

Community Board 1
May 20, 2014

Mr. Vinicio Donato, Chairperson of Community Board 1, commenced at 7:00 pm by introducing public hearing item from the Department of City Planning (DCP) #130069 ECQ – An application to construct an Enclosed Sidewalk Café at 19-06 Ditmars Blvd. (Agnanti Restaurant) with 13 tables and 22/23 seats. Mr. Kerry Kitsoris came up on behalf of the applicant, stated that the applicant has been operating an unenclosed sidewalk café for about 10 years. The reason that she is applying for an enclosed sidewalk café is because the owner wants additional space for patrons all year round. She has never had any complaints and has always provided good service. As far as he knows they have no violations. Ms. Elizabeth Erion asked if they have a liquor license and hours of operation. Mr. Kitsoris replied yes and their hours of operation terminate at 1am. Ms. Erion asked the number of tables and seat currently outside of their café. Mr. Kitsoris stated that there are 13 tables and 22 seats. Ms. Erion asked about the fence that runs along the residential buildings. Ms. Erion stated that currently it is an eyesore will that be taken care of during renovation. Mr. Kitsoris stated that he is sure that they will do something to correct that since it will take away the beauty from the café. Ms. Erion asked if they plan to install a vent. Mr. Kitsoris replied “No”. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone on the Board who had a question for the applicant. There was no one. Ms. Erion asked what the clearance is from a sidewalk café to the curb. Mr. Kitsoris stated that it is 8’ from sidewalk café to curb. He believes that there is 11’ clearance and they have met all the minimum requirements. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against this application. There was no one. Mr. Donato stated that the Board received a couple of letters praising the restaurant. No further discussion. Item closed.

Mr. Donato introduced guest speaker Mark Mancusi, Queens Borough Director of Enforcement for Consumer Affairs, he thank CB1 for allowing him to speak about the new NYC Paid Sick Leave Law that went into effect on April 1, 2014. This law will cover approximately one and a half million people. It was signed into law by Mayor de Blasio on April 1st. Any employer who employs more than 5 or more people is required to give people 40 hours of sick leave per year. Employees are allowed to use those 40 hours and are allowed to carry-over 20 hours per calendar year. Any employer who employs 1 to 4 people will have to provide 5 days of unpaid sick leave per calendar year. Employees accrue 1 hours of sick leave for every 30 hours of work. Current employees can begin using sick leave on July 30th. New employees must be employed for at least 120 days before the sick leave can be used. Employees began accruing their sick leave from the first day of employment and must work at least 80 hours per calendar year to be entitled to the sick leave. The people who are covered can use the sick leave to care for themselves, a family member (spouse, child, mother, father, grandchildren or domestic partner). Mr. Daniel Aliberti asked a two part question, they use sick leave and are not required to submit a doctor’s note. Mr. Mancusi stated that they are required to submit a doctor’s note if they take more than 3days consecutively. A lot of this will be between the employer and the employee. Some employers may be a little more strict or some a little more lenient in terms of how they want to administer this law and what kind of requirements they expect the employee to give them. Mr. Aliberti asked if this is for part time workers as well as full time workers. Mr. Mancusi replied “Yes”. Ms. Frances McDonald asked if this is a law or a rule. Mr. Mancusi replied “A Law”. Ms. McDonald asked if anyone has taken them to court yet. Mr. Mancusi stated that one thing you have to remember Consumer Affairs did not enact this, City Council enacted it and City Council decided that Consumer Affairs will attempt to enforce it. He stated that they will do the best they can. Ms. Ann Bruno asked if the sick time is pro-rated if they are part time such as 100 hours a year. Mr. Mancusi stated that they get paid 5 days of sick leave. Mr. Mancusi thanked the Board for having him.

