

**Community Board 1, Queens - Webex Virtual Meeting – Board Meeting Minutes**

**May 19, 2020**

Meeting opens with Chairperson, Marie Torniali at 6:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance lead by Chairperson Marie Torniali. Chair Torniali Introduced Chae No of the New York City Health Department. The Chair asked for attendees to please remain muted during the virtual meeting presentations.

**Mr. Chae No**, Queens Community Liaison & PIO ICS Coordinator NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene- Provided updates related to COVID-19. Mr. No relayed statistics and numbers related to the pandemic. 4.8 million worldwide. Chair Torniali asked- Will the tests be made available to the General Public? Mr. No responds, they are available to the general public [nyc.gov/COVID](https://www.nyc.gov/COVID) tests. Various sites to be open to increase testing. If you cannot get a test, other ways will be announced shortly. Here is widespread community transmission in New York City.

- All New Yorkers must stay home as much as possible
- All New Yorkers must wear a face covering when they leave their home if they cannot maintain at least 6 feet of distance from others. This does not replace physical distancing and good hand hygiene, which are critical to stopping transmission.
- Healthcare worker masks should be saved for our healthcare workers
- Most people with mild to moderate illness can recover on their own. If you have concerns about your health or don't feel better in 3-4 days, call your doctor.
- If you are 50+ or have underlying health conditions, call your doctor as they may want to monitor you more closely.
- Go to the hospital or call 911 if you are having a medical emergency, such as chest pain or difficulty breathing

**Policies Assure Uniform Safety for Everyone (PAUSE) in Effect**

- Nonessential businesses in NYC are closed (Cuomo Executive Order)
- Nonessential workers are directed to work from home
  - Pharmacies, convenience stores, grocery stores, gas stations, laundromats, banks, mass transit, and other essential services remain open
- Religious gatherings of 10 or less are permitted
  - Physical distancing of 6 feet of greater must still be maintained, and face covering rules must be followed. Good hand hygiene remains critical.
  - NYPD will enforce gatherings over 10
- Campgrounds and RV parks are opening statewide
- Non-essential events in June have been cancelled including parades, marches, concerts, rallies, and other large gatherings.
- All K-12 schools, colleges, and universities statewide will remain closed for the remainder of the school year (Cuomo Executive Order)
  - Summer school will be conducted through distance learning

**Planning for the Next Phase**

- NYS has established 7 metrics required before a region can begin Phase 1 of easing restrictions
  - NYC has met 4 out of 7 metrics
- All sectors must implement new safety precautions to help reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 in the following areas:
  - Physical distancing
    - Require 6 ft of distance unless safety or core function of the work activity requires less
    - Reduce occupancy to under 50%, limit confined spaces to 1 person (elevators, behind cash registers, etc.)
    - Limit all in-person gatherings and meetings, and only hold them in large, well-ventilated areas with social distancing

- PPE
  - Provide employees with free face coverings
  - Require face coverings if employees cannot keep 6 ft of distance due to safety or core work function
- Hygiene
  - Implement frequent cleaning and disinfecting of any shared surface
- Health Screenings
  - Implement mandatory health screenings for employees
- Communication
  - Create and post signage and distance markers in the workplace to remind employees of guidance
- Six Sector Advisory Councils to inform how the City will restart the economy and City life once we are able to begin easing restrictions.
- Test and Trace Corps – In partnership with NYC Health + Hospitals
  - Partnering with community clinics to expand testing
  - Contract tracers will contact close contacts of those who tested positive for COVID-19
  - Isolation and care those who tested positive for COVID-19
  - Developing Community Advisory Board of experts and advocates
- MTA piloting the use of UV light technology to disinfect subway car and crew facilities

#### **Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C)**

- Rare inflammatory condition in children, associated with COVID-19
- Characterized by serious inflammatory conditions such as Kawasaki disease and toxic shock syndrome
- Most children have several days of fever along with other symptoms
  - Irritability or decreased activity
  - Abdominal pain without another explanation
  - Diarrhea
  - Vomiting
  - Rash
  - Conjunctivitis (red or pink eyes)
  - Poor feeding
  - Red, cracked lips or red, bumpy tongue that looks like a strawberry
  - Swollen hands and feet, which might also be red
- Seek care if your child has a fever for several days plus other symptoms and go to the hospital or call 911 if it's an emergency

#### **COVID-19 Testing**

- Community testing sites
  - Free walk-in testing at NYC H+H sites
    - Visit [nyc.gov/COVID](https://nyc.gov/COVID) test or call 311 to find a location near you
  - Free testing at 5 additional sites through collaboration with One Medical and 1199
  - Appointments required, visit <https://onemedical.com/covid-19-testing-locations/nyc/>
  - NYS and NYC continue to expand community testing sites through partnerships with CityMD, CVS, and AdvantageCare Physicians
- Recommended testing for those who
  - Have COVID-19 symptoms, regardless of age, chronic conditions or occupation
  - Come in close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 patient, regardless of symptoms
  - Work in a congregate residential setting (nursing home, shelter, or adult care facility), regardless of symptoms

#### **Antibody Testing**

- Testing for the General Public
  - Appointment-only, visit [nyc.gov/antibodysurvey](https://nyc.gov/antibodysurvey) or call (888) 279-0967
  - Test results will be available in 3 days
- In partnership with HHS & CDC, NYC is testing for Healthcare Workers and First Responders

- Testing conducted at hospitals, firehouses, police stations and correction facilities
- False Positive Result
  - Possible you did not have COVID-19 and the antibodies detected were from an infection with a related virus.
- A positive test result does not mean you are immune to COVID-19 or that you can't get it again. It is important that you continue to follow physical distancing and good hand hygiene recommendations.

