All were invited to attend the workshops.

At this point, the Chair called for a motion on this application. Ms. Lucy Schilero made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Judy D'Andrea, to **accept** the application. By a voice vote, the Board voted 38 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

Transportation Committee Chair Joseph D'Martino presented the second street activity permit. The July 4 Block Party will take place on 53<sup>rd</sup> Avenue between 111 Street & Corona Avenue.

The District Manager added since this is a new application; letters of petition are requested from residents on the block, which were submitted. However in communication with the 110<sup>th</sup> Precinct, since July 4<sup>th</sup> is a national holiday, police will be deployed throughout the city leaving a shortage of police coverage for this event.

Mr. Joseph DiMartino made a motion, seconded by Mr. Enrique Lugo, to **table** the application pending a new date. By a voice vote, the Board voted 38 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

An organizer for this event was present and it was explained to collaborate with the District Manager for further instruction.

*Taxi & Limousine Commission  
Renewal of Base License #B01738 – NY Saeta Car Service  
102-54 43 Avenue  
Corona, NY 11368*

Transportation Committee Chair Joseph DiMartino reported a parking problem existed and turned the floor over to the District Manager.

The District Manager called out for representation from the Base. No one was in attendance. A lease is in effect at 104-32 45 Avenue for 25 cars. The C of O for that address identifies the open space for 12 motor vehicles. Further information is needed about parking base's vehicles.

Since there is a question about the C of O for parking, a motion was made by Mr. Enrique Lugo, seconded by Ms. Priscilla Carrow, to **table** the application.

At this point, Ms. Rovenia McGowan asked about the need to table the motion. Why not take a vote, she inquired. Discussion ensued.

Before the vote was taken, the Chair explained a yes vote means to **table** the application. A no vote is to do something else.

By a roll call vote, the Board voted 23 in favor, 14 opposed, with 1 abstention. Motion passed to **table**.

While on the subject of for-hire vehicles, the District Manager introduced Mr. Adrian Gonzalez from the NYC Taxi & Limousine Commission to present proposed rules that require TLC inspections and enhanced markings for for-hire vehicles and to enhance accountability of licensed for-hire vehicle bases and vehicle operators.

Mr. Gonzalez reported on the new rules which are being proposed to the Taxi & Limousine Commission on April 16 which will change the way livery service operates in the outer boroughs. Changes will affect base and vehicle owners and passengers.

Log on to the guide on the TLC's website at [NYC.gov/tlc](http://NYC.gov/tlc) to see the full guide.

Under the new rules, each vehicle must have 3 new TLC vehicle permit stickers starting September 1, 2009—on the windshield and on both rear quarter windows. These markings will include: this vehicle is licensed by the Taxi & Limousine Commission, the base name, the name of the driver, the base license number, and phone number. The marking on the lower right corner will have a bar code which will allow law enforcement officers to obtain information.

If the rules pass, livery vehicles must go to the TLC's inspection facilities once every two years. Presently, medallion taxis must go to a TLC inspection facility in Woodside three times a year. Livery vehicles are not required to do this. Their only requirement is to get a DMV inspection at a DMV approved site, but the Commission never sees those vehicles at their facility. If the Commission licenses a vehicle, the agency wants to ensure the vehicle has met some minimum standards. Livery vehicles will be required to obtain one DMV inspection at a TLC facility every two years. When the vehicle passes inspection at a TLC facility, the vehicle will get the permit affixed to the car. It will not be mailed out. The TLC will be responsible for who receives the markings and the Commission will ensure the cars passed inspection.

Mr. Gonzales also is in charge of obtaining the vendor for the decals. The main concern is security. The decals will immediately void when affixed to the windshield so that no one can rip it off and put it on another car not

inspected by the TLC. This will ensure the vehicle inspected by the TLC is the vehicle on the road and servicing the public.

Next, Mr. Gonzales reported the City Council passed Livery Bill of Rights, which lists what rights the passenger has. Yellow taxis do have a bill of rights for passengers. None exists for the livery cabs. The TLC will require all livery/community car vehicles to post:

- Passenger Bill of Rights behind the front seat
- TLC Driver's License
- TLC Vehicle's License

The Bill of Rights is to reform the way the for-hire vehicle industry operates and will include the Black cars and Luxury limousines.

By enacting these rules and regulations it will empower people not to enter illegal cars, which are dangerous, do not carry the proper insurance, and passengers do not know if the vehicle's driver is licensed.

