



## COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, Elmhurst, and Newtown

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**Sharon Lee**

Acting Borough President

**Louis Walker**

Chairperson

**Christian Cassagnol**

District Manager

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March 10, 2020

### PUBLIC HEARING ATTENDANCE

#### Board Members Attending:

Priscilla Carrow  
Lucy Cerezo Scully  
David Chong  
Marialena Giampino  
Sylvia Martin  
Matthew McElroy  
Ruby Muhammad  
Alexandra Owens

Ashley Reed  
Clara Salas  
Lucy Schilero  
Gregory Spock  
Dewan Tarek  
Marcello Testa  
Rose Wong  
Minwen Yang

#### ATTENDING:

Christian Cassagnol, CB4 District Manager  
Richard, CB4 Intern  
Council Member Francisco Moya  
Acting Borough President Sharon Lee  
Joseph Nocerino, Queens Borough President's Office  
Kelly Wu, Council Member Daniel Dromm's office  
Zachariah Boyer, Public Advocate Jumaane Williams' Office  
Bernice Navarrete-Perez, Council Member Francisco Moya's Office  
Michelle Munoz, Senator Jessica Ramos' Office  
Phiveline Solano, Council Member Francisco Moya's Office  
Lissette Barcia, Assembly Member Jeffrion Aubry's Office  
Jessica Schbowski, Office of the Mayor  
David Burgoa, NHSQ  
Jason Banrey, Deputy Borough Commissioner, NYC Department of Transportation  
Bhavin Patel, Traffic Engineer & Planning, NYC Department of Transportation  
Howard Levine, MTA/NYC Transit Governmental and Community Relations  
Judy McClean, MTA/NYC Transit Governmental and Community Relations  
Miley Wong, Elmhurst United  
Mario Matos, Maspeth High School  
Krizia Lopez, Puentes Community Translators  
James Mongeluzo, NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer's Office  
Jessica Tang, Assemblywoman Catalina Cruz's Office

**ATTENDING: (cont'd)**

Avigail Aviles, AAFE

John Schaffer

Joe Bellacicco

Thomas McKenzie, Newtown Civic Association

Bohdan Kinzyk, Poyer Street Resident

David Nadal

Zaire Hidalgo

Sally Wong

**Public Speakers:**

Thomas McKenzie, Newtown Civic Association

Bohdan Kinzyk, Resident of Poyer Street

David Nadal

Board Member Dewan Tarek

Sally Wong , Elmhurst United

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**DATE: Tuesday, March 10, 2020**

**TIME: 7:00 P.M.**

**PLACE: Italian Charities of America  
83-20 Queens Boulevard  
Elmhurst, NY**

**Subject: Proposal to Convert Poyer Street between Cornish Avenue and Corona Avenue From A Two-Way Street to an Eastbound One Way Street.**

First Vice Chair Marialena Giampino opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Second Vice Chair Ashley Reed took the attendance. A quorum was not present.

Jason Banrey, Deputy Borough Commissioner, NYC Department of Transportation, reported on the One Way Conversion of Poyer Street. As a follow-up to the February 11, 2020 CB meeting, the Board had requested outreach be done to the area residents on the one way street conversion. Mr. Banrey explained flyers to every household on the block were distributed as well as an area wide e-mail blast. Community Board 4 also sent notice to the area residents.

Mr. Banrey explained the street request was received from a community resident. DOT studied the feasibility of the request after it was received by the Community Board.

With the aid of a slide presentation, Mr. Bhavin Patel, Traffic Engineering & Planning, NYC Department of Transportation, explained the proposal. The block is mostly residential except for the corner of Cornish Avenue and Poyer Street. There are two intersections Dongan and 51 Avenue. No fatalities were reported, however, there was one serious injury at 51 Avenue and Poyer Street. Poyer Street is located where multiple agencies want to reduce fatalities and injuries and promote better roadway design and enforcement.

A slide of what the street currently looks like was presented. Currently, it is a one-way street eastbound from South Railroad Avenue to Cornish Avenue becoming a two-way street to 51 Avenue. The majority of the streets from Queens Boulevard to Broadway are one-way streets alternating north and south. 51 Avenue and Corona Avenue are two-way streets as well as Albion and Barnwell Avenue.

Mainly, Poyer Street is too narrow to operate as a two-way street, especially involving school buses, large vehicles such as trucks, or SUV's. Because of the narrow street, vehicles are forced to pull to the side sometimes at the intersection or at driveways whereby mirrors are clipped or sideswipes occur. As a result, vehicles are forced to revert back into the intersection and pedestrians crossing is an issue. As an example, one of the slides showed the seriousness of the street.

At the intersection of Poyer Street and Cornish Avenue where P. S. 7 is located in close proximity together with the heavy pedestrian volume this poses a safety concern. Poyer Street is a one-way for one block approaching Cornish Avenue then it becomes a two-way street hence everyone coming toward Cornish Avenue and 51 Avenue is forced to make a left. This creates a head on condition which forces more turns than normally. Obviously with more turns and the high pedestrian volume, there is the risk factor for crashes or injuries to pedestrians/motorists.

The proposal will make Poyer Street one-way, continue the eastbound direction from Cornish Avenue to 51 Avenue and will eliminate much of the turn conflicts. It will also eliminate the head on by the school intersection and improve overall safety. Moreover, the streets going into Broadway and Queens Boulevard are alternating north and south. This change will allow circulation for the area and an example was provided.

Jason Banrey explained the agency's policy regarding one-way street conversions. A proposal is received and studied by the agency who subsequently provides a presentation to the Community Board. Then, the Community Board votes on the proposal as presented.

At this point, the floor was for open for questions.

