

## **COMMUNITY BOARD 10**

CITY OF NEW YORK ◆ BOROUGH OF QUEENS
115-01 LEFFERTS BOULEVARD
SOUTH OZONE PARK, N.Y. 11420
TEL: (718) 843-4488
FAX: (718) 738-1184
E-MAIL: qn10@cb.nyc.gov



REGULAR BOARD MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

February 1, 2024

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** B. Braton, J. Caruso, E. Fraylon, A. Nocerino, F. Dardani, R. Ciulla-Frisone, A. Hill, J. Calcagnile, L. Walker, I. Van Putten, G. Singh, L. Amorim, S. Pace. P. Granickas, P. Nostramo, F. Mohamed, K. Roan, J. Stahl, G. Russo, M. Cherenfant, B. Ramsundar, I. Dimoh, S. Mohammed, A. Rajnauth, R. Narine

**BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**: R. Martinez, D. Mitchell, S. Uddin, A. Deebrah, M. Vecchio, R. Hitlall, B. Escobar, R. Ramgopal, A. Dhanpat, M. Amin, A. Gellineau, N. Latchana, N. Bissoon, P. Kishun, D. Wesby, R. Gendron, A. Cosentino, K. Ludhiana, N. Santiago, J. Quijano, B. Lall, A. Maharaj, J. Fazio

COMMUNITY BOARD STAFF PRESENT: K. Petersen, D.M.

## OTHERS PRESENT:

Hon. A. Adams, Speaker of the NYC Council; T. Strong rep., Hon. R. Persaud; C. Moore, rep., Hon. J. Addabbo; F. Sharif, rep., Hon. J. Sanders; C. Plaza rep., Hon. J. Rajkumar; W. Bao rep., Hon. K. Anderson; M. Bernath, rep., Hon. S. Pheffer-Amato; T. Eason rep., Hon. A. Adams; A. Leguisamo rep., Hon. J. Ariola; D. Brown rep., D. A. M. Katz; G. Katsalis, QBPO; A.C. K. Williams, C.O. NYPD PBQS; Capt. B. VanTull, C.O. 106 Pct.; P. O. T. Ferguson-Smith. 106 Pct Community Affairs; P. O. S. Huang 106 Pct. Crime Prevention; A. Dobrzynski, DSNY; S. Johnson, DCP; D. Tanis, rep., Resorts World; R. Hossain, LiveOn NY

The Chairperson opened the meeting at 7pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the February 1st Board Meeting of Community Board 10.

The Chairperson introduced Captain Berkley VanTull of the 106th Precinct and invited him to speak.

Captain VanTull stated that year to date there has been a decrease in crime in the city and that we are going in the right direction. He also gave kudos to his staff because they are doing great work. He warned of groups conducting jewelry swaps, which is a scam where they compliment an individual on their jewelry and then swap it while they are distracting them. He also warned of individuals targeting people going to and from banks where they distract them and swap out their debit card with another stolen one when they are using the ATM. Capt. VanTull also reminded everyone never to leave their cars running unattended. He continued that he looks forward to continuing to work in the 106 Pct. and to continue working with the Chairperson and Public Safety Chairperson of Community Board 10.

The Chair thanked the Captain for being here this evening and stated that not only is crime down, but crime in our precinct is also down.

The Chair then introduced Councilmember Adams of the 28th Council District who also serves as Speaker of the City Council. The Chairperson welcomed Speaker Adams and said the Board was pleased to have her join us this evening and invited her to speak.

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CM Adams stated that she missed everyone and wanted to give some updates regarding her work with CB 10. She spoke about her background and how she was previously the Chairperson of CB 12 and said she wanted to commemorate the life of one of her colleagues, former Council member, Paul Vallone. She stated that his father, Peter Vallone, Sr. was our city's first Council Speaker, and that Paul was the brother of another former Council member, Peter Vallone, Jr. At the time of his death, Paul was serving our city as Deputy Commissioner of External Affairs for the New York City Department of Veterans' Services. Hearing the news of Paul Vallone's passing was devastating and she will be attending the mass being held for him and will give a Proclamation. She added that he will be sorely missed and that he was loved dearly.

