



COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, Elmhurst, and Newtown

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Helen Marshall
Borough President

Louis Walker
Chairperson

Barry Grodenchik
Deputy Borough President
Director of Community Boards

COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE: TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 2012

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

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

I. Chairperson Louis Walker opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

After the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all, Chairperson Walker asked the Board to remain standing to observe a moment of silence for Lucy Schilero's mom and George Onuorah's brother.

At this point, First Vice Chair Patricia Terranova took the roll call. A quorum was present.

III. Vote: Minutes of March 13, 2012

Mr. Al Perna made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Gigi Salvador, to **accept** the minutes of March 13, 2012.

Before the vote, Mr. Tom McKenzie mentioned, at the last meeting, a sports party will be held for firemen and Police officers in Elmhurst and Corona. Mr. McKenzie had requested volunteers from the 110th Precinct Community Council to assist.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 32 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

IV. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson Louis Walker reported the Municipal Art Society of New York will hold a training session on May 12 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. It is a free day-long workshop on a variety of topics including economic development, city planning, zoning and more. No phone number is listed, but the location is 144 W. 14 Street. Manhattan, NY.

At this point, Chairperson Walker welcomed the new Board members and asked each to stand and introduce themselves and to say a little about themselves:

1. Stephen Castro
2. Rita Lumina
3. Patricia J. Martin
4. Alton Derrick Smith
5. Damian Vargas

Next, Mr. Jorge Fanjul, Deputy Director, Public Affairs, Office of the Comptroller, reported on the upcoming tax lien sale. Tax liens are put on properties for not paying property taxes or water/sewer bill. Recent legislation has made it possible to bundle your taxes and sold to companies. Once those companies acquire your lien, and are able to charge interest, they can come after you for up to a year for payment. If payment is not made within the year, the home can go into foreclosure. It is a very serious matter. Flyers and pamphlets were passed around.

Currently, there are over 2,000 constituents in Queens being affected by tax liens. Contact the Comptroller's Community Action Center for assistance. Automatic exemptions are in place to exclude a property from the lien sale such as seniors on a fixed income who are under the income guidelines may be eligible for an exemption. He urged all to call the Comptroller's Office for help.

At this point, Chairperson Walker cautioned all Board members to be recognized first before speaking.

Board member Patricia Martin asked how this information is disseminated to constituents.

Mr. Fanjul responded each Council Member has an initiative. But, the Comptroller's Office is the only office to help everyone in all five boroughs, but Queens has the most homes on the tax lien sale. Almost 100 of those constituents are located in Community Boards 3 and 4. You must fill out the form before May 17 to qualify for an exemption.

V. REPORT OF THE LEGISLATORS

Ms. Carolyn Tran, representing Council Member Daniel Dromm's office, reported on the following upcoming events:

- Elmhurst Transportation Town Hall meeting on April 11, at St. James Episcopal Church, at 6:00 pm. – 7:30 pm. Bring questions about transportation issues in Elmhurst, including the call to re-open the LIRR Station at Broadway & Whitney Avenue.
- Free Civil Legal Services, Coming To Your Neighborhood at St. James Episcopal Church, 84-07 Broadway, April 26.
- Immigrant Heritage Awards, Monday, April 16, 2012, at 6:30 p.m. at Elmhurst Hospital Auditorium 79-01 Broadway. Celebrate immigrants who have made an outstanding contribution to their communities.

Next, Ms. Christina Long, representing Council Member Julissa Ferreras' Office, reported on the following events:

- Stop & Frisk Forum on April 11, at 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., at Elmcour Youth & Adults Activities, Inc. 107-20 Northern Blvd., Corona, NY. Find out why do Police Stop & Frisk? What Constitutes a Stop & Frisk? What is a Justified Stop?

- First Ever Safety Audit held on May 5 in two shifts—a.m. and p.m. Volunteers are needed to walk around the community noting public safety issues such as street lighting, places that need more police presence, and to improve safety of women in the community etc. About 75 to 100 volunteers are needed. Contact Council Member Ferreras' office for more information.
- Department of Transportation's Free Bike Bonanza. Free bikes and helmets for children will be given away at Linden Park on May 12. Also, bike safety classes will be given and instruction on how to ride bikes. Contact Council Member Ferreras' office for more information.

