



ELIZABETH BRATON  
Chairperson

## COMMUNITY BOARD 10

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KARYN PETERSEN  
District Manager

### REGULAR BOARD MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

June 3, 2021

#### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

B. Braton, M. Adams, L. Amorim, A. Antonino, J. Ariola, P. Baumann, J. Calcagnile, J. Caruso, M. Cherenfant, R. Ciulla-Frisone, A. Cosentino, F. Dardani, A. Deebrah, A. Dhanpat, I. Dimoh, J. Fazio, E. Fraylon, A. Garcia, A. Gellineau, R. Gendron, P. Granickas, R. Hitlall, M. Logan, A. Maharaj, R. Martinez, D. Mitchell, C. Mocombe, F. Mohamed, S. Mohammed, A. Nocerino, M. Salim, N. Santiago, A. Siewnarine, J. Stahl, I. VanPutten, M. Vecchio, L. Walker

#### **BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

M. Q. Amin, N. Bissoon, E. Cheng, J. Coulverson, E. Holland, P. Kishun, P. Lynch, S. Pace, J. Quijano, B. Ramsundar, R. Rathour, Russo, V. Singh

#### **COMMUNITY BOARD 10 STAFF PRESENT:** K. Petersen, D.M.; M. May

#### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

N. Giannelli, Rep. Hon. J. Addabbo; A. Costella, Rep. Hon. J. Sanders; K. Valere, Rep. Hon. K. Anderson; V. Isufaj, Rep. Hon. J. Rajkumar; M. Avington, Rep., Hon. S. Pheffer Amato, K. Mooney, Rep. Hon. A. Adams; T. Chester, QDA's Office; K. Morris, CAU/Mayor's Office; J. Resor, QDCP; A. Plackis, DCP; M. Cano, QBPO; J. Ottomanelli, DSNY Queens Liaison; J. Mongeluzo, NYC Comptroller's Office; Capt. J. Costello, CO 106 Precinct; Sgt. V. Bhatt, 106 Precinct; P.O. S. Jaffe, Community Affairs 106 Precinct; M. Walker, CAO

The Chairperson began the remote Zoom meeting at 6:46 p.m. Board member attendance was taken by roll call and it was established a quorum was present. It was noted attendance would be reviewed again later to add any members missed in the roll call.

The Chair asked everyone to join her in a moment of silence for MaryAnn Carey who passed away last month. MaryAnn Carey was a former staff member and Assistant District Manager of CB10 who later went on to become the District Manager of CB9.

The Chair asked if any elected officials had joined the meeting, hearing /seeing none.

The Chairperson opened the public hearing for the evening and introduced New York City Dept. of City Planning, Queens Borough Office, Joy Resor to present information regarding the Citywide Health and Fitness Zoning Text Amendment ULURP Number: N210382ZRY; CEQR Number: 21DCP183Y. The NYC Dept. of City Planning proposes to amend the Zoning Resolution to modify regulations related to gyms, spas, licensed massage therapy, and other health and fitness facilities defined as "Physical Culture or Health Establishments." The proposed text amendment will remove the requirement for such facilities to receive a special permit by the Board of Standards and Appeals.



Ms. Resor thanked the Chair for the introduction and said she is joined by Alex Plackis, who is part of their Housing & Economic Development Division. She said she will present two proposals this evening and will be available for questions afterwards.

At this point, Ms. Resor indicated she would share her screen to provide slides to accompany the presentation. The information presented included: the proposal overview, background, and history, challenges the proposal is addressing, proposal details, and timeline.

The Health and Fitness Text Amendment is a citywide text amendment that seeks to reduce barriers for gyms, spas, and licensed massage facilities.

Currently a special permit is required by the Board of Standards & Appeals to open gyms, spas, licensed massage therapy studios, and a range of other health & fitness facilities in NYC. The process of obtaining this permit is extremely costly for businesses both in time and money. These businesses have been hurt significantly by the pandemic and we as a city want to ensure that the businesses have the ability to open and meet neighborhood demand for health-related amenities. Health & fitness facilities encompass a large range of facilities which include large commercial gyms (such as Blink or Planet Fitness), smaller studios such as marital arts, yoga & aerobics studios, and therapeutic and wellness businesses such as spas and licensed massage therapy.

During the 1970's in response to concerns about commercial sex within businesses described as health clubs or massage parlors, a special permit was created that requires most health and fitness related businesses to undergo criminal background checks from the Dept. of Investigation before receiving approvals to operate. At the time that this was created, NYC didn't have the wide range of commercial gyms and fitness studios that we now do. There were some large nonprofit health clubs like YMCA and community centers that offered exercise classes. It was never considered that hundreds of overwhelmingly legitimate businesses like marital arts studios, Pilates, yoga, rock climbing gyms would need to get special permission to operate. Things have changed a lot in the past four decades since this special permit was created. Massage therapists are licensed health professionals by the NYS Education Dept. and registry of all licensed massage therapists is publicly available online. Yet these businesses continue to be uniquely regulated through zoning placing significant burdens on small businesses. On average the special permit takes more than six months to be granted and often costs businesses between \$30,000 - \$50,000 in fees to architects and attorneys in order to go through the process. In addition, the special permit is not applicable in most C1 Districts – meaning that gyms, spas, and massage therapy are not allowed in locations where we typically allow other retail and commercial uses like restaurants, laundromats, and grocery stores.

And at a time when vacancy rates are high along some of our commercial retail streets, we want to ensure that our zoning regulations allow businesses to occupy the space. Over the past two decades special permits for gyms and spas have been disproportionately scattered in Manhattan central business districts and western Brooklyn and Queens. By making it easier to open these businesses, we're hoping this will be especially impactful for a smaller independent business to open further from the core of the city and serve more neighborhoods. Businesses in the health & fitness sector have been severely impacted by the pandemic with many businesses reducing staff for closing either temporarily or permanently. Between 2019 & 2020 employment in the fitness & recreation sectors dropped by more than 60% in NYC. As the industry continues to recover, we want to ensure that zoning does not pose excessive barriers that prevent businesses from being able to meet the demand for these services in communities.

DCP is proposing to remove the BSA Special Permit for all gyms, spas, and licensed massage therapy. Gyms and spas would then be considered commercial uses that would be allowed as of right and smaller gyms and spas (those that are less than 10,000 sq. ft.) would be allowed in all commercial and manufacturing districts including C1 districts where gyms are not currently allowed. Gyms and spas that are unlimited in size would be slightly more limited in geography and they would be allowed in our highest density C-1 districts (primarily in Manhattan) as well as C2 districts and higher as well as manufacturing districts. This distinction between uses smaller than 10,000 sq. ft. and those larger is consistent with the way many other commercial uses are treated within zoning, such as for clothing or furniture stores.

Licensed massage therapy will be treated in the same way other outpatient medical uses in zoning. This will be categorized as either ambulatory health care or health care offices and this will allow licensed massage therapy studios as community facilities in most resident districts except in very low-density districts such as R1 & R2. They will also



be permitted within commercial and manufacturing districts. Massage is illegal to practice without a license and unlicensed massage will continue to be prohibited as a use anywhere in NYC according to the proposed zoning.