She thanked CB 10 for their hard work over the years and announced that she worked really hard to ensure truck signage was installed in South Ozone Park and that because of our collective advocacy, 9 signs were installed along the Conduit. She also announced that her office advocated to have DOT install a left turn blinking signal at Rockaway Blvd. and Lefferts Blvd. She stated that it is important that DOT does right by the community and that everything seems to be a fight. With every Community Board project, DOT is slow to work with us in our community in Queens and they don't like doing what the community wants them to do. She stated that she is keeping her eyes on them and tracking their work. She continued that a majority of our "asks" come back as no's and her office has made a spreadsheet to look at the tallies from 2017 to 2023 and the results were abysmal. She added that to see CB 10 get 9 signs is an act of heroism in her view. She also announced that we finally have bus stop seating at Lefferts Blvd. and Atlantic Avenue in front of the Richie Rich Palace so at least folks waiting for the bus won't sit on the steps of the catering hall. She stated that her office opened their satellite office at the South Ozone Park library on Thursdays from 12 pm to 5 pm. She continued that they are doing well there and that she wants to bring her office to the people to offer constituent services as well as having an attorney present on site to offer consultation. She also stated that she also wanted to thank her staff and that she wears 50 other hats since there are 50 other members of the Council with 50 districts that she is responsible for. However, her district is her main priority and always will be. She introduced Ty Hankerson who leads her staff and stated that that Tiffany Eason from her office is here tonight as well and that she thanks them for the work they do, and she thanks CB 10 for being a great partner and she appreciates the work they do. She wished everyone a happy February and a Happy New Year.

The Chairperson thanked Speaker Adams for joining us tonight and for the work she and her staff do. The Chair stated that CM Adams staff works hard and works well with the Board, and she thanked Ty and Tiffany who attend our meetings regularly representing the Speaker and CD28.

The Chair asked if anyone had any questions for the Speaker. Hearing none, the Chairperson opened the Public Hearing and introduced Stephen Johnson from the NYC Dept. of City Planning to present the Gaming Facility Text Amendment (N24019ZRY) and invited him to speak.

Stephen Johnson introduced himself and stated that the Department of City Planning was proposing a Citywide Text Amendment to add the Gaming Facility Use (Use Group 8) into the NYC Zoning Resolution for the first time. He continued that Gaming facilities, such as casinos and racetracks are not currently legally permitted in the City. This Text Amendment would allow NYC to be considered as a possible location for a Gaming facility when the State looks to approve up to three casino licenses in the Downstate region (NYC, Long Island City and Westchester, Putnam, Rockland Counties).

He explained that the Gaming Facility Text Amendment if adopted would only apply to a gaming facility license approved by the State during the current, legislated-approved, process. The text amendment will not apply to any future gaming licenses the BYS legislature might approve. He went on to state a gaming facility application must be approved by a Community Advisory Committee and must be compliant with local zoning regulations. A Community Advisory Committee will review each gaming facility application based on the site's location and will consist of six members or appointees by the Governor, NYC Mayor, State Senator, State Assembly member, Borough President, NYC Councilmember. The text amendment proposed does not apply to any future modifications or changes to a gaming facility.

Mr. Johnson went on to explain the proposed text amendment is to add the Gaming Facility Use (Use Group 8) into the Zoning Resolution as casinos and racetracks are not currently legally permitted in the city. He noted that Resorts World and Aqueduct Racetrack are permitted because they are situated on State-owned land.

7:30 pm R. Narine arrived.

The Chairperson thanked M. Johnson for his presentation and opened the floor to members of the public who wished to ask a question or make a comment.

A question was raised by Ellen Bruno as to why Aqueduct is included when we already have a hotel, casino and restaurants? The response given was that Aqueduct technically is a racino, not a casino. Resorts World is applying for one of the licenses that will be available downstate in the current State process to award additional gaming licenses for full casinos. Ms. Bruno questioned if we approve this does it mean that the city can sell the property.

The Chair stated that the Resorts World property is owned by the state of New York and that what we have now is a racino, established under a NYS process back in 2008 that allowed racetracks to have casinos (racinos). She continued that what we have on the gambling front at Resorts World is the machines are basically like Lottery scratch offs, they are not actually slot machines like the ones in Nevada. She added that anywhere else in the city where the state might consider giving a license wouldn't have to go through the ULURP process if this is approved.

Ms. Bruno inquired if they would be putting in table games. The response was that if Resorts World gets a license for a full casino, they can then put in live table games. Ms. Bruno asked if Resorts World was being leased from New York State in the event they sell the property. The answer was that Resorts World has a long-term lease, the city cannot sell the property, and the state is not proposing selling the land.

The Chair asked if there were any other members of the public that would like to speak. Hearing none. The Chair then closed the public hearing.

The Chair asked if there were any Board Members with questions.

A question was raised by a Board Member that if Aqueduct is operating because it is state owned and no where else in NYC allows them to operate, if it doesn't pass would they get it by default. The Chair responded that Aqueduct could get a license whether it passes, or it doesn't. Other entities applying for a gaming license in the city would have to go through a regular ULURP.

Stephen Johnson stated there are two extreme positions, either people are 100% for the text amendment or 100% against it then there are those in between that may want gaming but not in their Borough. He explained that can also be a condition of your vote.

The Chair asked if there were any other Board Members who had any questions. Hearing none.