### Face Coverings

- All New Yorkers must wear a face covering when they need to be outside their home and may not be able to maintain at least 6 feet of distance between themselves and others. (Cuomo Executive Order)
  - Children less than 2 years of age should not wear a face covering
  - People with breathing problems or another health issue that makes them unable to tolerate a face covering, do not need to wear a face covering.
- A face covering is any well-secured paper or cloth (like a bandana or scarf) that covers your mouth and nose
- Essential workers must wear a face covering when at work and interacting with customers or the public; employers must supply face coverings at their expense (Cuomo Executive Order)
- Distribution of free face coverings at the following locations:
  - Parks, Grab & Go meal sites, NYCHA buildings, some Mitchell-Lama buildings, and grocery stores
- Cuomo to sign executive order that will allow private businesses to deny entry to those who do not wear a face covering

### Healthcare

- New Yorkers without health insurance can apply through NY State of Health through June 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - If you lost coverage from an employer, you must apply within 60 days
- **Blood Donations Needed!**
  - Visit [nybc.org](http://nybc.org) or call (800) 933-2566 to make an appointment
- NYS Hospital Visitation Pilot Program
  - 2-week pilot allows increased visitation for family members and loved ones
  - Visits are time limited and visitors must wear PPE (hospitals will provide PPE)
  - 9 out of 16 participating hospitals are in NYC
- Keeping Kids Vaccinated
  - Remember vaccinations are essential to protecting kids and communities!
  - Free vaccinations are available
    - Over 1,000 NYC facilities via the Vaccines for Children program
    - NYC H+H community health clinics
    - Families can call 844-NYC-4NYC to make an appointment at a center near them
- Nursing Homes
  - NYC's Four-Part Plan for Nursing Homes:
    - On-site testing
    - Additional staff and support
    - Creation of 10 outbreak response teams
    - Shifting to home-based care
  - Nursing home staff are required to be tested for COVID-19 twice a week (Cuomo Executive Order)
  - Hospitals cannot discharge a patient to a nursing home unless the patient received a negative COVID-19 test (Cuomo Executive Order)
- NYC growing stockpile of PPE to support needs of all hospitals, nursing homes, funeral homes, as well as needs of FDNY, NYPD, EMS, OCME

### Treatment and Prevention Research

- The pharmaceutical company, Pfizer, has begun human clinical trials for a COVID-19 vaccine. Trials are being conducted at the NYU Grossman School of Medicine and the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

### Addressing COVID-19 Disparities

- NYS is launching a testing and resource campaign for communities of color which will include:
  - Additional resources low-income and communities of color
  - Community testing, PPE distribution, educational materials, and other supports from 72 faith-based sites across downstate NY
  - Expanding testing at NYCHA sites
- Top 10 ZIP codes with new COVID-19 hospitalizations over the past 7-days are in communities of color located in the Bronx, Brooklyn, and Queens.
  - NYC is prioritizing resources for these impacted ZIP codes
- Homelessness
  - Moving single adults living in shelters into hotel rooms
  - Moving toward wider-scale testing in shelters
- Strengthening Community Health Providers by
  - Providing clinics with PPE to restore essential primary care
  - Providing access to hundreds of volunteers through the Medical Reserve Corps to help providers serve high-risk patients
  - Expanding telehealth services at 150 community providers
  - Helping providers access federal COVID funding, maximize reimbursement

### Social Support

- Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) program
  - Provides eligible households with approximately \$420 per child in food benefits
    - This does NOT impact SNAP benefits
- NYC offering assistance to individuals and organizations that have been impacted by COVID-19.
  - For a list of resources, visit Help Now NYC at [nyc.gov/helpnownyc/](https://nyc.gov/helpnownyc/)
- Free and confidential mental health support services are available to all New Yorkers
  - NYC Well ([nyc.gov/nycwell](https://nyc.gov/nycwell))
  - NYS COVID-19 Emotional Support Hotline (1-844-863-9314)
    - Health care workers can text NYFRONTLINE to 741-741 to access 24/7 emotional support services

Chair Torniali called for questions seeing none Chair Torniali asked Mr. No to State when public testing is available. Chae No stated testing is available for the public currently you can visit [nyc.gov/covidtest](https://nyc.gov/covidtest). More sites and partnerships are occurring.

Chair Torniali introduced and welcomed Judy Trilivas, COO of Mt. Sinai Hospital Queens.

