

## Community Board 1, Queens – Board Meeting Minutes

June 16, 2020

Meeting opens with Chairperson, Marie Torniali at 6:30 p.m. – Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Chair, Torniali introduced Ms. Denise Vista, Esq., Amato Law Group

### Presentation

#### Board of Standards and Appeals

**BSA Cal. No. 2020-22-BZ Goldfish Swim School PCE**  
**33-12 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Block 602, Lot 34**  
**CD1 Queens**

Ms. Denise Vista, Esq., Amato Law Group introduced herself and shared that Robert (Rob) Wineman from the Goldfish Swim School was present as well.

Ms. Vista stated she is the representative for the Goldfish Swim School Special Permit Application to the BSA seeking pursuant permit 7336 located 33-12 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Astoria, property is located on the SW Corner 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 34<sup>th</sup> Street it is zoned M1-1. Currently it is approved with a vacant 2 story building, was formerly utilized as a night club. The property owner has filed for work permits for exterior renovations as well as interior renovations for the swim school. The area surrounding the subject property is a mix-use. There is some light manufacturing, commercial retail, multifamily dwellings and some educational uses. The swim school will be located within the building and will consist of an approximately 1,781 square foot swimming pool. There will be a drying area, rinsing area and spectator area (floor plan shown on the screen). They specialize in swim instruction for infants, toddlers and children from 4-months to 12-years old. The most popular age groups are 4 to 6-years old. The class ratio will be 4 students to 1 instructor. Semiprivate and private are available. There are always 3 lifeguards on duty when children are in the pool. The Floor plan is on the second slide – layout - south of the pool is the viewing area for parents and spectators the rinse area, drying area and changing huts for the children to change. The photos will give you a better idea of what the swim school will look like. The photos shown were taken at an existing swim school in Farmingdale, Long Island. Ms. Vista reiterated that there will be 4 students to 1 instructor. There are always lifeguards on duty, which is very important. Referring to the photos she said there is a 2<sup>nd</sup> one in Garden City, Long Island; there are 2 approved schools in the City one in the Gowanus section in Brooklyn and the other is in Union Turnpike, Glen Oaks which received approval from BSA in 2019. She said she is available for questions.

Chair Torniali said she would turn it over to Elizabeth Erion.

Elizabeth Erion stated she had no questions but would let you know what the Committee had discussed.

Chair Torniali asked if any Board Members had questions.

Daniel Aliberti asked, in the hours not used for children will it be available to adults. Also, will there be accessibility for wheelchairs for children and adults?

Robert (Rob) Wineman, Goldfish Swim school responded, No, to the first question. He said they are purpose-built specifically engaged for children in learning how to swim. The pool is 4 feet at its deepest point, the pool is kept at 88 degrees and the Ambien air at 90 degrees. Trying to provide a nice environment for young children and in teaching them this life skill. Answer to 2<sup>nd</sup> question, yes, code requires that they do have an ADA lift for anyone in need of such equipment.

Antonella Di Saverio asked if the water is ozone chlorinated, saltwater and what is the composition and how is it getting discharged? Is there venting available?

Robert Wineman responded that it is a typical chlorinated pool. They believe that it is the safest and most sanitary they do utilize a self-chlorinated system. The ventilation, the pool area itself is governed by a dehumidification unit which it allows it to discharge with the open air.

Dominic Stiller said Dan's question had 2 parts, he did not hear the answer to the handicap accessibility. Robert Wineman responded yes; it is pursuant to code it requires that they must have an ADA lift which will allow anyone who needs it to have access to the pool.

Dominic Stiller commented, so the entrance is code compliant as for new use, right.

Robert Wineman responded yes, the envelope of the building is being renovated by the landlord and as a part of it they will be providing an ADA accessible handicap ramp along 34<sup>th</sup> Street which is the main entrance to the swim school.

Dominic Stiller questioned if there are also ADA bathrooms and all the ADA requirements as if it is a new use.

Robert Wineman responded, yes, that is correct because it is a new build.

Marie Torniali, Chair asked Elizabeth Erion, Co-Chair of the Land Use & Zoning Committee if she would make the recommendation during the Land Use Committee Report.

Elizabeth Erion responded, yes.

Chair, Marie Torniali introduced District Attorney, Melinda Katz.

### **Guest Speaker**

District Attorney, Melinda Katz greeted everyone. She thanked the leadership for the work that they do, to the Chair, Marie Torniali and District Manager, Florence Koulouris for their guidance. She said it is amazing to her that there is COVID-19, there are all the responsibilities of taking care of our relatives, the responsibilities of having children at home while doing our jobs, taking care of our parents and ourselves and home schooling. She complimented all of Community Board 1 for their continued work via Zoom, voting and still working for the people of Queens County. It is remarkable and thanks you for your true dedication. I am now District Attorney for 5 ½ months. Since then they have changed the bail laws twice, the discovery laws were changed twice, we have gone through a pandemic and still going through it, we have a national crisis when it comes to equality across the country which I have joined in full force. We are here today trying to reopen the District Attorney's Office and moving on. It has been quite an amazing time for them. She welcomed all to follow her DA accounts on Facebook and Twitter. You will see her speaking out on George Floyd and on the police officers from Minneapolis. She said she has been very outspoken about it, looks forward to people viewing it and following the page so you can keep up to date. They have 700 employees at the DA's office, they have 320 lawyers, the rest are support in various capacities, mostly paralegals and CPA's. They have formed many bureaus for the protection for the people of Queens County. They have formed the Conviction Integrity Unit. They already have over 40 cases that they are reviewing to see if they have innocent people in jail and reviewing the cases with a fresh eye. She hired an attorney from the Innocence Project to make sure the bureau is run properly. We have started a Cold Case Bureau. As you find people were innocent, they are now cold cases and sometimes that works together, sometimes it does not. You will see every week or so on her Twitter account. It will ask if you or anyone following it whether you know anything about the cold case that they are investigating. It is quite interesting some are from 80's and 90's. They also formed the Housing and Worker Protection Bureau it is specifically to protect workers those in workforce documented or undocumented who feel they need protection to report any wrongdoing. We are looking to that bureau growing. It also goes down to the worksites if there is any death on a worksite, they will send an ADA and an investigator that has experience, so they are not totally relying on the site inspector for the information. They also formed a Bureau of Hate Crime; they have their own Bureau Chief. They go after criminals who prey upon us for who we are, who we love. It is done on site; they are very aggressive. They are doing everything virtually right now. The only thing done on site every day are arraignments because of people's rights. If anything goes wrong someone has rights to an arraignment within 24 hours are never violated. She said she would like to point out that Domestic Violence they believe is under reported to a very large extent because police are not stopping by the homes because of the pandemic. Please check on your loved ones and people who are alone during these difficult times. She said she is privileged to have her 2 children with her every day. She said although she is now in another office (The District Attorney's Office), they are still here for the Community and working with the Community in different ways. She started to form the Pretrial Diversion Programs they got a little waylaid during the pandemic. We are working on making it so that you do not have to plead guilty for drug rehab, mental health illness or if you're a veteran, veterans court don't have to plead guilty to get there. So, all these things are happening at the same time. DA Katz thanked everyone for the work they have been doing. Encourages everyone to vote, she does not care who you vote for, just go out to vote. They are worried about the turn out this year, there has been different ways to vote for first time, early voting and absentee voting. I am sure you have heard from every single elected official to please fill out the Census, it is urgent that you do that, it is so important for us to get the funds you need for education. Again, thank you for all the work you are doing. The DA's office is there for you, please follow us at: Queens DA Katz, on Facebook and Twitter. Please keep in touch if you need them. She is happy to answer any questions if you have any.

Mitchell Waxman started by congratulating her and told her he has not seen her since she moved into her new office and wanted to congratulate her on her victory. He stated that the Jury Duty experience held in Queens is the most miserable that can happen to you. His own experience standing in front of Borough Hall in the rain for more than an hour, at 7 a.m. He asked for them to pay some mind to when it starts again. He asked during COVID-19 to keep social distancing and create a smoother system than the one we currently have.

District Attorney, Melinda Katz thanked him and said they will talk to the County Clerk. She added that they are anxious for Jury Duty to start again. She also said some people are having preliminary hearings instead of grand jury.

Evie Hantzopoulos stated that a few months ago, it was reported that the 114<sup>th</sup> Precinct had the highest Stop and Frisk rates in Queens. She said she is wondering whether if there were any conversations with them about that since it is illegal.

District Attorney, Melinda Katz stated that they have not had reports about Stop and Frisk violations but about social distancing during COVID-19. She said she refuses to process during COVID-19 for distancing. She said then we had a curfew – do not use it for Stop and Frisk and will not prosecute. She stated that protesting is a constitutional right. She added that we don't have to give permission to protest. She said that she will be happy to talk to 114<sup>th</sup> if there are any reports that they should know about. She stated that they handled it all normally. Stop and Frisk is not to be used as an excuse for something else.

Evie Hantzopoulos thanked her but said she is talking about a pre COVID-19 report about the 114<sup>th</sup>.

The DA asked if she knew when that was.

Evie Hantzopoulos said she will look into it; possible February is when it came out.

The DA said she would look back and see if it still happening. She suggested that everyone should keep a watchful eye on what is going on right now too.

Kathleen Warnock said she heard the DA had contracted the COVID-19 virus and wishing her well on a full recovery.

The DA thanked her and said she and her kids are well.

Kathleen Warnock asked what kind of sanitation and precautions are being used when people are arrested? What social distancing is used? The Process, as we know COVID-19 is very dangerous and spreads easily, especially when held in close confinement.

DA Katz said they saw this coming very early. They noticed when Grand Jurors were not showing up. They saw it a lot earlier than others. They started taking steps in case we had to go virtual to keep everyone safe including defendants. We got virtual including for everyone, the ADAs, the defense counsel, the defendant and the Judge were all virtual. If they had symptoms of COVID-19 they were processed through Red Hook or Manhattan. If they had symptoms of COVID-19, if not, then they were transferred to Rikers with social distancing. After COVID-19 started they let out about 200 people. They did about 30 on their own with the defense counsel. They decided if someone was doing a city sentence at Rikers and if they were nonviolent crimes or sexual abuse crimes, they did time served so, they could social distance better. Then there were about 120 or so that were parole violators. If they were not offenses that they would prosecute for or put bail on they had no objection to letting them out. With all of that happening they did the best to social distance. The Office of Court Administration did their best as well. We are lucky we saw it coming so were able to set it up.