The Chair again thanked Stephen Johnson for his presentation and closed the public comment period of the hearing.

The Chair announced that the Chief of the NYPD's Patrol Borough Queens South, Assistant Chief Kevin Williams, was present and invited him to speak.

Chief Williams wished everyone a Happy New Year and stated that he was aware that Captain VanTull was here earlier and that he had given an overview on the 106<sup>th</sup> Precinct. The Chief said he is attending Community Board Meetings and Precinct Council meetings to give an overview of 2023. He continued that when he came here last year, he had a goal to have crime reduced however, we didn't end the year with less crime in PBQS. We had 65 more crimes in 2023. The NYPD is judged on 7 major crimes and in 5 of the 7 categories there were reductions. Those 5 were murder, rape, robbery, burglary, and grand larceny; however, the two crimes that increased throughout the Borough in 2023 were felony assaults and grand larceny auto. These two crimes plagued all of NYC in 2023. He continued that last year there were 169 more felony assaults and 255 more car thefts. Even with those increases, we only lost crime by 65 crimes for the year. Those two categories caused us not to win the year with crime. He continued that most of the assaults involved domestic violence. We averaged 70% arrests in all those crimes or officers responded and took the report and it was investigated by the unit and the arrest was made. There were some high-profile domestic violence crimes towards the end of the year and that our Domestic Violence Units are addressing those issues. He continued that Grand Larceny Auto is plaguing the city and a lot of thefts are centered around social

media challenges where two makes and models of vehicles were identified, and it was shown how easy it is to steal the vehicle. Vehicles are still being stolen due to cars left running. He warned everyone not to do this and to always turn off your car engine which is a huge help to the police. He continued that four of his precincts had an increase in crime. They were in the 101 Pct., 105 Pct., 103 Pct., and the 107 Pct. Crime was down in the 106 Pct., 100 Pct., 102 Pct., and the 113 Pct. He added that he is proud of the work that was done with Domestic Violence and the decrease of 46% in shooting incidents resulted in 79 less people being shot. All of his eight commands showed decreased shooting incidents. He stated that we have a new Commanding Officer in the 106th precinct and that five of his eight commands have a new Commanding Officer. Chief Williams believes he has excellent staff in place to a deliver reduction in crime in 2024. He also stated that the NYPD has the ability to address quality of life issues in Queens South and that they address quality of life issues more than crime at the meetings they go to, and they will continue to address these issues. He stated they took an aggressive stance with overnight commercial vehicle parking and that in 2022 they towed 400 trucks, booted 900 and issued 2,000 summonses to commercial vehicles parked on the street. They improved on that number in 2023. He thanked Resorts World for being a community partner and stated that they used heavy tow to tow 1 car a day or 2 cars a night and they found areas to tow vehicles so they could do 10 to 15 a night. He stated that Resorts World allowed them to use their parking lot for this initiative so they were able to address that issue and they will continue to strive to make life better in South Queens. He stated that another issue that has plagued S/E Queens in the summer months is parties that lead to violence however, last summer was the second summer in a row where no violence occurred at parties in PBOS because we were able to deploy resources effectively to address that. He continued that PBQS consists of 8 Precincts and that by the end of the year they will have a 9th Precinct in the Rosedale area of Queens. He stated that right now there is an annex and that the building next to it will be the new 116th Precinct which is scheduled to be completed in the fall of this year and that with the new command opening up it will cut the 105th Pct. Command in half. He stated that he is very excited about the addition of this new precinct because they have been fighting for this precinct to be built for 40 years. He added that he is very proud to be the PBQS commander and he is proud of the men and women that go out and do this job every day. He stated that people have the freedom of expression and they can protest when they want but they should not be violating any laws. They had an incident over the weekend and on January 1st and he stated that they will allow people to express themselves but not at the expense of the general public. They shouldn't be causing a general disruption. Chief Williams stated that he will take 2 questions from the audience.

A Board Member stated that last Saturday, there was a major protest along the Belt Parkway going towards Sunrise Highway and he noticed there were 4-unit type vehicles set up which included cars, vans and a tow truck to handle the protest. He stated that the police did a great job. The protest happened quickly and was over quickly. Chief Williams responded that the protest that was held on Saturday allowed 1st Amendment speech however, they won't allow protest groups to violate the law.