**Ms. Judy Trilivas**, Vice President and COO of Mt. Sinai Hospital Queens- Provided updates related to Mt. Sinai Queens Hospital and states she will share a PowerPoint presentation. The PowerPoint was emailed to the board Members (Attached). Ms. Trilivas greeted the Board and spoke to the heroes that worked at Mt. Sinai Queens. She spoke about the reassignments and tasks to achieve their goals with grace and dignity while providing high quality care. Ms. Trilivas spoke about The Heroes that work at Mt. Sinai Queens and the tribute photo provided in the PowerPoint presentation. Time never has to be asked at Mt. Sinai in the evening the 7 p.m. honoring of the Hospital FDNY 7PM Salute, Sneakers, Masks, Face Shields, Food (250 restaurants), Flowers Snacks School Thank-you cards and Mother's Day Orchids, and much more out pouring occurred. Judy spoke about the statistics of the monster pandemic. U.S.-1.54 million cases, 91,00 deaths U.S. Queens was the epicenter of the epicenter. Ms. Trilivas spoke about the peak of the epidemic first full week of April. Half of the states have at least 10,00 cases. Deaths are not going up as fast as in the beginning of the outbreak of cases. Very, very long couple of weeks rapid decline of cases now. Numbers going in the right direction now. We spoke about the re-opening. 911, Hurricane Sandy nothing prepared for the onslaught of the truly sick patients from this virus. The teamwork that went on was unbelievable. Details were provided on the set up of the interior and exterior of the hospital for use during the pandemic. Ms. Trilivas spoke about the statistical plans and the forward motion keeping the foot on the gas. She spoke about the set up and surge capacity for the Hospital. She spoke about the hospital's conversions of space for ICUs two tents on 30<sup>th</sup> Road were set up. Patient care area set up. Significant use of the space was done creatively.

Critical Care Unit was done safely. Daily monitoring for supplies and staffing were detail oriented. Materials Management. system kept a keen eye on everything. Supplies were in place as needed. It was a tremendous job done and still being done (See PowerPoint attached). Safety and protocols were always monitored. Staffing came from everywhere to assist. Different levels of doctors, nurses and traveling staff worked side by side amazingly. Stress management was addressed while the health care professionals were saving lives. Numbers of successful lives saved were posted in the hospital for inspiration. Proning teams were created. Blood thinning practices were addressed. One question was where other patients during pandemic were, they did not come out. Patients disappeared and there will be papers written about this. Patients are now coming back for treatment. NYS Department of Health guidelines are being followed. TeleHealth Services has been expanding (rapidly). Screening is happening at the door. Masks are being provided 6 foot spacing has been provided. Patient commingling is being prevented. Strict protocols for cleaning are followed. The safety hub [safetyhub@mountsinai.org](mailto:safetyhub@mountsinai.org) one stop information center. Ms. Trilivas closed by summarizing all of the steps the hospital is using to date. She stressed the need to follow all Social protocols and to be an advocate.

Chair Torniali thanked Judy Trilivas for all the tremendous work Mt. Sinai does for the community.

Daniel Aliberti asked about Plaquenil in intuition. The epidemiologist does not have it in their protocols.

Evie Hantzopoulos thanked Judy and Mt. Sinai hospital. Asked what the biggest lessons were learned- Then Hospital does something called a "Hot wash" done questioners went out to staff did not want to unravel all the work done the tents set up will not be removed quickly. Proning team oxygen team for the large numbers of patients were created. Crash Carts created with all items required for intubation team dedicated to this task. The gowns the masks the face shields and supplies to care for the patient. Visitor Policy Changes had to be addressed they have "W.O.W" stations to have employees help people communicate with their families. It still consumes us. Those are just some of the lessons learned.

Andy Aujla had questions related to some of the other restrictions being opened. I know that there are so many restrictions in terms of having outpatient are opening up a little bit. I was curious how you visitors would be allowed. For example, right?

Judy stated- Actually, I was supposed to be on a call tonight and now, which was moved to Thursday so I think they're putting together what the criteria will be for allowing loosening up some of the visitor restrictions. So, visitor policies have changed rapidly throughout the whole event. And you saw at one point, they weren't even letting spouses in when women were having babies. Then they went back, letting the spouse. Pilot program to be done do not have details at this time.

#### **Elected Officials/Representatives (Spoke related to Community Updates)**

Chair Torniali introduces:

Joseph Nocerino- Queens Borough Presidents Office announced Queens Borough Presidents Events-

#### **VIRTUAL QUEENS JOBS RECRUITMENT FAIR: WEDNESDAY, MAY 13**

- Borough President Lee, The Child Center for New York, the Council for Airport Opportunity, Queens Centers for Progress, the U.S. Census Bureau, WATCH GUARD 24/7 and Workforce1 have announced a second Virtual Queens Jobs Recruitment Fair to connect Queens job seekers to employment opportunities in essential industries.
- The Virtual Queens Jobs Recruitment Fair will be held on Wednesday, May 13, 2020 from 2:00PM to 3:00PM. Prospective applicants will hear brief presentations from and/or about employers seeking to fill approximately 300 positions in a variety of essential service fields including healthcare, transportation, retail and security.
- A live stream of the Jobs Recruitment Fair will be available at [www.queensbp.org](http://www.queensbp.org). Anyone interested in participating must RSVP at [www.queensbp.org/rsvp](http://www.queensbp.org/rsvp) by Tuesday, May 12 at 2pm