Mr. Joseph Risi, read the public hearing item from the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) #5567-2014-ASWC – Premises 37-17 30 Avenue. (Marketa). An application to establish an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 20 tables and 74 seats. Mr. Nick Neocleous, owner, came up on behalf of the application. Mr. Risi asked how long the establishment has been open. Mr. Neocleous stated that they opened the end of December 2013. Mr. Risi asked what type of food they will be serving and their hours of operation as well as for the outdoor café. Mr. Neocleous stated that they will be serving brunch, lunch and dinner and their hours are from 10am to 1am and the outdoor hours are from 10am to 1am depending on the weather. Mr. Risi advised the owner that he should check the rules with the DCA, especially the hours of operation, his first concern. He asked if there were any apartments above the proposed unenclosed sidewalk café. Mr. Neocleous replied “No”. Mr. Risi asked if he was aware the restrictions on loud music and smoking. Mr. Neocleous replied “Yes”. Mr. Risi asked how many tables they have on 30th Avenue. Mr. Neocleous stated that they had 6 tables and 18 seats. Mr. Risi stated that the Board would like him to remove the outside row of tables on 30th Avenue, if that would be possible. Mr. Neocleous stated that he would conform to the rest of the unenclosed sidewalk in the neighborhood. Mr. Risi stated that he is not concerned with the rest of the neighborhood, he is concerned with this location and how it affects the community. He then asked again if he would be willing to reduce the amount the application by removing 3 of the tables on 30th Avenue. Mr. Neocleous replied “No”. Mr. Donato asked how many tables and seats are inside the restaurant. Mr. Neocleous stated that the Certificate of Occupancy is for 104 which include people at the bar and 60 seated tables inside. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone on the Board who had a question for the applicant. Ms. Frances McDonald asked if they owned the building. Mr. Neocleous stated that they have a 35 year lease of the premises. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against the application. Mr. Berturis, 38th Street resident, stated that it is wonderful that we have all of these new cafes down 30th Avenue. The area is blossoming and we get a lot of traffic as well as a lot of rats. We have a problem with rats that we have never had before. All these new cafes that are opening up with their outdoor cafes don’t give you enough lead way or pathway to walk up and down the block. He then asked what is above the first floor. Mr. Neocleous stated that the upstairs is a small seating area for about 22 people, a mezzanine. Ms. Rose Ann Alafogianni asked him to clarify if they have seating in their backyard. She asked if they have a backyard. Mr. Neocleous replied yes, there are 5 tables with 4 seats each. No further discussion. Item closed.

The next item #4727-2014-ASWC – Premises 29-02 Ditmars Blvd. (Yogurt LaCrepe). An application to establish an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 10 tables and 20 seats. Mr. Salvatore Fragali, owner, stated that the establishment is a crepe/yogurt/coffee shop on the corner of Ditmars Avenue and 29th Street. They are requesting a sidewalk café for 10 tables and 20 seats. 7 tables and 14 seats will be on Ditmars Blvd using 7’ of a 20’ sidewalk and 3 tables and 6 seats will be on the 29th Street side using 5’ 4” of a 15’ sidewalk leaving 9’ for pedestrian traffic. They will close Sunday to Thursday at 10:30pm and Friday and Saturday at 12am. Mr. Risi asked if they would be serving food in the outdoor unenclosed café. Mr. Fragali stated yes they will be serving crepes and frozen yogurt. Mr. Risi asked if they had a liquor license. Mr. Fragali replied “No”. Mr. Risi stated that there is one table, in particular, in on the catty corner position. He asked if he would have any objection to removing that one table. Mr. Fragali stated that it is an odd spot being on the corner and understand that the Board may have a problem with it. It is a very large sidewalk but, would like to keep the one table by moving the one table to the left and place the other table next to it. If it does become an issue he is willing to remove it at another time. Mr. Risi stated that the other time is now. He asked if they would be willing to remove that one table with 2 seats. Mr. Fragali asked if he could find another place for it, if possible. He is paying a lot of money for the space and the outside is a very big draw to customer. If he could find a different place to put it that would better in his eye but, he does not want make any complications for anyone. He would like to work together to resolve the issue. Mr. Risi suggested that he work with his representative between now and the time we take a vote. Find another place for the table and advise where you would like to place it. Mr. Fragali stated that they will move the one table over and is agreeing to remove the table at the corner. Mr. Risi thanked them. Mr. Risi asked if there was anyone on the Board who had a question for the applicant. Seeing no one. Mr. Risi asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against this application. There was no one. Mr. Risi stated that the Board received a letter from Amanda Gross who would not be able to attend the hearing tonight. She lives on the same corner of Ditmars Blvd and 29th Street and feel as though the loud noise created by 20 tables of people dining outside would no doubt seep inside of her home and to the homes around her and would be incredible disruptive and disturbing to her quality of life. She is hoping that the Board would take her concern into consideration of the noise and smoking outside. Mr. Fragali stated that they have a family restaurant in Tarrytown and he will be working closely with his family with this café. They will be serving crepes not whole dinners. No further discussion. Item closed.