When the BSA reviews applications for gyms they occasionally impose conditions to address community concerns about noise and vibration that can result from activities such as dropping weights or using exercise equipment in unison. To continue to address these concerns the proposal will also include additional performance standards for noise and vibration. A subset of higher impact gyms will need to have an acoustical engineer certify with the Dept. of Buildings that the facility is designed to meet these performance standards before they receive a certificate of occupancy. These provisions will apply in mixed use buildings and commercial and special mixed-use districts. Lower impact facilities such as yoga, isometric exercise, and therapeutic services such as spas will not need to demonstrate compliance with these noise and vibration performance standards but will still be subject to the NYC Noise Code.

Slides were shown which indicated: where these changes will be applicable within CB10; where the uses were permitted previously but needed this BSA Special Permit; where these uses would now be permitted where they haven't been previously. It was noted these are primarily along commercial areas on Cross Bay Blvd., Lefferts Blvd., and Rockaway Blvd. as well as in a few other places in the district. Larger gyms above 10,000 sq. ft. would now no longer require a BSA special permit. These facilities would be technically unlimited in terms of how large they are but are limited in which zoning districts they're permitted; so they only would be allowed within C2 to C8 districts which are typically higher density commercial districts and they would also be permitted in manufacturing districts. For instance, LA Fitness in Linden Center is located within a C2-2 commercial overlay and that's an example of what we're talking about when we say a gym that's an unlimited size. Licensed massage therapy would have wider applicability, however ambulatory care facilities are not permitted in lower density residential districts such as R1 or R2. It was emphasized again that these facilities require NYS License and would be regulated at the City & State level.

The Health & Fitness Text Amendment certified on May 19, and we've begun our community board outreach. The board will have 60 days to review the proposal and provide recommendations by July 26<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Resor indicated, at this point, she'd be happy to answer any questions.

The Chair asked if there were any questions or comments from any members of the public on the telephone, hearing none. The Chair asked if there were any questions or comments from any members of the public on the video, hearing/seeing none. The Chair asked again if there were any questions or comments from any members of the public, hearing none.

At this point the Chair closed the public portion of the hearing and said the floor is now open to board members for questions in regard to the Health & Fitness Text Amendment.

The Chair asked if there were any questions.

A member of the board asked if some of these businesses will be now allowed in a residential zone of one or two family houses. The Chair responded, yes - a massage therapist similar to a doctor's office. The Board member commented that these are commercial businesses; and the Chair clarified not always, there are massage therapists that are health providers.

The Chair asked Ms. Resor if she would like to add to that and Ms. Resor pulled up a map again. The Land Use Committee Chair asked Ms. Resor if she had a screen shot of where the Use Group 6 & the 4A were shown.

Ms. Resor said, I believe the question was about where the massage facilities would be permitted and if they would be permitted within residential areas.

The Land Use Committee Chair referred to Ms. Resor's slide showing Use Group 4 and Use Group 6 where it was stated "permitted in residential zones". He said the Board member brought up a good point and his concern would also be that this would infringe on community type uses and start popping in one or two-family houses, in the R2 & R3 areas.

A Board member also expressed his concerns regarding the parking which is so limited and also safety issues relating to people sitting in cars. He expressed his opinion that he doesn't think there is a need for business even it sounds like



it's a health provider in our residential areas. Medical offices have full schedules and operate long hours which encroach on the people living on that residential street.

Ms. Resor noted, if we're talking specifically about these massage facilities that would be considered Use group 6 or ambulatory diagnostic, they would be permitted in higher density residential areas. Those facilities would not be permitted in R2 low density residential districts with a lot of single-family homes.

The Chairperson asked if they would be allowed in R3X and Ms. Resor responded they would be. The Board Chair said that's problematic, and the Land Use Committee Chair agreed.

The Land Use Committee Chair commented, the R3 still allows a community facility doctor's office. Some years ago, it was changed and taken out of the R2 area, where basically we do have the other classification which is called the Home Occupation Doctor's Office. He asked, can this be stretched to fit that classification if a licensed massage therapist wants to open up in her/his house and say that they have a home occupation up to 500 sq. ft. of floor area and start handling business from that one family house. Right now, that's permissible in the R1 & R2 districts but a full-fledged doctor's office is not, which was changed as I said a couple of years ago. Is this going to update or enhance the definition of a home occupation?

Ms. Resor replied, I don't believe that's the case, but I think it would be exactly as you're saying, this being a smaller doctor's office that you would see sometimes in these residential areas, it would be a very small office. I don't imagine there would be a ton of foot traffic coming into these facilities, but they would be in residential areas, and they would still need to provide parking based on the use.

The Board Chair acknowledged other board members who wished to comment.

A Board member expressed her concern about the removal of the BSA process and the loss of oversight and loss of check valve for these businesses, and the loss of leverage that the board had.

Ms. Resor thanked the member for her comment and indicated she definitely understands the feeling of the loss of control here where you previously had to go through with a BSA Special Permit. With these massage facilities in particular, I just want to be really clear that they would still be highly regulated not only by City & State, but specifically by Mayor's Office on Gender Based Violence, Mayor's Office of Special Enforcement, the DOB, DEP, all of these agencies have been really a big part of facilitating this decision. We also started to remove these requirements for the BSA Special Permit for PCEs because we've seen that things like gyms and yoga studios don't really need to go through the investigation background check to start running these businesses. I know there's a lot of concern about the massage facilities in particular, but this would still be only permitting licensed massage facilities. All of these facilities, massage facilities or gyms, would still need to follow the NYC Noise Code and the high intensity gyms would have to follow the findings of the noise and vibration, so there are still some checks.

A member expressed his concerns relating to Hamilton Beach which was rezoned years ago not only because it's so close to the water and the issues they had with Sandy, but also because of the density of the neighborhood and potentially bringing more people into the area.

Ms. Resor stated that's a really excellent point.

The Board Chair added, the bulk of the housing stock in CB10 is residential one & two-family homes for the most part. We do have some multi-dwellings, but for the most part the overwhelming majority of the housing stock in our entire board area is one & two-family homes.

Ms. Resor stated I definitely hear this concern about bringing new populations into an area that has high flood risk. These facilities would definitely be built to resilient standards but I also want the board, if this is a big concern, specifically in Hamilton Beach, to feel free to add that in the considerations section. I think we would definitely be interested in looking at that too.



The Land Use Committee Chair, said he definitely will be including the concerns from the board which were heard tonight, and he strongly wants to see if consideration could be made in regard to what was brought up relating to home occupation, especially for the massage therapists.

He expressed his thoughts that they should just be able to open up a facility/office within a C zone, because of what's happened many times in the past in some pockets, especially in the Lindenwood section. They start out as a home occupation in a portion of the dwelling unit, and before you know it as time goes by, the whole place becomes a doctor's office, and defying violations are still practicing after 20 years.

He noted there should be something put into the wording especially for home occupations where there's been abuse. That happened a lot in the R2 zones, that's why a couple of years back doctors' offices were not allowed in the R2 single family detached zoning districts. That did help a lot, but you still have individuals, practitioners, professional people, that start out that way, in home office, and then eventually as they grow in the business they may go to a commercial area. But lots of times it just gets bigger and bigger and before you know it, they become the fabric on that block and it causes a lot of problems.