Accountability is difficult when vehicles are licensed by different bases. The proposed rules will require for hire vehicles may be affiliated with only one base at any time. Vehicle owners can change bases; however, they must go back to the TLC facility, get new markings, and new decals which will ensure quality control.

The proposed rules will be brought before the Commission for a public hearing on April 16 at 9:30 a.m. at 40 Rector Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, New York.

<u>New Rule/Requirement</u>	<u>Starting On</u>	<u>Dates To Remember</u>	
		<u>New Requirement</u>	<u>Starting On</u>
All base licenses, including Renewals will last 3 years	July 1, 2009	Vehicles will have 3 permit stickers	September 1, 2009
External base markings for Livery/community cars	July 1, 2009	New applicant inspections at Woodside	September 1, 2009
Interior vehicle markings	July 1, 2009	Renewal applicant inspections at Woodside	February 10, 2010

Issuing decals will be a two-part process. Once the rules are passed, temporary decals for all vehicles affected by the new regulations will be initiated sometime June or July. The decals will identify the vehicle as licensed by the TLC until April 1, 2012. A permanent decal process will slowly be put into effect over a two year cycle as vehicles are inspected.

Base licenses are being recommended for three years instead of two years. The Commission believes two years is not enough time for a base to invest in itself. By state law, three years is the maximum licenses can be granted. However, if it were up to the Commission, a five year extension would be granted to give the base ample time to develop technology, promote better cars and better education for drivers.

Beyond the markings, a point system will be initiated. A penalty point will be given against a base owner or vehicle owner after being convicted of a violation. Base licenses may be revoked if they get 5 points during the 3 year period of their licenses. Vehicle licenses can be revoked if the vehicle gets 3 points during the 2 year period of its license. When the base or vehicle license is renewed, they start their licenses at 0 points again for the new license period.

Every time an affiliated vehicle is convicted of a violation and gets a penalty point, the base will get a letter. When any affiliated vehicle gets 3 penalty points for violations, the base will get 1 penalty point. In this way, bases will be held accountable for the vehicles affiliated with the base.

Before a base is given its license, it must give the Commission a bond for \$5,000. If any base receives fines and does not pay, the Commission will notify the base owner 30 days before drawing on the bond. Drawing on the bond means the Commission will take the amount owed for fines from the bond. The base will receive one penalty point if the TLC has to draw on the bond. A base can receive a penalty point if it is operating from an unlicensed location, or if it moves and does not notify the TLC. If the base dispatches unlicensed vehicles, it can receive a penalty point.

The base owner must clean the public street and sidewalk on either side of the street within the city block from where the base is located, including both sides of the street on which the base is located. If the drivers and affiliates of the base are the reason why the street is dirty or there are issues with trash, the base can be issued a penalty point.

At this point, the Board members asked questions. Mr. Nick Pennachio asked about untaxed revenues for livery vehicles generated, and pointed out New York City desperately needs tax revenue. How do for-hire cars pay their taxes, on what revenue, and how is this calculated?

Mr. Gonzalez could not provide an answer on how bases operate, however, fees must be paid to the Commission and DMV.

Mr. Pennachio pointed out daily revenue is unaccountable. There is never a rate, nor a meter, and passengers are never charged the same rate for the same distance. Except for street vendors, this is one of the few businesses that operate in this way.

Mr. Enrique Lugo asked why not assemble all the base owners together and come up with good rules instead of making it all about money.

Mr. Gonzales responded it is not about the money. The concept is to increase safety and public awareness. And, all the rules did come about as a result of discussions with base owners and the federation of taxi drivers. Outreach was done with base owners and livery drivers.

Mrs. Judy D'Andrea asked about livery cars parked on public streets for weeks at a time resulting in streets not being cleaned.

Mr. Gonzalez answered besides being summonsed, if the car is in a legal parking space, there is no enforcement. Off Street parking regulations were on hand for those needing further information.

Mr. Gonzales urged all to attend the TLC's Public Hearing scheduled for April 16. April 10 is the deadline for written comments.

The Chair stated as a Board to comment before the deadline, a vote must be taken at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Diego Freire made a motion, seconded by Mr. Gurdip Narula, to **support** the NYC Taxi & Limousine Commission's proposed new regulations for the For-Hire vehicle industry.

The new regulations will provide added protection to single women and women with children entering a for-hire vehicle, noted Ms. Rovenia McGowan.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 38 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions to support the TLC's new regulations. Motion passed.