The next item #6413-2014-ASWC – Premises 35-12 Ditmars Blvd. (The Thirsty Koala). An application to establish an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 6 tables and 16 seats. Ms. Katherine Fuchs, owner, came up on behalf of the application. Mr. Risi asked if she could tell the Board a little bit about the Thirsty Koala, type of food that is served, and the hours of operation. Ms. Fuchs stated that they serve Australian inspired cuisine, her partners is from Sydney, the hours of operation will be Mondays 3:30pm to 11pm, Tuesday to Thursday from 11am to 11pm. Friday and Saturday from 11am to 12am, and Sunday from 11am to 10pm. Mr. Risi asked if they currently have a liquor license. Ms. Fuchs replied “Yes”. Mr. Risi asked if they will be serving liquor and food at the outdoor café. Ms. Fuchs stated that they are currently applying for a liquor license for the outdoor café. Mr. Risi asked if there are apartments above the establishment. Ms. Fuchs stated that there are 2 apartments above. Mr. Risi asked if she was aware of the restrictions of an outdoor café. Ms. Fuchs replied “Yes”. Mr. Risi asked if there was anyone on the Board who had a question for the applicant. Ms. Pauline Jannelli asked since they received their liquor license do you serve liquor past closing time. Ms. Fuchs stated no, but there are people who are still eating and drinking and they allow them to finish. They are there every day and we need sleep. They try to get out of there as soon as they can. Mr. Risi asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against the application. Seeing no one. No further discussion. Item closed.

The next item #12280485-DCA – Premises 36-21 Ditmars Blvd. (Martha’s Bakery). An application to renew the license to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 21 tables and 41 seats. Mr. George Sturgeous, owner, came on behalf of the application. Mr. Risi stated this is a renewal of his unenclosed sidewalk café for 21 tables and 41 seats, is this correct. Mr. Sturgeous stated that he has cut the application to 18 tables and 26 seats. Mr. Risi asked if there were any violations in connection with the operation of their outdoor café. Mr. Sturgeous replied “No”. Mr. Risi stated that you are amending your application to 18 tables and 36 seats. Mr. Risi asked if there was anyone on the Board who had a question for the applicant. Ms. McDonald asked if this is the same number of tables and seats they presently have permission for. Mr. Sturgeous stated no he is requesting less. Ms. McDonald officially objected to the word renew on the application. Renew means that things are the same as they were before. This is an altered application. Mr. Sturgeous stated that he would do that. Ms. McDonald asked if he owned the building. Mr. Sturgeous replied “No”. Ms. McDonald stated that the Board has had complaints of people coming before it complaining about access to the driveway behind the store and so forth. Mr. Sturgeous replied “Yes”. Ms. McDonald stated that she drives by regularly and has not seen your driveway, the little space where you can park, and next to it is access where you can drive behind the private homes. She has yet to see it blocked but wanted him to know that she will be watching. Mr. Erion asked how many seat in total that he has outside with the approval of this application. Mr. Sturgeous replied “36 Seats”. Ms. Erion asked if that includes the enclosed café. Mr. Sturgeous replied “No”. Mr. Erion asked how many are in the enclosed café. Mr. Sturgeous replied “23 Seats”. Ms. Erion stated that is 59 seats outside and how many inside. Mr. Sturgeous stated that there are 21 seats, right now his license for outside would be 41 seats. There was an issue that the table was too close to the tree in the back he volunteered to remove 3 tables and 6 seats to give enough room so that there are no complaints. Ms. Erion stated that the picture that he submitted she could see the separation of the tables from the pedestrian area has a very large planting area and it takes up the sidewalk square. She would like to know if it is possible to reduce that, even though it is lovely. Mr. Sturgeous asked if she talking about the planters. Ms. Erion replied “Yes”. She stated that it takes up a significant pedestrian space of an already limited area. Mr. Sturgeous stated that the planters are only 6” wide and are legal from the end of the planter to the end of the sidewalk. There is 8’ clearance for pedestrians. Ms. Erion stated that a person has to step around a tree pit. Mr. Sturgeous stated that is why he removed 3 tables that were there and referred her to the back picture which showed the amended 18 tables and 36 seats. Mr. Risi asked to clarify that they are removing 3 tables and 6 seats is that correct. Mr. Sturgeous replied “Correct”. Mr. Risi stated that would

amend the application to 18 tables and 36 seats. Mr. Sturgeous replied "Correct". Ms. Lucille Hartmann reminded Mr. Risi that the owner would have to sign an agreement for volunteering to the reduction of tables and seats. Mr. Sturgeous replied "Yes". Mr. Risi stated that the Board received a short email in regard to the application saying "I like this place; one of the most beautiful places in the neighborhood." Mr. Risi asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against the application. There was no one. No further discussion. Item closed.

The next item #1166911-DCA – Premises 22-85 31st Street. (Lefkos Pirog Coffee). An application to renew the license to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 12 tables and 24 seats. Ms. Panagiota Georgopoulos stated that they are renewing the outdoor unenclosed café. Nothing has changed and there are no violations. They're still 12 tables and 24 seats. Mr. Risi asked how long they had the unenclosed outdoor café. Ms. Georgopoulos stated they have had it for about 15 years. Mr. Risi asked if there was anyone on the Board who had any questions for the applicant. There was no one. Mr. Risi asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against the application. Seeing no one. No further discussion. Item closed.

