



COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, Elmhurst, and Newtown

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Helen Marshall
Borough President

Louis Walker
Chairperson

Barry Grodenchik
Director of Community Boards

Christian Cassagnol
District Manager

COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2012

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

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

- I. Chairperson Louis Walker opened the 7:40 p.m.
- II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.
- III. District Manager Christian Cassagnol took the roll call. A quorum was present.

IV. VOTE: MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 13, 2012

Before the vote on the minutes was taken, the following corrections were noted.

Board Member Lucy Schilero noted CERT CB4Q-Hurricane Sandy. The team was stationed at Newtown High School and PS 19 Shelters from Friday, October 26 to Friday, November 2, 2012. CERT CB4Q still on Stand By for logistics and other Shelter sites in the Rockaways. CERT also collected coats and canned goods at nearby churches for the victims of the storm.

Board Member Laraine Donohue did not make the motion to accept the application for a gaming café for Ju Da Inc. The motion was made by Board Member Priscilla Carrow.

Board Member Georgina Oliver's first name was misspelled on the attendance page.

At this point, Ms. Priscilla Carrow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tony Moreno, to **accept** the minutes with the corrections.

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

V. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson Louis Walker wished all a Happy Hanukkah, a Merry Christmas, and Happy Kwanzaa etc.

The Board was also thanked for its time and energy given to various causes. Thanks were also extended to staff members Margaret and Christian for their help and support.

VI. REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

District Manager Cassagnol reported in response to a question asked by Board Member Tony Moreno last month as to why Gaming Cafes should come before the Consumer Affairs Committee, the information he had received was that it's about the games that are bought and used on the premises. Store owners will buy one copy of the game/software and allow many people to use it while the publisher will receive only one sale on the game.

Next, he spoke about Corona Plaza. Ever since the Plaza opened, there has been an influx of holiday shopping. He visited the shop owners and asked them how the Plaza was affecting their business. For the most part, it was positive. District Manager Cassagnol did meet with the Chiefs of Staff of the Council Members' Office, as well as Claudia Filomena Mayor's Community Assistance Unit. After the holiday season is over, another sit down meeting will be held to see what they would like to see next year in the Plaza as far as events etc.

Next, District Manager Cassagnol spoke about his visit to Maspeth High School. Meeting with the principal, the District Manager reported the principal wanted some recognition from CB 4. About 20% of their total student population is from CB 4. The school is very well run considering the third floor is used to house students from the Rockaways.

Next, he reported on his meeting with the Administrator of P. S. 16Q. He said the school is in dire need of a Playground. Details were provided about the condition of the current playground. It seems the paperwork for a new playground was started but never officially completed.

Next, he announced the Tree Lighting event in front of the Community Board office, on December 13, at 6:00 p.m. He spoke about next year's plans to bring a tree lighting event to the Elmhurst community. Between now and next year, he asked the Elmhurst Board members to provide locations.

Next, he introduced Community Board 4's newest staff member, Christina Long. The Board welcomed Ms. Long with a 'round of applause.

Next, he thanked Helen Landaverde for supplying the delicious holiday cake and Mama's Back Yard for all the good food served at the Holiday Party. A 'round of applause was given.

At this point, Board Member Tony Moreno said Maspeth High School does not have a playground. Is there any chance they can go to Newtown Field?

Discussion ensued. The District Manager said it would be looked into and wished all Happy Holidays.

At this point, Chairperson Louis Walker stated starting next month, every Committee must hold a Committee meeting every other month, whether it is needed or not. Attendance will be taken. If there is a month where there is not much to do, preparation can be made for the next month. As a minimum, committees must meet the requirement of meeting every other month.

Board Member Judy D'Andrea said the Bylaws state Committees shall meet monthly as needed, but not less than three times a year. It may be necessary to change the Bylaws she stated.

VII. REPORT OF THE LEGISLATORS

Ms. Ari Espinal, representing Assembly Member Francisco Moya, reported on Corona's 2nd Annual Tree

Lighting Ceremony on Thursday, December 13, at 6:00 p.m., at 104 Street between 46th and 47th Avenues in front of Community Board 4 office. Thanks were extended to Board Member Al Perna and Community Board 4.

Refreshments will be served. Mama's is donating a cake for the event and children will also receive toys.

Next, Yoselin Genao and Joel Santos addressed the Board. Ms. Genao congratulated Community Board 4 on the hiring of its newest staff member, Christina Long. She was a former employee of Council Member Ferreras, who demonstrated expert skills while in the employ of the Council Member. Ms. Long was wished the very best in her new job at the Board Office. Ms. Long is not only a great friend but also a great colleague, said Ms. Genao.