A Board Member asked to clarify the reported accidents that had happened mentioning Dongan Avenue and Poyer Street. But it was reported the head on condition had occurred on Cornish Avenue and Poyer Street.

DOT agency rep. Bhavin Patel explained Cornish Avenue is an area of concern because of the heavy pedestrian traffic and the many multiple turns involved because all are forced to make a left. The majority of traffic that comes down Poyer Street either makes a left turn on Dongan Avenue or onto Corona Avenue with traffic moving toward Broadway.

Mr. Bhavin Patel pointed out DOT had observed there is a condition within the four block stretch where a head on collision may occur.

Mr. Tom McKenzie asked was there ever a head on collision there.

Mr. Bhavin Patel responded no.

Mr. Tom McKenzie commented it is usually controlled by crossing guards when the school is opened for about an hour's time. Dismissal is between 2-3 p.m.

Discussion ensued on one particular slide about Poyer Street. Mr. McKenzie commented it seemed the traffic was moving well. Cars were parked on both sides of the street and two groups of cars on the roadway, which did not look crowded.

Mr. Bhavin Patel stated there is no congestion on Poyer Street except when two vehicles are coming onto Poyer Street at the same time there is conflict.

Mr. McKenzie commented on the school buses which are on the street for about an hour and a half in the morning and about an hour in the afternoon.

At this point, First Vice Chair Marialena Giampino closed the Public Hearing and announced public speakers would be allowed to speak on the proposal. Time limit is 3 minutes.

### **Public Speakers:**

Tom McKenzie reported he has lived on Cornish Avenue for 77 years, across from the school. He served as president of the Newtown Civic Association and a member of Community Board 4 for 40 years also serving as Chair of the Environmental Committee.

This matter had come before Board 4 once before when the school was built eighteen years ago.

At that time, Community Board 4 had rejected the one-way proposal for the following reasons:

Residents living on Cornish Avenue could no longer get to their homes from the three blocks needed to get home from Poyer Street to Corona Avenue. With the one-way proposal then and now, they would have to go to Queens Boulevard traveling seven more blocks around to get to Cornish Avenue. Then, the Board rejected this one-way proposal as unnecessary and environmentally a waste of gas and time and a cause for greater car pollution in the neighborhood. The Board saw this proposal as a dangerous condition for such cause as the Fire Department could no longer travel on Poyer Street to Cornish Avenue on the three blocks it would take but go along the seven block route on Queens Boulevard and the traffic congestion to be put up with causing further response delay to any fire on Cornish Avenue or the neighboring streets. The present situation without any change seemed to have worked all right for 18 years. Most of the congestion is from the school buses but in an hour they are gone. It seems every new principal wants the one-way change. We, the people, who live on and off Poyer Street do not want this change. Board 4 should consider the residents in this area first before all others. Once again reject this proposal as being wasteful, traffic polluting, dangerous to fire emergency and ambulance responses.

I hope the Board considers the people who live along Poyer Street and rejects the proposal once more as it had done in the past.

Next, Bohdan Kinzyk commented he is in favor of the change for Poyer Street to become a one-way street. He lives on Poyer Street for over 50 years. About 30 years ago, it was a one-way street. The noise pollution, traffic and quality of life has dissipated to unbearable terms. School children are in danger and motorists have no courtesy on the road. For example, he mentioned the U-turns on Poyer Street. Cars on both sides are being hit. It is terrible and people are losing money due to an unbearable situation.

As a point of information, Tom McKenzie stated Poyer Street was always two-way. It was changed at the time the school was built.

Next, David Nadal indicated he is in favor of converting Poyer Street to a one-way street. It is a very dangerous situation because the street is too narrow. Almost daily, cars are side-swiped. At the corner, there is tremendous congestion very close to the end.

Mr. Nadal would be happy to travel one block out of his way to reach home. It is very difficult to navigate in and out of his driveway because of the cars traveling back and forth and he cannot see the cars on the road and must look both ways. Also, cars are already parked on the street. Meanwhile, there is congestion and noise pollution because of cars honking because people cannot get through the street.

Moreover since motorists speed down the street, he would like to see speed bumps placed on the street. He pointed out having the street converted to a one way, may encourage motorists to speed more than they usually do.

Board Member Dewan Tarek echoed the sentiments of Tom McKenzie and said since Poyer Street is approximately 30' and the average width of a standard sedan is approximately 6' to 6.5'.

At 6.5', four vehicles side by side (adjacent) would equal approximately 26', which leaves 4'. Four vehicles can wind up side by side, leaving a 1' space. The average width of an ambulance which he drives picking up passengers from Forest Hills and Rego Park. Since Elmhurst Hospital is closest which is not always accessed from Broadway because of the new bus lanes. Broadway and Queens Blvd. is one of the busiest intersections in the city.

Take into consideration the bus lines, heavy vehicular traffic plus the commercial traffic coming onto Broadway.

Often times, Poyer Street is accessed not only to Broadway to get to and exit from Elmhurst Hospital. In order to access Rego Park and Forest Hills, the ambulance would come onto Broadway to Poyer Street and access Queens Blvd. either east or west bound vice versa the same rules apply accessing Broadway for Elmhurst Hospital from Poyer Street.

Second, he spoke about P. S 7's school principal in favor of a one way street because of the school buses. He gave first-hand information as a school van driver which is approximately 7' to 7 1/2' wide. He spoke about congestion between 2:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m., which he doubted, on the three to four buses depositing students on Cornish Avenue.

Third, it is possible that on few occasions a commercial truck had accessed Broadway to Queens Blvd. It is a possibility, but for his 14+ years he has been using Poyer Street as a private citizen, bicyclist, motorist, ambulance and school van driver, he does not recall seeing commercial trucks, however, he had and mentioned the one injury reported which he did not want to minimize.