Rodolfo Sarchese stated that everyone appreciates all that she does. He said that everything is about the law. He thinks she has a handful dealing with everything that is going on. Mr. Sarchese asked about the safety of the people and crime. What do you think about that? He also asked about all the changes in the Police Department and what does she think will happen now?

DA Katz asked Rudy if he was asking about a big job in the courts? She said it is a big job for this country. There is a reason why there is a such anger in the streets of the United States. She also said with George Floyd it brought out a lot of the past inequities in the system. I was very clear about it when I rallied a few times too. She stated to put money where our mouths are by not prosecuting for a lot of things for example on lower level crimes. There are differences, they are good at the end of the day. Equity in the system does not mean it less safe, equity means it is safer. To make sure we are utilizing resources, we have to get younger people out of the system, and we are training police officers to approach people in a better manner. To make sure across the country the system has not been very fair, there are a lot of inequities across the board. The one thing about all the protests happening, you will see a lot of good changes in the system but still making sure we are still prosecuting. There are a lot of shootings happening in Queens County and especially in Queens South, the numbers are up. We need to make sure that we keep our streets safe. I argue to get people out of the system and trying to do pretrial diversions, teaching alternatives to violence and drug rehabilitation. All of that will help to keep people safer than ever before.

Daniel Aliberti asked about the Hate Crimes Bureau, do you know if they deal with issues with hate crimes perpetrated against people with disabilities? If they do, how do you outreach to organizations for people with disabilities and let them know.

DA Katz stated that they should do that more. Whether or not it is a hate crime, they attack you for your disability? At end of day it may not be hate crime or it is, we should be prosecuting for those targeting, those that are disabled. DA Katz told Mr. Aliberti that she would love to work with him. Reaching out to different organizations. I think it is a great idea.

Daniel Aliberti asked her if he may contact her.

DA Katz said he can reach her at: [Katz@queensda.org](mailto:Katz@queensda.org)

Richard Khuzami asked what the D.A.'s position on the quality of life issues with outdoor dining and alcohol being served outdoors and her take on the demonstrations in Queens that were pretty much violence free. What do you attribute that to?

DA Katz said she does not know what it is attributed to. She shared that between herself, the Borough President and the police as well as the groups, they have been in contact a lot whether that helps or not. We were able to call someone to say, what is going on out there and how can we help? Commodity helps at the end of the day. It was much safer here although thousands of Queens County people were active protestors. We did not have the looting or arrests. Maybe because I refused to prosecute, its calmed things down a bit, it says a lot for our communities. I have not gotten any cases on outdoor dining and drinking, no cases on that. I can't see where that would be a priority to prosecute for outdoor dining and drinking. They should not disrupt the communities. It is a balancing act and will look at each case if any.

Richard Khuzami thanked her.

Chair Marie Torniali stated she had a question from the public which she read aloud: Does the DA have any plans in targeting for placard ADA abuse by 114<sup>th</sup> and 108<sup>th</sup> precincts?

DA Katz responded that it does not fall under her purview and more than happy to look into it. She thinks it is most likely the Department of Buildings.

The Chair, Marie Torniali said it is the placard abuse by the 108<sup>th</sup> and 114<sup>th</sup> precincts.

DA Katz said they are only allowed to use it in certain locations, and they will try to help in following the rules. Individual issues, please email them, happy to help as long as they can and work together.

Marie Torniali, Chair thanked her for her time and announced for the public to please email the DA directly.

DA Katz announced they will have a representative from the DA's office every month at the CB1 Full Board Meeting for any constituent issues, anything they can be helpful with or information on cases within the purview they can.

DA Melinda Katz repeated her email address: [Katz@queensda.org](mailto:Katz@queensda.org)

Chair Torniali introduced Ms. Eileen Botti, Project Manager for the Bicycle Unit at the Department of Transportation making a presentation for the Crescent Street Protected Bike Lanes.

## Presentation

### NYC Department of Transportation

#### **Crescent Street Protected Bike Lanes**

Ms. Eileen Botti introduced herself and said she is happy to be here tonight to make their proposal (**PowerPoint presentation**) for the Crescent Street Protected Bike Lanes. She announced that Deputy Director of the Bike Program, Shawn Macias and representatives from the Queens Borough Commissioners Office were present as well.

Ms. Botti reported that over last few years they have seen a growing interest in cycling in Astoria and improving bike access throughout the area in Summer of 2017 with the introduction Citi Bike. A lot of new people riding in first full summer 2018 tremendous amount of ridership. Growing interests in connecting cyclists connecting to the various bridges, particularly the RFK Bridge and Queensboro Bridge last summer DOT released a plan called the Green Wave, a plan for cycling in New York City. Referred to a map in the presentation. Calls for a protective bike lane that runs N/S in Astoria. Overall, this plan calls for building out a connected network throughout all 5 boroughs to link neighborhoods together. They are here to make a commitment to bring a protected bike lane to Astoria. Looking at protective bike lanes they have gathered data that shows overall there is significant injury reduction across all user groups; people driving, walking and biking. Data shows there is a 15% drop in crashes, in injuries for all the user groups and when they look at the pedestrian crash data the drop is even larger. The photo in presentation shows that why it is the case, protective bike lanes help to calm traffic, shorten the crossing distance for pedestrians and calm the turning vehicles. The map shows the existing bicycle network in Astoria. The blue lines are the standard/conventional lanes; pink lines are the shared lanes and the dark green lines are the protected bike lanes. Explained where the lanes run through. West side of the neighborhood through Astoria Park, the northern part at 20th Avenue and down Hoyt Avenue North. Some destinations are tough to get to, they would like to put a protective lane through the middle of the neighborhood. To start thinking holistically how to do this, they started a workshop process in February of this year. They hosted feedback about the routes, designs and various destinations that people want to connect to. Prior to the workshop they conducted a pre-meeting with Community Board leadership and with representatives from elected officials. The workshop included different exercises with maps for participants to jot down ideas. Talked about what was possible to bring to Astoria. It was heavily attended by more than 120 people in February, the vast majority were residents of the district. Some of the themes from people were overwhelming supporting for a bike lane for a bridge-to-bridge connection, the RFK and Queensboro Bridge together specifically on Crescent Street. There was interest in more East/West routes more than North/South routes. There was a desire for design intersections to improve for better visibility between people driving, cyclists and pedestrians. The elected officials have expressed their support of a Crescent Street path, linking the bridges. Another theme was Mt. Sinai Hospital on Crescent Street a lot of questions of how it will work in front of their building. We will continue to meet and discuss how the design will function at their location.

Also, in addition to the broad overview, they talked about 2 different design concepts, for a N/S Protected Bike Lane. The first one, on Crescent Street (#1 on the map) linking 2 bridges together and the second concept, the second concept is on 31st Street under the N/W elevated tracks. She shared they are presenting the Crescent Street proposal to be discussed tonight. This is a simpler more standard design can implement on a quicker time frame. It is less resource intensive whereas, 31st Street involves significant concrete construction for things like bus boarding islands. Crescent Street has been in the public eye for a number of years and people have been talking about it for quite a while. We support the advocates as well as area elected officials. Ms. Botti referred to a map in the presentation that shows how a conventional bike route network and a protective lane along Crescent Street would fit together so at the workshop in addition to speaking about protective bike lanes they also shared plans for an expansion of the conventional and shared bike lane network. The thin purple lines that are dashed, demonstrate where those connections would be, they have the information available on-line on the workshop presentation. If you have any questions on any of those routes, they are the simple bike lanes that do not change the travel lanes or the parking lanes. They are very straight forward; it would complement a Crescent Street protective path. If you are riding North on Crescent Street cyclists can continue on to the RFK bridge bringing you to Randall's Island continuing onto the Bronx. If you are riding South on Crescent Street, it links you directly to the Queensboro Bridge which is the main access point into Manhattan for cyclists in this area. Recently DOT has been introducing temporary bicycle routes throughout different neighborhoods in the city to provide quick short-term transportation options at this time that is challenging for some people to travel by bus or subway when options are limited. They expect to see more people to ride, it allows for people to social distance. There is a tremendous amount of deliveries, so bike lanes help facilitate those as well. Currently, it is a work in

progress we started installing between Queens Plaza North to 34th Avenue. This it involves barrels and signs; it is very temporary; we are continuing to work on some adjustments that they can bring; more signs and temporary markings to clarify to drivers and cyclists how it is supposed to work. It is challenging because they have limited staff. They have people out there adjusting barrels and hang signs. The temporary design is somewhat similar to the standard design of what their permanent proposal is. Essentially, it involves either repurposing a parking lane or a travel lane into the 2-way bike lane, the barrel lane is in place between Queens Plaza North to 34th Avenue. The majority of the project is the green line on the map from 38th up to 34th Avenues. The parking moved from the curb in place of the second travel lane the bike lane is separated from the travel lane by what they call a floating parking lane. To get into the standard proposal following the temporary route Crescent Street is a commercial and residential corridor. Some of the challenges is the lack of a dedicated space for cyclists especially where they have not introduced it. It is not clear where people should be riding without markings. On blocks that are wider, there are 2 travel lanes and 2 parking lanes and all the extra space allows vehicles to pick up speed, creating unsafe conditions for cyclists and for all road users. On more narrow blocks, those locations there is limited width and it is quite uncomfortable for them to pass one another because of constrained space. The project route of Crescent Street is located in a Vision Zero priority corridor because there is a relatively higher rate of crashes involving pedestrians, 9 people killed or severely injured over a 5-year period. Charts show the different user groups, pedestrians, cyclist and people who travel in cars. All different types of users experiencing injuries along Crescent Street. This complete redesign has the potential to reduce crash rates they have the data to prove that. These designs being proposed have a trend of a 15% injury reduction. The majority of the project proposal includes a parking protected bike lane. The 2 photos show a bike lane running along the curb, specifically is a 2-way bike lane, one in each direction and separated from the moving vehicles by a pointed buffer rather than a barrier the row of parked cars that provides the separation. The design has a number of benefits. It can calm traffic by using a more standard travel land width for drivers it makes it more predictable a more user-friendly design for people of all ages and abilities it invites new cyclists and encourages people to get out for recreation and it is in a community route. They expect to see a lot more people to ride as their main transportation choice. Going through the different project segments, they will go block by block. They are broken down based on the existing conditions of the street and will start southern end and work towards the north. The first segment is 2 blocks between Queens Plaza North and 48th Avenue on Crescent Street. Currently, Queens Plaza North and 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue leading to the Queensboro bridge has 3 travel lanes, 2 lanes go straight onto the bridge and 1 lane that turns right onto Queens Plaza North. In developing this proposal, we have conducted a traffic analysis taking into account the traffic volumes turning movements and signals to ensure the design is compatible. At this location the right turns are very light, it is lightly used. The proposed condition repurposes 1 travel lane and it combines the other lanes into 2. People can still turn right, and it also cleans up the intersection. It is a very challenging location. The next block between 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue to 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue currently has 1 travel lane and parking along the west curb. To provide additional capacity and take away some of the pressure in case there are backups leading toward the bridge we are introducing a second lane in proposed condition along the west curb. With the 2 blocks combined in proposed condition it creates more consistency from block to block. Both blocks have 2 travel lanes as well as the bike lane this should also take some pressure off, like when drivers block the box.