The next item #1222107-DCA – Premises 41-08 23rd Avenue. (Christos Steak House). An application to renew the license to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 15 tables and 30 seats. No one came on behalf of the application. Mr. Risi asked if there was anyone on the Board who wanted to speak for or against the application. There was no one. Mr. Risi asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against the application. Seeing no one. Mr. Donato stated that the Board will send a letter asking them why they did not appear for the meeting. No further discussion. Item closed.

The next item #1157157-DCA – Premises 37-11 35th Avenue. (Uno Chicago Grill). An application to renew the license to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 8 tables and 22 seats. Mr. Benak stated that they have been at the current location for 10 years and they are renewing their application for the same 8 tables and 22 seats. There are no changes or violations. Mr. Risi asked if there was anyone on the Board who had any questions for the applicant. There was no one. Mr. Risi asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against the application. Seeing no one. No further discussion. Item closed.

The next item #1281431-DCA – Premises 26-19 24th Avenue. (Othello Deli). An application to renew the license to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 4 tables and 12 seats. Mr. Mike Mathias, owner of Othello Deli, stated this is a renewal for Othello Deli for a small sidewalk café which has been there since 2008. They are asking for 4 tables and 12 seats on 27th Street. The address is 26-19 on 24th Avenue on the northwest corner of 27th Street. The 4 tables are along 27th Street and don't encroach on any residential properties but there are residential above. The hours of operation are Monday to Sunday from 7am to Midnight. This is a deli that most people get their sandwiches and sit outside and eat. They do have a beer and wine for sale only. There is absolutely no alcohol allowed on the premises to be consumed since there is no on premise liquor license. During the week they have about 500 customers a day and on the weekend it gets a little busier to about 700 customers a day. Mr. Risi stated that he appreciated his presentation it was very well done and have given all the information that he requires. He asked if they received any violations for the existing unenclosed sidewalk café since the last renewal. The owner replied "No". Mr. Risi asked if there was any on the Board had a question for the applicant. Mr. McDonald stated that they stated that they sell beer and wine. The beer and wine is of the low alcohol content that is allowed to sell in groceries. The owner replied "Yes". Mr. Risi asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against the application. The owner's son came up and stated that for those who are concerned about the apartments above the establishment. He stated that he is friends with all the people in the apartments and they come down to the deli regularly to eat, dine, and relax. If they were here tonight they would definitely speak up for us. He thanked everyone and wished everyone a good evening. No further discussion. Item closed.

The last item #1263835-DCA – Premises 32-10 36th Avenue. (Off The Hook). An application to renew the license to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 6 tables and 13 seats. Mr. Donato asked if they had another name. Owner stated that the d/b/a is Psari. Mr. Risi asked how long they had the unenclosed sidewalk café. Owner stated that they had it since 2007. Mr. Risi asked if they had any violations since their last renewal. Mr. Risi asked if there was anyone on the Board who had any question for the applicant. There was no one. Mr. Risi asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against the application. Seeing no one. No further discussion. Item closed.

VOTING:

Ms. Erion reiterated public hearing item from DCP #130069 ECQ – An application to construct an Enclosed Sidewalk Café at 19-06 Ditmars Blvd. (Agnanti Restaurant) with 13 tables and 22/23 seats. She said the committee met and recommended approval of the application with the suggestion that the owner refurbish and maintain the fence that goes up along the side to the building, seconded by Ms. Linda Perno. Mr. Donato asked if there were any questions. There was no further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried unanimously.

Mr. Risi reiterated public hearing item from DCA 2. #5567-2014-ASWC – Premises 37-17 30th Avenue. (Marketa). An application to establish an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 20 tables and 74 seats. The Committee met and recommended approval of the application subject to the applicant who has consented to moving the 3 tables and 4 seats from outside of 30th Avenue to move it up against the interior. Removing 3 tables and 4 seat reducing application to 17 tables and 68 seats, seconded by Ms. Perno. Mr. Donato asked if there were any questions. No further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried with 4 Against.

The next item #4727-2014-ASWC – Premises 29-02 Ditmars Blvd. (Yogurt LaCrepe). An application to establish an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 10 tables and 20 seats. The Committee met and recommended approval of the application subject to the moving 1 misplaced table and 2 seats from the corner along to the 29th Street side away

from the corner, seconded by Ms. Perno. Mr. Donato asked if there were any questions. No further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried unanimously.

The next item #6413-2014-ASWC – Premises 35-12 Ditmars Blvd. (The Thirsty Koala). An application to establish an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 6 tables and 16 seats. The Committee met and recommended approval of the application, seconded by Ms. Alafogiannis. Mr. Donato asked if there were any questions. No further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried with 1 Against.