He commented on concerns about businesses and that narrative of being able to do this as of right. The last biggest example is Planet Fitness who was able to fit out its space and move in and because they're so big are able to absorb all the penalties and open. This proposed change could help them to be more compliant, but maybe there still should be some control over noise and hours of operation.

Ms. Resor indicated she also just presented to CB9 and they expressed the same kind of concerns about the 24 hour service in residential neighborhoods and how that would affect the residents with people coming and going at all hours of the night. It was noted that's another good thing to add into the recommendations. Ms. Resor stated, in terms of the noise and vibrations for facilities like Planet Fitness, they would need to have an acoustical engineer come out before they open and make sure the gyms are meeting the findings so there's not any undue noise from weightlifting or people taking spin classes or things like that or general loud noise.

The Board Chair asked, are there any other board members with questions, hearing none. The Board Chair asked the Land Use Committee Chair whether he wished to take the vote now or wait until after the second public hearing.

The Land Use Committee Chair responded, let's take it up now. The Board Chair said, the floor is yours.

The Land Use Committee Chair stated we had a land use committee meeting and we did voice some of the concerns we're hearing tonight. He thanked everyone for adding more to the concerns for the community. I look at it as a positive change for the businesses, however, we still need some kind of mechanism for what I expressed before. So, the motion is to vote to approve with conditions which will be submitted to City Planning to include: concerns with home occupation/doctor's office occupancy which is permitted in the R2 & R3 & R4 districts; and concerns/issues when the gyms are located in the C districts and controls to be put in place on hours of operation.

The Board Chair reiterated that the motion is a motion to approve with conditions. The conditions are what the Land Use Chair outlined. We will cover in the appropriate language all of the issues that have been brought up by the board members in regard to the massage therapists and the health & fitness establishments.

The Board Chair indicated she would do a roll call vote. A "Yes" vote is a vote to approve with conditions. A "No" vote is a no. And "Abstaining" is if you have a reason to abstain.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Braton	Yes	Caruso	Yes	Dimoh	Yes
Calcgnile	Yes	Cherenfant	Yes	Fazio	Abstain
Adams	Yes	Ciulla-Frisone	Yes	Fraylon	Yes
Amorim	Yes	Cosentino	Yes	Garcia	Yes
Antonino	Yes	Dardani	No	Gellineau	Yes
Ariola	No	Deebrah	Yes	Gendron	No
Baumann	Yes	Dhanpat	Yes	Granickas	Yes



Hitlall	Yes	Mohamed, F.	Yes	Stahl	Yes
Logan	Yes	Mohammed, S.	Yes	Van Putten	Yes
Maharaj	Yes	Nocerino	Yes	Vecchio	Yes
Martinez	Yes	Salim	Yes	Walker	Yes
Mitchell	Yes	Santiago	Yes		
Mocombe	Yes	Siewnarine	Yes		

The Board Chair stated the motion carries.

At this point the Board Chair opened the second public hearing stating NYC Dept. of City Planning, Joy Resor would present information regarding the Citywide Hotels Zoning Text Amendment ULURP Number: N210406ZRY // CEQR Number: 21DCP111Y. DCP proposes a citywide zoning text amendment to establish a Special Permit under the jurisdiction of the City Planning Commission for all new hotels within New York City.

Ms. Resor noted this is essentially the opposite of the previous presentation just given. Now they will be requiring a special permit for all new hotels. At this point, Ms. Resor indicated she would share her screen to provide slides to accompany the presentation. The proposal presented included: project overview, hotel industry trends, recent land use changes for hotels, existing special permits, purpose and need, land use challenges, applicable areas, public purpose facilities – Use Group 5, findings, COVID impacts on the hotel industry, recovery proposal, environmental review, citywide hotel special permit.

Ms. Resor stated, before I dive into the details of the proposal, I want to start off by providing some background about why this is being proposed. A better review of hotel development has been an ongoing conversation over the past two mayoral administrations. Since 2020 the City Planning Commission has adopted special permits for new hotels as part of special districts in area wide rezoning in response to concerns about hotel development. In 2018 the CPC adopted a special permit for new hotels in light manufacturing districts to address conflicts with businesses. More recently, the administration announced its intention to create special permits for new hotels citywide and the department was prepared to move ahead with the proposal prior to the pandemic but got a little bit delayed; but are confident the City will remain committed to meeting its goals to support long term growth and recovery of the tourism industry and that the industry can adapt to and even benefit from better review of the new development. The proposal involves a tradeoff between the burden of additional review and the benefits of evaluating individual projects for the specific use.

This project is a zoning text amendment that would create a new special permit for hotel development across the city. The goal is to create a consistent framework for hotel development and ensure that new hotels do not negatively affect the surrounding area. This slide shows the growth of NYC's hotel market over the past decade. By 2019 before the pandemic hit NYC experienced record growth in the tourism industry and its hotel pipeline for the tenth consecutive year. Visitor trends peaked in 2019 with almost 67million visitors up from 46million in 2009. Visitor count was forecasted to increase even more in 2020 to almost 69million, furthermore sizable growth of hotel room supply has been a prevailing factor in NYC for much of the past decade. So, between 2009 and 2019 the total number of hotel rooms in NYC grew from just over 80,000 to over 127,800. In the past five years NYC saw a 40% increase in hotel inventory. Despite this increase in hotel room supply demand also continued to rise keeping the annual occupancy at almost 87%. Occupancy rates in NYC are among the highest for urban markets in the United States. The growth of the NYC market of the last decade was driven by both international and domestic travelers. When these visitors are coming to NYC for its cultural offerings with shopping and sightseeing being the principal reason for about 86% of international visitors.

Over the years rapid growth of new hotels across the different districts in the city has led to concerns about conflicts with surrounding uses. In 2018 a special permit was adopted for hotels in M1 or light manufacturing districts to address conflicts between hotels and the operations of industrial businesses. To address these concerns the CPC has adopted a variety of special permits relating to hotel development in different special districts. This has resulted in an inconsistent framework for regulating hotels. In commercial and special mixed-use districts hotels have introduced conflicts for surrounding uses. Overnight accommodations differed from other as-of-right uses in proximity because they're similar to both commercial and residential uses but also has the potential to conflict with both. This unique distinction of hotels may require additional scrutiny to ensure that they're developed in ways that won't present conflicts with the neighborhood and local businesses. A robust tourism economy is vital for the City's economic health and is expected to recover from the pandemic. Once the industry recovers, hotel development is expected to resume and the patterns of



hotel development over the past 15 years still indicate a need to ensure that hotel development does not create conflicts with surrounding uses.

The proposed text amendment will create consistent zoning framework for new hotels and allow the CPC to evaluate each hotel development's impacts on the future use and development of the surrounding area. It mentions that hotels have the potential to create land use conflicts and I know the board is fully aware of some of these in particular. Some examples: some commercial districts in the city have hotels in areas where they can be in conflict with nearby businesses such as the hotel in Maspeth and the adjacent cemetery and manufacturing uses. This may have been planned in a way that would have been better for guests and residents. So you have this hotel that's right next to this manufacturing use and directly across from a cemetery obviously at odds with each other. A hotel in Manhattan was built in a long-standing residential area. The hotel has little room for guests to line up for checking in or waiting for cabs, creating pedestrian traffic as both guests and residents try to walk by. The hotel in the Rockaways is a hotel where better site planning may have led to a wider sidewalk. The current sidewalk leading to the beach is thin and may push pedestrians into the street causing safety concerns for guests and residents alike. There are plenty of other examples throughout the City of where a site plan review could have led to a better outcome for guests and residents.