The next section is between 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue and also at the northern end of project Newtown Avenue to Hoyt Avenue North. Currently there is 1 travel lane with a parking lane at each curb for the proposed condition repurposes the parking lane on the east curb to the 2-way bike path. Existing conditions are quite narrow for cyclists traveling in 2 directions. The proposed condition would mirror the image what you see on lower right. It uses a painted buffer and flexible delineators separating vehicles from the bike lane. The flexible delineators allow for emergency access for emergency vehicles. Next segment is the largest portion of this project between 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue where there are 2 travel lanes, parking on east and west curbs. The proposed design repurposes the 2<sup>nd</sup> travel lane along the east curb into what they call the floating parking lane, similar to the photo on lower right. There is still loading and parking available. Also, they have been introducing with the temporary bike lanes with the barrels. At key locations where they saw more traffic along the stretch, they are planning to introduce some right turn lanes leading up to the intersections and as well as some rush hour regulations on the west side.

The next section which is the last section is between 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Newtown Avenue, this is a short 3 block segment, it is only portion at Crescent Street that is a 2-way. They saw very few people traveling north as opposed to vehicles traveling south bound. Additionally, there are other streets directly to the east/west of Crescent Street that allow for north bound access. There are still options for circulation throughout the neighborhood. The proposed condition mirrors what we just shared, parking protected design of parking on west curb, floating parking on the east curb with single travel lane in the middle. It creates consistency throughout Crescent Street, and they basically repurposed the north bound lane into the floating parking lane. At Mount Sinai Hospital they have entrances on 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Crescent Street and loading in the rear. Since they have some unique loading needs, they proposed some special markings that would accommodate their needs. Throughout the city when they have installed protective bike lanes at unique locations such as hospitals, health centers, schools and hotels that have unique loading needs for passengers, they use special markings. Typically, the bike lane is green so, they propose they do not use green paint, we use a different color because green alerts cyclists something different is coming up. They paint a wider space than the buffer so they shrink the bike lane a bit and provide a wide area where people can exit their vehicles. As shown in the photos in the tan color paint and in the cross section. Other warning markings to include chevrons, crosswalks, yield markings and importantly painted rumble strips which they use them in a lot of locations. The rumble strips are a few layers of paint/stripes; drivers will feel several bumps and it alerts them that something is changing ahead, and they need to pay attention to. In their conversations with Mount Sinai they are working on some of the details like regulation and design updates. So that they meet their needs and make sure they can continue their operations. Ultimately, when redesigning the street to include the parking protective bike lane it allows for an opportunity to introduce pedestrian benefits as shown in orange on the map. At all the intersections able to install painted pedestrian islands which help shorten the crossing distances and also offset crossings which are shown in photo in lower left. Offset crossings are designs that include a longer painted pedestrian island and also markings and vertical elements that slow drivers when taking turns. They are able to have better visibility; they can see the person crossing with the stroller as well as the cyclist traveling through the intersection. It really cleans up the intersection but also allows for vehicles to cue as they wait. Down at Queens Plaza North and Crescent Street there is also an opportunity to realign the curbs and build other

curb extensions to help clean up. She stated that they shared a lot of cross sections. Wants to give an overview of how their proposal breaks down into 2 different design types for the bike lane. There is a parking protected bike lane shown in green on the map between Newtown Avenue all the way down to 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue. It mirrors photo in the upper left and the rest of the project on the northern and southern ends is the delineator protected lane, those are the narrower blocks. Shared few more details on how the design works. In places with existing driveways the driveway access is maintained with marked dashes. Which are shown in the diagram. Tells cyclists that there is a driveway coming up and also shows they have a lot of room to enter and exit their driveways. With all of their projects there is an opportunity to improve curb access and has potential for loading zones and other tools. Generally, as she mentioned they are adding some right turn lanes and some rush hour lanes there are different places where the street opens up a bit more than just the single travel lane. An example is at these driveways there is some extra flexibility where a vehicle can pull over to drop someone off without blocking the travel lane or encroaching the bike lane as well.

Ms. Botti said overall, their proposal seeks to connect the JFK and Queensboro Bridges, close different gaps in the bike lane network by better wayfinding throughout Astoria and the challenging street grid and better connect cyclists throughout the area. We hope to begin implementation of the protected lane and the conventional unshared lanes in 2020 and continue to explore other opportunities for additional protected bike lanes East/West as well.

Ms. Eileen Botti said she would like to open for questions.

The Chair, Marie Torniali asked if any Board Members had questions.

Daniel Aliberti asked if in inclement weather with snow, ice, and sleet will a snowplow be able to pass? How will it be cleared for people to use the paths?

Ms. Botti responded yes, a snowplow & street sweeper can pass through, goes for all the sections.

Daniel Aliberti asked about the plows, if they scrape the bumps.

Ms. Botti responded that they are used in other parts of the city and it has not happened but will be replaced if damaged/worn away (paint and/or bumps). The green paint made to last through the winter.

Richard Khuzami asked about the intersections, need to be protected. They often have conflict between vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians especially when cars are making right turns, and bicycles are going straight through the neighborhood. He said he has always felt that no protected bike lane should be built unless there are traffic controls. He said he has seen them in Manhattan on 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. He thinks since bicycles are becoming such a large way of the transport community for the foreseeable future, we need to start to build infrastructure to promote safety not just on the streets but the intersections as well. He emphasized that it is very dangerous. Mr. Khuzami shared that he drives and when making right turns a bicycle comes up on right hand side the disasters have been so close so many times, it is important that they should put barriers.

Ms. Botti responded that the intersection design that is included in this proposal will be on the other side of street, it is an offset crossing which is a longer pedestrian island. It opens up the visibility for people making turns and slows the turns. You may not have seen them yet; it will include more markings such as some of the green bars.

Richard Khuzami asked how the traffic controls have worked on 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. He asked is there a reason why the city does the not want to continue that practice?

Ms. Botti responded that they don't anticipate heavy conflicts in some of the ways you may see on 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. This does not include the separated phasing along the whole corridor.

Rudy Sarchese started by sharing he has lived in Astoria for 62 years and is President of the Astoria Homeowners, Tenants & Business Civic Association. He said the problem is how many people use this side street. He said why don't they put them on a main street like 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue, 31<sup>st</sup> Street or Steinway Street all the Commercial traffic. He said on Crescent Street to 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue, which are 2-way streets there. It affects the school lane; how will they have a bike lane? He said he never sees bicycles between Ditmars Boulevard or 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue. His dismay of a lot of money spent. He asked what is the budget, how much is being spent for this bike lane? Also asked how is this good for Astoria? His also shared his concern that now we have more motorized bikes/scooters which the restaurants use.

Nicole Garcia greeted everyone and said she is the Queens Borough Commissioner for Department of Transportation. She stated that the materials are part of their in-house resources. She said they can do a calculation and will have to get back to the Board on that. Ms. Garcia said they are within the operating budget. She said their agency manages all of the east river bridges and they have resurfaced 6,000 miles of streets. As for cost, the treatments that they are proposing in this design are paint, delineators and some signage. It is pennies on the dollar on the DOT budget. The reason why they are proposing this bike lane is to make it safer for cyclists and for all street users, especially for pedestrians. They use in house materials and use in house crews' part of their usual expenses. What they have found is that New Yorkers really appreciate is that we need safer streets and especially during COVID-19 with people figuring out how they are going to travel for school, to their families and to work. North/South connection is going to provide a more reliable safer transportation in Queens and particularly in this community board.

Rodolfo Sarchese said he does not see the logic in all of this, and the money is a concern.

Nicole Garcia said they will do a calculation and will send the budget to the office.



Rod Townsend said there is a pop-up lane now for Crescent Street which intended to help us during COVID-19 because biking has increased and more cyclists are using the Queensboro bridge to get to Manhattan, it is not being well maintained. Who is responsible for its maintenance and how often it is being checked in on?

Eileen Botti responded that it is a work in progress not fully completed, it and the barrels get moved out of the way, but they have staff rotating through the area to move barrels back. Getting more signs posted very soon. It has been challenging with materials and staffing that is available. But now getting back to more of their typical operations they will be able to improve. It has given them a chance to see other curb uses as well as testing the new layout.

Samantha Dolgoff from DOT said she was a planner for CB1 for 5 years and now taking more of a bike role. She said she is out there personally moving barrels back 1 to 2 times a week. She said the barrels constantly get moved. She said she dragged about 15 barrels today to correct locations. They are trying to get out there from their unit and the bike unit. Generally, they are out there 4 times a week, but it is very difficult and trying to keep handle on it.

Thomas Ryan said this came up at the Committee meeting regarding the outer roadways of the Queensboro Bridge, what 2-wheel vehicles are authorized to ride in the bike lane?

Nicole Garcia said there are various legislations. E-bikes are now authorized if they go certain miles per hour. What is permissible from the Vehicle Traffic Law (VTL) is obviously words on paper. We would refer to NYPD they are their partner in enforcement. If anyone like Revel, the mopeds, they are not supposed to be on bike lanes, they are licensed vehicles. Nothing electric, motorized, Hoverboards, Skateboards or Segway (2wheel electric vehicle) should be on the bike lanes. The NYPD would have to give their interpretation. They are not on the VTL.