The next item #12280485-DCA – Premises 36-21 Ditmars Blvd. (Martha's Bakery). An application to renew the license to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 21 tables and 41 seats. The applicant has indicated that he is reducing the application to 18 tables and 36 seats. The Committee met and recommended approval of the application, seconded by Ms. Perno. Mr. Donato asked if there were any questions. No further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried 7 Against.

The next item #1166911-DCA – Premises 22-85 31st Street. (Lefkos Pirogos Coffee). An application to renew the license to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 12 tables and 24 seats. The Committee met and recommended approval of the application, seconded by Mr. George Stamatiades. Mr. Donato asked if there were any questions. No further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried unanimously.

The next item #1222107-DCA – Premises 41-08 23rd Avenue. (Christos Steak House). An application to renew the license to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 15 tables and 30 seats. Mr. Risi stated that no one came to speak in support of the application. The Committee met and recommended approval of the application subject to removing 2 tables on 41st side as there have been some problems with accessibility to the sidewalk. The Board will be sending out the stipulation to the applicant recommending approval subject to applicant signing the stipulation, seconded by Mr. Stamatiades. Mr. Donato asked if there were any questions. No further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried with 9 Against.

The next item #1157157-DCA – Premises 37-11 35th Avenue. (Uno Chicago Grill). An application to renew the license to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 8 tables and 22 seats. The Committee met and recommended approval of the application, seconded by Mr. Mullarkey. Mr. Donato asked if there were any questions. No further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried unanimously.

The Next item #1281431-DCA – Premises 26-19 24th Avenue. (Othello Deli). An application to renew the license to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 4 tables and 12 seats. The Committee met and recommended approval of the application, seconded by Mr. Mullarkey. Mr. Donato asked if there were any questions. No further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried unanimously.

The next item #1263835-DCA – Premises 32-10 36th Avenue. (Off The Hook d/b/a Psari). An application to renew the license to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 6 tables and 13 seats. The Committee met and recommended approval of the application, seconded by Ms. Demakos. Mr. Donato asked if there were any questions. No further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried unanimously.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Mr. Tex Crushiak spoke about the attack on the electric company in California and stated that no one is sure who did it. He stated that it was a highly intelligent attack. It was so organized and meticulous that no one was caught. He knows that there are a lot of people present who look at an attack on NYC and say well they will wait it out. Most think they can go to a second house on Long Island or Upstate. The electricity is going to be off there too. They are going to plan this attack in such a way that it will cover huge areas of the United States. He stated that many people remember the blackout that we had a few years ago that affected even the Ohio Valley state. When these transformers go down it will take two to three years. There will be no refrigeration, no gas, and no bank machine. Society is going to break down long before that. 9/11 was unimaginable, we could not believe it happened. So we can let that happen again. He then went on to read a quote for the Board. He mentioned that he does not want to be in the group that says what happened. He feels that the Board should reach out to Con Edison to see how they would deal with a situation like the one in California.

Ms. Lilly Penech, 5 year resident, stated that she is present to represent Build Up NYC which is an alliance of labor that is responsible for construction. She is also tradeswoman. Many of our residents know our waterfront area is next in line for a large development. Before this influential project takes place she would like the Board to consider the interests of the community members that would be involved in the building and maintenance of these projects. She stated that she and her entire crew were present, wanted to let the Board know that they will be involved in the project. Mr. Donato stated that there will be a special meeting here on Tuesday, June 10th just on that item. She stated she will be back and definitely be involved in the Astoria Cove Project.

BUSINESS SESSION:

Mr. Donato motioned to accept the minutes of April's Board meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. Khuzami. Motion called and carried unanimously

Mr. Donato reported that Community Board 1 will be holding a special meeting on Tuesday, June 10, 2014 to discuss the one project (Astoria Cove Rezoning). It is a week before our regular Board meeting; the Board has done this in the past. In order for him to run the meeting he must have 20% plus 1. There must be 11 people present to run the meeting. It will start at 6:30 p.m. at the Astoria World Manor.

Ms. Lucille Hartmann, District Manager, reported that in the Board's folders there is a site drawing of 46th Street between Northern Blvd and 34th Avenue. The street has been block off for the construction of a fan/vent plant underground that will service the E, F, M, and R trains. This work is expected to run as late as Spring of 2017. On occasion drill work must be done in the evening, but that is expected to be limited and she has asked that the CB1 office be notified in advance. Also, the greenmarket will once again be available at Socrates Sculpture Park on Saturdays from 8am to 4pm starting on June 7th. And, every Wednesday on the sidewalk of 14th Street between 31st Avenue and 31st Road from 8am to 3pm. In addition, the Annual Mt. Sinai and UCCA Community Health Fair will be held on Saturday, June 7th from 10am to 3pm at Most Precious Blood on 36th Street and Broadway.