A slide showing a map of applicability within CB10 was shown and it was noted it will be applicable within the commercial areas along Cross Bay Blvd., within C8 districts, and along Rockaway Blvd. Also, the new special permits would be applicable specifically in higher density commercial districts, mixed use districts and paired M1 or light manufacturing and residential districts where there's not a special permit today. The new special permit will apply to those areas that already have a special permit. An M1 district will retain the findings from an M1 hotels special permit since those addressed unique concerns in light industrial areas.

Similar to the rules for the hotel M1 special permit, we will not require a special permit for hotels that are for public purpose, such as temporary housing for the homeless. This means that rules for siting of hotel homeless facilities will not change and will continue to be permitted as-of-right in districts where they are currently allowed. Additionally, the Dept. of Homeless Services is responsible for siting these facilities and this isn't a responsibility of the zoning. We don't have a lot of purview in this regard; however, the CPC in considering new applications for the proposed special permit will consider only the hotel use which will not preclude operators from using the facility as emergency housing. The city is obligated by law to provide emergency shelter to anyone who needs it and we do not intend to create impediments to this mandate. Regarding concerns about hotel owners who converted their buildings to homeless shelters due to issues of financial liability we expect that the hotel special permit will slow the development of new hotels citywide and significantly limit the incentive for commercial hotel operators to convert to a shelter. While we understand concerns related to the conversions to homeless shelters, the proposal is intended to address the land use concerns related to commercial hotels.

NYC's hotels provide an important amenity for all New Yorkers and for this reason have long been permitted with limited regulation in districts with variable land use conditions in much of the City. Hotels serve a diverse set of customers in all five boroughs from international tourists in midtown, airline workers in Jamaica, clients of film studios in Astoria and Long Island and visitors come in for the City's medical institutions. While it's important that hotels can continue to locate throughout the city to support a vibrant tourism economy and meet the diverse need of its residents, the pace and patterns of development driven by a record high visitation have created conflicts with adjacent uses and overwhelmed some communities. An example was given of a hotel located in the South Bronx that's located in an M1-5 district near Yankee Stadium, an otherwise appropriate area for a hotel, and the hotel is on a busy access road on the Major Deegan with an entrance that presents potential safety issues for pedestrians and guests in the hotel. The parking and back of house services at the rear of the hotel are located on a quiet residential block. Review of the way the uses are configured on the site would likely have resulted in a development that's more sensitive to the surrounding context and less likely to create conflicts of safety for the guests and adjacent uses.

It's also important to know that the proposed special permit does not preclude hotel development nor does it deem all future hotels inappropriate but it does require the CPC to assess the appropriateness of such development based on the future use and development of the surrounding area.

The Covid pandemic had a disastrous effect on the NYC hotel market. Between January and November of 2020 a net total of 146 hotels out of a total of 705 citywide have closed. Luxury and upscale room types accounted for almost 85% of this loss. Estimates by the City's Independent Budget Office placed job losses in the hospitality and leisure industry



at around 197,000 jobs in 2020. Covid has had a very severe impact on the hotel industry but there's optimism that the city will recover, and visitors will return, with many experts placing the recovery in 2025. With that return in demand, City Planning anticipates development to return to pre-pandemic levels leading to a need for special permit allowing for better regulation. However, we don't want these regulations to prevent recovery of the City. Because of the significant impacts that the pandemic is having on the hotel industry we've also created several provisions to minimize the likelihood that the special permits will impair the recovery of the hotel industry. These include modified vesting provisions to facilitate projects that are already in the pipeline. That would mean and apply to 18 projects that were filed with DOB prior to 2018 and obtained a foundation permit prior to the adoption of this text. Projects filed between January 1, 2018 and referral of this text would have needed to obtain zoning plan approval from DOB prior to the adoption. Both categories of vested projects have six years instead of two from the date of adoption to complete construction. So essentially these projects that have already proceeded through the pipeline for DOB and would be able to be sort of grandfathered in. However, they would have needed to have a lot of this work done prior to the certification of this text which was back on May 19. Approved CPC or BSA applications will not require special permit if these applications were approved after January 1, 2018. Applications that begin CPC public review or are filed with BSA prior to adoption will not require a special permit. Any projects that are significantly through the BSA or CPC pipeline or already in public review will be grandfathered in as well.

There is an extended discontinuance provision allowing vacant hotels extra time to return to transit use. So, any of the hotels that closed during the pandemic instead of having only two years to reopen with the same use will now have six years. These provisions are meant to allow for a portion of the 42,000 closed rooms to return bringing back an important industry to NYC. A draft environmental impact statement and market study were done to understand what the projected loss in rooms would mean for the hotels & tourism industries. Findings of the study and DEIS show that we expect sufficient inventory by 2030 to support the amount of pre-pandemic visitors which is a robust tourism industry. However, because of the special permit being expected to slow the growth of new hotels, it's expected that there would not be enough rooms to meet demand of a no action in 2035 leading to a short fall of 47,000 rooms. Because of the future shortfall of rooms and potential effect on visitation the DEIS is showing a significant impact on the hotel & tourism industries; however, we expect that as visitation recovers the concerns that have been raised with respect to hotel development over the last 15 years will once again arise focusing attention on the subject of this proposal which is the regulation of how and where hotels are built.

The special permit process will go through a full ULURP process and the hotel developers would first need to file a special permit application with City Planning, then they would go through the full 205 day ULURP process (sometimes longer than that). In order to receive the special permit the project would need to meet the findings of the special permit and the site plan would need to be approved and the Community Board would be able to make recommendations on these projects.

The Citywide Hotel Special Permit Text Amendment was certified on May 3, to allow 60 days for review and provide recommendations, before it moves to the Borough President's Office.

Ms. Resor indicated this concludes her presentation and is happy to answer any questions.

The Board Chair asked if there was anyone from the public on the telephone that has any questions or comments, hearing none.

The Board Chair asked if there were any members of the public on the video who have any questions or comments.

A member of the public, Frank Lombardi, was acknowledged. He thanked Ms. Resor for her presentation and asked if the proposal recognizes a difference between a hotel and motel.

Ms. Resor referred the question to Mr. Plackis and asked if a specific distinction is made.

Mr. Plackis indicated, motels, hotels, boatels, tourist cabins, are all covered under this proposal.

The Board Chair commented that is a good question. Mr. Lombardi thanked Ms. Resor and Mr. Plackis.



The Board Chair asked again if there was anyone else from the public either on the phone or the video who has a question or comment, hearing none.

At this point the Board Chair indicated the public portion is closed and asked if there are any questions from board members.