## VII. CONSUMER AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

*Department of Consumer Affairs Unenclosed Sidewalk Café Requests*

1. Global Entertainment Group LLC  
DBA: *Play* 77-17 Queens Blvd., Elmhurst, NY 11373
2. Sabor Latino, Corp. 95-35 40<sup>th</sup> Road, Elmhurst, NY 11373

For the application submitted by Global Entertainment Group LLC, Committee Chair Helen Landaverde reported a meeting was held and the proposal reviewed. The applicant was also called by the Committee Chair to provide further information. The Committee recommended denial of the application. The establishment is in close proximity to a school, motel, and residential area. Noise, congestion on the sidewalk and trash generated by the establishment would adversely impact the surrounding area.

Mr. Tom McKenzie made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ashley Cooper, to **deny** the application. Serious numbers of people standing on the sidewalk as well as those standing inside would create an overflow plus the accompanying noise to the community would be detrimental. Other reasons for the denial included the hours of operation and forming a line to get in. It was also noted the establishment serves alcohol; however, the SLA permit number was omitted on the DCA application. Additionally, the location has a history of assaults. The establishment continues to operate temporarily pending the disposition of disciplinary matters.

By a voice voted, the Board voted 38 in favor, 0 opposed with 0 abstentions to deny the request. Motion passed.

For the second application submitted by Sabor Latino Corp., Consumer Affairs Committee Chair Helen Landaverde reported the noise, congestion on the sidewalk, and trash generated by the unenclosed sidewalk café would adversely impact the surrounding area. She noted the number of tables requested, the small sidewalk, residential homes across the street, and it is a high trafficked area. Based on these reasons, the Committee recommended denial of the application.

Mrs. Helen Landaverde made a motion, seconded by Mr. Melvin Morgan, to **deny** the application. By a voice vote, the Board voted 38 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions to deny the request. Motion passed.

## VIII. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

### VOTE: SLA APPLICATIONS

Committee Chair Lucy Schilero reported on the following liquor licenses:

### **Liquor Licenses – Tabled at the March 03, 2009 Meeting:**

#### **NEW APPLICANTS**

<u>Establishment Name</u>	<u>Establishment Address</u>	<u>Committee Recommendation</u>
JH Convenience & Deli Inc. On-Premises Liquor	72-22 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY 11372	Approved
Paraiso Colombiano Rest. Corp.	106-20 Corona Avenue	Approved

Restaurant Wine Corona, NY 11368

**NEW APPLICANTS**

(cont'd)

Establishment Name                      Establishment Address                      Committee Recommendation

Tashi Delek Inc.                      76-18 Woodside Avenue                      Approved  
Restaurant Wine                      Elmhurst, NY 11373

Tierras Deliciosas Cuisine                      82-18 Roosevelt Avenue                      Approved  
Restaurant Wine                      Jackson Heights, NY 11372

**RENEWAL APPLICANTS**

Establishment Name                      Establishment Address                      Committee Recommendation

86-34 Broadway Rest. Corp.                      86-34 Broadway                      Denied.  
On Premises Liquor                      Elmhurst, NY 11383                      Noise Complaints/Sale to Minors  
History from '04 to '08

Angelos Continental Cuisine Café                      95-58 Roosevelt Avenue                      Approved  
Restaurant Wine                      Jackson Heights, NY 11372

Chef Ping                      83-02 Queens Blvd.                      Approved  
Restaurant Wine                      Elmhurst, NY 11372

Manabi Restaurant                      109-06 Corona Avenue                      Approved  
Eating Place Beer                      Corona, NY 11368

Cypriana Restaurant Inc.                      79-00 Queens Blvd.                      Approved  
D/B/A Dukes Restaurant                      Elmhurst, NY 11373  
On Premises Liquor

El Caramelo Coffee Shop                      99-27 43 Avenue                      Denied  
Restaurant Wine                      Corona, NY 11368                      Noise Complaints. Serving Alcohol  
After 6:00 a.m.

Lin Taiwanese Cuisine Inc.                      84-02 Broadway                      Approved  
Restaurant Wine                      Elmhurst, NY 11373

**Liquor Licenses – April 07, 2009 Meeting**

**NEW APPLICANTS**

Establishment Name                      Establishment Address                      Committee Recommendation

El Burrito Loco Rest-Corp.                      90-18 Roosevelt Avenue                      Denied  
On Premises Liquor                      Jackson Heights, NY 11372                      Has a History. Never  
completed form. Hours of operation  
uncertain.