### **FRESHDIRECT'S OPERATION 5-BOROUGH FOOD DRIVE CONTINUES THROUGH JULY**

- To help Queens residents and families weather food insecurity during the ongoing public health and economic emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Borough President Lee and FreshDirect have partnered to extend "Operation 5-Borough Food Drive," what began in March as a one-month initiative, through mid-July.
- 500 grocery boxes per day prepared by FreshDirect, supplemented with beverages generously donated by Liberty Coca-Cola Beverages, are picked up by participating Queens non-profit community-based organizations (CBOs) to distribute amongst their clients, including seniors, low-income families and other vulnerable populations across all 14 Queens Community Districts.
- More than 11,000 FreshDirect grocery boxes have been distributed among more than 50 CBOs since the start of the initiative. Visit [www.queensbp.org/5-borough-food-drive](http://www.queensbp.org/5-borough-food-drive).

### **QUEENS CONTINUES TO HELP FUEL THE FRONTLINES**

- In addition to Operation 5-Borough Food Drive, Borough President Lee's "Fuel the Frontlines" initiative to provide meals to frontline medical workers at Queens' nine hospitals, first responders and bus operators while supporting Queens' small food service businesses continues to operate.
- Originally a one-week partnership with the Queens Economic Development Corporation and the Queens Night Market to support a dozen local small food service businesses and workers across Queens' nine hospitals, "Fuel the Frontlines" has extended cumulatively to two months and expanded to serve first responders and MTA workers, while partnering with an additional dozen small businesses.
- The extensions have been made possible due to generous contributions ranging from \$5 to \$40,000 from numerous individual and corporate donors, bringing the total amount of funds raised to more than \$88,000 since the launch of the initiative on March 29. Anyone who would like to donate can do so at [www.queensbp.org/fuel-the-frontlines](http://www.queensbp.org/fuel-the-frontlines).

### **IKEA DONATES THOUSANDS OF HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS TO QUEENS FAMILIES**

- As part of IKEA's nationwide initiative to donate products and supplies to communities most severely impacted by COVID-19, Borough President Lee partnered with IKEA to provide thousands of items such as new bedding, towels and children's toys to 15 Queens CBOs and shelters for distribution amongst families throughout the borough.
- On Thursday, April 29, Borough President Lee and her staff, along with The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey helped facilitate the distribution of the donations. For more information, visit [www.queensbp.org/ikea](http://www.queensbp.org/ikea).

### **DISTRIBUTING PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT ACROSS QUEENS**

- Borough President Lee — in close partnership with Queens elected officials, community-based organizations and labor unions — has helped secure and facilitate the swift distribution of tens of thousands of pieces of personal protective equipment (PPE) since early April 2020 to frontline and essential workers, as well as vulnerable and disproportionately-hit populations throughout Queens, the epicenter of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The distribution has been made possible in large part due to generous donations of PPEs by the Greater New York Automobile Dealers Association (50,000 non-medical disposable masks) and The Coca-Cola Company and Liberty Coca-Cola Beverages (5,225 face shields). Queens is grateful for their swift, generous acts of care in these unprecedented times. For more information, visit [www.queensbp.org/ppe](http://www.queensbp.org/ppe).

### **GET OUT THE COUNT + GET OUT THE VOTE**

- When we are not counted, either at the ballot box or on the Census, we are all rendered invisible. Queens cannot let COVID-19 silence our voices and threaten our borough's ability to receive its fair share.
- As the 2020 Census continues, we strongly encourage everyone to go to [www.my2020census.gov](http://www.my2020census.gov) today to get counted. In just minutes, you can do your part to ensure Queens gets its fair share of federal representation and funding for our schools, roads, bridges, health services and more
- No one should have to choose between exercising their constitutional right to vote and their health and of their families. That's why we're encouraging everyone to apply for an absentee ballot ahead of the June elections. To do so, visit [www.nycabsentee.com](http://www.nycabsentee.com).

## **COMMUNITY BOARD APPOINTMENTS TO BE MADE BY THE END OF MAY**

- Following a robust and extended application period, Borough President Lee will issue the 2020 appointments to the borough's 14 Community Boards by the end of May, ahead of the May 31 commencement of the terms for 2020 community board appointees.
- As of the March 13 deadline, the Queens Borough President's Office had received 501 applications, including 246 from those who had previously never served on a Queens community board and 255 from those with prior experience and/or who were re-applying at the conclusion of their 2020 term.