The Land Use Committee Chairperson addressed Ms. Resor reminding her during the Land Use Committee meeting he brought up the fact that we had an issue with two hotel type buildings that went up on Cross Bay Blvd. in an as-of-right C8 zone which had a district boundary at the back of the lot abutting up a long-standing residential one & two -family zone. In the project overview presented tonight and also to the Land Use Committee, one of the statements was that this text amendment is intended to create a consistent framework for hotel development and ensure that the hotels do not negatively affect the surrounding areas. Is there an outline of what City Planning is going to put in the text amendment to reflect not only the hotel development filing the site plan but also how it affects the surrounding areas; and if it doesn't then we still have input as a community board to that particular development. He asked what are going to be the rules, regulations, parameters to prevent these hotels from negatively affecting the surrounding areas in the review process.

Ms. Resor responded, part of the process would be going through ULURP so we would get the community board feedback, the Borough President's feedback, but in addition to that City Planning Commission would evaluate the applicant's response to the Special Permit findings as part of its consideration of any individual application for a special permit and the appropriateness of a new hotel would depend on how it interacts with the adjacent, unexpected or desired future uses. So essentially, they would evaluate exactly where this hotel is being located and whether it made sense or was appropriate within that context and would also rely on the recommendations from the community board as well as the Borough President.

The Land Use Chairperson asked, would they be putting in any design parameters, has that been developed yet or is that something that's going to be coming before it's actually in the text form?

Ms. Resor replied there wouldn't be any because all hotels and all neighborhoods are very different; we would not be imposing any design controls on the hotels or the review process. The CPC would simply be looking at the site plans, make sure that circulation of foot pedestrian safety and that also resident safety is appropriate, not putting hotels in very small residential neighborhoods, things like that. But there wouldn't be any strict design requirements or restrictions.

The Board Chair asked if there were any other questions, hearing none.

The Board Chair asked the Land Use Chair for his motion.

The Land Use Chair made the motion to approve if there's more oversight and more input from us as a community board in the future. However, I will place a condition on it that there needs to be some more controls and maybe design controls on how it would negatively affect surrounding areas especially when the property is abutting up to a district boundary very close to a residential area.

The Board Chair started to reiterate the motion, when a board member interrupted and raised some concerns about what was discussed earlier regarding hotels changing into homeless shelters and asked if there is any provision that says that can't happen in the future; and suggested maybe offering an alternative so proprietors don't lose their income, such as conversions to condos.

The Land Use Committee Chair addressed the concern and said the proposal states that this is not going to allow those facilities not to happen or the post text amendment is not intended to address the layman's concerns related to the commercial and social services health facilities.

The Board Chair said as much as we would like to address that, it's not part of the text amendment; but we certainly can address that concern in our comments.

Ms. Resor said the city is obligated by law to provide emergency housing so zoning can't really prohibit that from happening. In terms of the siting of homeless shelters that's really a responsibility of the Dept. of Homeless Services. I will say that with the Hotels Special Permit we expect there will be fewer hotels constructed which will also mean that



fewer would also be converted to homeless shelters. Zoning can only address so many things, but I definitely understand the concerns about the homeless shelters, and I would highly recommend speaking to elected officials about that. They have a lot of power to do stuff that the Dept. of City Planning does not and I know a lot of the representatives are on the call tonight so definitely reach out to those people and talk to your electeds about these concerns too. But it's also something to put in the considerations.

The Board Chair thanked Ms. Resor.

The Board Chair asked are there any other questions?

Mr. Frank Lombardi addressed Ms. Resor regarding her comment that a good number of hotel rooms have been lost because of Covid, and asked what happens to those facilities, those structures that are abandoned or no longer in use.

She said, Mr. Plackis may know more, but my impression is that these hotels were closed so quickly that I think at this point they're lying vacant for the most part, however, typically we allow hotels if they do close to remain vacant for two years and then they can come back into the same use and they wouldn't need a special permit. We're giving hotels a little bit more time because of the financial constraints of the past year, so these hotels would be able to reopen. We anticipate that with the vaccination rates increasing and the case rates going down that recovery of this industry will also be spirited as well, so I think our hope is that a lot of these hotels would reopen with the same use. Ms. Resor asked Mr. Plackis if he wanted to speak about any of that as well and if that has been brought up at other board meetings.

Mr. Plackis said we had approximately 42,000 rooms closed (both temporarily and some permanently) and out that number we anticipate that many will reopen and about 75% of the inventory from 2019 to reopen. The extended discontinuance is meant so that these hotels that have had financial hardship due to Covid, can open back up even if they lay vacant for X number of years. The provisions are really just meant to bring back those rooms many of which are vacant now, but which can be turned/converted to any use that the underlying zoning allows.

Mr. Lombardi asked whether they would have to go through the special permit. Ms. Resor responded, no they would not. If they returned to hotel use within six years, they would essentially avoid that.

The Board Chair moved on to the vote and explained that the motion is a motion to approve with the comments and the concerns which have been raised / expressed. Overall, this one is a plus, given the types of hotel facilities we have in our district because it does force in the future hotels to have to go through the ULURP process where at least they have to come before us and we try to address some of those concerns.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Braton	Yes	Deebrah	Yes	Martinez	Yes
Calcagnile	Yes	Dhanpat	Yes	Mitchell	Yes
Adams	No	Dimoh	Yes	Mocombe	Yes
Amorim	Yes	Fazio	Yes	Mohamed, F.	Yes
Antonino	Yes	Fraylon	Yes	Mohammed, S.	Yes
Ariola	Yes	Garcia	Yes	Nocerino	Yes
Baumann	Yes	Gellineau	Yes	Salim	Yes
Caruso	Yes	Gendron	Yes	Santiago	Yes
Cherenfant	Yes	Granickas	Yes	Siewnarine	Yes
Cosentino	Yes	Hitlall	Yes	Stahl	Yes
Ciulla-Frisone	Yes	Logan	Yes	Van Putten	Yes
Dardani	Yes	Maharaj	Yes	Vecchio	Yes
				Walker	Yes

The Board Chair indicated the motion carries.

The Board and the Land Use Committee Chairs thanked the presenters.



The Chairperson continued with the regular order of business and asked if there were any additions or corrections to the May 2021 minutes; hearing none.

At this point, the Board Chair acknowledged 106 Precinct Capt. Costello and invited him to speak. The Captain informed everyone he had been out due to a vehicle accident and was glad to be back. He reported on the crime stats indicating we're up 32% in the 28 day, noting we're fighting COVID numbers. COVID was an anomaly with extremely low numbers in terms of crime. He commented this is the second lowest year in crime since the inception of COMSTAT in 1993. We're definitely trending in the right direction. Overall, for the year, we are down almost 7% in crime. Last year we were really taking a shellacking in GLAs. Thank goodness people have heeded the warnings and are not leaving their cars running with the keys in the ignition. That's really died down in the 106; we're down just about 17% in GLAs for the year and we're down almost 30% in GLAs for that 28 day period. But what we're experiencing is car breaks of commercial work vans with tools, where individuals are breaking passenger windows and extracting those tools. He asked everyone to spread the word to anyone who may be in the construction or plumbing business to not leave their truck on the street where they're being broken into with the tools inside. If you have to park on the street, please remove those tools from your vehicle and secure them inside. Other than that, we're doing well and if anybody has any questions, please ask now.