**NEW APPLICANTS**

(cont'd)

<u>Establishment Name</u>	<u>Establishment Address</u>	<u>Committee Recommendation</u>
San Martin Tex Restaurant Restaurant Wine	40-32 National Street Corona, NY 11368	Denied. No paperwork from SLA on Liquor License request.

**RENEWAL APPLICANTS**

<u>Establishment Name</u>	<u>Establishment Address</u>	<u>Committee Recommendation</u>
Betty's Catering Corp. Catering Establishment	94-33 Corona Avenue Elmhurst, NY 11373	Approved
Coatzingo Enterprise Inc. DBA California Sports Bar	79-18 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY 11372	Denied History. Submitted for closure. Sale to minors '07 through '08.
Delicias Cuencanas Bar Rest. Deli Restaurant Wine	41-07 99 <sup>th</sup> Street Corona, NY 11368	Denied Noise Complaints
Dong Kee Restaurant Inc. On Premises Liquor	75-32 Broadway Elmhurst, NY 11373	Denied Arrests for promotion of prostitution Unlicensed practice message 1 arrest for gambling device
El Carbonazo NY Corp. Restaurant Wine	102-06 43 Avenue Corona, NY 11368	Denied. Under 200' Rule. Across From A Church
El Cisne Restaurant Corp. DBA Vinico's Rest. On Premises Liquor	40-21 108 Street Corona, NY 11368	Approved
La Fusta Restaurant Inc On Premises Liquor	80-32 Baxter Avenue Elmhurst, NY 11373	Approved
Global Entertainment Group Inc. On Premises Liquor	77-17 Queens Blvd. Elmhurst, NY 11373	Denied. Assault with a bottle. Assaults 2007-2009
Heroico Paysandou Inc. Restaurant Wine	89-08 Queens Blvd. Elmhurst, NY 11373	Approved
Italian Charities of America Club Liquor	83-20 Queens Blvd. Elmhurst, NY 11373	Approved
La Chola Poblana No. 2 Eating Place Beer	91-06 43 Avenue Elmhurst, NY 11373	Approved

## RENEWAL APPLICANTS

(cont'd)

<u>Establishment Name</u>	<u>Establishment Address</u>	<u>Committee Recommendation</u>
Luz De America On Premises Liquor	104-30 Roosevelt Avenue Corona, NY 11368	Denied. Stabbing inside of Bar. Noise Complaint
Midang Corp. Restaurant Wine	75-14 Broadway Elmhurst, NY 11373	Approved
Nuves Inc. On Premises Liquor	77-14 Queens Blvd. Elmhurst, NY 11373	Denied Assault
Restaurant Y Bar El Ricon De Jaramillo Inc. On Premises Liquor	80-04 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY 11373	Denied Sale of marijuana; sale to minors disorderly premises. History from '03-'08.
Thai Sons Queens Inc. Restaurant Wine	40-10 74 Street Jackson Heights, NY 11374	Approved
Tropic Pollo Corp. Restaurant Wine	90-59 Corona Avenue Elmhurst, NY 11373	Approved

At this point, Mr. Tom McKenzie made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Judy D'Andrea, to **accept** the Committee's report as presented.

Before the vote was taken, Committee Chair Lucy Schilero thanked both the Board and the Public Safety Committee for their support. It really makes a huge difference, she stated.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 38 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

### **IX. PRESENTATIONS**

- 1. IS 61 Leonardo DaVinci School – Joseph J. Lisa Principal**
- 2. Census 2010**
- 3. Council On The Environment – Greenmarket Initiative In Corona Plaza**
- 4. American Cancer Society's Relay for Life At The National Tennis Center, Leslie Orlovsky, Director of Special Events, American Cancer Society's Queens Office**

#### *1. Census 2010*

Ms. Rosemarie Fogarty, Information Services Specialist, New York Regional Office of the U. S. Census Bureau reported the 2010 Census is coming. Ms. Fogarty has been making presentations to Community Boards about the upcoming 2010 census regarding its importance and the differences from the 2000 Census.

The Regional Office covers 9 counties in New York State counties in New Jersey. The questionnaire will arrive in the mail March 2010, and everyone is asked to complete and return the questionnaire as quickly as possible.