Next, Ms. Genao expressed gratitude to the Board for its support and prayers. It was very difficult for her and her family who suffered a great deal during Hurricane Sandy. Through the Board's letters and support, which were very much appreciated, it made the process much smoother. Special thanks were conveyed to the Board.

Ms. Genao introduced Mr. Santos who will be representing Community Board 4. Mr. Santos reported on two events for business owners. "What Every Business Should Know About Credit Card Processing" is scheduled for Thursday, December 13, 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., at Queens BOC, 96-11 40th Road, Corona, NY.

The second workshop is a small business tax workshop scheduled for Thursday, January 24, 2013 at the same location from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Also, a no cost mammogram unit will be available on Thursday, December 13, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in front of P. S. 307, 40-20 100th Street.

Additionally, Council Member Ferreras invites you to attend a Holiday Meet & Greet on Monday, December 17, 2012, between 3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m., at 32-33a Junction Blvd., E. Elmhurst, NY. New toys will be collected that will be distributed at the Annual 3 Kings Intergenerational Celebration.

At this point, Board Member Judy D'Andrea reported in the October 14 edition of the *New York Times* there was a scathing article on Roosevelt Avenue which painted a negative picture of Roosevelt Avenue. Because of the illicit activities occurring on Roosevelt Avenue, it needs to be addressed.

Also mentioned was the proliferation of the sex and drug trades, including illegal gambling on Roosevelt Avenue.

Ms. Genao reported this is not a new problem. The Council Member realizes changes are needed and had contacted the Mayor's Office. The Mayor as well as every single Commissioner has walked Roosevelt Avenue. Roosevelt Avenue has many faces depending on the time of the day, and it is the heart of our community.

Council Member Ferreras had scheduled meetings with the Police Commissioner. It will not be solved overnight. It has short-term solutions in terms of enforcement but the long term vision is a unified voice. There are two Community Boards and two precincts covering Roosevelt Avenue. Roosevelt Avenue needs to be unified in terms of the merchants. She spoke of the "broken window" theory.

In terms of Sanitation pickups, which were scheduled for once a day, from the Council Member's small discretionary funds, she provided an extra pickup on Sunday.

Through her efforts, Council Member Ferreras convinced the Mayor and the Sanitation Commissioner to bring twice a day, seven days a week, pick up on Roosevelt Avenue, which is the first time this had been done in the community.

She spoke about the clean community campaign. A clean Roosevelt Avenue is the pride of all. Five tips to clean Roosevelt Avenue were discussed. Education and outreach is key. Also a town hall meeting is being planned with the Commissioner of Sanitation. Not only businesses, restaurant, and commercial corridors, will be addressed but also prostitution.

As Chair of the women's issues, Council Member Ferreras was able to propose legislation, which passed the Council, to prevent sex trafficking. Sex trafficking thought to happen only on the other side of the world, is happening in our own backyard. Many times taxi drivers were involved in that trade. Details were provided.

In January, a symposium will be held to deal with sex trafficking on Roosevelt Avenue said Ms. Genao.

Discussion ensued about the issues occurring on Roosevelt Avenue. Board Member Tony Moreno expressed optimism that Roosevelt Avenue will be addressed very soon.

Ms. Genao also mentioned the Task Force which monitored Roosevelt Avenue in the '90's. What we need is a unified effort of all those involved: community residents, businesses, and Community Boards in the same room.

More discussion ensued on the Roosevelt Avenue, specifically, the proliferation of vendors, garbage, and truck traffic.

At this point, Ms. Lucy Schilero said through the years help was asked for not only from city agencies but also from other outside governmental agencies. Fighting for the Task Force for years, it does cost a lot of money not just Police are involved but also other agencies. Stolen Social Security ids were mentioned as well as the vendors on Roosevelt Avenue and how they came into fruition. Problems have now escalated and the Taskforce is very much needed. She expressed optimism the Mayor or Mayor-elect will see this need.

Before concluding her report, Ms. Genao stated Council Member Ferreas has been working very hard to bring resources to the community. A report will be given to Council Member Ferreras about the concerns raised at tonight's meeting, and perhaps a meeting can be set up.

At this point, Chairperson Louis Walker introduced Council Member Karen Koslowitz. Council Member Koslowitz reported on the proposed re-districting plan. She said currently she represents a small part of Community Board 4—the other side of Queens Boulevard. However according to re-districting, she will no longer represent Board 4. Under the proposed re-districting lines, she would now represent Community Board 8, however, this could change.