Lastly, Council Member Ferreras wholeheartedly supports the Corona Plaza Development and has been working with DOT on this project to move it forward.

Next, Ms. Emily Paez, representing Senator Jose Peralta's office announced:

A Job Fair, Thursday, May 3, 2012, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Elmcors Recreational Center, 107-20 Northern Blvd. Corona, NY. Currently, 50 employers are confirmed, with another 20 possible. More details more provided on requirements about submitting resumes.

At this point, Assembly Member Francisco Moya provided an update on the budget process. The budget was passed on time once again and the budget restores funding for CUNY and SUNY, which will help many students in our neighborhood who use the community colleges for a quality education. Assembly Member Moya had introduced a Bill called The Dream Fund which will give children of immigrants the opportunity to receive scholarships to go to college.

Legislation had been passed into law in California and Illinois and is moving now in New York. Sponsored in the Senate, it will give a great opportunity to young people who want a quality education. In New York, immigration should never be a barrier for young children to receive a quality education. The more educated our youth, the better it is for the future economy of the state and the country. This legislation is supported by the Mayor and the Speaker. Both have done a tremendous job in advocating for this very important issue.

Next he spoke about the minimum wage. A Bill has been passed in the Assembly to increase it to \$8.50 an hour. Right now, the question is no longer can a household be maintained on minimum wage but rather can people survive on this wage.

Assembly Member Moya had introduced a Bill which would double the time Community Boards have to review liquor licenses and comment to the State Liquor Authority. Presently, establishments have a time frame of 30 days for renewal of applications. The problem is the Board may not meet within the 30 days and by the time the application, comes before the Board for review; the SLA may have already approved it. The new Bill would increase the time to 60 days so that the Community Board will have more time to review the applications and get all information needed and will also require the State Liquor Authority to have a liaison between the agency and the Community Boards throughout the City of New York.

A round of applause was given to Public Safety Committee Chair Lucy Schilero and the Committee for their hard work and dedication. Assembly Member Moya also reported the zip codes for Corona, Elmhurst and Jackson Heights, have more issues with Bars than downtown Manhattan, emphasizing this is an alarming fact.

Establishments that are skirting the law are coming under scrutiny. Dollar dances, prostitution, public urination in these establishments and other serious violations are under investigation. More details were given on the proposed legislation.

Community residents want a better quality of life and to live peacefully in a neighborhood that they have called home for so many years.

At this point, Assembly Moya took questions from the Board.

Ms. Georgina Oliver asked for more information on the Dream Fund. Assembly Member Moya provided a more in-depth explanation about what the Dream Fund included, the criteria, and its requirements.

Moreover, Assembly Member Moya had met with the Deputy Inspectors of the 110th and 115th Police Precincts addressing the impact zone police officers for the Roosevelt Avenue corridor. More details were provided. Also, the District Attorney's office was brought it because they are responsible for prosecuting those offenders. Police officers were not aware they can arrest those individuals. Police officers needed to be educated about the new laws.

Next, Assembly Moya informed the Board he had asked for a moratorium on liquor licenses in the Community Board areas of 3 and 4. More details were provided. A study must be done on the number of establishments selling alcohol. Senator Peralta is also carrying this Bill in the State Senate, which presents a good chance this Bill will be enacted into law. It would also prevent people whose license was revoked to re-apply for a new license using a new name.

Replying to a question from Board member Stephen Castro, Assembly Member Moya said when he had asked the Commissioner of the State Liquor Authority for a moratorium on liquor licenses in Boards 3 and 4. He was informed by the SLA Chairperson that he did not think it was constitutional.

Next, Ms. Claudia Filomena, Mayor's Office, Community Assistance Unit, Community Affairs, reported for new community board members, in conjunction with the Queens Borough President's office, a New Community Board Orientation will be held May 10 at 5:30 p.m. at Queens Borough Hall. Attendance is mandatory for new members. Presentations will be given on Robert's Rules of Order, the land use procedure, and the Community Board involvement in the budget process. The Swearing-In ceremony will be held on June 14 at the New York Hall of Science.