A national census is conducted every ten years. The census affects political representation and directs the allocation of billions of dollars in government funding. It is important to participate and also to help ensure no one is left uncounted.

The 2010 Census questionnaire is safe, private, and confidential. The Census Bureau does not release or share information that identifies respondents or their household with anyone. The data that is collected comes out in a statistical format. The 2010 questionnaire asks on a few simple questions: Name, relationship, gender, age, date of birth, race, and if the respondent owns or rents his or her home. The simple, short questionnaire takes a few minutes to complete. In the last census count, a long questionnaire was sent asking for detailed socioeconomic information. However for 2010, every residence will receive a short questionnaire.

Everyone's cooperation is needed to ensure the Census Bureau receives the best count for your community, said Ms. Fogarty. Decisions are made based on the data received. Census information helps determine locations for schools, roads, hospitals, child-care, and senior citizen centers and more.

The census will create jobs. When the initiative began, Ms. Fogarty was the only Information Specialist. Over 50 people were hired to serve as Partnership Specialists that speak a variety of languages. Some of the languages spoken were cited. Outreach is also being done to community groups to form partnerships with the Census Bureau to raise public awareness and encourage participation.

The Census Bureau does not know specific addresses for anyone. A master address file is recorded at the Census Bureau and whoever lives at that address is requested to fill out the questionnaire and return it and that is how the count is obtained.

Ms. Fogarty distributed brochures and informational packets about the 2010 Census. If the census is not accurately counted, New York State may lose up to two representatives. Not only are the residents living in the 50 states counted but also people living in the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Samoa, Guam and the Northern Mariana Island, which involve over 300 million people.

Ms. Fogarty presented the following key dates for the 2010 Census Timeline:

April 1, 2010	Census Day
April – July 2010	Census takers visit households that did not return a questionnaire by mail.
December 2010	By law, Census Bureau delivers population counts to President for apportionment.
March 2011	By law, Census Bureau completes delivery of redistricting data to states.

Ms. Fogarty also requested the Board's assistance in contacting community groups to promote further outreach to explain the importance of the 2010 Census and the Census Bureau is doing the best job it can to count the population.

## 2. IS 61 Leonardo DaVinci School

Mr. Joseph Lisa, Principal of IS 61, reported on school crowding and the lack of space in schools in our area. Schools are growing year by year. I. S. 61 is operating at 105% over capacity. Even though there are transportables and a mini building, space is running out. Where will students go to school?

Using a power point presentation, Mr. Lisa cited statistics on the following neighborhood schools. P. S. 89 and I. S 7 were not included on the written data presented, but are operating at 100% capacity.

However, P.S. 13 is at 165% capacity, P. S. 14 at 112% capacity, P. S. 16 at 108% capacity, P. S. 19 at 106%, P. S. 28 at 115%, and PS 143 at 104% and PS 307 at 21% (new school).

Mr. Lisa's presentation will cover not only I. S. 61 but also neighboring schools.

Currently, P.S. 13 buses out kindergarten students. Although the school will receive an annex, what happens when an addition is built onto a school yard? Where do the children play?

P. S. 14 had an addition open; however, students are bused out to Fresh Meadows. Next, year children will be bused to the old site of P. S. 89. P.S. 19 has 517 seats in transportables and a mini building. Removing temp buildings leaves school at 148% capacity. P. S. 143 has a new mini building and still has transportables that are needed after additions are built. Remove transportables and the school is at 115% capacity.

IS 61 has over 3300 students zoned to the school, which means 1100-1200 students are bused to Maspeth, Ridgewood, Glendale, and the other side of Northern Blvd., leaving those neighborhoods responsible for after-school and tutoring programs etc.

If every school is at 100%, we would still need an additional 344 seats for grades K-5 so that no school is over 100% capacity. Lack of space means a loss of seats for Pre-K. District 26 has 716 seats while District 24 has 444. Only 92 seats for students on this side of Queens Blvd., relying on community organizations to teach our students pre-K programs.

We keep growing. Single and two family homes are being replaced by higher and wider and expanded housing units. Driveways are being diverted to accommodate multiple families. Where will these students go to school?

Mr. Lisa reported I. S. 61 has grown from 1800 to 2200 students, adding 200 students in two years. Eventually, there will be no more space. Elementary schools have run out of space and kindergarten enrollment is peaking (more and more students are coming in).

A new elementary school is needed to lower school capacity to increase the number of pre-K programs and also a new Middle School is necessary to reduce the need for students who have to travel to their school.

