



## COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, and Elmhurst

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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, JUNE 2, 2009

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

PLACE: ST. PAUL'S COMMUNITY CENTER  
98-16 55<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE  
CORONA, NEW YORK 11368

*Since the acoustics in the meeting place were not conducive to recording the meeting, the minutes were compiled from various sources.*

**I.** The 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 (May 5, 2009)

CORRECTION: Mr. Tom McKenzie noted the following correction:

Under the Environmental Committee Report on Page 9, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph, should have read it was Mr. McKenzie, Committee Chairperson, not Sanitation Superintendent John Quirk, who had suggested at the District Cabinet meeting to find out if Police Fleet Services can provide tow cars.

Mr. Tom McKenzie made a motion, seconded by Mr. Alirio Orduna, to **accept** the minutes with the noted correction.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 35 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

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

The Chairperson thanked Father Darell DaCosta for the use of St. Paul's Community Center for tonight's meeting.

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

Before the District Manager began his report, he announced revised agendas listing additional street activity permits were on the back table.

The District Manager reported:

On June 9 a budget rally for community boards will be held at 11:00 a.m. on the steps of City Hall. Everyone is welcomed to attend.

Next, an approval letter from the Dept of Consumer Affairs was received on the application submitted for an unenclosed sidewalk café for Sabor Latino Corp. even though the Board voiced objection to this application.

Next, a sales tax on livery car, limousine and corporate black car trips has been adopted by the Legislature. Passengers begin paying the new tax of 8.375% in the city on June 1.

Next, a constituent had requested changes in signage at 51 Avenue and Queens Blvd. From DOT's Borough Commissioner Maura McCarthy, a survey was completed resulting in the issuance of an order to replace the missing "Wait for Walk" signs across the south leg of the intersection with new oversized signs. In addition, the Signal Timing unit has added additional time for "all red" clearance for left turning vehicles to clear the intersection. The sign work will be completed by August 31, 2009.

Next, National Night Out Against Crime is scheduled for August 4 in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. All were invited to attend.

Flyers with more community events were on the back table.

Next, no new Board members were appointed this year, but all reappointed Board members should have received invitations from the Queens Borough President for the swearing in ceremony to be held Tuesday, June 9, 6:00 p.m., at the New York Hall of Science.

Next, the crane operation at P. S. 102 over the weekend went fairly well.

This concluded the District Manager's report.

## **VI. PRESENTATION: UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE INTRODUCTION TO NEW USPS INTERNET SERVICES**

Ms. Adriane Allen, Small Business Specialist, Business Development Team, United States Postal Service reported on Post Office's online site where you can register as a personal account or as a small business. Log on to usps.com. Brochures with more information were on hand. Log on to [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com) for services offered.

Mr. Robert Botman is the Manager of the Corona-Elmhurst Station. Any comments or questions may be directed to him.

Ms. Georgina Oliver asked if packages were picked up on Sunday at the Junction Blvd. Post Office. Ms. Allen replied no. Ms. Oliver asked if overnight night mail can be accessed on line. The reply was yes. Details were provided by Ms. Allen. Depending on where a large size envelope's is mailed from and its destination, the computer will provide online pricing.

The Junction Blvd. post office is the number one post office in the country with stolen credit cards. Has that improved asked Mr. Tom McKenzie? Ms. Allen was unsure but responded with the downturn in the economy, counterfeit money orders and also stolen credit cards are being seen. Counterfeit money orders are an issue.

In response to a Board member's question about sending cash through the mail, Ms. Allen cautioned never to send cash through the mail.

In conclusion, Ms. Allen urged all to use the postal on line site for all postal needs because it is convenient, safe and secure.

## **VII. ULURP COMMITTEE**

- 1. Discussion & Vote: BSA #38-09A 72-45 43 Avenue**
- 2. Discussion & Vote: 421-a Partial Tax Exemptions**
  - A. 102-23 Horace Harding Expressway Corona, NY 11368**
  - B. 85-23 Broadway, Elmhurst, NY 11373**

ULURP Committee Chair Miriam Levenson reported the Committee met on May 19 to review the application for 72-45 43 Avenue, Elmhurst, New York. After careful review and discussion, the Committee voted to **accept** it.