A Board Member stated that GLA's are a thorn in our side, and we hear constantly about it from our Captain but why are summonses not being issued for leaving cars running as we are taking away valuable resources if a car is stolen because officers then have to do reports rather than patrolling. It is a serious problem. Chief Williams responded that he sees that, but he wants to be reasonably fair. He would rather that the police warn you than write you a summons because you aren't the person stealing the car, you may be leaving it unattended to be stolen but he doesn't believe that type of enforcement will solve the crime. He stated that he would rather identify the people who are stealing the cars and go after them and giving a summons won't help community relations. He asks that everyone help spread the word so that category of theft will dramatically drop. He continued that the challenge for all of the Commanding Officers this year is the amount of people at the Precinct Council meetings. He stated that he grew up in the Borough and it is very diverse, and they want to bring all the diverse people out to these meetings so they can hear all of the different concerns because if they don't come to these meetings, they will never know what the concerns are. He continued that his Commanding Officers will be judged based on that for participation.

The Chair thanked Chief Williams for his work in the Borough of Queens and for all the work his personnel are doing. She stated that we are very appreciative of the police force and that when we look around the room of CB 10, we are getting younger members. We represent diversity of race and religion, and we are the most racially diverse Community Board District in the city of New York. In terms of the 106 Precinct Council, that is one of the meetings where you see more diversity than at some neighborhood meetings because the Pct. Council covers the whole of the precinct's area.

The Chair resumed the regular order of business and turned the meeting back to the Land Use Chair to discuss the Gaming Land Use agenda item.

The Land Use Chair stated that the question that was raised by Ms. Bruno earlier was a good question as to why we are looking at an action when we already have a racino here. Resorts World was created on state property and they have put in an application for a full casino to expand. He explained that CB 10 is still required to hear the action from City Planning and to act on it and give an opinion of yes or no with conditions. He continued that he held a Land Use Committee Meeting where the Committee discussed the Gaming Facility Text Amendment and what strikes us is that we understand getting ready for the other sites and that it is needed in the zoning text amendment for land use however, what affected us most is that they are eliminating the standard for ULURP that has preexisted since 1975 to create another process that removes Community Boards from having a formal role in a land use matter as was intended by ULURP. The ULURP process is mandated for Community Boards and this new process will eliminate the direct review in communities by putting it in the purview of a committee controlled only by elected officials. He continued that we have a good relationship with Resorts World now and we can work with them if they got the license, but this amendment would eliminate the ULURP process to the detriment of the other communities where gaming is being considered as they would experience the chipping away of a real local community review. He stated that the Committee's recommendation is to oppose.

The Chair stated that this is another example of something that seems to be a trend regarding land use. There are 59 Community Boards in the city, and this is an example of taking something away from the citizens and putting a process totally in the hands of 7 elected officials. Hypothetically, if Resorts World were a new property not on state land and this amendment were in effect, we would not have the opportunity to be in a room like this with the people who live immediately surrounding the site to do a ULURP review. Another type of project may come along and again the city may also try do the same thing and take that project out of ULURP. ULURP is not a perfect process, but it's a process that allows people in a local community to have a voice. The Committee's recommendation is to say no to this as it will set a precedent for future bad policy. It is not a statement on what City Planning proposes, per se, but it is a statement that we don't want exceptions to ULURP being made for projects that may be controversial in a neighborhood. That is the premise for the Committee's recommendation. We have a great track record with Resorts World, and they can expand to a full-blown casino without this should they be granted a license. This Text Amendment doesn't affect our community directly, but it affects other communities.

The Board Chair stated that the Land Use Chair made the motion, and she asked if there was any discussion on the motion. Hearing none.

The Chair explained that the motion is not to support this however, when we do a backward vote, a yes vote means no and a no vote means yes.

A Board member inquired if these discussions were going on at other Community Boards. The Chair responded yes and that it appears that Manhattan Boards are not happy and that another one proposed in Queens required parkland which is controversial. Many Boards seem to be concerned that with recent changes made to the CEQR process and the SEQR environmental review processes attempts are being made to eliminate direct community participation in land use review processes. The Board Member stated that it seems that they feel the way we do.

An inquiry was raised by a Board Member as to how much money they will have to put up to get a license. Stephen Johnson from DCP responded that \$500 million dollars is invested if they get the license. The Chair asked if there were any other questions.

The Chair restated the motion in the positive to avoid a confusing "backward" vote. The motion is to support, so a "yes" vote is to support approval of the Gaming Text Amendment and that a vote of "no" means that you want to leave the process alone and keep the ULURP process in effect for review of gaming sites.

The vote was 0 in favor, 25 opposed, 0 abstaining. The motion failed.

The Chair opened the second Public Hearing for Ashok Architecture Design, PLLC for BSA Application for 82-26 South Conduit Avenue (proposed dwellings that do not front on a legally mapped street).

The Chair introduced the architect, Ashish A. Patel and invited him to speak.