On safety, he commented about the state authorized traffic cameras installed, consensus on speed bumps, and the great safety patrol noting no children have been hurt.

Concession is needed to ensure the street is kept flowing so that it is not congested any more than it should be.

Next, Sally Wong expressed concern about the emergency vehicles accessing Poyer Street. If Poyer Street is changed to a one-way, all emergency vehicles would take longer to reach their destination. With every second counting for an emergency patient, it is troubling. She requested the study be extended for other streets to be converted to two-way streets before Poyer Street is changed to a one-way street. Emergency vehicles getting to their destination quick enough must be addressed. She asked the Board not to approve the one way street conversion.

At this point, First Vice Chair Marialena Giampino expressed concern about the bicycle and bus lanes and the present congestion with more buildings constructed, thought must be given for the future to consider is this a good idea to make it a one-way street.

Following this statement, Chairperson Louis Walker closed the Public Hearing at 7:35 p.m. The regularly scheduled Board meeting immediately followed.

**COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING**

**DATE: Tuesday, March 10, 2020**

**TIME: 7:30 P.M.**

**PLACE: Italian Charities of America  
83-20 Queens Blvd.  
Elmhurst, NY**

**COMMUNITY BOARD ATTENDANCE**

**Board Members Attending:**

Louis Walker  
Priscilla Carrow  
Lucy Cerezo Scully  
David Chong  
Michelle Dunston  
Aridia Espinal  
Marialena Giampino  
Salvatore Lombardo  
Sylvia Martin  
Matthew McElroy  
Edgar Moya  
Ruby Muhammad

Sandra Munoz  
Georgina Oliver  
Alexandra Owens  
Ashley Reed  
Neil Roman  
Clara Salas  
Lucy Schilero  
Gregory Spock  
Dewan Tarek  
Marcello Testa  
Rosa Wong  
Minwen Yang

**Board Members Absent:**

Karen Abreu  
Chaio-Chung Chen  
Lynda Coral  
Erica Cruz  
Kristen Gonzalez  
Jennifer Gutierrez  
Vincent Laucella  
James Lisa  
Patricia Martin

Rovenia McGowan  
Gurdip Singh Narula  
Alexa Ponce  
Rupinder Raj  
Oscar Rios  
Cristian Romero  
Fernando Ruiz  
A. Redd Sevilla  
Alton Derrick Smith  
Izaida Valcarcel

**ATTENDING:**

Christian Cassagnol, CB4 District Manager  
Richard, CB4 Intern  
Council Member Francisco Moya  
Acting Borough President Sharon Lee  
Joseph Nocerino, Queens Borough President's Office  
Kelly Wu, Council Member Daniel Dromm's office  
Zachariah Boyer, Public Advocate Jumaane Williams' Office  
Bernice Navarrete-Perez, Council Member Francisco Moya's Office  
Michelle Munoz, Senator Jessica Ramos' Office  
Phiveline Solano, Council Member Francisco Moya's Office  
Lissette Barcia, Assembly Member Jeffrion Aubry's Office  
Jessica Schbowski, Office of the Mayor  
David Burgoa, NHSQ  
Jason Banrey, Deputy Borough Commissioner, NYC Department of Transportation  
Bhavin Patel, Traffic Engineer & Planning, NYC Department of Transportation

**ATTENDING: (cont'd)**

Howard Levine, MTA/NYC Transit Governmental and Community Relations

Judy McClean, MTA/NYC Transit Governmental and Community Relations

Miley Wong, Elmhurst United

Mario Matos, Maspeth High School

Krizia Lopez, Puentes Community Translators

James Mongeluzo, NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer's Office

Jessica Tang, Assemblywoman Catalina Cruz's Office

Avigail Aviles, AAFE

John Schaffer

Joe Bellacicco

Thomas McKenzie, Newtown Civic Association

Bohdan Kinzyk, Poyer Street Resident

David Nadal

Zaire Hidalgo

Sally Wong

**COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING**

**DATE: Tuesday, March 10, 2020**

**TIME: 7:30 P.M.**

**PLACE: Italian Charities of America  
83-20 Queens Blvd.  
Elmhurst, NY**

**I.** Chairperson Louis Walker opened the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

**II.** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

**III.** Second Vice Chair Ashley Reed took the attendance. A quorum was present.

**IV. VOTE:** Minutes February 11, 2020

Board Member Clara Salas made a motion to approve the minutes with the following correction:

Page 7 – Attending - Veronica Ramirez’s organization was spelled incorrectly -the correct spelling is: Mujeres en Movimiento.

The motion seconded by Board Member Priscilla Carrow.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 24 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

**V. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON**

Chairperson Louis Walker thanked the Board Members for their messages of condolences, flowers and visits on the passing of his brother who was 55 years old and did not take care of himself. He stressed the importance of taking care of yourself and if you have a health issue to address it; it does not go away. On the same day as his brother’s funeral service, Chair Walker’s father also passed away.

**VI. REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER**

District Manager Cassagnol reported he would pass on information throughout the night and mentioned the packets being distributed tonight. Also, canvas bags were available, noting the plastic bag ban into effect. The Capital and Expense document is the Board’s wish list and a noteworthy document to read.

**VII. REPORT OF THE TREASURER**

Board Treasurer Lucy Schilero requested the donation for the Sunshine Fund by April, a donation of \$15.00. Please bring it in next month if you cannot contribute at this meeting.

**VIII. PUBLIC FORUM**

Chair Louis Walker reminded all the time limit is 3 minutes.