At this point, Mrs. Miriam Levenson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Melvin Morgan, to **accept** the de-mapping for BSA #38-09A 72-45 43 Avenue. By a voice vote, the Board voted 35 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

Regarding the above-mentioned tax abatements, the Committee Chair reported the Committee voted to **deny** both tax abatements since they are not beneficial to the community. Tax savings are not passed along to the residents of the development.

Mrs. Miriam Levenson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Laraine Donohue, to **deny** both tax abatements.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 35 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

## **VIII. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

- 1. Street Activity Permit (SAPO)**  
**Rotary Club of Jackson Heights          Rotary Club Heart Festival**  
**On 79<sup>th</sup> Street Between 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue & Roosevelt Avenue**  
**August 2, 2009 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Transportation Committee Chair Joseph DiMartino reported on the above mentioned application. The Committee Chair asked if there were any objections to the application. No objections were voiced.

Mr. Joseph DiMartino made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tom McKenzie, to **approve** the application. By a voice vote, the Board voted 35 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

- 2. Street Activity Permit (SAPO)**  
**The Ecuadorian Civic Committee          Ecuadorian Folkloric Festival**  
**Roosevelt Avenue between 103<sup>rd</sup> Street & 104<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**August 9 & August 23, 2009 10 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

A motion was made by Mr. Enrique Lugo, seconded by Mrs. Roseann Geiger, to **approve** the application. By a voice vote, the Board voted 35 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

- 3. Street Activity Permit (SAPO)**  
**Jackson Heights 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventist Church School Fair**  
**Jackson Heights 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventist Church**

**Woodside Avenue between 73<sup>rd</sup> Street & 72<sup>nd</sup> Street**

**August 23, 2009 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Before the vote was taken, however, the District Manager reported it is a church event, and even though the church is called the Jackson Heights 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventist Church, it is actually located in Woodside. It is unique because although the event is on one block, it spans two Community Boards. A sign off must be obtained from Board 4 as well as Community Board 2.

Mr. Gurdip Singh Narula made a motion, seconded by Mr. Alirio Orduna, to **approve** the application.

At this point the Chair called for discussion on the motion. Discussion ensued about the exact location for this event. The District Manager provided exact details where the event will be held. Signatures from the surrounding residents were also supplied, added the District Manager.

The Chair asked if there was any further discussion. Since there was none, the Board voted on the street activity permit.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 34 in favor, 1 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

**4. Street Festival/Summer End Festival  
Comite Divino Nino  
80<sup>th</sup> Street Between Roosevelt Avenue & 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue  
August 16, 2009 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

Mrs. Roseann Geiger made motion, seconded by Ms. Myrna Littlewort, to **approve** the application.

Before the vote was taken, the Chair called for discussion on the motion.

The District Manager reported the event was originally scheduled for July 16, however, since it was not within the timeframe guidelines, it was moved to August 16 and the name was changed to its official name, *Summer End Festival*.

More discussion ensued and it was pointed out the sponsors are a civic committee, not a church.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 26 in favor, 8 opposed, with 1 abstention. Motion passed.

Voting procedure included No votes were counted by a show of hands. The names of the Board members who cast No votes and Abstained were read back into the record by the District Manager.

**5. Summer Play Street Police Athletic League (PAL)  
98<sup>th</sup> Place from 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Dead End  
Monday to Friday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
July 06 to August 21, 2009.**

Mr. Richard Guevara representing the Police Athletic League addressed the Board. Mr. Guevara, Director of Field Operations, reported PAL provides programming and services to youth. PAL also works with local schools. The goal is to provide much-needed services for the youth of New York City to become better citizens.

PAL would like to come back and be able to provide year round services meaning 35 days in the summer affording safe and sound services for education, sports and recreation, including the opportunity for neighborhood children and the community utilizing a dead end street, which is supported by the local parishes.

A play street in this location which is within walking distance from P. S. 61 that will provide free breakfast and free lunch.

At this point, the Chair called for questions from the Board members. Before questions were asked, however, the District Manager provided the details on the procedure.

For the application to move forward, input must be obtained from the Board. Board approval means the application can move forward to the next step, which is PAL must obtain signatures from all residents that are impacted. Then, a final sign off from the Board is also necessary explained the District Manager.