Next, Ms. Filomena mentioned the Community Assistance Unit also operates the Graffiti Free NYC Program. It a free program whereby graffiti is cleaned on commercial and residential properties. Details were provided. More information was given on other programs CAU provides.

At this point, Chairperson Walker announced three new Board members had just arrived and were introduced to the Board:

Lester Youngblood
Francisco Rodriguez
Lan Franco Mattei

VI. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Vote: SLA Applications

Committee Chair Lucy Schilero reported the Committee met on April 9, 2012 on the following SLA applications. Council Member Francisco Moya was also in attendance.

Renewal Applicants

<u>ESTABLISHMENT NAME</u>	<u>ESTABLISHMENT ADDRESS</u>	<u>COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION</u>
Catacocha & Deleg Rest. Corp. Liquor, Wine & Beer	102-03A 44 th Avenue Corona, NY	Approved

Valdez & Tepi Inc. Liquor, Wine & Beer	102-14 & 102-16 Roosevelt Ave. Corona, NY	Denied. History of problems 2011-2012 2 C Summons Sale after hours & consumption after hours 1 Misd. Arrest for Assault 3 Summons Sales After Hours and Sales To Intoxication of Patrons. Submitted for Closure by the NYPD.
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Renewal Applicants (cont'd)

<u>ESTABLISHMENT NAME</u>	<u>ESTABLISHMENT ADDRESS</u>	<u>COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION</u>
El Chino Latino Inc. Dbas El Paisa Rest. Wine and Beer Only	93-26 Corona Avenue Elmhurst, NY	Approved
Mexport Intl. Dbas El Temampa Rest.	96-14 Roosevelt Avenue Corona, NY	Approved
82-71 Broadway Liquor, Inc. Wine & Liquor (Liquor Store)	82-71 Broadway Elmhurst, NY	Approved
Heroico Paysandu, Inc. Wine & Beer Only	89-08 Queens Blvd. Elmhurst, NY	Approved
Thai Son Queens, Inc. Wine and Beer Only	40-10 74 th Street Jackson Heights, NY	Approved
Mama Leti's Inc. Wine and Beer Only	40-70 Junction Blvd. Corona, NY	Approved
Alfonso's Tapas Bar Corp. Liquor, Wine & Beer	75-15 Broadway Elmhurst, NY	Denied initially. Ultimately, Approval was granted.

Note: The owner of the premises was warned about the presence of an on premises pool table for which he received a summons. The summons was eventually dismissed in court, but the owner should seek clarification by the Dept. of Buildings regarding the laws.

New Applicants

There were no New Liquor License Applicants this month.

Mr. Tom McKenzie made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ann Melchiorre, to **accept** the Committee's report as presented.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 32 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

At this point, Mr. Tom McKenzie reported on the illegally parked trailer trucks and other trucks around the vicinity of Queens Boulevard and the McDonald's Restaurant area. Full details were provided. Mr. McKenzie felt the Board is not getting the response it should be from the Police Department. He requested at the next

District Cabinet meeting the NYPD's Public Affairs Officer answer why the issue of those trucks has not been addressed for the past two years.

VII. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Vote: LA Corona Express Car Service
104-12 43 Avenue
Corona, NY 11368

Since Committee Chairperson, Joseph DiMartino, was not in attendance, Committee member Edgar Moya presented the report.

The Committee recommended denial of the application for the following reasons:

1. DOB had requested photographs of the Base both inside and outside. Unless this information is given the Department of Buildings cannot grant the Letter of No Objection. To date, the Base had not complied with the request by the Dept. of Buildings.
2. Application was not properly filled out.
3. In the letter from the Base owner only his first name was given, and no phone number listed. Application submitted was incomplete.

Mr. James Lisa made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Roseann Geiger, to **deny** the application.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 32 in favor to deny, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

VIII. PRESENTATIONS

Patrick Lespinasse, Dep. Director-Government Affairs
Verizon, NY state
--Current Projects/Technologies
--Q&A Session

Mr. Pat Lespinasse reported he is the liaison to elected official on the Federal, state and local levels. Mr. Lespinasse's appearance tonight was not to make a presentation, but to hear what is on the minds of the Board members.