Ms. Rosemarie Poveromo, Chair of Airport Access Committee, reported that she attended a meeting and the Port Authority of NY/NJ held a first ever airport noise roundtable by invitation; to airport stakeholders on April 23rd. Attendees included the Federal Aviation Administration, Airline CEO's, community Boards Representatives, Aviation Chairs and Elected Officials. A two part PowerPoint presentation was given. The first part was on airport noise and what the Port Authority plans to do to address the decades of community concerns near its airports as its mandate by Governor Andrew Cuomo. The second part covered the redevelopment program to replace the existing central terminal building at LaGuardia and upgrade its aging infrastructure to accommodate the anticipated uptake to the 34 Million passenger load by the year 2030. The Federal high density rule limits the number of planes LaGuardia can handle during peak hours. Though those of us who are living only a heartbeat away from runways 422, we suffer the assault every few seconds by current abuse of numbers being allowed to land and take off. Larger aircraft to carry and accommodate the thousands more of the traveling public with no additional runways, especially at land lock LaGuardia or extension of existing run ways except for a sponge like material as a safety measure are planned on in the pipeline. Port Authority intentions as of this moment are honorable. There are those who call her a cynic and she is, but for good reason. We who have fought a good fight on air and noise pollution heard that airports are the economic engines of Queens County. Thought with Governor Cuomo now involved we are hopefully. The resemblance of peace and quiet is in our not too distant future for Both Western Queens and Eastern Queens.

Mr. Daniel Aliberti, Chair of Capable Disabled, reported that he had a meeting with the MTA on May 2nd regarding SPS express buses. The M60 Bus is now going to have the turn style type of machine on the sidewalk where you pay your fare. You will get a slip and then get on the bus. The bus driver will not be taking metrocards or cash anymore. This is going to start next week at 77th Street and Astoria Blvd. The M60 bus will be using the slip and the M19 which will use the metro card. If you are waiting at the bus stop and all you want to do is go to the train (on 31st) you can get on either bus. However, if you get a slip from the machine the driver will not let you on the M19. But, if you get on the bus and don't have slip then the bus driver cannot take your metrocard. He spoke to MTA and they said that is a unique situation and they are thinking of perhaps moving the bus stop. They are going to look into it and then get back to him.

Mr. Robert Piazza, Chair of Transportation Committee, reported that there is a handout in the Boards folders that illustrates the proposal changes for traffic flow on Astoria Blvd North and exiting the GCP at 31st Street. The Committee spoke with the Commissioner and what they came up with was directing the traffic as such. Traffic coming off of Grand Central can only go straight or turn left. The traffic that is on Astoria Blvd North can go straight or turn right. Traffic will not be allowed to cross over in the crisscross motion that caused accidents. They are asking the board to approve the proposal for permitted movements to alleviate accidents. If the proposal does not work out, there are some ramifications and there are some positives also. His biggest concern with changing anything in the neighborhood, if you change something on 21st Street it will affect 29th Street and Crescent Street. It's just the way the neighborhood was designed. The good part about it he thinks is that the drivers come off Grand Central at an exit further east and stay on Astoria Blvd because they will be moving slightly faster. It will take time for people to learn the new rules. Those who usually make that right turn will have to take the earlier exit. This is a solution in a way to approach the current problems in that area. The Committee agrees to recommend support of the proposal. Ms. Perno asked why they can't open the exit near the airline diner to alleviate the traffic from Steinway traffic. Mr. Donato stated that was one of the Board's recommendations that were put in. Only that this is a State issue not a City issue. Mr. Perno asked when they are going to paint the lines on the streets. It is ridiculous. Ms. Hartmann asked her to provide locations and the Board will submit it. She stated that they just painted Astoria Blvd. Mr. Thomas Ryan stated that on the proposal, he did not like it because he takes the ramp to get off and make the right turn on 31st. He does not want to have to drive around to get back onto 31st Street. He added that on the other side of Astoria Blvd there are two lights in between Northern Blvd and 59th Street merge is causing a huge traffic jam. It is the stupidest thing he ever saw. He is not sure if it is Community Board 1 or Community Board 3. Mr. Donato asked if it was the light coming off of the Triborough Bridge. Mr. Ryan stated that it is the light on Astoria Blvd goes by Secretary going in. The alternate lights are holding so much traffic, especially at 69th Street that it back up all the way to Northern Blvd. Mr. Piazza asked what time of the day does it occur. Mr. Ryan stated that it occurs regular time during the day. He added that the proposal is not well thought out. Mr. Sarchese asked what the physical separation between the lanes is. Mr. Piazza stated that it will be a white line for now. It will be something that will be able to change. Ms. McDonald stated that it would be a removable partition. Ms. Hartmann stated that we should hear from the Representative from NYC DOT. Mr. Sean Quinn, NYC DOT Pedestrian Projects Group, stated that he is present to answer questions about the proposal. In regards to the question about separation, DOT is planning to use what they call quick curb. This is a heavy duty flexible Bollards, like the one being used near the Key Food on 30th Avenue. These Bollards can be driven over by emergency vehicles and keeps cars from violating the separation. Ms. Ann Bruno asked if this is the same group that was at the Committee meeting. Mr. Quinn replied yes, he was at the committee meeting. Ms. Bruno stated she mentioned that the sign put up on 31st Street that the cars should go straight to Crescent Street or 27th Street to make their turn. She stated that it was the most ridiculous thing she heard. She asked if he ever came down to Crescent Street and seen the jam up of traffic all day long. Mr. Quinn stated that he has been there and the reason that they put up the sign was to try to reduce the number of