Mr. Lisa announced I. S. 61's school yard will open into a community park with Astro-turf, basketball and tennis courts.

Sites are being explored to build more schools. Property around I. S. 61 is industrial usage. On one property, a warehouse was torn down and homes are now being proposed. Another property to consider is the Verizon lot. The property may be available. As homes are being developed, some type of work must be done by the Buildings Dept. to assess the impact on schools to stop creating overdevelopment of building space.

The original proposal was to build two schools—one school on each of the aforementioned lots. Meetings were held with all elected officials. Major pieces of property that could be used as an educational campus similar to Glen Oaks should be explored. Since no one wants a school built adjacent to their home, industrial land within our neighborhood should be looked at. The focus is to further the mission of building schools to reduce the need. We as a neighborhood can build and grow instead of allowing our students to go to other communities. Building more schools is a critical need.

Mr. Lisa also said if anyone sees vacant lot suitable for a school to call the SCA. We cannot wait another 20 years for schools to be built.

Ms. Priscilla Carrow asked how come I. S. 61 did not try to acquire the empty lot across from the school?

Mr. Lisa responded the School Construction Authority felt it was not a viable piece of property for different reasons. Mr. Lisa was not at liberty to say why and how the SCA based its determination.

Ms. Roseann Geiger requested SCA representatives address the Board to express the importance of this issue. The Board agreed.

Mr. Lisa also pointed out P. S. 19 is bursting at the seams, and P. S. 307 has only 200 students. Eight hundred seats are empty, which does not make sense and should be explored.

Ms. Ann Pfoser Darby suggested the campus idea be used as a guide to the whole city as it is educationally sound, and practical is initiated in Board 4.

Ms. Ann Pfoser Darby made a motion, seconded by Ms. Roseann Geiger, to create a prototype of multi-based schools in one location.

Before the vote was taken, Mrs. Judy D'Andrea pointed these types of campuses already exists. There is one in Glen Oaks and one is being built off Metropolitan Avenue. Even though it is a brilliant idea, it cannot be a prototype because it already exists and stressed the campus idea needs to be developed.

At this point, the Chair stated the motion is on the floor. Does the Board want to discuss the motion? The general consensus of the Board responded no.

By a voice vote the Board voted 38 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

Mr. Luis Enrique Lugo brought up since schools are desperately needed in our area, eminent domain should be used. Discussion ensued on the pros and cons of using eminent domain.

Mr. Lugo made a motion, seconded by Mr. Alirio Orduna, to use eminent domain to build schools.

To the issue of eminent domain, Mrs. Judy D'Andrea said in 1969, this neighborhood lost many homes to eminent domain for a site for a school that was never built. 69 homeowners averted condemnation orders for all but 22 of the houses that were to be demolished to make way for a high school that did not materialize. Our community was devastated. Clearly, the issue of eminent domain should be brought out where schools should be built and how they will be built because the process takes years. In that process, many of those homeowners moved on where they could have stayed because the school was never built. Condos were built on the intended site.

Mr. James Lisa suggested writing to the elected officials to investigate the possibility of condemning the property for school use. Through the legislative procedure, focus on the industrial properties mentioned, and use as-of-right, to condemn the property to build a school. The School Construction Authority must also agree. The proposal should not be eminent domain, but instead write a letter to the elected officials advising them of the Board's intent to put a school campus in our community.

The Chair stated there is a request for a change in the motion, which was seconded by Ms. Priscilla Carrow. However, the motion belongs to the floor and cannot be changed at this time said the Chair.

Mr. Lugo stressed the need for eminent domain and stated since the property is commercial, no homes will be affected. The possibility of a mega building being constructed instead of a school built existed. Schools are important and very much needed in the community.

Discussion ensued on condemning the property as opposed to using eminent domain to secure the land. Mr. Lugo did not agree to change his motion.

Mr. Diego Freire stated even though it is industrial use, it is private property. Turning to the guest speaker, Mr. Freire asked Mr. Lisa what the Board can do to help in this endeavor.

Mr. Lisa responded by coordinating with the efforts of the PTA's and Community Board 4 as a neighborhood effort to work together toward the mission of building schools. Schools are our future. If we do not plan for our future, we are not planning for our children.

Mr. Freire suggested establishing a sub-Committee to work with Mr. Lisa. Discussion ensued which resulted in the Board's determination the Youth Committee undertake the task.