Ernie Brooks, Representative, Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney Mr. Brooks stated- The Governors criteria and Mayors criteria must be met. The Congresswoman thanks the Board for the invitation and wishes everyone well. The Congresswoman went to Washington to vote on new heroes three trillion-dollar heroes act, an important piece of legislation. It's past the house and of course, it's now going to have a tough time, but we can go through the Senate and then gets side provides an estimated \$34 billion-dollar and federal funding to New York state additional seventeen billion from New York City. We'll tighten up oversight. On the paycheck protection program make sure it doesn't happen. Won't happen before with a large corporation taking the lion's share of the tax fail dollars that were intended for small businesses. We'll create a \$100 billion-dollar rental assistance program with people affected by the crisis and provide an additional eight billion to existing and USDA system housing extend the eviction moratorium for renters up to year, get rental property owners mortgage, forbearance. The same time provide additional economic impact payments. It opens the main street lending programs and nonprofits and public universities provides for forgiveness of loans to nonprofits that primarily serve low income communities for consumers, not for profits and small businesses. 120 days after the COVID-19 crisis, during the crisis negative consumer credit reporting will be banded and all COVID-19 related medical deck reporting will be permanently. The homeowners for closure. Moratorium will be extended six months after the crisis ends. And all homeowners will be able to request mortgage forbearance up to here. Carolyn also successfully faults and fought to include \$25 million for the US Postal service, which would otherwise go bankrupt. You may know about to create a victim's compensation fund for the families of frontline central workers who pass away as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. This is especially important as many Americans getting ready to vote by mail, the upcoming elections. And she's also been working on a bill. This would include medical staff also postal workers, transit workers, firefighters, grocery store clerks. She also introduced the legislation to forgive student debt, medical personnel working to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

Daniel Bonthius, Office of Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez-Daniel stated- Thank you CB1 for your continued work and sacrifice during this crisis. It is community members like you who are doing the most important work at this time, with the direct assistance like that being performed by Astoria Mutual Aid, as well as the very important work of keeping the community updated being done by the Board. I just got back from DC this weekend, where we voted on and passed the HEROES Act: a relief package that provides nearly \$1 trillion in relief for state and local governments; a second round of direct payments of \$1,200 per person, and up to \$6,000 for a household; about \$200 billion for hazard pay for essential workers who face heightened health risks during the crisis; \$75 billion for coronavirus testing and contact tracing — a key effort to restart businesses; an extension of the \$600 per week federal unemployment insurance benefit through January (the provision approved in March is set to expire after July); \$175 billion in rent, mortgage and utility assistance; additional relief for small businesses and needed PPP program fixes, USPS stabilization funding and more. Daniel shared links in the chat where you can learn more about the bill and see a section-by-section breakdown. I also want to invite you all to our monthly virtual town hall which will take place this Thursday, 5/21 at 6:05pm on Zoom. The flyer has been shared with Florence. I will be discussing the HEROES Act, and we will be joined by the Assistant Commissioner at the Mayor's Office to End Domestic & Gender-Based Violence and the NYC COVID19 Food Czar. We hope to have you with us as well. Finally, I wanted to reiterate the importance of getting our community counted in the Census. Although the timeline has been extended, COVID-19 will be an additional obstacle to making sure that we receive the federal resources that our community should have by achieving a complete count. Astoria is currently self-reporting at 50%, about 9 points behind the national average. Let's please ensure we self-respond at [my2020census.gov](https://my2020census.gov) or by calling 844-330-2020. Thank you for the work CB1 has already done for the Census, and please keep up the great work. Please stay safe and healthy! Our office is always here to help, and you can reach us at 718-662-5970, or [ocasio-cortez.house.gov](https://ocasio-cortez.house.gov).

Nick Roloson, Chief of Staff, Office of Councilman Costa Constantinides- Nick Roloson greeted the Board and updated the Board on several local items.

- KEY FOOD: We're obviously very worried about Key Food on 31st potentially closing
  - Our understanding is Key Food's lease expires in October and they haven't been able to reach an agreement with the landlord
  - Key Food's employees have put in a lot of overtime to make sure we're fed. So, it's troubling they might be put out of the job
  - They'd have to begin laying people off and stop ordering inventory a lot sooner, which means northern Astoria could be without a grocery store as a second wave of this virus could potentially hit
  - We're working with our fellow elected officials representing Astoria to see what next steps we can take to save Key Food
  - At some point we'd like to organize a virtual rally to tell the landlord that Key Food should stay. Our office will notify the community
- RIKERS: As you all know, ULURPs have been suspended during this crisis
  - Which means the "public place" mapping for Rikers Island is also on hold
  - This remapping will guarantee Rikers isn't used for detention after 2026. It's essentially the only thing that by law makes sure the closure happens
  - The Council Member wrote a letter to the City Planning Commission last week, asking to resume this ULURP — and this one alone — virtually, to keep everyone safe
  - We need this to continue closing Rikers, and potentially using the land to allow our power plants to close
- We also have masks for nonprofit organizations dealing with the public, if you have an organization that deals with the public and you are in need of face masks please let us know and we will try to get you some.
- Call us if you need anything at 718-274-4500

Irene Stathatos- Senator Michael Gianaris Office and Representative Ms. Stathatos stated-Thank you all so much. I've been working close with Florence and she's been a help for some of my constituent cases and everything I ask. I want to thank Florence again for working tightly with me. Also, unemployment constituents we've had to assist. I think if I'm correct, today, I had a staff meeting regarding over four hundred cases, and we've been on top of the unemployment division, and we've somehow succeeded and we're working close with them. If anybody has any issues, we do have masks and sanitizers and any groups that are interested, please let us know. Thanks to Sam. I think he's been working, if I'm correct, distributing food to certain homes. Thank you all again, and we're all available in our office just give us a call and we're here to help. We are aware It's been crazy on 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue, especially with the bars so I don't know what's going to happen at this time.