At this point, questions from the Board members were taken. Mr. Melvin Morgan pointed out parking is a problem in that area already and the program is from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for two months questioning who will supervise the children after five o'clock and mentioning those children would invite more children in. The Lefrak community children will also participate. 50—70 children together are very noisy. Access to the buildings is a major concern. Think of the residents and the elderly living in the nearby buildings who will be disturbed.

Mrs. Judy D'Andrea asked why can't the program operate from I. S. 61 since it is equipped with all the amenities needed and also suggesting using Newtown Field as an alternate site?

Another suggestion by the District Manager was the use of the Louis Simeone Park located on 101 Street between Lewis and Radcliffe Avenues as a viable option.

Ms. Priscilla Carrow reported it is impossible to have the street closed. People who work at night would find it impossible to park since parking is already at a premium. Already, residents must drive around for two hours looking for a place to park. 98<sup>th</sup> Place should not be shut down. Ms. Carrow expressed concern the play street could be noisy, suggesting the use of I. S. 61 or to find another solution.

Ms. Roseann Geiger inquired how are the children chosen who will participate in the program. Will preference be given to children in the immediate area? Preference should be given to children in the immediate area, she stated.

Responding to the questions, Mr. Guevara said the organization partners with the Police Department and trained staff members will be on site. The children on site will also be insured for that time. To reduce the incidents of fighting in the streets, preventative education will be provided. Police Officers will also interact with the community. A need is in this community to provide services. More details were provided about operating from a school building or public park and the cost factor, with mention made to obtaining permits required for their use. In addition, research must be done to see if those sites are conducive for the program. "Think of it as an asphalt, free, summer day camp", said Mr. Guevara.

At this point, the Chair asked by a show of hands, how many people lived in the street in question. After that, the Chair asked by a show of hands, how many wanted the program. For the record, it was noted opposition was voiced to the location of the program, not the program itself.

Ms. Beth Moon Ray Ferguson pointed out although the needed permits may cost money, aren't the children worth it? As a former employee of the Lefrak City Library before it closed, there has never been anything substantial for this particular area for the youth of our community. She also asked can the Police Athletic League coordinate with the Gang Unit to differentiate between the good kids and bad kids because good kids are being picked up and patted down. A bridge between the Police Dept. and the youth of the community must be implemented, not just programs.

Mr. Guevara responded a bridge does exist. The purpose and services of the program is that the police and youth of this community work together and establish a dialogue, but it begins with a carrier such as PAL.

Ms. Ann Pfoser Darby asked about the approval process. Once the approval passes the Board, does PAL check with the community and the parents of the children, not the people living on the block, but rather the whole community and all the parents involved. Is a decision made and reported back to the Board?

The approval process was explained by Mr. Guevara. The sponsor shall secure the following approvals:

Preliminary Approval to proceed with the application from the Community Board office.

Approval of the Community Affairs Office of the local precinct.

Approval of a majority of residents living on the block (both sides of the street) who must sign the Block Petition.

Approval of the Community Board Office indicating that the sponsor has appeared to have secured the approval of the residents living on the block

At this point, the Chair closed the floor to questions and asked for the Board's decision on this summer play street application.

Ms. Priscilla Carrow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Melvin Morgan, to **deny** the Summer Play Street proposal for the 98<sup>th</sup> Place block and have the program relocated to IS 61.

The Chair called for discussion on the motion. Mr. James Lisa suggested **tabling** the motion for PAL to find an alternative location so our community's youth will not lose this desperately needed program.

Perhaps, a local community group can serve as a sponsor to pay for the permit needed. PAL is a proven group to supervise our children in our community. Table the vote, not to say no to the program, but to find a new location recapped Mr. Lisa.

The Chair explained to Mr. Lisa the problem arises by tabling the motion, the Board recesses for the summer. No summer meeting is held for a vote. Motion to table withdrawn by Mr. Lisa.

Mr. Robert Rothschild said since there is opposition for the program at this location, a vote should be taken so that the organization can select another location.

The Chair said that was the motion on the floor and called the question for a vote. A Board member suggested the Community Board write a letter of support to Mr. Joseph Lisa, Principal of I. S. 61, stating the Board supports the PAL program but not on 98 Place, and I. S. 61 is a far better place to implement the program.

