



The City of New York

Queens Community Board 11

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

Christine L. Haider Chairperson / **Joseph Marziliano** District Manager

COMMITTEE REPORT

TO: Board Members
FROM: Henry Euler, Chair
Environmental Committee
RE: Multiple Items
DATE: March 15, 2019

On March 12, 2019, at 7:30 p.m., the Environmental Committee met to discuss multiple items. Present were Committee Chair Henry Euler, 2nd Vice Chair Laura James, Committee Members, Mary Bandziukas, Lourdes December, and Joan Garippa, and District Manager, Joseph Marziliano. Also present was Susan Seinfeld representing Council Member Barry Grodenchik.

Mr. Euler called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and introduced the agenda items. The first agenda item discussed was NYC Council Bill, Intro 1253 and companion bill Intro 1252. At the February 2019 Community Board 11 Meeting Council Member Costa Constantinides presented these bills and asked the Board to consider supporting them. The Board asked that support of these bills be brought to the full committee and the full language be provided to every Board Member. Mr. Marziliano provided the full language and informed the Committee that the language would be forwarded out in the monthly mailing. Mrs. Seinfeld mentioned Council Member Grodenchik's reservations include how the bills would impact co-ops, condos, and garden apartments. The potential for a burden on these homeowners/shareholders is a concern. The Committee went through the language with few exceptions and provided the attached draft resolution for the Board to consider.

Joan Garippa made a motion to recommend the draft resolution to the full board, seconded by Laura James. The motion passed unanimously.

The Committee then discussed the Army Corps of Engineers' proposal to install flood gates by the Throgs Neck Bridge. The Committee wished to send a letter to the Army Corps to thank them for their presentation at the March 2019 Community Board 11 meeting. The Committee echoed the concerns raised at the Board Meeting, and would also like to ask for a schedule from the Corps for future public hearings. Finally, the

Committee appreciates the pledge of the Corps to schedule meetings in Queens and looks forward to hearing specific information in the near future.

The Committee discussed whether further action should be taken on Organics Recycling issues. Mr. Marziliano stated that the Board has been informed that the District has had better compliance when the program was picked up twice weekly. Ms. Garippa stated that sometimes the lids are very hard to open and close. Mr. Euler stated that the lids to the organics pails lock to keep raccoons and vermin out.

Mr. Euler moved that the Committee recommend that the full Board support a request to reinstate twice-a-week organics pickup to accommodate better and easier with the law, seconded by Ms. December. The motion passed unanimously.

Under new discussion, future cleanup efforts by the Friends of Alley Pond Park were mentioned by Lourdes December. If and when those projects come to fruition, the Board should support those initiatives. Ms. James and Mr. Euler agreed. Ms. Garippa stated that in the past there have been cleanup efforts by other community groups, e.g. the Udalls Cove Preservation group.

It is expected that Committee Member Paul DiBenedetto will request further discussion of the pollution problems in Alley Creek and Little Neck Bay at a future Environmental Committee meeting. The Committee looks forward to that discussion and possible suggestions for remediation.

The Committee Meeting Adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by,
Joseph Marziliano
District Manager
March 15, 2019*

CB 11 DRAFT RESOLUTION DEALING WITH INTRO. 1253 AND INTRO. 1252.

Whereas, our planet, over the years, is experiencing increased levels of greenhouse gas emissions, including higher levels of carbon dioxide, that is having a negative impact on our atmosphere.

Whereas, there is substantial scientific evidence that these changes in our atmosphere are affecting our climate as evidenced by increased annual global temperatures, widespread increase in catastrophic flooding storms and also extreme droughts in other areas, which often leads to deadly wildfires.

Whereas, there are measures that can be taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the effects of the changes to our climate, including reducing the use of fossil fuels, converting to renewable energy sources, and employing energy efficient practices.

Whereas, in the City of New York, 70% of the greenhouse gas emissions come from energy producing systems used primarily in large buildings throughout the five boroughs.

Whereas, Councilmember Costa Constantinides is sponsoring a bill in the NYC Council with 34 co-sponsors, Intro 1253, that would require owners of buildings larger than 25,000 square feet to install retrofits on their energy producing systems in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Whereas, most publicly owned buildings would be required to install retrofits regardless of the size of the building under Intro. 1253.

Whereas, there is a companion bill, Intro 1252, being introduced at the NYC Council that would offer building owners affected by the retrofit bill, low interest, and in some cases no interest loans to complete a retrofit of their energy producing systems.

Whereas, the goal of Intro. 1253 is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the City of New York by 40% in 2030 and by 80% in 2050, and the latter goal matches the goal of the Paris Agreements.

Whereas, buildings that use renewable energy sources including solar, wind and geothermal are employing clean and sustainable sources of power generation in contrast to buildings that employ fossil fuel based sources.

Be it resolved that:

- Queens Community Board 11 supports the passage of NYC Council Intro. 1253, and its companion bill, Intro. 1252, provided that provisions are made to mitigate the effects of present and future pass-along costs to co-op, condominium, and all rental residents,
- That all other prudent measures be taken to assist and ensure that building owners can comply with the terms of this legislation,
- That all building owners be encouraged to convert or upgrade their energy producing systems using renewable sources of energy, which will further reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The incentives for converting/upgrading could include rebates and real estate tax reductions,
- That copies of this resolution be sent to Mayor Bill de Blasio, Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, Comptroller Scott Stringer, all local Queens elected officials and all NYC community boards.