At this point, the Chair repeated the motion on the floor. To vote yes means to agree with the use of eminent domain to build schools. A no vote means you do not agree.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 1 yes, 37 no, with 0 abstentions. Motion **did not** pass.

Before concluding his presentation, Mr. Lisa invited all to I. S. 61. Call Ms. Nunez to set up an appointment.

3. American Cancer Society's Relay For Life At The National Tennis Center

Leslie Orlovsky, Director of Special Events  
American Cancer Society's Queens Office

Ms. Rosetta Garrett and Ms. Maribel Rivera volunteers from the American Cancer society addressed the Board. Ms. Garrett reported the American Cancer Society's *Relay For Life* will be held May 16 at the National Tennis Center @ Flushing Meadows-Corona Park in the South Plaza. Set up begins at 11:00 a.m. Registration begins at 1:30 p.m.

Relay for Life involves teams of people take turns walking or running around the track raising money in the fight against cancer. Every year a theme is chosen throughout the event. Sports is the theme this year. A team member is kept on the track at all times identifying the fact that cancer never sleeps.

Cancer Survivors and their caregivers are invited to join in celebrating their survivorship by walking the first lap of the kick-off in the opening ceremony. Cheered on by fellow participants, it is a true celebration of their courageous battle.

The first lap is a personal testimony to express courage of the survivors, which is a very emotional but it also sets the stage for the importance of each participant and their contribution. Survivors are a powerful declaration to the progress being made in the fight against cancer.

The event is a fun filled atmosphere with music, a DJ, a variety of fun and games, and an opportunity to win raffle prizes. Also, auctions are held to bid on such items as New York Mets autographed baseballs and other memorabilia.

The Luminaria Ceremony, which is the most important part of the event. At 8:30 p.m. a candlelight ceremony pays tribute to those who have been affected by cancer. Candles are placed in which bags filled with sand and are positioned around the track. The word HOPE is spelled out because that is what each bag means. These Luminarias are purchased in honor of those who have survived their battle with cancer. Or in memory of those who have battled the disease but lost.

At this point, Board member Ms. Georgina Oliver joined in with more information on the event. All were invited to spend a night in the Park, noting a moment of silence is observed.

Ms. Roseann Geiger stressed the importance of supporting this event and noted many neighborhood businesses join in to support this event.

Ms. Maribel Rivera reported the event started four years ago as a church event. Now it has grown immensely and all types of women participate in this special event. Everyone either knows someone or has been personally touched by this disease, and many programs are offered to both men and women. Let's join as a community to support those people to let them know they are not alone in the fight against cancer.

#### 4. Council On the Environment of NYC – Greenmarket Initiative In Corona Plaza

Ms. Cathy Chambers, Operations Manager, Council On the Environment of NYC Greenmarket reported since 1976, Greenmarkets have worked to conserve farmland and to bring a continuing supply of fresh, local produce to New Yorkers. There are 200 farmers in the programs and 46 market locations within the five boroughs.

Numerous phone calls were received by the Greenmarket to open a market in the Corona area. Agencies joined together and meeting held in the past year to open a market in Corona Plaza on Roosevelt Avenue south side between 103 and 104 Streets.

Access to the healthiest and freshest produce in New York City will be provided to shoppers. All farmers are local within 200 miles from the city i.e. New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Accepting WIC stamps and government coupons for low income shoppers, the market will promote healthier and local produce to help combat diabetes.

The market is a great meeting place providing community outreach where hospitals provide health screenings, and community groups help with food stamp applications.

Different languages are spoken and cooking demonstrations are also held to show people how to cook certain vegetables. For the children, pumpkin carvings are done at Halloween and how to make apple cider from fresh apples is demonstrated.

The market is expected to run every Friday until Thanksgiving. The Community Board's support was being sought to open the Greenmarket this year.

The District Manager added this organization has 46 greenmarkets throughout the city including Astoria, Jackson Heights, Long Island City, Sunnyside and Glendale.

The District Manager added another greenmarket is also needed in the Elmhurst area somewhere along Queens Blvd.

Ms. Chambers reported some were concerned that the market would hurt local businesses especially those who sell vegetables.

To answer that concern, Mr. Ruben Pena, President of the Corona Community Action Network, reported it will be good for the neighborhood.

Mr. Al Perna asked can anyone in the neighborhood participate in this market. Ms. Chambers responded only local farmers who must pass inspection and application program. Greenmarket is a program of the Council on the Environment of NYC, a privately funded citizens organization in the Mayor's Program.