Board Member Clara Salas reported in the next five to ten years this area will be super overpopulated with the great deal of construction in process. The Long Island Railroad needs to reopen at Whitney Avenue and Broadway. Legislators that can achieve this goal is NYS Senator Stavisky Chairperson of the Transportation Committee and Congresswoman Grace Meng. All were urged to call the offices of those legislators and express your concerns about this matter.

Also, she spoke about the removal of dead trees by the Queens Borough President’s Office and the Parks Department along Queens Boulevard. A thank you was extended to the Queens Borough President’s office for her help. Going forward, it would be advantageous for the Queens Borough President’s Office to create an office for the perpetual care and maintenance of Queens Boulevard from Long Island City to Jamaica. Specifically, that the center islands are kept free of dead trees and garbage. Once a week cleaning the center islands would be an improvement.

Mr. Tom McKenzie spoke on the re-opening of the Long Island Railroad and presented details.

Board Member Matthew McElroy commented CB4’s Transportation Committee and District Manager Christian Cassagnol met with representatives of the Long Island Railroad about a year ago and was informed there had been funding in the now ending Capital plan

for design study, but the money had been reallocated elsewhere. Construction at Willets Point made it unlikely anything would be done right now. Board Member McElroy agreed with Mr. McKenzie and Board Member Clara Salas commenting if there is a way to urge the MTA to put money back into the new capital plan for the LIRR's reopening at Elmhurst and to add this request to the Board's Capital Needs Statement.

Next, John Schaffer reported he called 311 with a problem of graffiti at 79-06 51 Avenue. The 311 representative was not able to open a new report because there was an open complaint since August. Therefore, the system locked her out of reporting a new problem.

311 needs to be better equipped so that it can unlock a graffiti issue. He pointed out graffiti can reappear the day after it gets cleaned up and needs to be reported.

Next, Joe Bellacicco spoke about 43 Avenue where ambulances and fire trucks cannot go through characterizing 43 Avenue as a jungle and a junkyard. It is so bad his relatives will not come to visit him anymore. Also mentioned he is trying to get police officers to park their vehicles correctly. He will be meeting with the Dept. of Highways in a week or so. He had met with the Police Dept. regarding parking on 94 Street. If this was agreed upon, it would solve the problem on 43 Avenue. People must walk in the middle of the street because all the crosswalks are blocked because Police cars are parked on the sidewalk. The Police had responded to Mr. Bellacicco that their vehicles must be secure so that they are not vandalized.

Next, Board Member Lucy Schilero explained she lives across the street for 22 years from Mr. Bellacicco and gave a history of the block.

The business on Junction Boulevard had huge trucks that angle parked when the street was two-way. People were hit and the business owner found a better location after 22 years.

Those commercial vehicles that are being repaired take up to 35 parking spaces on the block. As a result, the police must park elsewhere. An extension was asked for past the precinct. Those spaces take in three businesses from the Iron Triangle.

A corner store near 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Junction Blvd. also sells vehicles. People complain constantly they cannot find parking near their homes. Six parking spaces are taken by them. As a result, residents on the block and the police cannot find parking.

She had made a suggestion regarding rehabilitation of the Precinct including underground parking. An engineer was brought in.

Every time money was allocated to the Precinct, the funds were rescinded. With the outbreak of the Coronavirus, money will again be withdrawn. Many of the Capital budget items requested will be held back.

Working with the neighbors, a plan was worked out for double and angle parking, which worked. Details were given.

In conclusion, Board Member Lucy Schilero stated she would like to see the Precinct rehabilitated with underground parking.

She was optimistic we will move forward with the Capital budget.

Next, David Burgoa, NHSQ, announced a recruitment event to be held in Woodside and at his main office. Flyers were on hand with more details. Estate planning seminars will be held this month. Dates planned are Thursday, March 12 (Spanish) at the Langston Hughes Library from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Call to register. On Monday, March 30, 2020, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at the Langston Hughes Library. Also, a home repair grant orientation will be held. Some homeowners need assistance in completing home repairs, especially emergency repairs for the home, on Thursday, March 12, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. at the Langston Hughes Library and Thursday, March 26, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at the Langston Hughes Library and Monday, March 30, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the Langston Hughes Library.

Next, Krizia Lopez, Founder of Puentes Community Translators, which is a new project. This year she had received a fellowship From the Fulbright Alumni Association for this project. Puentes translators will be training young adults who are bi-lingual to serve the community as translators. The goal of the project is increase the number of translators in the community because language barriers can be a huge problem, especially for low income residents. Also to provide skill training development program for young adults as an alternative to taking a minimum wage job. Training will be given to work as a free-lance translator, which on average pays double the minimum wage and does not require a college degree. Presently, Ms. Lopez is seeking to connect with community partners: nonprofits, churches, community organizations and schools. More information can be found on her website: [puentestranslators.com](http://puentestranslators.com).

Next, Avigail Aviles, AAFE, announced an upcoming workshop at 37-61 84 Street, Jackson Heights, NY, Saturday, March 14, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., on Creating Housing Justice in New York regarding laws needed to pass in the State legislature this year.

Also free Digital Literacy Classes are available for people of all ages. Call 718-316-9993 to sign up.

Further, workshops for small businesses are being offered as well as immigrant owned businesses. Packets in

English/Spanish/Chinese with more details were left in the back.

Subsequently she announced on behalf of Queens Neighborhood United (QNU) their campaign against the Target's to be built on 82 Street and read a quote from Council Member Francisco Moya on the project. From June. QNU is still awaiting his response.

At this point, First Vice Chair Marialena Giampino announced March 29 at Italian Charities of America a pet adoption event will be held. Flyers in the back.