vehicles that were making the left turn under the 31st traffic. As you know making that left turn is difficult as it is. They were trying to let driver know that there are other options instead of jamming up under the 31st Street bridge. Ms. Bruno stated that she passed there at 5pm this evening and there is such a jam up of cars every way that you can think of. She is going to stand in the middle of the street and stop traffic they will have to come and arrest her. Mr. Quinn stated that along with this plan they are going to put up a large guideline sign plan for drivers to figure out alternate routes. They did look at the numbers they heard at the Cabinet meeting that concerned Crescent Street. The number of people that come off of Crescent Street and merge left is very low and they don't anticipate a high uptake in traffic on Crescent Street. Ms. Bruno stated that they should come down and watch the traffic. Mr. Quinn stated that at the Committee meeting they will be doing a study of Crescent and Hoyt now and after to watch the impact. If one of the major impacts is at that intersection and like they said this is a proposal that can be tweaked. Ms. Rosemarie Poveromo stated that at that meeting a recommendation was made that signage be put down on the Grand Central Parkway and letting people know and that has not been mentioned. Mr. Quinn stated yes, two things were talked about at the meeting. Putting permanent signs as well as message signs prior and right after the changes go in. They are going to work with their sign folks who control the variable electronic boards. He believes that Ms. Poveromo's recommendation was to do the electronic sign which was very good and we can control those and a good way to get the message out to drivers. Ms. McDonald stated that when you are on the highway the signs will tell you the best way to go, i.e. Best way to go to the Bronx is the Throgsneck or the Whitestone. Why anyone would go on the Whitestone puzzles her. She said to her fellow Board members the intersection that is being talk about, do yourself a favor don't go there. She does not go there, she goes around it. She would walk before she goes there. Mr. Ryan added what if he wanted to go to Neptune diner he would make 32nd Street above the diner, he could go and make a left on 31st Street and get on the service road and come back around and come up 32nd Street. Why not make 32nd Street North bound. Mr. Quinn stated that with the bollards in place you would not be able to north bound on the cross road onto 32nd; because the barrier is and will not allow access to the road. Mr. Ryan stated that this is going to cause a lot of problems if you wall everybody in. Mr. Quinn stated that in 1997 they tried to use signal timing and it did not work. He knows that a lot of people have asked them to do something with signals. This is the next thing for them to try in improving the intersection. Mr. Piazza stated that it is just a matter of time the way the traffic moves there before a more serious accident occurs there. These are things we asked the DOT to address it, he does not think that it is going to add to it. There are problem there. This is a problem that he is hoping for the last time but they worked on the other side. Mr. Khuzami asked about tractor trailers coming off the service road and they want to make a left, they wouldn't be able to, they would have to go down to Crescent and 27th. Are those trailers going to be, first of all 27th is a residential street and he does not think that they would able to make that turn. He is not sure how they would do going down Crescent. Ms. Hartmann stated that trailer can't go down Crescent it is not a truck route. Mr. Quinn asked if the trailers would be turning under the elevated tracks. Mr. Khuzami asked what if they have to make a local delivery in Astoria instead of going on the bridge. Mr. Quinn stated that he did not know the number of truck going up, but has the number of trucks that return under the elevated tracks. He imagines that number is high because the route is difficult for truck to navigate. As stated before there may be local deliveries, so those trucks would either have to come from the highway and get on the highway at a different point earlier to make that turn or alternate routes. Mr. Khuzami stated that the trucks will come down the service road because they are coming from the BQE. Mr. Quinn asked if they have truck numbers that would be great. Mr. Kevin Mullarkey stated especially during rush hour. Ms. Mary O'Hara stated that she does not pretend to understand, not even the diagram, but what about people who try to access the RFK Bridge. Mr. Quinn stated that this will stop anyone from accessing the bridge. How does the traffic, with the moving from right to left there is no safety with that access. Mr. Quinn stated that there are two things with this that will help that. The first is all that merging is happening with the maximum amount of traffic possible. By moving the merge past the elevated tracks a lot of people have already turned off and there is less traffic to merge through past the elevated tracks. The second part is the merging zone past 31st Street is longer than the section between the off ramp allowing more time to merge. There will be less volume overall to merge through and give you more space merge through. He asked what the Board thought of it. Ms. O'Hara asked if it would be safe. Mr. Quinn stated that it will be safer and easier. Ms. O'Hara stated she does not see how it would be safer if the flow of traffic is not slowed down while cutting across two lanes. Mr. Quinn met with the 114th Pct. and they were concerned about this intersection for many, many years and they are supportive of this proposal. Mr. Piazza stated that the recommendation is from the committee. He motioned for approval of the committee's recommendation, seconded by Ms. O'Hara. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried. Ms. McDonald added that she attended the Transportation Committee meeting and have asked for quite a while that the lane lines be painted on Astoria Blvd westbound. She is happy to report that a few weeks ago she drove by and saw a lanes painted. She called Ms. Hartmann to let her know. It is nice sometimes to report something that happens.