Thomas Ryan it is a problem every powered 2-wheel vehicle are using the bike lanes; it is an issue that should be addressed. A danger to everyone and to the cars.

Nicole Garcia said they can take back to their counter parts at the police department and John who is the borough planner for the CB1 area.

Nicole Garcia asked what is your biggest concern right now?

Tom Ryan any powered vehicles on the bike lane, it is concerning especially for him as a driver.

Nicole Garcia said she will have to get further clarity.

Dominic Stiller commented on page 24, a few things about the specific markings agrees that a protective bike lane is a game changer. He cycles to work every day, it is a game changer but when if it is not protected or when it is blocked by delivery vehicles and by police cars, people have been killed. Protected bike lane will get kids on bikes. Here showing on paper, the green going through the intersection. The turning vehicles don't realize a bicycle is a vehicle. Vehicles would not cut off another car to their left or right. He requests education and some signage that emphasizes if it has 2 wheels, a bike or a car, there are rules of the road, if you are turning you have to give way to vehicles going straight. Reiterated, can we educate the community?

Jeffery Martin said he has a comment about COVID-19 and seeing a huge increase in cyclists he said he fully supports this plan the N/S connect, it is appropriate. The E/W connection discussed in February at the meeting. Wanted to reiterate that 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue is appropriate. Appreciates the hard work from DOT. I just ask that you continue working with us and our community on the E/W connect not only in Astoria but also Woodside and Jackson Heights really connecting more of Queens.

Irak Dahir Cehonski said he has been using Crescent Street bike lane over the last month or so he said he noticed a lot of potholes from 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue all the way to Queens Plaza. He asked, how can they be repaired, and said it makes it challenging and sometimes you have to get off the bike lane onto the traffic. It should be taken care of.

Eileen Botti responded that a number of potholes were filled recently on the route and they are taking a close look at that.

Nicole Garcia said she is adding that Samantha, John, herself and Eileen are speaking with their roadways team. She said obviously alternate side of the street has been suspended for a very, very long time, the longest in the city's history and for good reason. She said it is ending at end of next week. When ASP gets lifted, they will be able to get to all the potholes. They were not able to get to all of them with the cars not being moved but they are monitoring. Andre Stith said there was no answer to Dominic's question.

Eileen Botti said with some the designs they do include signage, vehicles to yield to bikes and pedestrians. They also work with their street ambassadors and their education team to distribute flyers and booklets about the rules of the road. They do that typically with implementation of a project like this, the flyers help explain how some of these elements work.

Nicole Garcia, she said they are kind of recycling because they have not able to do this in person the street ambassador engagement when pause is lifted, and they can do it safely they will. She saw some outdoor advertising, so they are recycling some of their Vision Zero ads. They do have a citywide campaign specifically focused for drives to slow their turns to 5 miles per hour. She said there are posters in several places throughout the city, they have that type of touch point with the general public.

Mitchell Waxman said he wanted to bring out to the larger group a couple of the smaller details they discussed at the Transportation Committee meeting about this presentation notably Helen brought up the kind of sewer grates that the

bike lane will be running through which are not too good for bicycles and also discussed the creation of a bicycle lensed traffic signal at Queens Plaza to protect bicyclists as they make the right turn across 2 lanes of traffic toward the bridge.

Marie Torniali, Chair said she believes we are not there yet and wanted to hear all the questions from other board members.

Daniel Aliberti asked if they have addressed the issue of people using wheelchairs either powered or manual traveling in the bike lane. Quite often they rather ride in the street and if they have addressed it what are they doing.

Nicole Garcia said she has not had the question in some time. She said they do have a policy division within that division they do have someone who deals with people with disabilities. She will have to bring it back to them, it is that gray area again where per the Vehicle Traffic Law (VTL), how it is written says that bike lanes are for bikes. She added that there has been change. Ms. Garcia said they will have to take that back, does not know if NYPD has a position on that. She would be interested to see if anyone in an electric wheelchair has ever been summoned. She said she is not the authority on that and will take it back to legal and consult with NYPD.

Daniel Aliberti asked if people with powered wheelchairs riding where there is no bike lane just a regular old-fashioned road if they are in the right hand lane a car would have to go to the left lane and go around them and there would be no problem if they are in a protected bike lane and bikes want to come behind them there will be a traffic jam, that's why the question.

Chair Torniali read a response from Ted Wright from DOT (via chat). He said that both pedestrians and people in wheelchairs can use bike lanes.

The Chair read a question from Andy Gowen, public (via chat). He asked why the lane is on the east side when the connection to the Queensboro protected lane is on the west side of Crescent. I ride this currently and you have to cut across the car lanes to get to the bridge path. I guess the tradeoff is that drivers are less likely to see bikers when making right turns. I want to hear your analysis of that tradeoff.

Eileen Botti responded there are a few reasons of why it is on the east side of the street. It has fewer intersections that conflict for example, there are a number of T intersections that come in from west side and also lighter turning volumes along the east side. Heavier right turns than left turns. Yes, at Queensboro bridge there will be the design and how to clarify on how to crossover. With the southbound bikes (referred to slide) in the sections where the bike lanes are separated, the bikes going northbound it gives them more space, farther away from moving lane. This brings the bike that is traveling with the traffic is still separated but gives more space.

The Chair said she had a second question from the public (via chat). The city has a huge problem regarding vehicles parking in bike lanes, putting cyclists at risk and lack of enforcement of said vehicles. How is DOT making sure that the sections of the new path that are not parking protected will prevent drivers from entering since delineators can just be driven over.

Eileen Botti responded so with this section with 1 travel lane it is important to provide the ability for an emergency vehicle to pass and for sweeping from Sanitation. One thing included with this proposal is a few locations they are updating some of the regulations on the west curb which can be used for a quick pullover spot for delivery without blocking the bike lane taking a close look at the regulation to make sure so there is a little bit of wiggle room.

Daniel Aliberti asked if after all this is in place and he is a bike rider going down Crescent Street and he decides he does not want to ride in the bike lane wants to ride on the regular lane, will he be subject to getting a summons, a fine or get a ticket? What will happen in the future with this?

Shawn Macias, Deputy Director responded that generally a cyclist can travel anywhere a vehicle can travel so, if there is a cyclist who decides to pull out of the 2 way path and move to the travel lane, I believe they are free to do so. It depends on the confidence of the cyclist deciding to take that lane.

Daniel Aliberti then we would have the same problem we have now, traffic lanes being shared.

Shawn Macias responded yes, but the difference is currently we would not have the protective option. In this proposed condition you would have a protective option.

Dan Aliberti and the Chair both thanked him.

Marie Torniali, Chair asked if any Board Members had any more questions, hearing none she announced that the Board Office received several emails, mostly in support of this bike lane. She stated that she would have Amy Hau and Richard Khuzami to read them to have it on record. (Copied as sent and received)

Amy Hau read an emailed letters/notes from:

- **Todd Schultz:**  
Please make a permanent protected bike lane on Crescent. It should be a protected bike lane (with immobile physical dividers between bikes and cars) from Astoria Blvd to the 59th Street bridge. This would protect cyclists, calm traffic on Crescent, and improve the environment.  
Thank you.



- Professor Patrick Redding:**  
Dear Queens Community Board,  
I am writing in support of the bike lanes being planned for Crescent Street between the Triboro Bridge. This change is LONG overdue, as this is one of the most dangerous 2 lane one-lane roads we have in Astoria (the other is 33rd Street b/t Northern Blvd). I live on Crescent Street (32-21 Crescent St.) near Broadway, where a speed camera has recently been installed right in front of my house. It has made NO difference in reducing motor speeds-- bikes, cars, motorcycles, and taxis routinely drive by here at speeds up to 30-40 mph. Pedestrians routinely jaywalk across Crescent on 33rd Ave and 33rd Rd so this is especially dangerous for them too. I go out of my way to avoid using Crescent St. when biking with my children because of its danger. Now I can safely bike them down to LIC without having to add an extra mile to the route or biking through industrial areas near 21st Street.  
I can't wait for this bike lane to be implemented. The coronavirus has made biking even more popular, and we have one of the safest lanes already over on Jackson Blvd, but it's not very close to most residents of our neighborhood. This will be a game changer for transportation in our neighborhood.  
Best.
- Nicholas Lowe:**  
Hi!  
The new bike lane is absolutely important to those of us who bike from Astoria to Manhattan. It saves us from unsafe routes that put us in danger and put drivers in impossible situations.  
Thank you!
- Gabriel Torres:**  
Resident of the area for 28 years and I've been dreaming of this day since! Thank you so much for putting these in finally! Definitely need some more bike parking stations in Astoria as well! It would really help along the Crescent St Bike Lane with all the supermarkets and such! AGAIN, THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THIS!
- Jessie Thisell:**  
Hello,  
I'm writing to share my support for a two way bike lane on Crescent Street. I'm a nurse and bike commuting is the quickest and most reliable way to get to and from work especially during the early mornings and weekends. Crescent Street is the ideal location because it's the only direct route for people living north of 34th Avenue. I'm also hopeful that the addition of a bike lane will help slow traffic on the street making it safer for pedestrians.  
thank you.