Under the proposed plan, the Council Member would lose Community Boards 4 and 5. She would represent Community Board 6, which is currently her area, Community Board 9 and Briarwood.

At this point, all were wished a Happy Hanukkah, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy Kwanzaa and a very happy New Year.

Council Member Koslowitz said even though she would not represent CB 4, she would continue to keep the Board's best interests at heart. Working with Cathy Moore for eight years at the Queens Borough President's office, Council Member Koslowitz commended Cathy on her hard work and dedication. She is truly a wonderful person!

The Council Member also recognized the Executive Committee for their untiring efforts and congratulated Christian Cassagnol on his appointment as District Manager.

Next, Ms. Carolyn Tran, representing Council Member Daniel Dromm, reported the Council Member's Holiday Open House on Friday, December 14, 5 p.m.-7 p.m., at District 25 Community Office, 37-32 75th Street, Jackson Heights, NY. Please support the winter coat drive and bring a gently used winter coat as a gift for less fortunate New Yorkers.

VIII. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Vote: SLA Applications

LIQUOR LICENSES

NEW APPLICANTS

DECEMBER 2012

<u>ESTAB. NAME</u>	<u>ESTAB. ADDRESS</u>	<u>COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION</u>
104-10 Food Corp La Mitad del Mundo Bar Rest. Liquor, Wine and Beer	104-10 Roosevelt Avenue Corona, NY	Approved
Jose Castro Wine and Beer	82-63 Broadway Elmhurst, NY	Denied. Proof of C of O. Corporation Papers, Docs. When Business Officially took over location
High Flying Bird, Inc. Liquor, Wine and Beer	78-14 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Denied. Proof of C of O, DOB Permits and Fire Permits Corporation Papers, Docs. Showing when business officially took over.

RENEWAL APPLICANTS

<u>ESTAB. NAME</u>	<u>ESTAB. ADDRESS</u>	<u>COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION</u>
Mangos Steakhouse & Bakery Wine and Beer	78-14 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Denied. Proof of C of O, Corporation papers. 2/11/12 Summons for Assault.
Amanecer Norteno Rest. Corp. Wine and Beer Only	91-08 43 Avenue Elmhurst, NY	Approved
La Esquina Criolla Wine and Beer Only	94-67 Corona Avenue Elmhurst, NY	Approved
Club Cultural Dom. de Queens Liquor, Wine & Beer	41-19 108 Street Corona, NY	Denied. Comp. Assault 4/3/11 1/30/12 Disorderly Premises. 10/20/12 Bouncer/Sec. Guard arrested Criminal possession of a weapon. On for closure.
Sabor Latino Corp. Liquor, Wine and Beer	95-35 40 th Road Corona, NY	Denied. 3/11/11 C Summons Obstruct. into Bar, Exit door locked.

RENEWAL APPLICANTS (cont'd)

<u>ESTAB. NAME</u>	<u>ESTAB. ADDRESS</u>	<u>COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION</u>
GMRI Inc. <i>Red Lobster</i> Liquor, Wine & Beer	88-01 Queens Blvd. Elmhurst, NY	Approved

CERT CB4Q – Collected coats and can good and delivered to St. Bartholomew Church for the Sandy Hurricane Victims.

Mr. Tony Moreno made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stephen Castro, to **accept** the Committee’s report as presented.

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

IX. PRESENTATIONS

Atiya Butler, Director of External Affairs

Elmhurst Hospital Center

Introductory Note

General Discussion about the State of Queens Hospitals

Ms. Atiya Butler reported she is assuming the duties of Mr. Dario Centrocelli who had retired. She is looking forward to working with Community Board 4. Holiday greetings were sent by Mr. Chris Constantino, Executive Director of Elmhurst Hospital.

Ms. Butler reported because of Hurricane Sandy additional staff was hired and patients from Bellevue Hospital were transported to Elmhurst Hospital. Also many employees living in hardest hit areas found it difficult to report to work, but persevered under very difficult conditions.

The following updates on Capital projects were given to the Board:

- A new women’s health pavilion is under construction, which should be completed within 18 months. With generous support from Council Member Julissa Ferreras, former Council Member Helen Sears, and New York State, it will be a brand new two-story building next to the parking lot. It will be for out-patient care for women’s health, which is a great need in the borough.
- Expansion of the Emergency Department within the coming months. The Emergency Room is very busy and in need of the extra space.