## **IX. REPORT OF THE LEGISLATORS**

Council Member Francisco Moya reported on COVID-19 and stressed the importance of logging onto the city's website. More information is in the back. Everyone should know what to do and read information provided by the CDC, the Mayor's Office and the Department of Mental Health and Hygiene. Importantly, it is critical not to panic.

In discussion with the Mayor and already seen is the problem of price gouging. Significant price gouging is occurring for hand sanitizers, lights and more. If you know of any store overcharging, call Council Member Moya's office or 311. Fines range up to \$500.00.

A clear message must be sent when we are in crises our stores must be depended upon and not to price gouge in our community. He mentioned a store on Roosevelt Avenue selling two masks for \$100.00. If you see price gouging, report it. Enforcement will be dispatched to the offending store.

If you are above the age of 55 or have a low immune system, stay home. Also, wash your hands. More precautions were given on COVID-19 on the best way for treatment and testing. 24-48 hours is the time frame to wait before seeking medical attention and testing. Texting 692-692 COVID-19 will send you to the city's alert system for up to date text messages on the latest information.

Board Member Priscilla Carrow was commended for bringing hand sanitizers to the Council Member's office for distribution to the community. Council Member Moya urged all to be cautious and not panic.

Regarding the ACE program already budgeted to do a certain section. This year the program is expanding once the budget cycle for the city ends and begins at the end of July. On the list is 43 Avenue. Presently it is for Roosevelt Avenue and Corona Plaza and from Roosevelt Avenue to 104 Street from 111 Street to 51 Avenue and all of Corona Avenue. The program is being expanded to all parts of the district. Expansion is planned under Roosevelt Avenue from 103 Street to 90 Street and 43 Avenue.

The ACE program helps people transition back to the workforce and provides great services by keeping the streets very clean, every day Monday through Sunday.

Next, Council Member Moya reported on the Parks Department. Area complaints have been received about the homeless, being intoxicated and drinking in the parks. In last year's budget, \$44 million had been allotted to add more PEP officers (Parks Enforcement Officers). Council Member Moya represents Flushing Meadows-Corona Park, largest in the city and second largest in the Borough of Queens. Flushing Meadow-Corona Park (FM-CP) staffing consists of two park rangers and two PEP officers. When the Parks Commissioner testified at the City Council hearing, Council Member Moya asked was the current staffing sufficient for such a large park. The Parks Commissioner responded yes. Council Member Moya said that was the wrong response especially if you are coming to ask for money to expand programs. Let's first take care of the parks we already have and ensure the proper enforcement is in place.

He noted the 110 Precinct should be working in conjunction with the Parks Department. If a PEP officer needed assistance, he had to call the Police Department, which removed an officer off the beat. As a result, eight PEP officers will be assigned to our area. A base like a trailer in Park of the Americas on 104 Street will dispatch the officers who will be deployed to the parks in Community Board 4's area. Currently, PEP Officers are based in Flushing. Two morning and evening shifts will be in place. Coordination will be done with NYPD to ensure efficiency and more importantly, the safety of the community.

Next, he spoke about the selling of vehicles on 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue previously mentioned by Board Member Lucy Schilero. Six parking spaces are taken up and residents cannot park. Council Member Moya passed legislation in the Assembly, called, "Curbstoning" which would crack down on individuals selling those vehicles. If more than five vehicles per year are sold in the State of New York, a dealer's license is required. Illegal car dealers do not have licenses and as a result take up prime real estate in neighborhoods, noting many of those gas stations receive a payment from those dealings. However, there is a problem with amount of tow trucks available to enforce the law. It is difficult to remove all of the cars from the street because capacity is limited and NYPD needs more funding to fund more tow trucks.

Lastly, he spoke about the new budget coming in and stated many of the Board's priorities will be looked at to determine how they can be implemented, mentioning the Park of the Americas.

Council Member Moya said he will not allocate funding to the Parks Department for projects that will take eight years to implement. He should have not to appropriate \$3 million to repair the asphalt for the basketball courts because these are simple things that can be done. Hearings will be held on the procurement process and provided details on the process and inflated pricing.

Next, Acting Borough President Sharon Lee addressed the Board. The Acting Borough President announced this is the last month of her serving in this capacity. She thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve and enjoyed her time performing her duties.

She said many elections are coming up notably the Queens Borough President election on March 24 which is a non-partisan race. All were urged to vote. Early voting begins Saturday, March 14.

In April, the presidential primary will be held. In June, a primary will be held to vote for the Borough President and also voting for state legislators. Vote.

In November a general election will be held to vote for Borough President, President, and state legislators. Vote. Acting Borough President Sharon Lee reminded all go out and vote in all elections.

Subsequently she reminded all about the upcoming census and stressed the importance of the census. The count begins Thursday, March 12 emphasized it is so critical to our future.

Parks, schools, hospitals, roads and bridges all matters whether we are visible and counted. This year the form can be completed on line. If you do not fill out the form, a census taker will come to your door to gather information.

Fill out the census form because everyone needs to be counted. Local communities depend on this information.

From the Mayor's \$95 billion preliminary budget, it was studied how much the city spends on a child in school, senior citizens, and hospitals etc.

A few weeks ago, the Borough Board voted on our budget priorities as a borough. The numbers were crunched to see if Queens is getting its fair share. The answer was no. As yet, the community district figures were not broken down. Queens is being shortchanged and we need more parity. She encouraged all to look at the Borough Board priorities which were sent to the Mayor. Log on to [queensbp.org](http://queensbp.org) for this information.

The three areas of concern were schools, senior citizens, and hospitals. Details were provided on each.