The Board Chair asked if there were any questions from the board members for Captain Costello, hearing none. The Chair thanked the Captain and said welcome back.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** The Chairperson reviewed correspondence for the month of May 2021 which included:

- Notice from FDNY that it has posted on its website the proposed 2021 NYC Fire Code for public review and comment. Written comments may be submitted to the Fire Dept. either from the website or by email by Friday, June 18, 2021. An online public forum to hear public comment is scheduled on Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at 11 a.m. The Chair indicated she would be happy to provide the information to anyone who needs it.
- DOITT notice in regard to Franchise & Concession Review Committee Public Hearing to be held June 7, 2021
- Notice of application for proposed second story addition, rear extension, conversion of one to two family dwelling & obtain a Certificate of Occupancy: 130-17 122 Place, SOP 11420
- Notice of alteration & partial demolition: 109-10 103 Avenue, RH 11419
- Notice of demolition: 99-41 164 Road, HB 11414
- NYCEM email announcing changes to the City's hurricane evacuation zones and "Know your Zone" hurricane awareness campaign. It was noted, there are still six zones, but there have been some revisions/changes in our area. The map is on-line at New York City Emergency Management. NYCEM will be issuing a board specific map which makes it easier to see what changes have been made, but that's not ready yet. It will be coming out and we will be receiving it, and as soon as we do, it will posted on our Facebook page and also sent out to all board members and civics. The hurricane season has begun as of June 1 and runs till November 30.
- NYC DOT email regarding changes in speed limits: Woodhaven Blvd. from Queens Blvd. to Rockaway Blvd. now 25mph; Cross Bay Blvd. from Rockaway Blvd. to the Bridge now 25/35mph; Van Wyck Expressway Service Road now 25 mph; both North & South Conduit from Sutter Avenue to Sunrise Highway now 30mph.
- Notice from Congressman Jeffries' office in regard to his request to the administration in Washington and a copy of his letter requesting further funding for the feasibility study for the ecosystem restoration and hurricane storm damage risk reduction for Spring Creek and Howard Beach. We're hopeful that that may move forward.
- Various OMB notices
- E-mail from NYC Council and the Mayor's Office in regard to the NYC Advisory Commission on Property Tax Reform announcing it's going to be holding three virtual hearings; the one for Queens is on June 9<sup>th</sup>. It relates to the preliminary report that was released in January by the Commission on Property Tax Reform which includes 10 initial recommendations aimed at making the City's property tax simpler, clearer, and fairer. The 10 proposals are: moving coops, condominiums, and rental buildings with up to 10 units into a new residential class along with 1 to 3 family homes; using a sales based methodology to value all properties in the residential class; assessing every property in the residential class at its full market value; annual market value changes in the new residential class being phased in over five years at 20% per year; creating a partial homestead exemption for primary resident owners with income below a certain threshold; creating a circuit breaker within the property tax system to lower the property tax burden on low-income primary resident owners, based on the ratio of property tax paid to income; replacing the current class share with a system that prioritizes predictable and transparent tax rates for property owners; current valuation methods should be



maintained for properties not in the new residential class (i.e. rental buildings with more than 10 units, utilities, and commercial); a gradual transition to the new system for current owners, with an immediate transition into the new system whenever a property in the new residential class is sold; instituting comprehensive reviews of the property tax system every 10 years. The Commission is soliciting input from the public on these 10 initial recommendations in the Preliminary Report, specifically whether they would achieve the goals of a fairer system, would be improved by certain modifications, or should be enhanced with additional recommendations. The public can submit feedback by e-mailing it to: [PropTaxInfo@propertytaxcommission.nyc.gov](mailto:PropTaxInfo@propertytaxcommission.nyc.gov) or uploading it through the Commission's online portal. The notice in regard to the public hearing is posted on our Facebook page. I would urge all property owners to take the time to visit the New York City Advisory Commission on Property Tax Reforms website to get further information on what they are proposing as it appears that there are major changes.

- Council for Airport Opportunity - notice on the open call Catering Recruitment event at JFK
- Calendar for the QBP's May 20<sup>th</sup> Land Use Hearing
- A number of pieces of correspondence regarding the EIS and reviews of the two text amendments dealt with earlier this evening.

The Chair advised members to let her know if there is anything on the directed incoming mail a member is interested in.

A board member raised a concern in regard to the planned construction at 130-17 122 Place and was instructed to provide the office with the information for notification to the Buildings Dept. for a complaint about the front yard being paved.

A board member questioned the revised speed limit from Rockaway Blvd. to the Bridge as signs have been put up indicating 25mph. It was noted it's 35mph south of the bridge. The Board Chair advised the member she had not heard his vote on the Hotels and also on the Health & Fitness; and he confirmed his vote is "Yes" on both.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** – the Committee Chair read the report of expenditures for the month May 2021.

**BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S LIAISON REPORT** – M. Cano – announced upcoming events: Ranked Choice Voting Training & Interactive Mock Ballot Exercise hosted by BP Richards on June 8<sup>th</sup> (6:15pm – 7:16pm) flyers will be sent tomorrow; free movie night at Hall of Science Queens drive-in: "Coming to America" June 16; "Monsoon Wedding" June 24. She indicated she would drop her email and phone number in the Chat if anyone has any questions.

**DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING REPORT** – J. Resor – announced they have another citywide text amendment for "Open Restaurants" that supposed to certify on June 21 that would likely come to the full board in September.

The Board Chair said we'll plan on doing that one in September.

**DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT** – The District Manager reported - each year on May 1st, the United States observes Law Day to celebrate our legal system and the freedoms Americans enjoy. The 2021 Law Day theme is "Advancing the Rule of Law Now." This year, in celebration of the spirit of Law Day, the Office for Justice Initiatives invites high school students in New York State, to participate in an art contest inspired by the theme "Advancing the Rule of Law Now." The contest began on May 24, 2021 and ends on June 25, 2021. The winner will be announced by July 16, 2021. Registration forms and artwork may be submitted by regular mail. The winning artist will have their artwork featured on the Office of Justice Initiatives Law Day website until Law Day 2022. All contestants will receive a certificate of participation. The contest rules and registration form can be found on the Office for Justice Initiatives Law Day webpage. The District Manager wished everyone a nice summer.

The Board Chair acknowledged Kevin Morris, Queens Borough Director, Mayor's Office/Community Affairs Unit. Mr. Morris commented on the Property Tax Commission and provided the link in the Chat for anyone who may be interested in leaving comment or testimony. As the City is planning to reopen and now that the minimum age for all to get vaccinated has now dropped to 12, young people are encouraged to get vaccinated. There are various sites that are providing vaccinations for 12 and above and the information for those sites can be found on the City's website. Everyone was wished a very safe and healthy summer.

The Chair thanked Mr. Morris.



**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT** – The Chairperson reported we received a copy of the NYC Comprehensive Waterfront Plan – Draft Goals & Strategies - it is out for public review if anybody would like the full copy we can provide it to you.

Reference was made to information regarding the NYC Dept. for the Aging My Ride Program - the Transportation Committee Chair will be reporting on this later on

Reference was made to the last Borough Board meeting which had a presentation regarding the borough-based jails and garage and community space project. A copy of the material will gladly be provided to anyone who would like it.