Before the vote was taken, the Chair clarified the motion—The motion is to **deny** 98<sup>th</sup> Place as the site for the PAL and have the program moved to I. S. 61 and to write a letter of support to I. S. 61,

The motion was amended to add two other alternate sites--Louis Simeone Park and Newtown High School Athletic Field in addition to I. S. 61.

To clarify the motion before the vote, the Chair said the meaning here is if you vote yes on the motion, it denies 98<sup>th</sup> Place as the location and relocates the program to three alternate sites: I. S. 61, Louis Simeone Park, or Newtown Field.

By a roll call vote, the Board voted 24 in favor, 8 opposed, with 3 abstentions. Motion passed.

## **HEALTH COMMITTEE**

### **Baby's First Home**

Ms. Amanda Raposa, Start-Up Director, urged the Board to support its mission and also any advice given by the Board would be appreciated to implement this proposal.

Baby's First Home is a two year supportive housing program for young mothers (ages 17-21) and their children. The mission is to provide nurturing environment and community focused structure to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty and empower young mothers to create independent and fulfilling lives for themselves and their families. Baby's First Home will be the only residential program in New York City for young mothers who have aged out of foster care.

A building for the program has been donated in Elmhurst. Optimism was expressed that while working with the Elmhurst community building relationships, Baby's First Home will help to provide services while at the same time teaching residents to engage with the community.

At this point, Ms. Raposa took questions from the Board. Before questions were taken from the floor, Health Committee Chair Priscilla Carrow reported this proposal was discussed at the May 5, 2009 CB meeting, and asked for the Board's support in this endeavor, adding the Board's Health Committee supports the proposal.

Mr. Tom McKenzie asked for the exact address of the donated building. Ms. Raposa responded it is located in Elmhurst but could not provide an exact address because of privacy concerns to the current tenants; however, the general area 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue off 94<sup>th</sup> Street was given.

Mr. Tom McKenzie asked how big the building is. Ms. Raposa responded it is a six unit building that will be renovated to have six bedrooms, three bathrooms, three common areas, and one kitchen. Twenty four hour supervision is provided. The staff will consist of two full time staff members and three part time employees.

Friends include Momma's House on Long Island, with guidance and education young mothers can learn to support themselves and their children independently. Ms. Raposa explained eligibility guidelines. Potential residents must be eligible for public assistance before entering the program. There is an intake form and application process to assess the needs of each potential resident. They must adhere to a background check on medical, judicial, and family history.

A Board member asked about the length of term of the program. Ms. Raposa replied it is a two-year supportive housing program.

Ms. Lucy Schilero asked if mothers can have more than one child. Ms. Raposa replied no.

More questions were asked about the selection process and aging out. Ms. Raposa reported referrals to Baby's First Home comes from ACS for those young women who are aging out of their foster care programs. Baby's First Home will not accommodate those with serious mental health conditions and/or serious drug or alcohol addiction. All of the residents are subjected to random drug tests. If a resident fails the test, she must agree to sign up for drug therapy and attend all sessions. If she does not agree to therapy, she is asked to leave.

Ms. Raposa said the program is innovative in three ways:

- Residents can remain on Public Assistance and still save money for their ultimate departure.

- Residents will have an incentive to build positive social capital, which will contribute to a sense of trust and purpose within society.
- The community will benefit from their service.

Regarding transportation issues, Ms. Raposa reported the donated building is situated only blocks away from the 7-train.

At this point, Health Committee Chair Priscilla Carrow summed up Baby’s First Home is seeking a letter of support.

Mr. Diego Freire made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Patricia Terranova, to write a letter of support for Baby’s First Home.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 30 in favor, 3 opposed, with 2 abstentions. Motion passed. The names of the Board members who cast No votes and Abstained were read back into the record by the District Manager.

Before the Public Safety Committee report was presented, the District Manager announced Ms. Naila Rosario from the Queens Museum of Art who also served as Liaison for Corona Plaza will be leaving the Queens Museum and is being replaced by Ms. Alexandra Garcia. The District Manager noted on June 13 a Street Festival will be held at Corona Plaza.