Verizon is one of the major utility companies in the state, a global company, but does not really focus on what goes on in the local community. His mission tonight is to build a relationship with the Board, and to establish a single point of contact with the Board leadership, it is not uncommon to learn of major outages through the local Community Board.

At this point, Mr. Lespinasse asked for issues of concern from the Board. Even though he is not an expert on all issues brought up, he can refer those matters to the proper people. Also, a point of contact will now be established.

Mr. Tom McKenzie asked why telephone wires are wrapped around a tree or a pole consistently in Elmhurst and Corona. What are we going to do about all the disconnected lines in Elmhurst and Corona that are wrapped around trees and lampposts?

Mr. Lespinasse responded it is not protocol. Network engineers go out every day and look at all the poles. Since there is an issue here, someone will investigate and report to the Board's leadership on the findings.

Mr. McKenzie requested their representative present at the District Cabinet meeting.

Mr. Lespinasse requested the Board to provide specific addresses or areas that are problematic. Since he receives many e-mails every day, he requested the Board filter its concerns through the Board leadership so that responses can be sent to one person rather than many concerned individuals.

Next, Ms. Georgina Oliver asked when FIOS will be in all areas of Queens.

Mr. Lespinasse responded by 2014 Verizon would have 100% of the entire city "build-out with fiber." More details were provided. A short synopsis on the timeframe was given.

Next, Ms. Lucy Schilero reported on telephone poles behind properties in Elmhurst. Two came down within her vicinity. Both Verizon and the Community Board were called to fix it. The pole is down. She requested Verizon go out and take a look. Many of them connect in the back. In Elmhurst there are a lot of boarding houses which makes it very difficult to reach the landlord or the corporate that owns the property. It needs to be fixed. The addresses will be provided to Mr. Lespinasse.

Next, Ms. Ann Pfoser Darby spoke about the difficulty in getting a land line phone to go into an internet phone. Verizon would not transfer the land phone number to an internet phone. However, Time Warner would make the change.

Mr. Lespinasse responded sometimes a request cannot be done. But not knowing all the facts, it is difficult to respond.

***IX. MAURA MCCARTHY, COMMISSIONER
NYC DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
--Current State of the Corona Plaza Reconstruction Project***

DOT's representative, Vaidila Kungys, reported Borough Commissioner Maura McCarthy had another meeting to attend, she along with Felix Okolo and the Project Director addressed the Board.

The illegal truck activity was noted, which has been going on in the Plaza's "slip lane", which is located at 41 Avenue between National and 104 Streets.

The temporary space, to be created by filling in the lane with epoxy gravel, will allow work to be done before something more permanent is constructed.

A public forum will be held to gain input how to use the space. Tables and chairs may be included.

At this point, the Board members asked questions.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parks

Parks Committee Chair Al Perna reported on the illegal vendors at Clement C Moore Playground at 82nd Street and 45th Avenue. He also mentioned the illegal vendors at 111th Street in front of the Hall of Science. He spoke about the budget cuts and its impact on William F. Moore Park, corner of 108 Street.

Mr. Perna emphasized there is not enough park personnel to clean area parks. Manpower is a problem. A stationery person should be at each park all day long, but there is not.

There is a lot of garbage there, noting all the problems in Clement C. Moore Park. Workers at the Phone Company and residents eat lunch in the park. Drug paraphernalia was found on the floor.

Mr. Perna provided an update of the area parks.

Chairperson Louis Walker announced the search for the District Manager continues. 35 resumes were received. Of those, 11 candidates were selected for consideration. He stressed the importance that all Board members attend the May 8 CB meeting. The three finalists will be present. Each Board member will ask them one question each. At the end of that session, a vote will be taken who will be the next District Manager. Four Board members are on the list of 11 chosen (James Lisa, Al Perna, Myrna Littlewort, and Robert Rothschild).

At this point, Mr. Tom McKenzie said the last time interviews were held for the District Manager's position, there were more than three people interviewing. More people were presented to the Board who sought the job when Richard Italiano was chosen. Why now are we down to three, he questioned?

Chairperson Walker responded that is the number the Executive Committee decided upon. There is no rule on that. More people should be heard, said Mr. McKenzie.

Chairperson Walker said it still has to be decided and the Committee should decide that.

Discussion ensued.