Richard Khuzami read emailed letters/notes from:

- Jennifer Chakrabarti:**  
Good evening,  
As a long - time Astoria resident, mother and frequent bicyclist, I am excited to learn that a permanent Crescent Street 2 way protected bike lane is in the works. Especially since the temporary one is an absolute death trap!!  
Prior to the current pandemic situation, I was a frequent bicycle commuter, going from Astoria Park area to Midtown or Downtown via the Queensboro Bridge. Crescent is the most direct route down to the bridge for me but coming back home was always a challenge because there is no logical northern route that isn't putting me a mile or more out of my way. Additionally, when I want to ride into Central Park with my kids, getting to and from the bridge ALWAYS requires an extra mile or more to ensure our safety...we are forced to bike well out of our way to ride on the Vernon Blvd bike lane. It would be much more convenient to have a direct south and north route on Crescent, not to mention I'd be able to avoid a few hills, which is a big deal when I'm riding with 40 pounds of 5 year old on my bike!  
I do hope the bike lane on Crescent is approved and no one is willing to cave to the "where will I drive" and "where will I park" folks. I truly hope that that my safety and that of my children will be more important.  
Thank you.
- Daniel Browne:**  
Dear Community Board Members,  
I would like to say that the recent bike lane has been an absolutely terrific and welcome addition to Astoria. Prior to this, there was no safe method in order to travel from Astoria to other parts of the city, specifically through the Queensboro Bridge. I have never felt as safe as I have while riding through a street and no longer had the anxiety of either checking over my shoulder for a speeding car or concerned that someone would open their car door directly into me (and push me directly into moving traffic). I have also visited local stores/restaurants which I would have otherwise not visited because the cars on Crescent have traditionally moved way too fast for comfort.  
However, there are still some downsides to this bike lane as it is not fully protected. Many drivers ignore the temporary bollards and park in the lanes which force cyclists to swerve in and out of traffic, endangering ourselves and the drivers who try to avoid us. I have also seen some of the bollards knocked out of position and into the bike lane because it is not truly protected. I still feel very safe but worry that this will eventually deteriorate further and the lane's effectiveness will be diminished.

Lastly, I would like to say that with everything that is happening due to COVID-19, I am looking for new ways to travel to and from work without having to enter a crowded subway. I generally love taking public transit but will be limiting my commute in order to reduce the chances of coming into contact with the virus.

I have noticed many other people choosing to drive cars rather than take public transit so there are more people on the road moving faster than before so a safe route to work is needed now more than ever. I would like to thank you for your work in helping implement this bike lane as it has truly been a life changer. I went from a casual Citi Bike user to someone who feels much more confident about riding my bike around and commuting, visiting friends or frequenting local businesses. I look forward to joining the Zoom meeting tomorrow and hearing the full plans moving forward. Best.

- **Scott Phillips:**

Good evening Queens Community Board 1,

An avid cyclist who takes the opportunity to use his bike whenever the weather permits, I strongly support the construction and maintenance of a permanent bike lane on Crescent Street. We currently have partial bike lanes on 29th Street and 28th Street allowing for bike travel to and from the Queensboro Bridge, but they are neither adequately maintained nor protected; when traffic increases, drivers often take their road rage and careless habits out on law-abiding cyclists. I have seen it and suffered from it several times. A protected bike lane on Crescent would increase safety and traffic flow for commuting Astoria/LIC cyclists tremendously and serve our community well.

Thank you.

- **Assembly Member Aravella Simotas:**

RE: Support for Bike Lanes on Crescent Street

Respected members of Queens Community Board 1:

I write to express my support for, and encourage you to vote in favor of, the proposed bike lanes along Crescent Street, Astoria. The Transportation Committee has rightly expressed their support for this issue and it is my hope that the board will do the same and approve this proposal.

Having a designated lane for bikes is crucial to protect the safety of our district's residents. According to the Department of Transportation, Crescent Street is in a "Vision Zero Priority Area," meaning that it is an area in which at least nine persons were killed or severely injured within five years. Between 2013 and 2017, this street has seen a total of 241 injuries and two deaths. Bike lanes can help decrease the amount of injuries and fatalities in this area by separating bikes from vehicles and increasing the predictability of cyclist locations so that drivers can bypass them.

In addition to improving the safety of our community, bike lanes will promote participation in physical activity and support cyclists who are of all ages. Bike lanes will also encourage alternative modes of transportation that decrease our emissions and are environmentally friendly. This proposal will also close several gaps in bike routes and allow cyclists to access RFK and Queensboro bridges safely.

For these reasons, I strongly recommend that you support the proposal for the Crescent Street protected bike lanes and vote in favor of the proposal's approval.

Thank you and I look forward to working with you on this issue.

Thomas Ryan announced he was making the Committee's recommendation on behalf of Bob Piazza. The Committee had quorum, they voted unanimously in support of the Crescent Street bike lane with a stipulation that DOT would accommodate any specific matters or issues raised by the Community Board Office in regard to the finalization of this plan.

Amy Hau Motioned to approve this proposal and Louise Bordley; Seconded.

The Chair asked if anyone was opposed, hearing none she said it was unanimous, and thanked DOT, Tom for stepping up, all the board members for their input and the public. Thank you.

The Chair introduced Mr. Jin Kim, Partnership Specialist, New York Regional Census Center, U.S. Census Bureau.

### 2020 U.S. Census

Mr. Kim started by thanking the Chair, the District Manager and all of the Board Members. He said he had 2 good news. He shared the district is doing fairly well in the 2020 Census response. He said on March 12th, they kicked off the 2020 US Census Bureau and invited every household to respond to the survey. They were seeking all households to respond via online, by telephone or by mail. So far nationally, on average they have a 61.4% response rate. New York State has 56.7% response rate, New York City, the five boroughs at 51.9%. Queens currently has 51.9% now having said that the Community Board 1 area Astoria, Old Astoria, Woodside and parts of Long Island City, they are currently at 52.7%. He said our district is certainly doing well, they appreciate everyone who has responded to the survey. They had to make a lot of operational adjustments due to the COVID-19 most significantly for the public they have extended the response period to October 31<sup>st</sup> instead of July 31<sup>st</sup>. They gave a 3-month extension to make sure that everybody exercises social distancing and is in all of the state and local guidelines thus we have extended through March 31<sup>st</sup>. They will begin what we call a non-response follow-up that is the door-knocking for those who did not respond on their own. That will start on August 11<sup>th</sup> the Census Bureau representatives will collect the survey responses. We hope that from now until August, we continue to increase our response rate so that we reduce the number of home visits. It will save us a lot of time and of course money. Also, I wanted to let you know that we do have a self-response rate map that is available to the public by visiting the website: <https://2020census.gov/> where you could look at your community and how well your community is doing. We divide each individual geographical region and by what we call Census tracts, in your district there are 52 Census tracts. Those are those boundaries that

define specific streets and the housing units that are present in those street boundaries. Some areas we are doing very well. I've seen upwards of 67% in your district which is phenomenal but then we've seen as low as 38%. There are areas where we need still a lot of work to be done. Remind everyone of some of the survey awareness and for the purpose of security. The Census Bureau conducts a variety of surveys throughout the year in addition to the Decennial Census which is the our largest operation. We conduct every ten years so don't be alarmed if people get contacted by Census Bureau or other than the Decennial Census secondly there's a lot of fraud unfortunately, during the Decennial Census other criminals are taking advantage and exploit people during the Census period. We want to remind the public that the Census Bureau during any of their surveys would never ask for social security number, financial account numbers or solicit money or anything on behalf a political party. If any of those are being asked by an alleged Census representative it is a fraud. We ask that you report those activities by calling 1-800-923-8282 and also, you could visit: [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov) and view some of the latest information. We heard that there was an incident where during this stimulus fund issuance that it was required that they provide certain information in order for them to receive Census information for stimulus funding which is untrue. Since this is not tied to any of that, if anyone's part of those type of incidents please report those activities. Finally, I would like to ask for your help. We need to continue to promote the Census and educate the public, raise awareness about the importance and the safety of the Census as you know federal funding is tied to the Census representation and in the Congress as well as local government. Some institutions depend on the population of our neighborhoods. It is very important, it funds a lot of the public programs for example transportation, infrastructure, health, medical care, supplemental nutrition, certain education, a lot of the programs for seniors and children are at stake. We ask that everyone not only respond to the survey but also help us to continue to raise awareness. So, my message to you is very simple today you understand your community, the people, their priorities, and their needs. You know how to effectively deliver the Census message to them in ways that Census Bureau can never cheat. Please help us, you are the trusted voices of your community, educate them on the significance of the 2020 Census and encourage them to respond to the survey. I am here to help anyone who's willing to work with us to help raise awareness. We have promotional materials that's available and I could certainly come out to your community audience and provide Census presentations. We could also help them answer any questions and address any concerns they may have. We are getting ready once social distancing guidelines are lifted, to go out to the community and help people complete the survey as well for those that are having difficulties filling out the survey. There are phone numbers that are available with dedicated phone numbers for 12 non-English languages, those language options are available and as well as online responses to facilitate any language. With that said, I would like to thank you, Community Board 1, for doing an excellent job in promoting the Census. With Richard Khuzami a couple of weeks ago, we did a similar event where I was invited to speak during the Old Astoria Neighborhood Association meeting. Those are the kind of outreach and the support that could give us, help us reach your audience. Thank you.

The Chair, Marie Torniali thanked him very much. She said she had a question as to whether there are any applications for Enumerator or Census Taker positions still available.

Mr. Kim responded, yes, we are still accepting applications it's an online application [2020 census gov/jobs](https://2020census.gov/jobs) we have suspended the hiring process during the COVID-19 but we are currently in the process of processing those applications that we had received in the past so yes, the opportunity is still there. Please go online \$28 an hour for their services but more importantly they'll be helping their community.

The Chair thanked Mr. Kim for the information.

Vanessa Jones-Hall announced that they are currently working on bringing in the new enumerators that have already filed. I'm reaching out to you all my board members and anyone else, that we're looking for space where we can hold trainings. If anyone knows of a space where we can hold training for our enumerators as we start to bring them on board, please reach out to Florence and if you don't mind give my number out which is: 917-348-9181. She reiterated that they are looking for a space where it could allow them to be able to do some training. I really appreciate it, thank you everyone. She thanked Marie.

### **Elected Officials/Representatives**

Joseph Nocerino, Representative for the Queens Borough President's Office. He greeted everyone and thanked the Chair, Florence, the District Manager and the Board Members. He started by saying that Sharon Lee, Acting Borough President sends her regards welcomes the first-time appointees to their new position and wishes them the best and of course welcomes our returning members besides all that sit on the Board. He announced early voting is now, the election is on June 23rd and absentee ballots are out. We can't stress how important it is for folks to get out and vote. He announced a couple of quick dates for events. He said Marie or Florence will send them out to you to all. Borough President's events, Pride Event is June 18<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. they are all on the website, obviously they are virtual. The recruitment fair is the 3<sup>rd</sup> one in a row on June 24<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m.; the Philippine Independence Day event on June 24th at 5 p.m. and the celebration of Jerusalem event on June 25th at 5 p.m. Thank you for the time Madam Chair and all be well.