Jessica Schabowski-Community Affairs Unit, Office of the Mayor- Hello to everyone, I want to wish a Ramadan bark to all who are observing she stated. Just wanted to make sure everyone's aware that New York City beaches will not be open. If you wanted to take a walk on the beach. That's okay. But there will be no swimming permitted. There will be no lifeguards. No parties. No barbeques. No sports. It's okay to walk on the beach, but that's it. Just announced a couple of days ago that CityMD has partnered with the City of NY to expand COVID-19 testing. So, there are 123 CityMD's in the City, and this testing will be free of charge for uninsured New Yorkers. The alternate side of the street parking has resumed this week. It will be suspended again from the twenty fifth until the seventh of June. We've been working on distributing masks to elected officials, Community based organizations, and via Parks Department distribution. Our social distancing ambassadors are going to continue to distribute masks as they go out into parks and local community spaces to enforce social distancing. We're calling on all New Yorkers to donate blood as our blood supply is nearly depleted. Since it has been nearly depleted, we're looking at about a two-day supply now, so those efforts will be ramped up and we ask anybody who can to please donate. This is considered an essential action. So, it's okay to leave home for it. And lastly, as we've been thinking about summer and what does it mean to practice social distancing in the summer, all public events have been canceled through the end of June. We've been expanding our open streets program. Jessica then said thank you.

Zacharia Boyer, Representative- Jumaane Williams, Public Advocates Office- Thank you to all the staff at Mount Sinai for all the work that you are doing, and that you have done for the borough and for the city. So, I want to say



our office is open. We are working, please feel free to shoot us an email. This is, for our constituent services. If anybody needs help, please feel free to reach out to us there. And two quick actions the Public Advocate has taken at the city council hearing yesterday of the committees on finance and general welfare, Public Advocate Williams, a call for expanded aid to New Yorkers that are experiencing homelessness, COVID-19 pandemic, making available, additional housing, necessary isolation as well as providing sufficient resources for the city's homeless shelters. Secondly, the Public Advocate has called for a reduction in the budget, in order to fund a strong and equitable recovery from COVID-19, particularly for communities of color, while the proposed executive budget cuts about \$1.3 billion from the Department of Youth and Community Development, Social Services, and the Administration for Children Services in a nearly five point. Six for a billion-dollar budget has been mostly left intact. The Public Advocate has been having public conversations about how to allocate and reallocate funds as we go forward and our recovery for COVID-19, that is all. Thank you all so much for having me here Zacharia stated.

Dominic Stiller- I am still working, and I am bicycling all over the city and I ask that that the Mayor and the agency look at 59<sup>th</sup> Street Queensborough Bridge North lane. It's just so populated the majority of you don't know this, you're not there, but people are going to die on this thing. So can action, please be considered. To control the, the bike traffic, the, suggestion is to do something with the outside, but this is really a dire emergency it's just too congested on the bridge. Thank you.

Chair Torniali proceeded with roll call.

### **Chair Report**

Chair Torniali spoke to the importance of social distancing and wearing a mask. The Chair stated even when wearing a mask, social distancing occurred in Astoria Park.

### **District Manager Report**

District Manager provided updates related to the Food Czar's Plans for food distribution via taxis and door dash during the pandemic. Also noted was food distribution in the NYC Schools free of charge, no questions asked.

The Chair asked for adoption of the minutes.

Motioned by Jean Marie D'Allewa; Seconded by Amy Hau

### **Committee Reports**

Chair Torniali introduced Consumer Affairs Committee Report

Eric Mouchette stated good evening and proceeded with the report. He asked the Board Members if they could please review the Consumer Affairs spreadsheet, that was emailed to all. Eric Mouchette stated-We're voting on applications dating back to March as a result of significant limitations caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. And I'd like to thank Florence and staff going into the office, for going through the paperwork, and putting these spreadsheets together, despite the pandemic. The entities with which we agreed on the stipulations are actually March and please note that there are two Unenclosed cafes, renewal applications. One is for the Grand Café and the other for Martha's Country Bakery. There is also one enclosed cafe, renewal application for Boyle Martin. With respect to one of the applications, specifically Oven Chill Grill and shows application for duration. The Committee met back in January regarding this business, and is recommending the due now, the application comes, after the committee sent a letter out to the, for the now back and now they have been several issues with this establishment, including thirty nine (39), 311 noise complaints made. eighty (80) 911 calls on various issues, including one, assault and disorderly groups also unlicensed security guards, failing to display their liquor license and Phase II conformance into state liquor authority application. Now, as to the remaining applications, the 114<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct reviewed them and have no issues with their approval. I would like to bring to your attention to one of those applications specifically, the application of an Astoria, restaurant and lounge, this location used to be known as Home, but the new owner/applicant has nothing to do with the old owner or premises. The new applicant has sent a letter of recommendation from the Forest Hills Community Board and the Chamber of Commerce where he has another business in good community standing. The Police Precinct has investigated this, and they are in good