Mr. Patel introduced himself and stated that he is the architect designing four two-family houses and he is asking for a waiver from BSA to allow him to develop the parcel of land for residential use. He continued that the land is located on the south side of South Conduit Avenue between 82<sup>nd</sup> & 84<sup>th</sup> Street, which is not a built street, so he is asking for a waiver in order to develop housing on the site. He continued that he is proposing a street to be built in front of the housing to provide access for the Fire Department if needed. He explained that the waiver that he is requesting is needed because there is no mapped street and it is a good opportunity for developing land. He is proposing 4 houses with 8 dwelling units in total, each with parking. Mr. Patel asked if there were any questions.

A question was asked by a Board Member if this was discussed at the Committee Meeting. The Land Use Chair responded yes that they discussed it at length. He explained that we as a Board are only acting on the application part to open up a portion of South Conduit Avenue. It's actually a mapped street but the city didn't put it in with paving, lighting etc. The owner is fronting on a street that is not physically there. He has to do a paving plan and build the street to be able to build houses. The builder needs to pay for all this limiting frontage and the development of 200 feet of a street. The houses may be built as of right. It is an R-4 zone west of the stables. He has taken on this project, and we have no say so on the houses because it is as of right. Our role in the action relates to opening up the street for the builder to do what he has to do in order to build houses at the site.

The Land Use Chair stated that one of the issues is where the FDNY is concerned. He is creating a roadway from 82<sup>nd</sup> Street and part is in place. It is overgrown with trees. He is stopping at the last house creating a dead end with a barrier. If he went further and connected to 84<sup>th</sup> Street the FDNY would have better access.

Mr. Patel stated that he is working with the FDNY.

An inquiry was made by a Board Member if sprinklers will be installed in the homes. The Land Use Chair responded yes, sprinklers will be installed but we still don't know the FDNY comments and that is a big issue for us. If there is a fire, that is a dead-end and the firetrucks may not be able to get in or out in that direction. He stated that his recommendation would be to have the builder connect to 84th Street.

An inquiry was made by a Board Member as to how many feet he would have to build. The Land Use Chair stated it was 200 feet, 40 feet wide to get to 84<sup>th</sup> Street then another 30 feet, so there is a cost to do this but without hearing from the FDNY we don't know what issues it might raise. They are a lead agency and also that is a dead end street where cars park. He asked Mr. Patel if he had any idea when the FDNY might be responding.

Mr. Patel stated that they have a hearing coming up. The Land Use Chair stated that since the FDNY hasn't given Mr. Patel anything in writing yet, the Land Use Committee's position was not in favor and that the Committee would recommend a "no" vote. The Chair also explained that the vote can be a yes but with conditions or a no.

A Board Member asked if it would be best not to have a vote so it would not hurt the developer. The Chair stated that we can ask BSA not to approve without the FDNY approval.

A Board Member stated that the Land Use Committee voted yes so why are we saying no. The Land Use Chair explained that they voted yes assuming they would get the feedback from the FDNY from Mr. Patel before tonight's hearing and we haven't received it, so we are adjusting the recommendation.

The Board Chair explained that the Committee decision was yes if we get the FDNY information and it indicates the dead-end is ok for FDNY, but the Committee didn't get it. She continued that if the vote motion was not to approve it would be another backwards motion. Wording the motion in the positive, as a motion to approve, a "yes" vote means yes, and a "no" vote is not to approve this project without FDNY input. We can couch it with our comment to BSA that if they feel that it is acceptable, they can go ahead but the Committee Chair is recommending voting no instead of yes but originally it would have been a yes recommendation had we received FDNY information from the applicant as requested by the committee.

The Chair restated the motion again that there is a motion on the floor to approve and that a yes vote means to go ahead, and a no vote means don't go ahead with the BSA until they handle the FDNY issue.

0 in favor, 25 opposed, 0 abstaining. The motion failed. The Board will recommend to BSA that it not approve absent FDNY approval.

The Chair asked if there were any corrections to the January 2024 minutes. Hearing none, the minutes will stand.