Ernest Brooks, Representative to Congress Member Carolyn Maloney, I want to reiterate the importance of the Census. Mr. Brooks continued to read the message from Congress Member Maloney, we're trying to provide an extra 34 billion in federal funding the New York state an additional 17 billion for New York City. Tighten up oversight on the Paycheck protection Act to look into why so many large corporations were taking past taxpayer dollars that were intended for small businesses. Where consumers not-for-profits and small businesses will grant a moratorium on all debt collection until 120 days after the end of the whole COVID-19 crisis. During the crisis, negative consumer credit reporting will be banned and all COVID-19 related medical debt reporting that we permanently banned with providing 25 billion for the funding to the US Postal Service to keep it solvent which is especially important for voting by mail which remember the ballots have to be sending off at the Senate today to get your absentee ballot. Finally, the bill would send an additional stimulus check that everyone who was eligible the last time around but this time it would include additional payments with dependent children over the age of 17. I'm also working on landmark legislation to

provide businesses with access to insurance payments to help them stay whole. My Pandemic Risk Insurance Act (PRIA) is modeled on similar legislation I champion after the 9/11 attacks and you couldn't even get business insurance for a hot dog stand in New York. I think PRIA will not only start to help businesses now that act is an important resource going forward. I've also introduced important bills to help out the brave heroes on the front line of this crisis. First, is my student debt forgiveness for frontline health care workers act which would do exactly what it sounds like eliminate student loan debts for anyone in the medical field directly working on the response to COVID-19. Other legislation is a broad compensation fund for the families of frontline workers who pass away as a result of COVID-19 our postal workers, grocery store clerks, transit workers, nurses and so many others are putting themselves at great risk of contracting COVID-19 while continuing to work doing essential jobs. We should honor their bravery and commitment to their communities by collectively ensuring that their families are not left in a financially precarious position while they deal with the emotional tragedy, the loss of a loved one against the back of COVID-19. Our nation is confronting the shameful reality of continuing and ever-present inequality sparked by videos of the gut-wrenching murder of George Floyd. Mr. Floyd's life was stolen by an officer whose DUTY was supposed to be to serve and protect not to kill. I believed to see that this officer was arrested and charged but so much more must be done to stop our nation's vicious cycle of police brutality. It should not take a viral video or national outcry to recognize the allottee of this or to ensure that justice is served. Our nation can finally tackle this crisis that has taken the lives of so many innocent black people and robbed their communities. You must do more to hold our police officers accountable and to dismantle the racist power structure that allows this kind of violence to fester. I am incredibly proud of all those peacefully exercising their constitutional rights and protest. I've witnessed firsthand people on the street exercising de-escalation tactics and self-policing those opportunists who would use this moment for their own personal and financial gain. I would do everything in my power to see this nation finally realize its radical promise of universal equality. You can see the legislative proposals I am supporting to achieve just that at: <https://www.house.gov/issues-combating-police-violence> that's on our website. We are living in a historic moment and our actions today will determine our tomorrow. Thank you very much for having us, thank you Florence and Marie.

The Chair thanked him and asked if there were any other elected officials/representatives that wanted to speak.

Marcus Bettinger, greeted the members and leadership of Community Board 1 and said he is a caseworker and field representative for the Office of Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. He stated he is sitting in for Daniel Bonthius. Thank you for having me. A few updates for from our office the congresswoman has asked me to acknowledge this remarkably painful moment for black Americans as she has said publicly, she is also hopeful that this moment marks a turning point the beginning of the end of oppression and the start of true economic and social justice and equity for all. There will be a lot of work to do in the days, weeks, months and truly years ahead to make that hope a reality. While much of this change will need to take place on the city and state level the federal government also has a huge role to play. A couple legislative updates this week we introduced our office the prohibiting chemical weapons and law enforcement act to tear gas was banned from war by the Geneva Protocol in 1925. This bill would ban the use of tear gas by federal law enforcement conditions state and local law enforcement eligibility for grants on their compliance with the ban and established establishment of policies ending its use among other items. We also co-sponsored the Justice in Policing Act of 2020. The Democrats response to calls to address police brutality, the legislation would establish a national standard for operation of police departments to mandate data collection on police encounters; reprogram existing funds to invest in community-based policing programs and streamlined federal law to prosecute excessive force and establish independent prosecutors for police investigations. Additionally, the Congresswoman signed on to representative Jana Presley's the people's justice guarantee which guarantees proposals to compact mass incarceration by expanding access to restorative justice inking the cash bail system implementing minimum sentences terminating solitary confinement pending the death penalty. She also joined a resolution authored by representatives Pressley, Omar, Bass and Lee condemning police brutality and racial profiling. On another topic in honor of Pride Month on June 1st the congresswoman along with representative Maloney co-sponsored House Resolution 989 expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that blood donation policies in the United States it should be equitable and based on science. Long lines of the Census despite the disruption that COVID-19 has had Census is 2020 is still ongoing. As Mr. Kim mentioned if you haven't yet please complete the census at my 2020 census.gov Astoria and Steinway are doing really well so far so we should apply to everyone who has committed to getting a complete count we have already counted upwards of 55 percent in most of the CB1 region and this is on par with the state and ahead of the city and New York 14 averages. So, thank you for your hard work but if you have family members or friends who have not completed the Census please encourage them to do so on constituent services we are very pleased to announce that our office has reached 1000 cases. I myself am a case worker for the office, we have reached 1000 cases. that means we have served over 1000 constituents on issues ranging from immigration and Veterans Affairs to Social Security and more recently the economic impact payments. Our office continues to assist constituents which federal case work remotely. I am at home in Ohio with my parents, but I am working on cases everyday continue to accept cases at our web-site: <https://ocasio-cortez.house.gov/> or over the phone the office number and with the office number one you call you either get someone who answers or you can leave a voicemail and we check every single voicemail. The office number is: 718-662-5970. Thank you for the time and I'm happy to answer any questions you might have for the office.

The Chair thanked him and asked if there is any other elected official who wishes to make statement.

Victoria Leahy, Representative from Assembly Member Brian Barnwell's Office. Greeted everyone. A brief few Updates. So, one our office has put out our COVID-19 resource guide we're continuously updating it to make sure that it has all the up-to-date information and resources that may be accessible to you on the city and state level. Also including some nonprofit resources. This Thursday, partnering with NYLAG, we're offering free legal service consultations from home. so, if you have any legal questions that you want to kind of talk that over with please reach out to our office. You can sign up by calling us or by emailing us directly so you can email: [barnwellb@nyassembly.gov](mailto:barnwellb@nyassembly.gov) we have very limited appointments available right now so please sign up sooner rather than later. Lastly, as we continue to work remotely and it's unclear when we'll be back in the office continue to call us or email us with any questions or concerns that you or the community members may have. If you don't get to

us on the first call, please leave a message with your name number and your concern and we'll call you right back. We've seen a really high influx of calls over the last few weeks so it's hard with the phone courting system so just you know leave a message and we'll get back to you by the end of the day. Other than that, I wish you all great health and welcome to all of the new community board members I'm looking forward to speaking with you all and working with you all much more closely. Thank you.

### **Chairperson Report**

Marie Torniali the Chair stated that her report is really a welcome report because she wants to welcome the new board members. She asked them to introduce themselves.

Hello, my name is Louise Bordley, I live in Long Island City /Astoria and I do security and I love working with people, thank you.

Hello, my name is Irak Dahir Cehonski, I work for local government, NYC Counsel. I moved here from Mexico 5 years ago, living in Astoria for 4 ½ years. I fell in love with this neighborhood since before moving so I'm very happy to be here. I cannot wait to see you in person.

My name is Shahenaz Hamde, I have lived in Astoria for more than 10 years now and I work in a nonprofit organization and I'm really happy to be part of the Board and really interesting to meet everyone and look forward to when we will be together again. Thank you.

Amin Mehedi, good evening everyone I'm very glad you are all together here that I'm being introduced to all of you the good people that have been working for the Community Board a long time. It's my pleasure to be with you and it has been excellent all the thing that you've been doing the bike lane and the ferry route and all of those things that when I'm being couple of meetings before. I'm very excited to work with all of you and we will work together to make a better Astoria and Queens. I look forward to (in-person) see all of you. Thank you very much everyone for having me be with you.

Juliet Payabyab, I have been a resident of Astoria for 44 long years. I'm an active community leader in my Philipino community in New York. I've been attending your meetings at the Astoria Manor as an observer and tonight is my first meeting with the Community Board as an official member. Pleased to meet you all virtually.

The Chair thanked and welcomed all the new members. She also said looks forward to one day being able to meet personally as well.

Irene Stathatos, Representative for State Senator Michael Gianaris. She started by saying thank you for having me here. We are accessible by email or by phone calls. I've been on top of the issue occurring with the no mask and no social distancing on 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Ditmars (especially). I have been working hard on that issue. I don't know what else I can do on this end; it has been difficult. Also, so you know, we have mask giveaways if anybody needs any. Thank you.

Marie Torniali thanked her.

Amin Mehedi said he would like to speak about the Ferry boat ride in Astoria. How can we make it more effective? Which committee should I join and how can we talk about it? I know that it has been 2 years that we have it there. I was talking with Florence about that fact. How can we make it more effective?

The Chair responded that they are going to send the new members a mailing asking them what committees they are interested in and then we'll reach out to you all.

Mr. Mehedi thanked her.

Marie Torniali, Chair announced that she attended a Borough Board meeting last night. They received an update on the test and trace corps. The corps wants to set up infrastructure to service 50,000 New Yorkers per day by August 1<sup>st</sup>. If you test positive, you'll receive a call from the tracer who we will determine if you need more medical information and also help arrange isolation at home or at a free hotel if you don't have the room at home to isolate from others, They offer free health care and mental health services and medication so that is a great thing. I'm going to ask if Florence could send out information to all our board members so we can pass it on and get the word out there so hopefully COVID-19 will be decimated. My next item is I want to inform everyone that we have a vacant position on the Executive Board. We have had one of the officers was not reappointed therefore we will deem that position vacant; we will be having an election in September. In the meantime, in August we will send out information and a form if you wish to nominate someone, that will go back to the office, we will then send out a ballot. This is because I don't think we'll be meeting in person soon, but I could be wrong. We're going to send out ballots; you will fill them out and we'll provide of course a self-stamped envelope so you can mail it back. Unless there's a miracle that happens and we can all be together in person in September.