The Chair addressed Board members stating, you all received per postal mail a copy of the most recent Queens Borough President's Equal Employment Opportunity Policy (EEO). In that package of materials was an acknowledgement of receipt form which each member must sign and return and a stamped addressed envelope was provided for this. Thank you to everyone who has returned it, but we still have a couple of people who have not yet returned it, so please do. We need to maintain a copy for our records as proof that you have received it, in the event of a future audit. So please sign the form and mail it back to us.

The Chair referred to material in board member folders and commented on:

The maps of the annual COVID-19 case rate by zip code & death rate by zip code. From the colors on the map you can see which parts of the City were more impacted than others.

The vaccination percentages/stats as of June 1 (full population vs. adult population), for each of the four zip codes in CB10. We're getting there, but we're not there yet. Roughly half our population is still not fully vaccinated, so we're not totally out of the woods. Per CDC Guidelines people who are not vaccinated should still be wearing masks in public and socially distancing.

A scientific report came out which dealt with the dispersal dynamics of the COVID vaccine during the first wave. I want to thank new board member, E. Cheng who has a degree in microbiology from Princeton who was able to translate this for me. Basically, it tells us what we already knew - areas in our city where people still had to go to work and ride public transportation - those were areas that were heavily impacted and we still need to be encouraging the mask wearing and the social distancing. It was an interesting report and I thank E. Cheng for her explanations for me.

Information on where the youth ages 12 – 17 can get vaccinated. As the summer is here and the kids are going to be all out on the streets we need to get more of them vaccinated.

The Chairperson commented, there are many programs in place to make it easier for people to get vaccinated. One specifically aimed for the elderly and the home bound because of disability, they will come to you. The Board Chair wished everyone a good summer.

The meeting continued with **COMMITTEE REPORTS** as follows:

**AQUEDUCT** – the board Chair indicated there was no specific report from the Committee Chairperson, other than it does look like the hotel opening will be taking place sometime early July.

**CONSUMER AFFAIRS** – the Committee Chairperson indicated report was in board folders.

**JFK** – the Committee Chair announced the Open Call JFK Airport Recruitment Event June 4<sup>th</sup> 10a.m. - 3p.m. / interview location: Port Authority Building 14 - Press Room.

**BUDGET** – the Board Chair referred to information received by all board members from the Budget Committee. We apologize for sending it to you today, but because the city hasn't voted on the Budget yet, and hasn't provided the information that we need, the Budget Committee couldn't meet until last night. The Budget Committee met, the Committee Chair has her report, and a copy of the proposed internal budget that was sent to you today.

The Committee Chair reported the Budget Committee met last night with the District Manager to review the Fiscal Year 2022 Internal Budget. The Budget Committee recommends that the Board approve the FY2022 Internal Budget as



presented. Since the Board's next meeting is not until September, the Committee further recommends that the Board authorize the District Manager to make any changes if required by the final City Budget for Fiscal Year 2022 after the City Council adopts it. If you have any questions about the budget, please direct them to the Board Chair.

The Board Chair thanked the Budget Committee Chair.

The Board Chair elaborated, the Committee met last night, and the recommendation of the committee is that the board approve the internal budget for Fiscal Year 2022 as presented. You will notice on the internal budget, there are two little asterisks next to the Community Assistant position to be filled. Sadly, we have to announce that M. Gaska who we hired last year has received a fellowship that she was seeking, and she will be leaving us. So, we will be advertising that position and we will be hiring a replacement. At this point we have not yet received the approval to go ahead with the hiring process. As soon as we can do that, we will, and it will be at the same salary. The (PS) Personal Services positions are the Community Coordinator, and the Community Coordinator (hourly) and the District Manager. We are also incorporating into the internal budget an increase for the Community Coordinator and for the District Manager, who both during much of last year until we hired M. Gaska were carrying a much bigger workload, and they will be again until we are able to rehire, and we do have the available funding within the internal budget to accommodate that. The OTPS (Other than Personal Services) budget is there.

To give you a clearer understanding of the motion, we have not yet received the final numbers from OMB so we're working on projections. The City Council has not yet passed the adopted budget. So, the purpose of the authorization to the District Manager, is similar to the authorizations that we have passed every year in June with the internal budget. Should the final budget when it's passed by the city require us to make any changes, DM Petersen is authorized to make those changes (unless you want to come back for a summer meeting to vote on the internal budget again). Does everybody understand the motion? The motion is to accept the internal as presented and to authorize the District Manager to make any necessary changes.

The Board Chair asked: are there any opposed, hearing none; any abstentions, hearing none, all others will be counted as "yes". Any disagreements with that? Hearing none, all are "yeses"

**LAND USE** – the Committee Chairperson stated there is no further report and extended thanks to the Committee and wished everyone a nice summer.

**LIBRARIES** – the Board Chair reported the South Ozone Park library has moved from to-go services to browsing, public computer usage, and in-person reference. Notification was received that the Howard Beach library will also be going from to-go service and will offer browsing, computer usage, and in-person reference starting on Monday. Now we have two of our libraries at least partially up and running. The Ozone Park library is still being utilized as a vaccination site, and the Lefferts Library is still being utilized for Covid testing.

**PERSONNEL** – the Committee Chair commented the topic/report was covered previously by the Board Chair and wished everyone a happy summer.

**PUBLIC SAFETY** – the Committee Chairperson indicated the Crime Stats Report was in board folders and the material also included information that fireworks are illegal.

**SANITATION** – the Board Chair acknowledged DSNY Queens Liaison, Joe Ottomanelli and invited him to speak. He announced the Special Waste Drop-Off Sites are set to reopen July 10, 2021. The SAFE Disposal Events will be resuming in the fall 2021. He extended thanks and wished everyone a great summer.

The Board Chair asked Board Member A. Garcia if there was anything on QSWAB. Mr. Garcia reported the last meeting was pretty much just voting on the bylaws of the committee and setting up the structure moving forward. We're focusing on how we can get Queens to meet the goals of the City in terms of the Zero Waste being exported by the City by 2030. There's going to be much more to report when we get back in September. I hope everyone has an excellent summer and stays happy, healthy, and safe.

**SUMMER YOUTH & OTHER EMPLOYMENT** – the Committee Chairperson indicated report was in board folder.



**TRANSPORTATION** – the Committee Chairperson thanked committee members for attending the Zoom meeting with the NYC Dept. for the Aging which presented information on the DFTA My Ride Program. This pilot program is an on-demand car service which uses mobile technology to facilitate point to point trips. Rides will be provided by a commercial transportation service that manages its own fleets and employs their own drivers. Participant eligibility is for age 60 or older, or a person with disabilities age 18 or older. Applicants will be chosen through a lottery process to become My Ride participants. The pilot will be for three years with a new cohort of participants each year.

The Board Chair noted the sign-up for the program is not yet open; as soon as we are know it will be available, we will notify you. People will be selected to participate in the pilot program by a lottery system.

The Transportation Committee Chair wished everyone a happy and healthy summer and said she looks forward to seeing everyone in September.