Health

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

Youth

Committee Chair Clara Salas reported on the Middle Village Charter School. More information is on the website as well as flyers were on hand. The opening date is September 3, 2013.

The School Superintendent made a presentation about special education. For more information on programs for special students, go to the Department of Education's website to view the report.

Next, Ms. Salas discussed the City Council protests to protest the turnaround plan. The initiative closes a school, renames it, and then reopens it with the principal and half the teachers replaced. No students are displaced. Flyers were on hand.

A hearing will be held April 17 on the proposed closure of Newtown High School. She urged all to attend. Your voice is needed. Parents who attended the Community Education meeting felt this is political ploy whereby the government will save money, but education and the children will suffer. It will not fix anything.

Additionally, the UFT presents on Parent Academy May 5 and June 2. For more information, please contact Rose Walker-Yates at 718-275-4400. A 5-week leadership-training program designed for parents to help them become leaders, advocates, and community activists. This program is a joint venture of the New York Parent Union and the UFT.

Flyers were on hand.

Before moving on to the next Committee report, Chairperson Walker stated new members will eventually be assigned to a Board Committee.

Consumer Affairs

No report. Committee Chairperson not in attendance.

Environmental

Committee Chairperson Tom McKenzie reported on the following:

- The Hess Gas Station - The vacuum had been running 24 hours per day. He gave details on how the problem was solved.
- Wires hanging from the poles. Rolled bundles hang from the wires between poles, just waiting to fall. – He spoke about the all the cable and telephone dangling dangerously.
- Sanitation Department – Litter baskets were removed, i.e. in front of McDonalds Restaurant and the school. What are they doing with the baskets? Where did the baskets go?
- What about the \$500 donation he gave to P. S. 7? No one will get back to him. Does anyone know of a contact person there?

Before concluding, he invited the new members to join the Environmental Committee.

ULURP & Zoning

Committee Chair Miriam Levenson reported the Committee did not meeting last month.

XI. PUBLIC FORUM

Beth Anna Moon Ray Ferguson, a Cherokee and Blackfoot native, spoke about a past incident whereby some members on the Board did not salute the flag. Ms. Ferguson stated she was one of those members. She relayed to the Board a personal story about her father called, “The Drink of Water Story”.

The Daily News had called her and wanted to know why she did not salute the flag. She spoke about her father who served four years in World War II. He was a cook. She did not know until 1994, after he passed away, that he had medals due him.

After further investigation with historians, she found out sadly in the United States if you did not read, especially if you were black, native-American or Asian, you did receive discharge papers with nice accolades, but nothing else.

If you were black in years past, and taught to read by someone, the person who taught the other person to read was punished, and what happened to the recipient was a whole other story.

This is why Ms. Beth Anna Moon Ray Ferguson does not salute the flag.

When she found out in 1994 that her father served and was buried and she had nothing that belonged to her father, she stopped saluting the flag. Both her mother and father had saluted the flag

She was told this is a democracy, which means she has the right not to, also noting she does not burn the flag. When she was at the meeting her hands were at her side. She did not utter a word.

More details were presented by Ms. Anna Moon Ray Ferguson.

Moreover, the reasons why Ms. Beth Anna Moon Ray Ferguson was not currently serving on the Board were given, citing her application was not submitted.

There is nothing in the board's bylaws which states she must salute the flag, Moreover, she would never think of anything harmful to hurt the Board. When she joined the Board, it was to serve.

Her goal was to speak out because she felt she was not properly heard.

Next, Ms. Mimi Corteze-Ne, a volunteer from a dance company which is hosting a new performing arts classical Chinese dance and music performance, particularly 5,000 years of Chinese Music and Dance in One Night. Free presentations are being offered to community groups on classical Chinese history and culture. Presentations have been well received.

Based in New York, Shen Yun is reviving authentic Chinese culture, which has mostly been destroyed in China under communist rule. Today, you can no longer see a show like Shen Yun inside China.

If interested, a sign up sheet was available at the end of the meeting.
She also passed out brochures on the Shen Yun 2012 performance at Lincoln Center April 18-22.

There being no further business, Ms. Georgina Oliver made a motion, seconded by Mr. Alirio Orduna, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m. Unanimous.