### **District Manager Report**

I have a report which I received from the Mayor's Office and it is in response to outdoor cafe applications. License application fees still need to be submitted for new renewable sidewalk cafe applications, a COVID-19 relief package signed into law by Mayor Bill DeBlasio extends license expiration dates and renewals of application deadlines covered by Emergency Executive Order 107 and 110. In general, the extension applies to licenses with expiration dates on or after May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020. When the mayor first declared the state of emergency new renewal application deadlines to be calculated from when EEO 110 expires. City Council recently passed a bill that suspends collection of indoor and

enclosed sidewalk cafe consent. Cafe fees from restaurants from March 1st, 2020 through the duration of the emergency and for outdoor unenclosed sidewalk cafes from March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 to February 28, 2021. Through the Mayor's Executive Order, the city has already stopped collecting these fees for the duration of the emergency. Any such consent fees that are already collected and have been refunded. DCWP which used to be known as Department of Consumer Affairs is still reviewing new and renewable sidewalk cafe applications and promptly informing applicants of anything they might need to know to amend or submit. They are not forwarding to other agencies for review due to the Mayor's Executive Order. If someone is applying for new sidewalk cafe application or renewal and have any questions, they can be contacted by email at: [sidewalkcafe@dca.nyc.gov](mailto:sidewalkcafe@dca.nyc.gov) and receive prompt assistance and response. Our office is receiving requests to learn about the new laws for sidewalk cafes post COVID-19. We have not gotten any updates at this point. As soon as any updates come to assist the businesses locally regarding the rules and regulations in Phase 2, we will let you know. Thank you. We wish you all a great summer and health and happiness and continued good health.

The Chair Motioned to adopt in May 2020 Minutes.

Edward Babor Motioned; Seconded by Dino Panagoulis.

Unanimous

### Committee Reports

Edward Babor on behalf of RoseMarie Poveromo, Airport Committee - Mr. Babor reported they have a LaGuardia Committee meeting, a virtual meeting tomorrow evening which he will be joining.

Eric Mouchette, Consumer Affairs Committee – He greeted everyone and asked if you could please review your Consumer Affairs spreadsheet that was emailed to you. We're voting on applicants for the month of June. The entities that are we agreed to stipulations are marked. With respect to Hangar Astoria Bar and Grill the Committee met with this business in January to discuss a prior renewal application and we recommended that the Board vote to deny their renewal which the Board subsequently did, now despite this fairly recent denial, they submitted a new application and the 114<sup>th</sup> Precinct provided another report stating that the location is highly problematic with 42- 311 calls and 55-911 calls so the committee is going to recommend that the Board vote to deny Hangar's application again. Now as to NYMF Bar they are not seeking a renewal they're just seeking a Corporate Change which involves a change in ownership they have to report to the Community Board when there's a transfer of ownership of more than 80% of the business here there's going to be a 100% transfer of ownership to a completely new owner of the applicant entity Les Amis Cafe Inc. Now the business is not currently open from what we understand, and the Committee has been told by the new owner that it was actually closed since February, however over the past year the prior owners had 141-311 calls regarding noise complaints as well as complaints regarding to social distancing and so forth. As a result, the Committee asked owner and the representative to come in to speak and I do want to thank the Committee for coming together, so quickly, after we got this police report last week. The committee spoke to a representative and the new sole owner of the business. The new sole owner is not one of the prior owners. The new owner is going to conduct renovations and stated that none of the former employees are going to be working at the location. The new owner affirms familiarity with the Mayor's social distancing guidelines and also said that the employees will be trained to follow the guidelines. Also, the prior location played a lot of loud music and the new owner intends to target a different crowd that's more mellow and will not be playing loud music. Additionally, the new owners are familiar with running similar establishments in Astoria. The new owner is actually a partial owner of the Grand on 30th Avenue. I'm sure some of you may have heard about some of the social distancing issues that happened around the Grand but the new owner informed us that they actually call 311 on themselves to get assistance with the social distancing problems that were occurring outside the business. I did take a look at the Mayor's guidelines with respect to social distancing and they do state that to the extent that there are issues with dangerous situations to life or property. They call 911 they call 311 now. The new owner affirmed that she will sign the CB1 stipulations and will work with the neighbors as well as the 114<sup>th</sup> precinct to make sure that they are good neighbors. In light of that the Committee voted and we are going to recommend that we approve their application for Corporate Change. Now with respect to 2 other applicants specifically, the Last Word and Judy and Punch these businesses are seeking to renew their licenses and they did have also some issues with social distancing. The Last Word had 29- 311 calls and Judy and Punch at 28- 311 calls relating to noise, social distancing, lack of face masks and so forth. The Committee didn't feel the need to call them in but we are the Committee voted and we are going to recommend that a letter be sent to those businesses just requesting that they abide by the rules and regulations set forth by the Governor and the Mayor's Office on social distancing. Now as to the remaining applications the 114<sup>th</sup> Precinct has reviewed all of the other applicants and they have no issue with their approval and the Committee also recommends their approval. At this point I'm going to move for 4 votes, the first is going to be with respect to the Committee's recommendation for denial of Hangar Astoria Bars renewal application. Accordingly, I move for the denial of Hanger Astoria Bars application will anyone second the Motion, Ed Babor Seconded the Motion, he thanked him. He asked if anyone opposed to the approval if there's no opposition the Motion is going to pass unanimously, he said thank you. Now, with respect to NYMF Bar I move for the approval of the Corporate Change in light of the affirmation provided by the new owner and the new owners agreement to sign the stipulations, will anyone second the Motion, Ed Babor Seconded the Motion, he thanked him and asked if anyone opposed to the approval if there's no opposition to the Motion it's going to pass unanimously, thank you. Now with respect to the Last Word and Judy and Punch I move for the approval of the renewal of their liquor licenses with permission for the Committee to send a letter to the businesses just requesting that they abide by the rules and regulations set forth by the Governor and the Mayor's Office on Social Distancing, he asked if anyone will Second the Motion? Vanessa Jones-Hall Seconded the Motion he thanked them and asked if anyone opposed to the approval, hearing none he's going to pass unanimously, thank you very much. With respect to the remaining applications listed on a spreadsheet due to the fact that there were no significant issues and in light of the Committee's recommendation for approval I move for their approval will anyone Second the Motion; Seconded by Andre Stith, Mr. Mouchette thanked him. He asked if anyone opposed to the approval, there's no opposition the Motions were passed unanimously. Thank you everyone, stay safe and healthy.



Elizabeth Erion, Land Use & Zoning Committee – Stated on the agenda we have for tonight for the Land Use Committee you should have received a report by email prior to the meeting which explained the public hearing item, the Goldfish Swim School ,thoroughly and also another item that we discussed. (Muted in error) What we have to do is have a roll call vote. This is a ULURP item, it's a BSA application and I will read the recommendation from the Committee. There were no issues that were raised except one member asked about making concessions for some members of the Community who couldn't afford to pay the private lessons and the gentleman said they didn't do that before but they will take it on a case-by-case basis and they're aware of the income levels etc. in the Community. As I said case-by-case basis. The recommendation from the Committee was to approve the application for a PCE Permit for a period of 10 years for the Goldfish Swim School. She asked for a Motion on that and Gerald Caliendo Seconded. Roll Call of all the Board Members was done by the Chair, Marie Torniali.

The Chair and Elizabeth Erion stated it is Unanimous and they thanked everyone.

Elizabeth Erion stated for the end of my report I would just like to let the Board know that the Land Use Committee is meeting on July 1<sup>st</sup>, the first for all of us to meet in July, but we have some items to become informed about. We will be handling in the fall and winter. Wished everyone a nice summer and enjoy it. She stated she will talk to her Committee on the 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you.

**The Chair asked if anyone had anything for old or new business.**

Evie Hantzopoulos read her letter to the Board regarding Nancy Silverman not being reappointed by the Queens Borough Presidents Office. Chair Marie Torniali introduces Evie under new business.

Evie begins: Greetings were had she stated she wanted to express her deep disappointment Nancy Silverman was not reappointed to Community Board 1. Evie stated Nancy was a very active and engaged member of for 6 years attended meetings consistently, she initiated events for the Community as Chair of the Parks Committee most importantly helped bring process ease to the Board to operate better and engage the community at large. She was outspoken and sometimes asked questions or made statements (or remarks) some people didn't like that could be abrasive but was never superfluous. Her questions and comments were relevant to issues being discussed and brought a level of transparency, order and seriousness to Board procedures.

So, it was said in the Queens Eagle the District Manager of Community Board 5 made disparaging and unsubstantiated comments about members of CB1 and other Community Boards I find this highly improper and unprofessional especially because this District Manager never attended a CB1 Board Meeting or interacted with us been to a Board meeting or witnessed any behaviors I would like to know how he came to this conclusion. If anyone has grievances or issues they should be addressed through proper open channels, especially if the allegations would affect a Board Members reappointment. Quite honestly, it does not seem consistent criteria was provided across the candidates this round.

Given we as a Board elected Nancy to the Executive Board this year, by her peers we looked to the important role she played and could play as we look to improve the Board. The work she helped start should not stop. Our Executive Board or anyone who would desire should push for structure with the District Office clear definition of roles, responsibilities and particularly for the District Manager ways to improve community outreach and engagement with members of the community with stronger communication strategies. We should also not feel our reappointment will be jeopardized in doing so. That being said, I am happy to see new Board Members and wonderful diversity reflected in the new Board members I welcome you and look forward to working with you.

Thank you.

**Letter read from Dominic Stiller (As Received by Email):**

hi marie, and others.

I was heavily disturbed about the non-renewal of Nancy Silverman's CB1 seat.

I feel that Nancy took an objective, professional approach to our decisions and discussions. In fact, I believe that she took THE MOST objective, professional approach to our decisions and discussions, and encouraged full transparency for the benefit of the community.

Ive been reading in the local news that Nancy was accused behind closed doors of being a bully, implied to be bullying by our district manager, Florence K: here is an article, which does not mention any examples of inappropriate behaviour, nor do any of the monthly minutes ive received since being a member.:

“In the case of CB1Q,” Giordano wrote. “Nancy Silverman seems to be in charge of bullying the honest, intelligent, cooperative and caring district manager, and numerous board members have reportedly left public service as board members as a result of domination by mean spirited, abusive, self serving tactics.”