**OLD BUSINESS** – None

**NEW BUSINESS** – the Board Chair indicated the Borough President has made a request that the Boards revisit bylaws to see if there are changes that need to be made. We're going to be engaging in that process over the summer. I will be selecting an Ad Hoc Committee to work on that so that the Committee will have something to present in September. I will ensure that the Committee is representative of the Board (it won't be populated by all old board members or all new members) there will be a mix of people from the different groups on the Community Board so we can take a look at that and see whether or not there are things that we want to address. We will be working on that over the summer.

At this point the Board Chair acknowledged the various representatives of elected officials in attendance and invited anyone wishing to speak to do so:

Neil Giannelli, representing Senator Addabbo, thanked the Chair and the Board for their great work. Electronics are being collected at the Old Howard Beach office – items you can physically carry in yourself without using a wagon or cart. Partnering with AM Pheffer-Amato for paper shredding event on: Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup> (10am-12pm) at St. Camillus Church parking. Partnered with New York Legal Assistance Group to provide constituents with free legal advice by phone appointment. Call the office 718-738-1111 to schedule an appointment for a session. Each session is 45 minutes long and NYLAG will call everyone at their scheduled appointment time in order to conduct an intake interview to see if the issue is something that NYLAG can assist with. He said stay well and wished everyone a good summer.

AnneMarie Costella, representing Senator Sanders, announced the Senator will be hosting the Juneteenth Men's Health Fair on Saturday, June 19<sup>th</sup> in Far Rockaway near Dred Surfer Grill / O'Donohue Park at Seagirt Boulevard between Beach 15th Street and Beach 17th Street 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM.

Maura Avington, representing AM Pheffer-Amato, greeted everyone and noted they are partnering with Senator Addabbo for shredding event at St. Camillus. They are having an OATH Event on June 17<sup>th</sup> how to respond to a summons, etc. The Assembly Member is in final stages of session which ends next week. She indicated she put her contact info in the Chat if anyone has questions or needs any further information.

Karl Valere, representing AM Anderson – was not audible.

Vjola Isufaj, representing AM Rajkumar, greeted the Chair and board and expressed thanks for the great job they do in the community. She reported the AM is finishing up her last week in Albany. The AM is finalizing the Veterans Community Council. If you know someone who is a veteran please have them contact our office to be a part of our Veterans Community Council. Please be on the lookout for the summer reading program. Contact us to make sure you're included in the newsletter mailing list. The office hours are: Monday – Friday 9a.m. – 5p.m. and Saturdays 11a.m. – 2p.m. She indicated her contact information is in the Chat for anyone who has any questions.

Tara Chester, representing Queens District Attorney Katz, said the DA sends her greetings. Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup> (10a.m. – 4p.m.) we will be hosting a Gun Buy Back Program at St. Mary Magdalene R.C. Church in Springfield Gardens. Surrender an operable gun and receive a \$200 bank card and iPad. The amount for the surrender of a rifle or shot gun has been increased to \$75. It was indicated the info would be emailed to the Board Chair to get the word out. Everybody



was encouraged to visit their website to see all the press releases, the high profile cases, and also for their hot line numbers. Should you be the unfortunate victim of a crime, there are various numbers of our bureaus that you can contact. My info is in the Chat if you have any questions. We will be here in September. Each community board will have a representative from our office in attendance to report back to the DA of everything that goes on in the meetings. Everyone have a good summer, maybe I will see you at National Night Out.

At this point, the 106<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council President announced NYPD is going ahead this year with National Night Out Against Crime. Traditionally it's the first Tuesday in August which is August 3<sup>rd</sup> this year. The site has not yet been decided but the Community Council will be preparing for that. Anyone who wants to set up a table with information can contact me; my phone number and email are in the Chat. Donations to offset some of our expenses for the food we provide, the entertainment, and giveaways for children are very much appreciated.

Kate Mooney, representing Council Member Adams, commented on street name changes and said we had a VAX Van today on 101 Avenue at Faith Assembly. As libraries are opening up the Lefferts Library will soon no longer be a testing site. I would be happy to work with anyone who would like to have the VAX Van at any events, block parties, etc. Nourish NY - we're receiving a delivery of food on Monday if anyone here represents an organization in need of food let me know and we could reserve some of that food for you. Flyers were sent for an OATH event to be held June 15 and "Know Your Rights Forum" on June 16. The Chair noted they were posted on our Facebook page and were sent out to board members. She said, it's been a great year to be with you and enjoy your summer everyone.

The Board Chair asked if there were any other agency representatives present, hearing none.

The Board Chair asked if she had skipped over any other elected officials' reps.

James Mongeluzo, from NYC Comptroller Stringer's Office, greeted everyone and noted he put links in the Chat at the 8:33 minute mark and they include the NYC Quarterly Cash Report Projection that just came out two days ago and also the NYC Cash Balance Projection as well. If you're interested in seeing some of the information about the financial health of the City check out those reports. Additionally, we put out an analysis of the proposal for FY2022 Executive Budget. The third link is visuals of slides of a presentation and there is some breakdown of what the Mayor is proposing in terms of where certain money is coming from relating to federal aid and what it will be spent on. The last link, the fourth one, that's the analysis to the executive budget from Comptroller Stringer himself. If you need me for anything else in June or in the summer, you can reach me at 646-689-6509 and I will put my contact info in the Chat. He thanked the Chair and wished everyone a good summer.

The Chair thanked him.

**PUBLIC FORUM** – the Chairperson asked if anyone from the public on the phone side who had any comment or question, or who wished to speak, hearing none. She asked if there was any member of the public on the video side who has any comment or question, hearing none.

The Chair stated, as it has been our practice since we started Zoom meetings, due to the constraints presented by this type of remote meeting, the record of this meeting will remain open until the close of business tomorrow so; anyone from the public who has a question or wishes to make a comment may do so by contacting the office by phone or email and we will enter into the record of this meeting.

At this point a member of the public, Angela, said she had a concern. She resides in South Ozone Park on 133 Street & 131 Avenue. There are a lot of TLC drivers in the area and they are emptying out the garbage from their vehicles out on to the sidewalk at this corner. She has gotten tickets related to debris on the sidewalk and has paid them but would like to know if there is anything that can be done to curtail this issue.

The Chair stated the District Manager will look into that for you. Call the office with the exact address and we'll work with DOS to try to address this.

The Chair addressed Mr. Ottomanelli, DOS, indicating the caller lives in a location where there are people who own taxi cabs who are cleaning up their cars at night and the garbage is ending up in the curb and on the sidewalk and she's getting summonses.



Mr. Ottomanelli said, unless we're able have a Field Officer observe the dumping, unfortunately she will be subjected to a summons. But, if any information can be provided, like surveillance or a license plate, we can work with that to try address it with the taxi cabs.

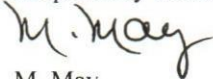
The Chair asked Angela to contact the office and we'll work with you to see how much information we can get that will help DOS. Mr. Ottomanelli indicated his email can be provided to her. She expressed her thanks.

The Chair asked if there is anyone else from the public who wishes to speak, hearing no one.

The Chair announced the record will stay open until the close of business tomorrow. She wished everyone a great summer and said see you in September.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 9:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "M. May".

M. May

Draft – Subject to Approval