



The City of New York

Queens Community Board 11

Serving the Communities of Auburndale, Bayside, Douglaston, Hollis Hills
Little Neck and Oakland Gardens

Michael Budabin Chairperson / Joseph Marziliano District Manager

TO: All Board Members

**FROM: Eileen Miller, Health Committee
Chair**

DATE: April 23, 2020

RE: Covid-19 Update and Issues

On Wednesday, April 22, 2020, a meeting of the CB11 Health Committee was convened. The meeting was conducted via Zoom teleconference. Present during the meeting were Michael Budabin, Board Chair, Christine Haider, 1st Vice Chair, Victor Dadras, 2nd Vice Chair, Henry Euler, 3rd Vice Chair, Eileen Miller, Committee Chair, Board Members Michael Golia, Susan Cerezo, Carmen Collado, Barbara Gillespie, Yosef Lee, Stanley Jin, Christina Scherer, Mary Donahue, Fleur Martino, Jyothi Sriram and Alex Yagudaev. CB11 District Manager, Joseph Marziliano and staff members Christina Coutinho and Jane Bentivenga were also in attendance. Two representatives from our local elected officials joined the meeting as well: Susan Seinfeld from CM Grodenchik's office and Amber Yoon from AM Braunstein's office.

Eileen Miller gave a broad overview of the virus and what efforts have been and are being taken regarding the disease itself, the symptoms, its transmission and possible treatment in the future. She also spoke about the effect the required quarantine and isolation is having on mental health. Mrs. Miller also mentioned AM Weprin will be in Albany to continue discussing further legislation to assist New Yorkers; currently, approximately 40% will not be able to pay their rent. She also stated that the Billie Jean King Center is now being used for food preparation. Free meals are now being offered to all, not just schoolchildren. Susan Seinfeld stated that seniors can have meals delivered; Commonpoint Queens is delivering meals as well. Mrs. Miller mentioned that if people that are in violation of social distancing or not wearing facial coverings, it can be reported to 311.

At this point, the first item discussed was the issue of the sale of non-essential items. Mr. Marziliano advised as per AM Rozic's office, there are no current rules or executive orders pertaining to this. They brought this to the attention of the Governor's office on behalf of CB11. Mr. Marziliano also reviewed the response to Ms. Gillespie's inquiry regarding protection for big box and grocery employees. Anyone dissatisfied with their work environment should reach out

to the New York State Department of Labor to file a complaint. Mr. Budabin stated that Vermont has taken measures regarding the sale of non-essential items. He requested Mr. Marziliano follow up with AM Rozic's office.

Next, Mr. Marziliano addressed the issue that Mrs. Haider raised regarding the proliferation of discarded masks and gloves on streets and sidewalks. He and Mr. Budabin spoke with Nick Circharo from NYC Dept. of Sanitation. He advised that right now they are not enforcing this as they do not have the resources. However, they will pick it up if the location is called into 311. They can only remove from public property. They are not at liberty to go on private property. Private property owners are responsible and can receive a summons. Individual stores should be notified directly.

The next topic was the distribution of door-to-door advertising materials. CB11 was referred to the Dept. of Consumer Affairs. Unfortunately, due to the nature of this business, it is very hard to enforce. Mr. Budabin suggested reaching out to elected officials. Susan Seinfeld said she would mention this during their conference on April 23, 2020 and advise the CB11 office. Mr. Marziliano said he will email the Dept. of Consumer Affairs.

The issue of remote learning and teacher responsibility had been raised by Alex Yagudaev. Mr. Marziliano has reached out to Department of Education. They are trying to get the best outcome possible even though teachers are working outside of their contract. Mr. Yagudaev stated not all teachers are doing what they should be. Mr. Lee agreed. Mr. Yagudaev has made numerous calls to the district and the principal (P.S. 162); the principal is no longer responding. It has been weeks and nothing has been done. He requested a letter be written. Mr. Budabin asked if he spoke to the PTA president and said it should be referred to City Council. Mr. Euler advised Mr. Yagudaev he needs to contact CM Koo's office. Susan Seinfeld said that DOE had a briefing with the City Council on April 17, 2020. She will look into the issue and advise them about the problem.

Mr. Marziliano said that he spoke to P.O. Angwang of the 111th Precinct. They have had no problems; no fines have been issued as of today. Fleur Martino reported that there are many people walking, jogging or biking near Oceania Street and 210 Street (just south of Horace Harding Expressway) that are not wearing masks or social distancing. This is also happening on Vanderbilt Motor Parkway. She feels more signage and more police presence are needed. Mr. Budabin said he and Mr. Marziliano will do their best to have an NYPD representative join the May 4, 2020 Board meeting so these types of issues can be addressed. Ms. Martino also reported an uptick in crime. Ms. Bush-Bain agreed. People can't be identified due to the face coverings.

Eileen Miller and Victor Dadras spoke about small business. Lists have been forwarded to CB11 regarding the businesses that are open in the area and the hours they are operating. CB11 will distribute these lists. If these stores are not patronized, they may very well close for good.

Mr. Budabin reiterated he will check with the NYPD regarding enforcement of face coverings and social distancing. It is most likely a business fine if it is happening inside a store.

Respectfully submitted April 23, 2020