In conclusion, Queens needs to get its fair share and parity which is another important reason to be counted more accurately in this year's census.

Please remember to vote in all four elections this year.

Chairperson Louis Walker continued with the Legislators Reports:

#### **Senate**

**Charles E. Schumer**

No Report. No representative present.

Kristen Gilibrand

No Report. No representative present.

#### **House of Representatives**

**Grace Meng**

No Report. No representative present.

**Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez**

Since a representative was not in attendance, a report was sent from the Congresswoman's office to be read later in the meeting.

#### **NYS Assembly**

**Brian Barnwell**

No Report. Representative not in attendance.

**Michael DenDekker**

No Report. Representative not in attendance.

**Jeffrion Aubry**

No Report.

**Catalina Cruz**

No Report.

#### **NYS Senate**

**Michael Gianaris**

No Report. Representative not in attendance.

**Jessica Ramos**

Michelle Munoz announced the last event of the month: A Women's History Month Art Show, debuts Thursday, March 12. Also if you are concerned about getting sick, the office is still open but please call first. Services can be provided over the phone. Free tax preparation is available on Thursdays and Fridays; an attorney is available on Wednesdays. A Transportation Town Hall Meeting with the Port Authority was cancelled, but will be rescheduled. On the agenda is the Air Train, Northern Boulevard, Congestion Pricing and other issues.

**Toby Ann Stavisky**

No Report. Representative not in attendance.

**Office of the Mayor**

Jessica Schbowski reported on COVID-19 and provided a text update: COVID to 692692. Also, she is sending out daily e-mails, including either transcripts from the Mayor, press conferences or press releases with updated numbers. Since the first case emerged on March 1, there are now 36 confirmed cases and 1900 people in voluntary quarantine. The situation is relatively managed but is an evolving situation. If people can avoid overcrowded subways, let one or two trains go by to minimize the risk. Also it is important to wash hands for 20 seconds and stay home if you are not feeling well. If a health care provider is not providing testing, call 311. Or e-mail Ms. Schbowski and she will follow-up.

The census is starting March 12 and the Special Election for Queens Borough President is March 14. All were encouraged to function in their day to day routine and to participate in civic engagements.

**NYC Council****Daniel Dromm**

Kelly Wu announced the following upcoming events:

Partnering with Assembly Member Catalina Cruz and State Senator Jessica Ramos, the three legislators will hold a Youth Town Hall and Resource Fair Q & A with the local elected officials on Friday, March 13, from 6-8 p.m. at the Renaissance Charter School, 35-59 81 Street, Jackson Heights, NY, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

An NYC Info Session planned had been rescheduled from February 27 to March 24 at IS 230 at 73-10 34 Avenue, Jackson Heights, NY. In attendance will be the Department of Education who will present information and is open to sharing ideas about the future of the schools. Instruction will be given on how to write proposals to the school for consideration.

Subsequently, the Irish Caucus event is planned for Wednesday, March 25, at the Council Chambers City Hall at 5:30 p.m.

Following she announced the Council Member's office offers general legal services on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Please call the office to schedule an appointment.

Regarding the COVID-19 virus, precautionary flyers were in the back.

**NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer**

James Mongeluzo, Queens Borough Liaison, spoke about the rain garden issue noting the many rain gardens in the Board area. Since he last reported, the Comptroller's office performed an audit of the rain gardens and found most of them are full of trash. Also, people are ripping out the plants which are the contaminants. The water is packed too tightly preventing water from draining into the tree pits.

He explained the purpose of the rain gardens, mentioning water is diverted from the already over-burdened sewer system.

Community Board 4 had for many year requested more capacity for the sewers. Of the 101 rain gardens audited, 95 had problems and 66/67 had two issues that were preventing rain gardens from working as they should.

If you see issues with the rain gardens, notify the local elected officials, Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) or Mr. Mongeluzo to monitor the situation.

Recommendations were sent to DEP to do a better job of maintaining the rain gardens. Call him at 646-689-6509 to report problems.

Subsequently, he reported on audits that were released. An audit report that summarizes the sixty+ audits and investigations performed were available on the Comptroller's website. Click on the Reports tab. Additionally, a report was completed on the cash and balance projection for the City of New York. All is well, however, the potential problem is the effects of the Corona Virus on the economy, which its impact is difficult to predict. Generally, though, trends are good.

Lastly, the Comptroller's Office invites you to attend its Irish Heritage Breakfast, Thursday, March 19, 2020. Doors open 8:30 a.m. Breakfast from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at the David N. Dinkins Municipal Building, Comptroller's Board Room, 1 Centre Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY. Visit the link, to RSVP. Flyers in the back.

### **NYC Public Advocate Jumaane Williams**

Zachariah Boyer reported, Queens Borough Liaison, announced:

Please wash your hands to prevent spread of COVID-19. Also, satellite offices will be open and throughout Queens covering Boards 1 through 4. He is requesting feedback from the Board on matters you would like brought up. The Comptroller's satellite office is planned for a month in the different neighborhoods.

### **Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez**

At this point, District Manager Christian Cassagnol read Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's report.

The first Town Hall was held on February 22 in northern Corona. If you did not attend, you can watch the virtual Town Hall on the Facebook page Saturday, March 14, from 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

If you signed up for the Newsletter, you will receive an e-mail with a link to RSVP.

Regarding Census 2020, the Congresswoman's office encourages all to complete the census form. Starting March 12, the census begins.

This past week the House negotiated and passed a bipartisan \$8.3 billion package to fully fund a robust response to the COVID-19 outbreak to help fund research and development for vaccines, support for state and local governments, and assistance for small businesses.