**CORRESPONDENCE**: The Chair reviewed incoming correspondence for the month of January which included:

- Letter from DOT regarding a speed hump on Sutter Avenue bet. 121 & 123 Street that has been approved. Installation will take place when they have the resources.
- Letter from DOT regarding a speed reducer on 150 Avenue bet. 128 & 126 Street that was approved.
   Installation will take place when they have the resources.
- Letter from NYMTC proposing transportation improvement amendments up to January 26th
- NYMTA notice of public review period for 2024 and 2025
- Information regarding TLC relationship to wheelchair accessible services
- Correspondence regarding the Queens Bus Network Redesign that will come before the Board next month.
   It was stated that we will be holding a Public Hearing where comments can be made.
- Comment from Lawrence Hughes on a number of the bus routes.
   It was stated that the Committee will meet on the bus redesign and the comment time is 3 minutes and that anything longer can be sent in writing to us.
- Correspondence from DDC regarding pedestrian ramps being constructed in all Boroughs.
   There are 4 locations in CB 10 at Liberty Ave & 114 Street and Liberty Avenue & 115 Street at the N/E & S/W corners.
- Citywide Statement of Needs
   The Citywide Statement of Needs was issued on January 23<sup>rd,</sup> and we have 90 days to respond. The due date for the response is April 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Letter from the Parks Department that there is a design delay for Frederick Judge playground reconstruction project due to coordination with DEP for a new stormwater system to be installed. This project was supposed to be completed in May 2023 and now the project is expected to be completed in May 2024.
- Notification of three different product waivers for DPR for bug sprays for trees
- Partial vacate order from HPD at 133-30 123 Street
- Management and Budget notices none of which impact our Board area.
- Flyers from the Department of Veterans Services regarding the programs they are doing
- Notification from the Public Design Commission on wellness and using city space for artwork.
- Notification from the Franchise Concession Review Committee of a public hearing on February 14<sup>th</sup> regarding small business matters.
- BSA notification of a hearing on January 22<sup>nd</sup>.
   It was stated that part of that action was a variance regulation at 105-31 76 Street that we approved months
- FOIL request that was responded to in accord with the process for such requests.

The Chair stated that if there is anything in the directed mail that the Board Members would like to view to let her know.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The Chair read the report of expenditures for the month of January due to the absence of the treasurer.

BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S LIAISON REPORT: Georgia Katsalis rep. for the Borough President's Office and Director of Community Boards introduced herself and announced that Community Board Applications are available on the website until February 16<sup>th</sup> up until 5 pm for any civic minded community members that want to apply, and for those seeking reappointment and she asked everyone to help spread the word. She added that if there are any questions about the application process, to reach out to Khaleel Bragg at <a href="mailto:Kbragg@queensbp.org">Kbragg@queensbp.org</a>. She also announced that on February 12<sup>th</sup> they will be hosting a Lunar New Year Celebration at Borough Hall from 6pm to 8 pm and announced other events. To RSVP for any of these events go to <a href="mailto:www.queensbp.org/rsvp.">www.queensbp.org/rsvp.</a>

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT: The District Manager stated that we have received notification that in the coming weeks National Grid has planned construction work to install a new gas main at the following locations: 113 Street bet. 107 Avenue & Liberty Avenue, 115 Street bet. 107 Avenue & 109 Avenue, 114 Street bet. 107 Avenue & 109 Avenue, 115 Street bet. 109 Avenue & 111 Avenue, 114 Street bet. 109 Avenue & 111 Avenue, 109 Avenue bet. 115 Street & 116 Street, 109 Avenue bet. 113 Street & 114 Street, 109 Avenue bet. 115 Street, 107 Avenue & 115 Street, 107 Avenue & 114 Street, 109 Avenue & 115 Street. The new gas mains will be installed in the street or sidewalk and the excavation required will be backfilled each day. The entire work will be kept clean and orderly, and attempts will be made to keep noise, dust and debris to a minimum. All or part of the gas service may have to be replaced. In order to complete this work, National Grid may need to gain access to the homes at the point where the service enters the building. If this is the case, the homeowner will be contacted by a National Grid Representative to make an appointment. All street and sidewalk surfaces affected by the construction will be repaved to ensure a smooth surface. Temporary asphalt pavement will be used until all National Grid work is complete and permanent restoration can be performed.

<u>CHAIRPERSONS REPORT</u>: The Chairperson reported/commented that information on the following was in members' folder material:

Letter received from Jamaica Hospital stating they are applying for a statewide grant for a comprehensive cancer service in Queens and they are asking the Board for a letter of support for the funding request. The Chair made a motion to send a letter of support. P. Granickas seconded the motion.

The Chair asked if there was any discussion on the motion. R. Ciulla Frisone disclosed that she was required not to vote on this since she sits as a member on the Jamaica Hospital Board.

The Chair explained that R. Ciulla-Frisone was disclosing that she can't vote on this item, but she can speak about it if she wishes.

The Chair stated that a motion was on the floor to support the request for a letter of support for the Jamaica Hospital Grant Application.

24 in favor, 0 Opposed, 1 not voting due to disclosed conflict of interest (R. Ciulla-Frisone). The motion carried.

The Chair stated that we will get a letter out to Jamaica Hospital.

Citywide Statement of Needs information in folders tells what the city is looking at to put where and that we will go through the volume of the book. It is not very specific and there doesn't appear to be anything sited in our Board area. The full SON is available to anyone who wants to read the full document.

The Chairperson reported the Mayor's Preliminary Management Report has been released and is available. It is 400 pages and worth downloading. There is also an interactive website, and it includes tons of links that are interesting, and it is worth looking at.