Please call her if you need assistance.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parks

Committee Chair Al Perna reported on the fallen trees. He had called city officials for assistance, to no avail. With the help of the District Manager, the work was done. However, there are still parks with downed trees. There is no one really at Parks he can talk to. Since Eileen Connolly retired, calls have been directed to Matt Symons, Deputy Administrator, Flushing Meadows-Corona Park. However, this is only a temporary measure until a replacement for Eileen Connolly is found.

At this point, Board Member Judy D'Andrea inquired about the status of the Soccer Stadium. Board Chair Louis Walker responded there had been several meetings on this matter. They do not have an owner or funding, and it is in the very early stages. Meetings have been held all over Queens, but nothing concrete is in place. Ultimately, the City must set the guidelines, along with the Mayor and City Council, what will be accepted and under what conditions.

Health

Committee Chair Priscilla Carrow reported the Committee did not meet, however, guest speaker Ms. Atiya Butler, appeared courtesy of the Health Committee.

Youth

Committee Chair Clara Salas reported an Anti-Bullying Fair, sponsored by the United Federation of Teachers, will be held on Tuesday, January 29, 2013, between 2:00 – 5:00 p.m., at Central Office, 52 Broadway, New York, NY 2nd Fl. Flyers were available.

The schedule for upcoming Regents examinations was also available on the back table.

A meeting of the Youth Committee is planned for February. She spoke about the possibility of electronic meetings. This option will be explored further.

Transportation

Committee Chair Jose DiMartino reported on the food trucks. This should be reported to the Health Dept. The funds from the Sunshine Fund paid for the Holiday Party.

Environmental

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

ULURP & Zoning

Committee Chair Miriam Levenson reported the Committee did not meet, but a meeting is planned for January 15, 2013. The subject matter is Update on the Roosevelt Avenue Rezoning.

Postal

Committee Chair Stephen Castro reported a meeting is planned with the Station Manager on Friday, December 14. The Post Office is in dire need of funds and may either drop Saturday or Wednesday open at that particular location. Discussions are on-going with the Union. He will meet to determine what day in January is mutually convenient to hold a Committee meeting.

Consumer Affairs

Committee Chair George Onuorah reported a meeting is planned for Tuesday, December 18, at 7:00 p.m. The new District Manager, Christian Cassagnol, will be introduced at that time.

Board Member Onuorah also informed the Board that Mr. Jim Galloway's father had passed away. As yet, funeral arrangements were not made.

All were urged to attend the committee meeting on December 18.

X. PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Claudio Zampaini, representing Corona Community Ambulance Corp., reported on the following events:

- Sunday, December 15, 2012 with the help of Board Member Roseann Geiger and the Corona Lions arrangements were made to pick up children and their families from the Rockaways, using donated transportation from Logan Bus Company, to be transported to the VFW. Food will be served and toys given out to the children. Since the phones are still down at the schools in the Rockaways, he asked if anyone had contacts there to reach more of the children to come.
- Wednesday, December 12, a fund raising event is scheduled for Uno Chicago Grill at their three locations: Astoria, Bayside, and Forest Hills. They will donate 20% of all their earnings tomorrow from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. Donations will benefit the volunteer Fire and EMS agencies that were devastated by the storm. Five agencies are located in Queens (4 in the Rockaways, 1 in Broad Channel and 1 in Brooklyn). Some agencies lost an entire firehouse, some lost an ambulance, and others lost equipment.
- A Blood Drive is planned for Sunday, January 27, 2013, from 12:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M., at the Corona Community Ambulance Corps. 104-38 47th Avenue, Corona, NY. Complimentary dinner and fundraiser will follow. Dinner will be served from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. He urged all to attend.

At this point, Ms. Carolyn Tran representing Council Member Daniel Dromm, thanked the Board for its support On the Board's denial for Sabor Latino's liquor license. This business is not a good neighbor.

Next, Board Chair Louis Walker introduced Mrs. Carol Italiano.

Next, Board Member Gurdip Narula spoke about the celebration of Diwali, popularly known as the "festival of lights", is primarily a five day Hindu festival. For Hindus, Diwali is one of the most important festivals of the year and is celebrated in families by performing traditional activities together in their homes. Board Member Narula also reported he visited the Rockaways and bought supplies from his own personal funds to help. Furthermore, he is trying to raise money from other sources for the Hurricane Sandy victims.

There being no further business, Mrs. Patricia Terranova made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tony Moreno, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

The Annual Holiday party followed and a good time was had by all!