The Congresswoman's office is open to provide constituent services for any federal issue such as Immigration, Social Security and other Federal government related services. Hours of operation were read to the Board.

## **X. PRESENTATION ON QUEENS BUS NETWORK REDESIGN**

### ***Metropolitan Transportation Authority***

Mr. Howard Levine, NYC Transit Governmental and Community Relations, reported on the Queens Bus Network Redesign. For many years, people in Queens have been reporting the buses are not working for them. Complaints received included overcrowding, buses not coming, and when they do arrive, buses come in bunches. As a result, the MTA set out to redesign all the buses in the Queens Bus Network for a better performance.

A number of outreach workshops were held throughout Queens and currently is in the draft plan phase of the new redesign map. Trying to obtain as much feedback as possible, four different outreach events were held. Response locations included Elmhurst Hospital.

So far, responses included direct access to 74 Street/Roosevelt Avenue Station and connections to Jackson Heights to Manhattan on the bus.

To examine the plan, in May workshops were held to determine what the riders liked and did not like about the bus network. Surveys were also completed. In September, the Existing Conditions Report was released which contained the MetroCard Swipe and demographic data in the draft plan.

The Draft Plan was released December 2019; and since then, the MTA had been attending community meetings, holding workshops and appearing at civic association events to gather as much feedback as possible.

Mr. Levine reported this is a draft plan, which will be revised, to collect as much feedback as possible. One of the ways to collect feedback included the Comment Cards distributed tonight. Feedback will continue into the next round of the redesign, which will be the proposed final plan of a draft containing more outreach and revisions.

Next, he explained there is no planned implementation date set for this plan. More feedback will be gathered and the plan revised again until Queens Bus riders are as happy as possible.

*"Fast Forward: Queens Bus Network Redesign Plan Draft Plan" – March 10 – 2020 was distributed to the Board.*

At this point, the floor was turned over to Judy McClean, MTA/New York City Transit, who reiterated feedback is essential. With the aid of a slide presentation, she explained with the inception of the plan, surveys were performed where people said they want reliable bus service. Riders do not want buses bunching with more frequent and faster service and better connections is needed. The MTA is taking a very fresh look at the system.

In talking to people, more direct service was brought up. The benefit of this is every time the bus makes a turn, it takes longer because it has to wait for pedestrians to cross. When the network was redrawn, some of the routes were straightened out. She explained it is difficult in some of the neighborhoods because to make a connection to a subway station and to do it requires more turns. Excellent comments were received from the Transportation Committee of Community Board 4.

Furthermore, she reported on balancing bus stops. Right now, there are some very close bus stop spacing compared to other places around the country. Every time the bus stops it can add an additional 20 seconds to your commute. Although it does not sound like much, if there are 20 stops it can lengthen your commute. The MTA does want public input because a bus stop may not have been added in the plan that may be a senior center where it is important to have a bus stop.

Meanwhile, she explained about enhanced connectivity between the boroughs so that there could be better connections.

Accordingly, increased frequency was mentioned. Although a budget target has not been set, the service needs to be efficient. For example, if there is one route serving very few riders, reinvestment is needed to see where there are more riders. Many of the routes go to the same three places such as Long Island City, Main Street, and Jamaica. Around those locations, there is much congestion. Routing bus routes was reviewed to serve other areas. If bus stops are too close together, buses are overcrowded and it is difficult to load the bus efficiently.

As a result of bus bunching and slow bus speeds, ridership had declined. As an example, the Staten Island Express buses were redesigned and speeds have improved which resulted in increased ridership.

In this approach, it was difficult to label the routes because it is unfamiliar to people who know their route and will require a fresh look. Hence, new lines were drawn on the map. Although it is somewhat hard to understand, Ms. McClean will talk about the new numbering system. She emphasized feedback is essential.

All comments will be compiled, a proposed final plan developed and more additional outreach will be performed. Additional changes will be added. Those changes will go forward in a public hearing and more comments made. Then, the redesign will proceed to the Board to adopt a final plan and lastly implementation of the plan.

In addition to reviewing the routes and frequencies, the MTA is working very closely with NYC Department of Transportation to speed up the buses. Congestion must be addressed. Fifty potential corridors have been identified for bus priority improvements. Priorities can be bus lanes, queue jumps, Transit Signal Priority, and changing parking regulations.

Furthermore, she explained the Proposed Local Bus Network coverage as well as the Proposed Local Bus Service Changes as well as the Local Route Conversion Chart. In the new QT routes, the T stands for temporary. Once the plan is finalized, the T will be removed and to back to the numbering of routes similar to what we have today. The goal was for people to focus on not what they have today but ask does this route work for them. For example, the QT4 provides a Brooklyn connection connecting 74 Street/Roosevelt to downtown Brooklyn via Flushing Avenue. Ms. McClean detailed each main bus change.

Throughout the MTA's report, Board Members raised concerns and made comments on the plan.

Log on to the website [new.mta.info/queensbusredesign](http://new.mta.info/queensbusredesign) for more information.

At this point, the floor was opened for questions and comments.

Board Member Lucy Schilero mentioned the proposed QT72 bus route which passes Junction Blvd. and 43 Avenue. 43 Avenue is used to travel to the 110 Precinct or schools, mentioning the firehouse is nearby. A stop needs to be placed there.

District Manager Christian Cassagnol asked how comments are gathered.

In conclusion, Ms. McClean replied comments such as tweets, e-mails, and letters are consolidated on a spreadsheet and forwarded to the planners. Additionally, comments can be placed on the website and will be tabulated and recorded.

At this point, First Vice Chair Marialena Giampino announced at present we do not have a quorum so that no vote can be taken on the remainder of tonight's reports.