I'm glad that other DM Giordano has such a high opinion of CB1 district manager, but, is there any transparency in the process? There does not seem to be any.

My wife and I were heckled so badly by current and past board members in 2014 when we were applying for our DOT partnered bicycle corral, I was not a board member then.

Furthermore, in 2016 during a mtg the heckling of the public was so egregious that I and others complained to the previous chair Joe Risi to have it exposed.

Marie, can we find time to discuss this prior to the summer recess?

I would like to define behaviors that are not acceptable to our discourse and have our board document that all members and the district manager are held to the same standards. I am copying Florence on this email as well as other community members.

I hope Nancy still has energy for public work, I encourage Nancy to reapply next year, and hope that any contention can be reviewed and eliminated. She will be strongly missed in my opinion. Also warmly welcome the new Board Members.

Thanks,  
dom

Katie Ellman, I want to also welcome all the new board members I look forward to working with you and hopefully meeting you in person sooner than later when it's safe. Evie and Dominic spoke so well. I want to publicly thank Nancy for mentoring me when I started on the boards and welcomed me as her Vice Chair for the Parks Recreation and Cultural Affairs Committee. I also would like to understand and maybe there's not time now and this is something we can work on over the summer, how and really just try to drive home the point that we need to have transparency if we're all volunteers and we all care about our community but if people are complaining about us as individuals if this is a work situation, we would have a chance to have that information presented to us and have a chance to defend ourselves and I feel that in this case that was not afforded to Nancy and I think it's a real shame.

Rod Townsend not to pile on, I also welcome all the new members and I'm sorry you're having to go through this conversation but I'm also glad you're hearing it. This is just a one sentence statement, Joe I hope you can communicate to the Acting Borough President that I feel that our boards autonomy has been usurped and ignored by her decision on this and like the others I know that Nancy's presence will be missed sorely by the not only the members of the board but the members of our community, thank you.

Ed Babor welcomed the new Board Members you bring a breath of fresh air to the Board and thank you. Wish you much success. Thank you.

Andre Stith also welcomed the new Board Members and said he looks forward to seeing everyone soon. Looks forward to getting things done, glad to have you guys on board. Mentioned that Zone 126 community program has a new Executive Director, Anju Rupchandani. She was promoted as Executive Director to Zone 126, next meeting I will have her on, so that she can introduce herself. Thank you for your time and miss seeing everyone in person. Richard Khuzami also welcome the new Board Members for coming aboard. He said it's great. He stated he is Lebanese American; we've had very few Asian Americans on this board in the past or from the middle east. He really appreciates having you guys on board, thank you so much. Thomas Ryan announced that YouTube was very successful. He has been monitoring uninterrupted the whole time.

### **Public Session**

The Chair asked Thomas Ryan to check for anything on Chat/Q&A.

Thomas Ryan read something from J. Rose at CCRB - the CCRB is still taken complaints regarding police misconduct. We're also conducting presentations virtually lastly, we will be hosting a Queens Board Meeting on July 8th from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., for information feel free to contact Jahi Rose at: 917-208-9320 or via email at: [jrose@ccrb.nyc.gov](mailto:jrose@ccrb.nyc.gov)

The Chair announced she sent Thomas Ryan a statement to be read. She said let me explain to the Board this is highly unusual but we are not meeting in person so tonight Tom usually calls up members of the public to speak. Tonight, he will be reading the statements of the public if any. Tom has a new job.

### **Written Public comment by Nancy Silverman**

Welcome new members of CB1. You are the most diverse group of new appointees ever to this Community Board, and I want to thank Councilmembers Constantinides and Van Bramer for fulfilling their promises as BP candidates to diversify this board. This is an important step in ensuring that this CB both represents and is representative of our community. To do your best work representing our community will require that you actively participate, especially, in the hard work of committees. It also requires that you get to know the bylaws of this Board and the rules that guide Open Meeting law of the City of New York and that you ensure these rules are followed. If you've not been provided with a copy of the bylaws, request it.

To all Board members, thank you for electing me to the Executive Board. I was committed to doing my part to make this Board transparent and democratic on behalf of our community. That was my goal when I was appointed to the board, and I am proud of the changes that came over my tenure here. Some of you liked it better back then. You should resign as CB members because you are not committed to our community, you are committed to whatever power you think being a CB member brings.

To board members who do the hard work of serving our community by ensuring fairness and transparency and who get to know the issues and the actions brought before the Board, thank you. I hope you will reach out to our new members and mentor them.

In order to serve the community, this board needs the support of staff. It requires a District Manager who is competent and committed to allowing board members to do their work, not getting in their way. Pages 25-27 of the bylaws specify the duties of the District Manager. As community board members, it is within your role to hold staff accountable.

Finally, I may no longer be a community board member, but I am a member of this community. Our beautiful, complicated, vibrant community deserves affordable housing, bike lanes, economic justice, open space, and jobs. We deserve a Community Board that prioritizes transparency and fairness.

**Defund the police! Black lives matter! (End of Statement)**

Dino Panagoulis stated a huge thank you. The issues with the emergency homeless shelters that were set up in the Dutch Kills area it seems that the concerns were actually brought to City Hall. They were brought to the powers-that-be and every single person that I have spoken to that actually brought those particular complaints has said that there has been absolutely no issues whatsoever. Whomever it was that actually did something and actually had conversations of the folks that are in there everyone is just a wonderful neighbor and there has been absolutely no issues whatsoever.

Dominic Stiller requested a copy of the Bylaws and Open Meeting Law emailed to all members.

The Chair stated yes, we will arrange that and as Evie pointed out they can go on the website. She stated that she wants to welcome all the new members but also the old members, it's been a trying year for everybody. I think that we are such a diverse group now and it'd be wonderful to bring all our thoughts and ideas together to the betterment of the Community. Thank you for joining Community Board 1, thank you for being on Community Board 1 and thank you all for your input.

Vanessa Jones-Hall said she started by thanking Marie and everyone. She just wanted to reach out and say through these trying times what the communities of color are dealing with. This is something that's not new to us as well as the residents of the Astoria Houses, Ravenswood or Queensbridge and Woodside communities of color at large and we appreciate the support that we have received from you. We look forward to more support received from you and an understanding of what our communities have been going through especially through in the fact you do to the fact that this pandemic occurred. People have lost their jobs. I know the community of Astoria Houses have lost a lot of people due to this virus. I myself have lost 49 loved ones not all due to the virus but this past Friday my sister who had was supposed to get a pacemaker in March but due to the shutdown appointment was canceled. She had a heart attack on Friday and now she's in a coma and they have left her children to make a decision. This situation has been devastating to a lot of us. My uncle who had cancer, his funeral is on Thursday, so we've been through a lot of devastations. It has been very heartbreaking and depressing to us as well as with this virus and everybody losing their jobs. We wanted to let it be known that our lives matter but even the diversity of the community of color also matters and I feel it's very important especially now going forward and when we open back up and even during the summer whatever possibilities we can make happen. That we as a Community Board reach out to all the communities even if we don't hear from them, to just see how things are going, just to check and see how people are handling their lives. I've been working along with others in the community. Thank you Evie as well as Queens Together with Jamie trying to provide food and other materials, informing them about the Census and even the Coronavirus where they can get testing just making sure we have wellness checks throughout the communities just the Astoria and Long Island City. It's just that would be great that we can all band together sometimes just put away our differences of negativity and come to or something because this is bigger than what we are. We need each other to be there for one another and this is very important because we all are suffering. It doesn't matter what's your race or your color but I'm just asking that everybody please ban together along with us as one. All of our lives matter and all of our quality of life matters and if we don't make something occur this is just going to get worse. We need to make sure that we pass the word especially to our youth to make sure that they understand the seriousness of this we have a lot of people that are not really taking this serious, not just the young people but all the people as well and throughout all our groups. Just like you said earlier in the meetings how people are not properly doing their social distancing even at date as they go visit these bars and cafes. This is a serious situation and I don't want to see it be a second wave because we lost too many people, I lost too many people. I can't continue to watch this kind of thing happen over and over again and within two months out of all my 57 years I've never lost this amount of people ever. I'm just reaching out to you all to say thank you for all the work we have all done together. Welcome to all the new members I look forward to you coming aboard and banding together. I love the fact that we have a diversity that represents our community finally and I say God bless you all and may you all be safe. Blessings to your families. Thank You.

The Chair thanked her, and she said very well said, Vanessa, Bravo.

The Chair, Marie Torniali Motioned to Adjourn.

Motioned by Andre Stith and Seconded by Dino Panagoulis

COMMUNITY BOARD 1, Queens

DATE 10/16/20

Full Board Meeting

Community Board Member	Present Absent Excused			Community Board Member	Present Absent Excused		
	Yes	No	Abs.		Yes	No	Abs.
Rose Anne Alafogiannis	✓	✓		Richard Khuzami	✓		
George Alexiou	✓			Nancy Konipol	✓		
Daniel Aliberti	✓			Jerry Kril	✓		
Loren Amor		✓		Hannah Lupien	✓		
Avninder Aujla	✓			Jeffrey Martin	✓		
Edward Babor	✓			Amin Mehedi	✓		
Jose Batista	Resigned			Antonio Meloni		✓	
Louise Bordley	✓			Eric Mouchette	✓		
Ann Bruno		✓		Stella Nicolaou		✓	
Edwin Cadiz	Resigned			Norma Nieves-Blas		✓	
Gerald Caliendo	✓			Mary O'Hara		✓	
Irak Dahir Cehonski	✓			Dino Panagoulis	✓		
Jean Marie D'Alleva	✓			Juliet Payabyab	✓		
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	Not reappointed		
Shahenaz Hamde	✓			Dominic Stiller	✓		
Evie Hantzopoulos	✓			Andre Stith	✓		
Amy Hau	✓			Marie Torniali	✓		
Helen Ho	✓			Rod Townsend	✓		
Pauline Jannelli	✓			Judy Trilivas	✓		
Vanessa Jones-Hall	✓			Kathleen Warnock	✓		
George Kalergios	✓			Mitchell Waxman	✓		
Number Board Members Present <u>39</u>							
Absent <u>9</u>				Excused <u>0</u>			
Present <u>39</u>							