Ms. Elizabeth Erion on behalf of Mr. John Carusone, Chair of Zoning & Variance Committee, reported that the Zoning committee met May 1st and continued its review of the 7 ULURP applications that will allow construction of the Astoria Cove Project. This is the 5 buildings that are proposed along the waterfront with 1,687 apartments with affordable housing components, retail space, pool site and waterfront escalade. The committee submitted a very long list of concerns and issues to the applicant and they will be meeting with the applicant and their development team in early June to get their response to those issues. This way we will know where all need to be and what we see as an approved project. The Board is going to hold its meeting, a public hearing on this item and it has to hold a ULURP public hearing on June 10th at Astoria World Manor at 6:30pm. This is a special meeting and requires a quorum of at least 11 people to conduct this meeting legally. This meeting is in addition to the Board's regular monthly meeting which is on June 17th. On June 17th the committee will make its recommendation and will hold a vote. At the June 10th meeting the applicant and the development team will be making a full presentation on the proposal. There will not be a follow-up presentation at the vote on June 17th meeting. The meeting to make is the June 10th meeting where the entire presentation will be made on the proposal. After the June 10th meeting the committee will need to meet again in order to assimilate all the testimony from the public hearing and from the presentation and make the recommendation for the June 17th meeting. She thanked the Board members for the enormous amount of hours that

they have put into this project. She believes that all of the comments and concerns that were raised are going to go a very long way to persuade the Borough President, City Planning and City Council on the ways the project can be improved and get out of it. She added that in the near future, hopefully for June 17th, to have another ULURP application on another enclosed sidewalk café.

Ms. Hartmann stated that there will be a Vision Zero Public Workshop held on May 21st at Bohemian Hall, 29-19 24th Avenue, at 6:30pm. The Community Board is sponsoring it. The Mayor's office and the Borough President's office will both be a part of the meeting. Please make an effort to come.

Ms. McDonald stated all this time we have been hearing from these developers talking about how they were going to leave an esplanade/pathway between the development and the river. She began to ask the question why is the pathway in front of Shore Towers was locked. She stated that she took pictures. She is happy to report that the last three visits, one by Ms. Erion, the pathway was open including a sign on 27th Avenue stating The Towers Pathway this way. In regards to the new development, she read a piece of the infrastructure safety here and at various other meetings about the special attention being paid to the infrastructure and the surrounding areas to this humongous construction project that is going on. Mr. Donato stated that it will come up. Ms. McDonald stated that she wanted to announce even though they told her it could not be done. Con Edison has now announced that they have established a program where they can follow through on a more technical basis. A means of determining gas leaks other than your nose and they will be working on that

Ms. Elizabeth Erion, Chair of the Capitol/Expense Budget, reported that she received a response from the OMB who responded to most of the Boards projects telling us again that the Board should really go to our local council representatives. However, now that the council is pushing through a recommendation or a law where they are going to do away with all of the member items, she does not know how this is going to work out. She is in the process now of getting and figuring out which of the Board's recommendations need to be pushed on the political level with the councilperson and ones the Board can follow up with the agencies. So she has been a little pre-occupied.

NEW/OLD BUSINESS:

Ms. McDonald stated that the Astoria Performing Arts will be holding two performances of the Senior Stars on June 21st. She will be doing her stand-up comedy routine. She would like everyone to come because she has something on everyone.

There was no further business before the Board Ms. Erion motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Nieves-Blas. Motion called and carried unanimously.