The Chair asked the Board if it wished to send a letter of support of the Greenmarket programs. By a general consensus the Board agreed.

To that effect, Ms. Priscilla Carrow made a motion, seconded by Ms. Lucy Schilero to **approve** the Corona Plaza location of the Greenmarket.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 38 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

Ms. Chambers asked the Board to contact her with additional sites for more Greenmarkets. Call her at 917-747-0457.

## **X. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### *Environmental*

Committee Chair Tom McKenzie reported a meeting was held May 1, 2009. No committee members were present.

The Committee Chair reported new litter baskets have been placed along main thoroughfares in the Board area. Dog walkers can pick up and within a few blocks can throw the litter away near the main thoroughfares.

Brand new litter baskets have been placed along Queens Blvd., Corona Avenue, Roosevelt Avenue, around the school on 43 Avenue. Street parked cars “for sale” with no plates and not moved for week resulted in the Chairperson contacting the Commissioner about an Article 78 Writ of Mandamus if the vehicles are not towed. The Chairperson was informed by Sanitation the vehicles would be towed.

A Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 29, at 8:00 p.m., at Elmhurst Memorial Hall. Members as well as volunteers were urged to attend.

### *Health*

Committee Chair Priscilla Carrow reported the Committee did not meet.

### *Parks*

Committee Chair Tony Caminiti reported the new \$50 million Al Oerter Recreation Center in Flushing Meadow Corona Park is now open to the public. Al Oerter was born in Astoria and was an Olympian who won gold medals in four consecutive Olympics between 1954 and 1968. The facility has athletic equipment, cardio room, weights, an indoor racquet ball court, a gymnasium, and aerobic room. The new recreation center is located near the Queens Botanical Center in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park. Admission 17 and under is free; age 18 – 54 is \$175 per year; and age 55 and over, is \$10 per year. Call 718-353-7853 for more information.

### *Postal*

Committee Chair was not present.

### *ULURP & Zoning*

Committee Chair Miriam Levenson reported the Committee did not meet; however, a meeting is scheduled for May.

The District Manager added the April 21 ULURP meeting is cancelled because the property owners could not attend, therefore, the meeting was rescheduled for May.

### *Youth*

Committee Chair Clara Salas reported the Committee will meet in May.

## **XI. REPORT OF THE LEGISLATORS**

Ms. Yoselin Genao reported she is on staff to Council Member Julissa Ferraras. The Council Member's office is located 32-33 Junction Blvd. and the phone number is 718-651-1917.

Next, Mr. George Onuorah, representing Council Member Helen Sears, reported on the importance of the census. The African community in Queens, the most diverse county in the world, outreach is needed. People are afraid to participate and be counted because of immigration issues. It is essential to ensure that everyone is counted because the resources we need as a community must come through the census count.

An increase in violence has been reported throughout the United States. Services within the community are available to address mental health issues. Since the economic climate, is very difficult and people are going through much stress, it is critical to look after the emotional and mental well being of others and lend a helping hand to people around us.

Next, Mr. Terry Lewis, Special Assistant to State Senator Hiram Monserrate reported the senate had passed the budget. Two town hall meetings are scheduled to inform residents of the particulars of the budget.

The Rockefeller drug laws have been repealed. Details were provided.

Also, Allocation Letters for discretionary funds will be arriving in early May.

## **PUBLIC FORUM**

An area resident reported on noise from Scorpion Catering located next to his home. The District Manager replied the 110<sup>th</sup> Precinct was called to investigate. He is waiting on a response from the precinct. The District Manager asked the resident to stop by the Board office for further assistance.

Next, Ms. Katherine Loro expressed concern about business cards being distributed soliciting prostitution on Roosevelt Avenue as well as Junction Blvd. These cards are being scattered around to schools such as P. S. 19.

The District Manager replied Roosevelt Avenue is covered by two precincts. The north side by the 115 and the south side the 110. A task force monitors the area.

Ms. Loro reported the problem is not only affecting Corona but also the Jackson Heights community as well.

The District Manager promised to follow up and advised Ms. Loro to call the Board office.

Next, Mr. Alirio Orduna announced on Saturday, April 11, 10 a.m., at P. S. 19, a ceremony will be held for two former cadets returning from Iraq. All were invited to attend.

There being no further business, Ms. Laraine Donohue made a motion, seconded by Ms. Roseann Geiger, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.