standing. Also, they signed the stipulations. Eric stated he was asking for a motion and the first is going to be with respect to the Committee's recommendation, the denial of Oven Chill Grill application accordingly. I move for the denial of application with anyone. Ed Babor Motioned; Seconded by Jean Marie D'Alleva; passed unanimously. Chair Torniali confirms unanimous. Are there any questions now with respect to the remaining applications listed on the spreadsheet due to the fact that there were no significant issues and in light of the limitations caused by Coronavirus Eric Mouchette asked? I'm going to bring these to a vote directly to the Full Board. Richard Khuzami said I have one question. The only question I have is, and I'm not sure the current status of this. I know that the new hookah licenses were at one point, supposed to be unavailable for new establishments they're going to try and eventually get rid of by, by attrition. The District manager stated" I believe if the previous business had a hookah license and the new business applying for the same location in a timely fashion, they may carry a hookah license/permit. Eric Mouchette said with respect to the remaining applications listed, excluding of Oven Chill Grill with the stipulations included, I'm going to move for their approval. Does anyone second? Jean Marie D'Alleva Motioned. Eric Mouchette asked if anyone opposes. Chair Torniali states none, see passes unopposed.

The Chair called for the Land Use and Zoning Committee Report-

Co-Chair Elizabeth Erion proceeded- As reported that ULURPs suspended and they will have been accumulating as there have been some filings with Board of Standards and Appeals. And we do have some people who are interested in informational presentations. So, we're in the process of setting up a Land Use and Zoning Committee meeting for June that will be on the website.

Chair Torniali thanked Co-Chair Elizabeth Erion.

Parks Committee Chair Kathleen Warnock stated the condition of theater in the City is still on Pause. The Secret Theater has announced they are closing in LIC has been lost and Astoria Performing Arts Center has cancelled their spring musical Man of La Mancha. However, they put together a series, of brand-new musicals, which appear this Friday online. Katie Ellman Parks Co-Chair Stated people must still maintain social distancing in the Parks at this time. Dominic Stiller asked to speak- He stated to Katie Ellman, there's a playground on 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 28<sup>th</sup> Street and it's not a playground. It's an open field and there's just no of the green space in the area. He asked if the 114<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct or the powers that be could consider letting this field be used. It's not a playground. Dutch Kills playground is not there, PS 112 Q school yard. The Chair states social distancing and being diligent is the priority right now. Helen Ho asks why there are no new open streets in this area of Astoria Community Board 1? She asked if anyone knew why because the streets get really congested there. Chair Torniali stated my personal opinion is because if you say yes to do it, you have to manage it, you have to open the street, close it and have some kind of security there and additionally, clean it. This is what I understand, this is why Steinway BID thought about doing it. But we can't do it because we're a bus route and that's out of the question where there is a bus route. Plus, then you need a group of people who will take on managing it essence and I think that is the issue. Hellen Ho stated away from the waterfront there was not enough green space. The District Manager stated she and Marie were meeting with DOT and they could bring this back to DOT. Further discussion ensued and a model in Community Board 2 was referred to by Dominic Stiller for reference. Richard Khuzami spoke about the issues with the local restaurants and seating. Richard stated a European Model could be followed where tables and chairs are put out on the streets. He noted it has been done in different parts of the country. He stated Ditmars, 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue & Broadway may be great candidates for these closures. Chair Torniali stated the bus routes were an issue, these streets will not meet criteria. Chair Torniali asked Jessica Schabowski of the Mayor's Office to speak regarding the guidelines. Ms. Schabowski stated when we get proposals from organizations or community leaders or elected officials, we make sure that there are no bus lines there because we don't want to redirect those routes as first responders are still using transportation. We are aiming to have 40 miles of open streets in the first month of this program. I think we just crossed 20something miles with last announcements. These announcements will still be coming out and we're looking to equitably distribute this program throughout the city. Nancy Silverman asks how does the process work do you contact 311 or contact you so it does not get stopped while we are making the request? Jessica stated- You can use the link to the survey, where you can submit those requests, and if you have organizations that are happy to work with us include that information there as well. Chair Torniali asked do you have to have an existing organization to do this? Jessica stated- So far, they've been partnering with the local precinct, so it is not necessary. You would confirm. The Chair stated if any Board Members would like an open street in an area, they could go through the Board office and it could be filtered through to get an open street.