Ms. Garcia invited all to the Street Festival at Corona Plaza, which is in collaboration with Queens Council of the Arts and C.A.N. and she looks forward to working with the Board.

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**Vote: SLA Applications**

Committee Chair Lucy Schilero reported on the following liquor licenses:

**NEW APPLICANTS**

<u>Establishment Name</u>	<u>Establishment Address</u>	<u>Committee Recommendation</u>
Club Heaven Steakhouse & Cabaret Tavern/Wine	79-15 Queens Blvd., Elmhurst, NY 11373	<b>Denied.</b> License was not for Tavern/Wine, but for a full liquor license. Corporation name not filed. History: Murder, gang assaults, 200’ Rule May Apply: Church located at 80-25 Cornish Avenue.

**RENEWAL APPLICATIONS**

D & E Mexican Food Corp. Restaurant Wine	40-11 82 <sup>nd</sup> Street Elmhurst, NY 11373	<b>Denied.</b> History of problems. Noise complaints. Prostitution. Questioning Corporation’s name. Hours of operation not filed. Forms not completed.
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Police Department to volunteer its tow trucks to the Sanitation Department so that these offending vehicles are towed away.

Next, Committee Chair McKenzie reported on the problems with the McDonald's Restaurant and the Strauss Store mentioning people fixing their cars on the street. McDonald's Restaurant had removed the speed bump, mirror and warning sign at the drive-thru as well as failure in cleaning the street. The local church property, opposite McDonald's, had received \$130 fine for McDonald's litter blown on their sidewalk.

The Committee Chair had suggested the McDonald's Restaurant reimburse the church for the fine. Furthermore, the Committee Chair reported on more problems in the district.

Before concluding his report, the Committee Chair reported a Board vote is needed on the natural gas drilling in New York City Watershed and elsewhere in New York State. The Delaware and Catskill Watershed together provide approximately 90% of New York City's water supply. New York City's water is known for its excellent quality and cannot be jeopardized by the prospect of allowing drilling for natural gas using hydraulic fracturing method. This method has resulted in contaminated water supplies in other states.

A letter must be written to the New York State Legislature, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and New York State Governor David Paterson to prohibit Hydraulic Fracturing drilling for natural gas within New York State.

Mr. Tom McKenzie made a motion, seconded by Ms. Audrey Galligen, to **deny** the high pressure drilling for natural gas on the Delaware/Catskill Water Shed areas or any aquifer serving the City's water system. We ask Governor Paterson to deny any application along with the Department of Environmental Conservation and Department of Environmental Protection.

The Chair called for discussion on the motion. Since there was none, the Board proceeded to take a vote.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 35 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

## **REPORT OF THE LEGISLATORS**

Ms. Yoselin Genao, representing Council Member Julissa Ferreras, reported the District Office is open and operational. The Grand Opening was held last week.

On June 20, a street renaming will be held for a local hero who had died in Iraq. The renaming of the northern corners of 37<sup>th</sup> Drive at 104<sup>th</sup>, 107<sup>th</sup> and 108<sup>th</sup> streets in Corona will be renamed for Army Spc. Alex Jimenez Way. All were invited to attend the ceremony and reception.

Next, Mr. George Onuorah, representing Council Member Helen Sears, reported on last night's Town Hall meeting sponsored by Council Member Sears. Police Commissioner Ray Kelly, Congressman Gary Ackerman, and many community leaders and members were in attendance.

The community is very diverse and we must all work together for the betterment of our neighborhoods.

## **PUBLIC FORUM**

Mr. Malachy Okolo, Executive Director, Lefrak City Youth & Adult Activities Association invited all to attend a Special Event later this month. Details were provided on the programs sponsored by this organization. It is a multi-service provider servicing elementary and middle school youth.

Before concluding the meeting, the District Manager announced upcoming events and meetings that will take place over the summer.

Next, Ms. Dawn Williams announced she had formed a women's group that will meet on June 15 in the Continental Room, at Lefrak City, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. All were invited to attend.

Next, Father DaCosta of St. Paul's Community Center thanked the Board for its efforts in the community and said it was a pleasure to have the Board meet there.

There being no further business, Ms. Laraine Donohue made a motion, seconded by Mr. Alirio Orduna, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.