



The City of New York
Community Board #1, Queens

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Qn01@cb.nyc.gov



Sharon Lee,
Acting Borough President
Vicky Morales,
Director, Community Boards
Marie Torniali,
Chairperson Board 1, Queens
Florence Koulouris,
District Manager

The safety and well-being of our community are our primary concern; therefore, the April 21, 2020 Community Board Meeting was held remotely. There were no public hearing items scheduled. Zoom was used to view the Boards Meeting or call in to participate during the event. *The Board welcome questions from the public by email to Qn01@cb.nyc.gov prior to the Board Meeting. All emailed questions related to Corona Virus (COVID-19) and local services should have been received by Monday, April 20th, 2020 at 1:00PM. The option to also email questions after the Full Board meeting related to discussed topics was provided. The NYC Pause and Corona Virus/ Covid 19 has brought about these necessary changes.*

Meeting Opens 6:30PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Torniali asks for a moment of reflection for those effected by the Corona Virus/COVID19 and a heartfelt salute to all essential workers on the forefront working day in and day out to protect and care for the communities they serve

Chair Torniali provided virtual directions for during the meeting. Ms Torniali provided an opportunity for District Manager Florence Koulouris to make a statement.

Florence Koulouris District Manager stated she wished everyone good health and noted any service questions or assistance with services could be provided by the Board Office. Florence stated the Board Office is operating via email at Qn01@cb.nyc.gov and would make every effort to assist in service retrieval during this difficult time

Chair Torniali reads statements provided by Elected Officials-

Queens Borough President Sharon Lee- Statement referred to the great importance of filing for the Census. The statement expanded on the pandemic/crisis now and all the benefits received by the filling out of the census forms for our communities that can occur in the future. The statement also discussed the term for Community Board Members being extended 2020 appointees May 31st and will be made to those serving now will be extended for the next 60 days. The Food Fueling the Front-line Workers provided to essential workers from QBP Lee is being extended for another two (2) weeks. This is funded by the Queens Borough President. The food is being prepared in L.I.C. by small businesses in the entrepreneurial space or vendors from Queens Night Market. The Parent Advisory Board Meeting will take place 4-30-2020 at 6-8pm. There will be a virtual Employment Fair, Queens Recruitment Fair tomorrow 4-22-2020 the time would be 2-3 pm. Today, there was a virtual event the email was sent out to the Board yesterday for an Inter- Faith virtual gathering which occurred prior to this meeting.

Assemblywoman Aravella Simotas sent a statement- Her statement thanked the Board for setting up and providing the virtual meeting. She continued to thank the Board members for their services during these circumstances and expanded her thought on how important it is to work together as community and elected leaders/ officials to provide timely and accurate information that is vital to the effects in our community.

The office of Jimmy Van Bramer stated they/the Councilman have been working remotely from home and have serviced hundreds of constituents (500 plus) from pothole to unemployment. The Councilman's office is open and available. They have daily staff meetings. Queensbridge and Jacob Riis have been visited and food supplies have been checked. The Councilman has visited Woodside Houses to distribute masks due to the virus. He thanks the Board for continuing to serve the community.

Nick Rolson (Representative) Costa Constantinides' Office provides a statement (was not emailed) for Councilman Constantinides due to the fact the Councilman and his wife have been ill due to COVID19/Corona Virus. Over the last two weeks they have been ill. They thank the Board for their service. Their office is receiving a multitude of questions and complaints including unemployment during the epidemic. The Councilman's office phone (718-274-4500) is forwarding calls to the staff which are manning the phones. Councilman Constantinides wrote letters to the Governor regarding those getting married and requiring marriage license. The office received the Executive order regarding virtual marriage update. Astoria Park Social distancing has also been addressed as requested by social media contact from the public. 311 can be called for distancing issues. The Queens Borough Bridge Bike lane is narrow and for people to commit to social distancing road changes have been requested and addressed by the Councilman. Questions can be addressed.

Daniel Bonthius (Representative) Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez Office provides a statement (was not emailed) The office is open and operating remotely from home. They can be reached at 718-6625970 or contact through the website ocasio-cortez.house.gov Also, small business and unemployment issues have been coming into their office. Congresswoman has been taking the concerns back to Washington. The Congresswoman is heading back tomorrow. The PPE (Personal Protection Equipment) bill that has been used up is being addressed and to be voted on tomorrow. The Congresswoman is looking to expand on the stimulus package beyond \$1200 first past and looking to assist small businesses. She is looking to expand protection for unemployment and renters also. The Corona Virus/COVID19 concerns information is being updated daily. Information is being shared city state and federal level in newsletter on website which is also in Spanish Newsletter in Spanish: <https://ocasio-cortez.house.gov/contact/boletin-espanol>. COVID updates on website: <https://ocasio-cortez.house.gov/services/information-and-resources-covid-19-coronavirus>

Mr. Ernie Brooks (Representative) Carolyn Maloney's office provides a statement regarding updates related to the Corona Virus/Covid19 work the Congresswoman has been participating in during this pandemic. She has been working with the Oversight Committee & Finance Committee to make sure the bill and the grants for small businesses. There is a lot of work going on with mutual aid service groups going on in LIC (in the vicinity of Queensbridge Houses) meals are being acquired and delivered to food pantries like Hour Children. Carolyn Maloney's grateful to the Board for meeting during this time.