Dino asked through the chair to ask a question related to the Dutch Kills area of the district. Dino stated he has some concerns regarding at least 30 homeless people congregating outside a hotel with no masks and no social distancing. Dino questioned who authorized the use of the hotel? The Chair stated Homeless Services is not required to ask to place a shelter. We do not learn about it until it has happened. People need a place to stay right now. Helen Ho stated there is a mandate giving people right to shelter. Evie Hantzopoulos stated we should not assume they are homeless. Dino stated there are no Homeless Service personnel, police services and they are definitely from the hotel. The concern is the complaints brought to the Civic and the Community Board. The Civic has received five separate emails for constituents that are cause for concern, so he said he was bringing it to the Community Board. He said he wanted to know what could be done due to the current pause right now. Chair Torniali stated the 114<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct will be notified of the issues of congregation on Ditmars and at this location for social Distancing. Nancy Silverman states- I believe City has social distancing ambassadors, and I think this is more appropriate for social visiting the various ambassadors who come from social service agencies, rather than more police presence that we know enforce in biased and prejudice ways. It should be the ambassadors, the social distancing ambassadors, whether they're on Ditmars or Broadway area, or the area Dino's reporting, where there's a homeless shelter. I don't think we need to we need to have police enforcement. Chair Torniali said- Correct me when I'm wrong again Jessica, social distancing ambassador I understand for the most part go to parks and yes, schools, because they are the traffic agents. Jessica Schabowski responded- Is that because our team, including Parks Department, the Sheriff's Office and NYPD where appropriate we have sent the team out. In this case. I have been in contact with Queensbridge Houses. This afternoon we spoke with the 114<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct and coordinating with DHS. So, this, has already reached our radar, and we are working on this, right now. The Chair thanked Jessica.

Deborah Tharrington, Representative for Councilman Van Bramer requested to mention 34-09 Queens Blvd. and that it is open for testing and 51-03 Northern Blvd. to open Monday, Memorial Day for testing of Covid19/Corona Virus. Borden Avenue Shelter was moved into CB1, Queens due to social distancing requirements due to it was a congregant shelter. The Councilman's staff has received complaints and they will be meeting with the Councilman regarding this issue also stated. Several shelters have popped up in the area.

Chair Torniali asked if there were any questions emailed in by the public. Florence stated no emails.

Evie Hantzopoulos requests the Chair to proceed with her Housing Committee report. The Chair confirms. Evie Hantzopoulos states- the Housing Committee met last night. We had a presentation from Joanne Darcy from Central Astoria LDC, she was great. Evie stated she just wanted to remind everyone that the moratorium on evictions has extended through August 20<sup>th</sup>, so individuals cannot be evicted. There's also no housing court for evictions, even evictions that were in proceedings that had started before March 16<sup>th</sup>. So now, housing court for evictions and the moratorium has been extended for the City. Marshals are also not working. So, if someone shows up, you're at your door with eviction papers, they are not true City Marshals, be aware of that information. If anyone requires emergency repair cases are still being heard. These were items of importance. You can find more information on the Central Astoria website.

Hannah Lupien asked a question related to the Housing Committee report. Hannah I was under the impression that the extension on the moratorium on eviction is only for failure to pay rent and not for any other causes for eviction. Is that untrue? Evie said- You cannot be evicted for anything including non-payment of rent. Joanne suggested that if you are not able to pay rent that you document any expenses that you may have, that would show how you have been spending your money on for example food. So many people have lost their jobs times are tight. So, just to kind of have that as information, but you cannot be evicted for any reason. Evie stated Thank you.

The Chair asked- Are there any members of the public here who would like to make a comment? Seeing none, Motioned to Adjourn.

Motioned by Jean Marie D'Allewa; Seconded by Jeff Martin

Chair Torniali said, everybody please stay safe. Next scheduled meeting date June 16, 2020.

COMMUNITY BOARD 1, Queens

DATE 5/19/20

Full Board Meeting

Community Board Member	<i>Present Absent Excused</i>			Community Board Member	<i>Present Absent Excused</i>		
	Yes	No	Abs.		Yes	No	Abs.
Rose Anne Alafogiannis		✓		Jerry Kril	✓		
George Alexiou		✓		Joel Lock	Moved		
Daniel Aliberti	✓			Hannah Lupien	✓		
Loren Amor		✓		Jeffrey Martin	✓		
Avninder Aujla	✓			Antonio Meloni		✓	
Edward Babor	✓			Prabir Mitra	Passed Away/Deceased		
Jose Batista	Resigned			Eric Mouchette	✓		
Ann Bruno		✓		Stella Nicolaou	✓		
Edwin Cadiz	Resigned			Norma Nieves-Blas		✓	
Gerald Caliendo	✓			Mary O'Hara		✓	
Jean Marie D'Alleva	✓			Dino Panagoulas	✓		
Antonella Di Saverio	✓			Robert Piazza		✓	
Katerina Duarte	Resigned			RoseMarie Poveromo	✓		
Katie Ellman	✓			Yawne Robinson		✓	
Elizabeth Erion	✓			Thomas Ryan	✓		
Mackenzi Farquer	✓			Rodolfo Sarchese	✓		
Dean Feratovic	✓			Nancy Silverman	✓		
Evie Hantzopoulos	✓			Dominic Stiller	✓		
Amy Hau	✓			Andre Stith	✓		
Helen Ho	✓			Marie Torniali	✓		
Pauline Jannelli	✓			Rod Townsend	✓		
Vanessa Jones-Hall		✓		Judy Trilivas	✓		
George Kalergios	✓			Kathleen Warnock	✓		
Richard Khuzami	✓			Mitchell Waxman	✓		
Nancy Konipol		✓					
<b>Number Board Members Present</b> <u>33</u>							
<b>Present</b> <u>33</u> <b>Absent</b> <u>11</u> <b>Excused</b> <u>0</u>							
May 19							