Winter weather response information from Emergency Management was also in the folders as well as a copy of the presentation that was given last month on the elevator at the Rockaway Blvd. train station and information on the gaming text amendment.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**CONSUMER AFFAIRS:** The Committee Chair stated that the report is in the folders.

**EDUCATION:** The Chair stated that the Committee Chair was not with us this evening because she was still caring for her mother.

**GATEWAY:** The Chair stated that the Committee Chair was not with us this evening due to a fall and he is suffering from broken bones however, he is one of our long-term members who is so serious about his work on this Board that

he called us from the hospital to make sure that his application for reappointment gets in on time. He worked with us over the phone and did his application while at the hospital.

The Chair announced that she posted on the CB 10 Facebook page that applications will be available for school age children that are interested in a STEM program at York College. The application period opens on February 5<sup>th</sup> and she suggests that anyone interested apply quickly because the application period closes quickly.

**LAND USE:** The Committee Chair stated that he has been very busy holding Land Use Committees and the board will be looking at Green Fast Track for Housing and a variance for a gas station on the Van Wyck Expwy. He stated that he will be holding a Land Use Meeting regarding the gas station BSA application.

<u>LIBRARIES</u>: The Committee Chair announced that it is tax season and that libraries are doing prep and filings for free for those who can't afford this service and to call the library for any additional information. She also announced that it is Black History Month and that you can pick up a journal at the local library. She also announced that we should continue to support our libraries.

PUBLIC SAFETY: The Committee Chair stated that the crime stats are in the folder. He continued that the Precinct Council meets once a month and it is the only meeting that covers the entire Precinct and CB 10. If areas lack a Civic or Block Association this is the meeting they should attend regarding policing concerns. He announced that the Precinct Council does not meet in February, but they will meet again in March, and they do not meet in August due to National Night Out Against Crime. The Council meets 10 months out of the year and one of the problems they have is the parking, but they are working on trying to get permission for attendees to use a parking lot that is nearby. He also stated that you can also look at the Council Facebook page at:

https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=106%20pct.%20community%20council which keeps you up to date on things going on in the community. All of the information is there for you on how to get in touch with the council and if you leave a message, you will get an answer the next day.

SANITATION: The Chair introduced a representative from DSNY and invited him to speak. Adam Dobrzynski from DSNY introduced himself and thanked the Board for inviting him to attend the meeting this evening. He stated that as far as commitment to keeping NYC clean DSNY has asked residents to put their garbage out later and they are continuing their goal with keeping NYC businesses clean. NYC businesses will now be required to have trash bins. This will apply to food related businesses, chain stores, offices and medical facilities. They have been sharing this information and stated that starting on March 1st these businesses are required to bin up. He also added that if there are any dumping conditions that he can reached at 212-291-1220 and he stated that he is aware that there are many abandoned vehicles with temporary plates that are expired and that they are working with the NYPD and will be given new restrictions. If anyone is aware of any of these types of vehicles, they should let his office know and they will follow up.

A question was raised by a Board Member about the commercial businesses. He stated that all commercial establishments utilize private carters, and he is not understanding them having to use bins. The response given was that the private carters are aware of the rules, and they are informing their clients. The businesses will need to provide their own bins, or the private carters will provide them for them. They will need to see that the bin is there to be serviced by the private carters.

**SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT:** The Committee Chair announced that the Summer Youth Employment Program is opening up and it involves career exploration for youth. Applicants must be age 14 to 24 and they must be residents of the 5 Boroughs and legally allowed to work in the United States. To apply go to applications.nyc.syep.com or nyc.gov. The deadline to apply is March 1<sup>st</sup> and the applications are done online. She also announced that NYC public schools are hiring for food services for more information call 718-707-4400 Monday to Friday from 7:30 am to 3 pm or go to schoolsnyc.gov/food services/jobs and she added that the rest of her report is in the folders.

**TRANSPORTATION:** The Committee Chair stated that she will be having a Transportation Committee Meeting on February 5<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm and she urges the Committee Members to attend. The MTA will be there to discuss the Bus Redesign Network that will involve the rerouting of buses and your voice is important. She also announced that there will be a Queens Traffic Safety Board Meeting held on February 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am that she and the District Manager will be attending.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

The Chair asked if any other representatives from City agencies were present. There being none the Chair continued with reports from representatives for various elected officials.

The Chair introduced Carl Moore rep. for Sen. Addabbo and invited him to speak. Carl Moore rep. Sen. Addabbo introduced himself and stated that there are flyers with their events up front and that tomorrow Sen. Addabbo and AM Pheffer-Amato will be holding a press conference about the Cross Bay Bridge rebate program that will go into effect and he also has flyers up front about how to set up the E-Z pass correctly for that program. He announced that they will also be holding Valentines for Vets where they will be collecting items for St. Albans Veterans Home and the MetroCard Van will be at the Senior Center on Cross Bay Blvd on February 29<sup>th</sup> for those who pay half fares or need to put money on their card or transfer their card. He added that he also has flyers with information about the new laws that are in effect from the Senator.