Ms Victoria Lehey (Representative) Brian Barnwell's office provides a statement for Covid19 They are thankful for coordination of this meeting and opportunity to participate. They too are working remotely. If constituents are having difficulties reaching or receiving services like unemployment, please reach out to the office at 718- 651-3185 for local constituents. The office has limited staff so if you do not reach an attendant please do call back or leave a message and someone will return the call. The office is working with Maspeth Savings Bank PPE supplies to donate to health care workers and emergency services. If you have donations, please contact the office. Please follow protocols and stay safe. Updates and emails will follow to the Board office.

Zacharia Boyer Public Advocates Office (Representative) Jumane Williams Thanks for this meeting. Meetings like this lift spirits. The Public Advocate Community Service team is working around the clock. The team can be reached at gethelp@pubadvocate.nyc.gov. Free food is available 3 meals a day are accessible (DOE sites) for every NYC resident at meal hubs. Zboyer@advocate.nyc.gov

Chair Torniali Opens Question and Answer Session- All Astoria Mutual Aid Societies which are invited to speak regarding their programming/services related to Corona Virus (COVID-19)

The first speaker introduced by Chair Marie Torniali- Ms Evie Hantzopoulos

Ms Hantzopoulos provided an overview of a mutual aid society created to assist Health Care providers/ workers on the frontlines fighting the devastating effects caused by the pandemic COVID-19. The name of the organization is Queens Feeds Hospital. The organization was found about a month ago by a small group of local Astoria residents to assist and support at the same time Frontline Hospital workers and local restaurants. The service group came together to provide food to support their efforts and raise their spirits. The organization has raised \$120,000.00 funds towards their efforts. The organization has worked with Mt. Sinai Queens, Elmhurst Hospital, Jamaica, Flushing Hospital and Saint Johns and NY Presbyterian Hospital. Donors pay restaurants to prepare food for the hospital workers. 6000 meals served and will continue. They have now joined with Front Line Foods now QFH official Queens Chapter to work together towards a common goal. They welcome suggestions for restaurants who are able and might be willing to do that. You can follow them on social media or go Queensfeedshospitals.com. to learn more/support. The goal is to make sure restaurants stay in business while we feed the hospitals and they are cared for while we work together as a community.

Chair Torniali introduces Maryam Shariat of the Astoria Mutual Aid Network

Ms Maryam Shariat of Astoria Mutual Aid Network spoke about the efforts put forth by her organization. She thanked the Board for the opportunity to discuss the services. Mutual Aid is the concept of neighbors looking out for each other. Neighbors looking out for neighbors, especially the most vulnerable of neighbors. Compromised individuals are assisted in multiple ways. They keep a list and keep in contact with elected officials' offices. Resource contact for food pantries locations and hours are provide. The organization runs errands and organize rides through Uber and Lyft for medical appointments and such. They work with Assemblywoman Aravella Simotas office and have made over 4000 telephone call to connect with people and check in on them. Every 3-5 days calls are made to connect with their volunteer for assistance/companionship. For example, Mackenzie assisted recently with a woman who lost her job and her twins had a birthday. Without community assistance the woman would not have had the opportunity to celebrate with her twins. This was because the community was behind her that the date occurred. Since March 14th 3000 flyers 250 errands distributed 1000 call came in for help or to help. Working within CD1, CD2 and to the Rockaways the goal is to have neighbor supporting neighbors through-out Queens. Groceries and prescription pickup available. Partners like Queens Feeds Hospitals, many businesses locally and volunteers are ready for outreach to serve the community. Call volume has increased. 700 in network now willing to help 4 calls are now 30-35 calls mostly economically challenged neighbors having a hard time to afford groceries. So, now looking for a way to raise funds to hopefully give to the food pantries to shore up their supplies. Invite to follow Astoriamutualaid.com or on facebook & twitter. An available downloadable flyer in 10 languages is on website for posting/sharing. We want to protect the vulnerable contact hotline number is (646)397-8383. AstoriaMutualAid.com. You can email for support at astoriamutualaid@gmail.com or call us directly at 310.938.9493.

Chairpersons Role call in alphabetical order

Liz Erion no ULURPS or City Planning items yet available for voting they are on Pause.

Nancy Silverman announced Kathleen Warnock and Katie Ellman new Chairs of Parks Committee.

Chair Torniali thanked Nancy Silverman for Zoom tutorial for Board Members.

Ed Babor noted the passing of Vinicio Donato former Chair of CB1, Queens and Chair Torniali said a few words to the service of the community.

Old business/New business- No discussion

District Managers Report- CB1, Queens Qn01@cb.nyc.gov please send any questions related to this meeting or any other items we can assist you with during this time. Florence extended a heartfelt thanks to Judy Trilivas and all the employees at Mt. Sinai Queens for their service related to Corona Virus/COVID19.

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Marie Torniali, Chair stated the next meeting will be remote/virtual. Chair requested any Board items or questions be emailed to the office.

*Adoption February 2020 Minutes- Rosemarie Poveromo/Jean Marie D'Alleva

https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/queenscb1/downloads/pdf/2020_cb1q_board_meeting_minutes_2_18.pdf

Chair calls Motion to Adjourn- Ed Babor/Gerri Caliendo

Next regularly scheduled meeting date
tentatively- May 19, 2020