The Chair introduced Faran Sharif rep. for Sen. Sanders and invited him to speak. Faran Sharif introduced himself and announced that the NYS Association of Blacks and Puerto Ricans will be holding a day trip on February 17<sup>th</sup> and he has flyers available up front. He also announced that the Senator will be holding his monthly meeting on February 22<sup>nd</sup> from 1 pm to 3 pm at Rockaway Beach Blvd. and he has flyers up front about that as well.

The Chair introduced Tanequa Strong rep. for Sen. Persaud and invited her to speak. Tanequa Strong introduced herself and announced that this Saturday, they will be having Tax Prep offered at their District office from 10 am to 1 pm and they will hold a Tax webinar from 6:30 pm to 7 pm and that she will update everyone from March and April on these events going forward.

The Chair introduced Maggie Bernath rep. for Assemblymember Pheffer-Amato and invited her to speak. Maggie Bernath introduced herself and announced that the legislative session started and the Assemblymember is in Albany. She announced that this Saturday, the Cross-Bay Bridge rebate will go into effect thanks to the work of Sen. Addabbo and AM Pheffer-Amato.

The Chair introduced William Bao rep. for Assemblymember Anderson's office and invited him to speak. William Bao introduced himself and announced that their office will be holding Tax Prep every Wednesday starting February 7<sup>th</sup> and that he has flyers with this information available up front. He also announced that the State of the District will be held on February 22<sup>nd</sup> and that more details will be coming soon.

The Chair introduced Carlos Plaza rep. for Assemblymember Rajkumar and invited him to speak. Carlos Plaza introduced himself and stated that the Assemblymember is fighting hard in Albany to address the illegal smoke shops and to take away the illegal e-bikes. Their office will also be hosting a free mammogram event and appointments can be made by calling their office.

The Chair introduced Alex Leguisamo rep. for Councilmember Ariola and invited him to speak. Alex Leguisamo introduced himself and wished everyone a good evening. He thanked everyone who attended the Councilmember's Inauguration ceremony on Monday, and he wanted to announce their upcoming events. He stated they will be holding a senior prom on February 13<sup>th</sup> and to call their office to register. He also stated that he is available to assist those who need help to see if they qualify for any tax abatements with the Department of Finance and that they will have the Department of Finance in their office on February 27<sup>th</sup> from 1 pm to 4 pm to help constituents with their property taxes. He also read a statement from the Councilmember on how she opposes the City of Yes from City Planning and how she feels that it will destroy the character of our neighborhoods.

The Chair introduced Dan Brown rep. for Queens District Attorney Katz and invited him to speak. Dan Brown introduced himself and announced that he has their newsletter available up front along with their flyers. He announced there is an RFP for funding available for non-profits who serve youth by tutoring, mentoring, etc. and to call him with any question sat 718-286-6953. He continued that DA Katz has 2 suspects indicted on 130 counts of possession of an arsenal of ghost guns in an Astoria apartment along with equipment used to make bombs and a hit list. Both of these

individuals were remanded, not released on bail, and face 25 years in prison if convicted. He continued that another suspect was arraigned for criminal possession of a weapon for ghost guns and other paraphernalia and that the Queens DA is making efforts to rid the city of these guns.

The Chair asked Dan Brown to take back thanks from our community. She added that last year there was an attack on a woman from Rockaway at the Howard Beach station which left the victim blind in one eye. The suspect was recently convicted, and we look forward to that person spending time in jail.

The Chair announced that we had with us earlier P.O. Ferguson -Smith from 106<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Affairs and P.O. Simon Huang who is the new Crime Prevention Officer at the Precinct.

## **PUBLIC FORUM:**

The Chair asked if there is anyone else from the public who would like to speak.

Raida Hassan from LiveOn NY introduced herself as the Queens Community Government Affairs liaison for LiveOn NY and stated that she was here tonight to talk about organ donation in the NYC area.

The Chair stated that we will be very happy to disseminate any information provided and she thanked her for her presentation.

The Chair asked if there was anyone else from the public who wished to speak.

Stephen Sang introduced himself and wished everyone a good evening. He stated that he was a Jr. at Columbia University studying Political Science and that he wanted to raise awareness about the Surrogate Court in Queens which covers issues such as banking and real estate and how he feels that there is definitely room for improvement in this court.

The Chair asked if there was anyone else from the public who wished to speak. Hearing none.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Karvn Petersen

Draft- Subject to Approval