## **XI. REPORT AND VOTE – Transportation Committee**

### ***Poyer Street Conversion – Converting Poyer Street From A Two-Way Street To A One-Way Street***

District Manager Cassagnol reported since there is no quorum, this agenda item cannot be voted upon as well as the other remaining reports.

As a result, Committee Chairs were asked to write out reports. Any letters sent out from the Board will state the Community Board had no quorum at its March 10 meeting, therefore, a resolution was not arrived at. However, letters to the State Liquor Authority and the Dept. of Consumer Affairs will be sent explaining the lack of a quorum.

He further explained that agenda items not voted on tonight will be voted on at the next meeting within the time frame of submission.

Discussion ensued about Board Members leaving early before adjournment of the meeting.

Also brought up was moving the Public Forum, which it had been in the past, to the end of the meeting instead of at the beginning.

At this point, First Vice Chair Marialena Giampino called on the Transportation Committee to present its report.

Committee Member Matthew McElroy reported the Committee met and discussed the proposed Poyer Street one-way conversion. The Committee’s recommendation was to **approve** the proposal.

Secondly, the Committee discussed the Queens Bus Network Redesign resulting in a letter to be sent to the MTA with comments. If anyone wanted to discuss their particular bus issue, see Mr. McElroy.

**XII. REPORT AND VOTE: Public Safety Committee**  
**SLA Applications**

Committee Chair Lucy Schilero reported she met with the Fire Department regarding the increased fires in our community and the power surges and where people are leaving their flame on and not turning it off which built up in 2019.

Change the clocks for Daylight Savings time which began on March 8.

Emergency Go Bags were brought up. Prepare the bags the same time you change the clocks. Check the bags monthly for medication. Wear clothing in layers for the winter: less for summer and spring.

Furthermore, she talked about the three gangs. The 110 Precinct is monitoring all gang activity.

Graffiti cleanup was reported on as well as the Homeless issue.

On street prostitution, teenage girls are being approached.

The following is a listing of the liquor license applications on the agenda, however, no vote could be taken because of the lack of a quorum.

**NYS LIQUOR AUTHORITY LICENSES – March 2020**

**NEW APPLICANTS**

<b><u>Establishment’s Name</u></b>	<b><u>Establishment’s Address</u></b>	<b><u>Committee Recommendation</u></b>
Blue Agave Liquor, Wine Beer & Cider	88-06 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Denied
<i>Applicant is not ready to open at this time. Advised to come back once they have officially purchased the business and are ready to open.</i>		
Paraiso Colombiano Restaurant Wine, Beer, Cider	106-20 Corona Avenue Corona, NY	Denied
<i>Applicant notified the Board they were not ready to proceed and would reapply at a later time.</i>		
Matecana Bakery Inc. Wine, Beer & Cider	48-04 108 Street Corona, NY	Approved
Brothers Bar Corp. Duo Gastropub Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider	40-37 75 Street Elmhurst, NY	Denied
<i>Applicant failed to provide proof of ownership. Advised applicant that they may be under 500’ rule.</i>		

### RENEWAL APPLICANTS

<u>Establishment's Name</u>	<u>Establishment's Address</u>	<u>Committee Recommendation</u>
Cevicheria El Rey Wine, Beer & Cider	85-16A Roosevelt Avenue Corona, NY	Approved
Sariling Atin Inc. Beer & Cider	89-12 Queens Blvd. Elmhurst, NY	Approved

### ALTERATION APPLICANTS

<u>Establishment's Name</u>	<u>Establishment's Address</u>	<u>Committee Recommendation</u>
7951 Albion LLC	79-51 Albion Avenue Elmhurst, NY	Approved

*Approved with condition that the extension closes at midnight and that they limit the noise that filters out to the surrounding area. They must find a way to decrease the number of assaults that occur and increase their security staff to better control the crowds.*

### XIII. Report and Vote: Consumer Affairs Committee

#### Gaming Café License

**Cyber 88 Inc. 95-02 Roosevelt Avenue**

#### Sidewalk Café License

**Soneros Bar & Restaurant -92-02 Corona Avenue**

Committee Chair Alexandra Owens reported the Committee met on both establishments last month. Cyber 88 Inc. is an internet café operating in our district for about 12 years and has applied for a gaming cafe license. The Consumer Affairs Committee voted to approve the license.

Soneros Bar & Restaurant had applied for a sidewalk café license. There are some concerns such as noise level: the need to close the windows at 1100 p.m. as the noise is disturbing the surrounding neighbors. Also, an egress going in the basement could potentially be an issue.

Going forward, District Manager Christian Cassagnol inquired if the moratorium for 11:00 p.m. is permanent or just for the first year.

Committee Chair Alexandra Owens responded 11:00 p.m. going forward.

District Manager Cassagnol reported the Board office had sent businesses and residents within a block radius of the business notification of this pending application.

#### Environmental

No Report.

District Manager Cassagnol mentioned the Community Gardens event and noted the initiative Youth Leadership Council by Green Thumb, which recruits from the local area to serve 20 hours to the local community gardens and receive credit.

#### Health

Committee Chair Ashley Reed reported last month a tour was taken of Elmhurst Hospital's Express Care facility. It was very nice and all were welcomed to stop by. The facility had expanded from 200 patients per year to over 900 patients.

She noted the story was carried on Page 6 of the *Queens Times*.

On March 25 a meeting is planned with NYC Housing – Volunteers of America. Notices will be sent out.

#### Parks

Committee Chair Gregory Spock reported the committee did not meet during the past month but announced the following:

As Vice-Chair of the Community Advisory for Flushing Meadows-Corona Park, an Earth Day event is planned at Hoffman Park, April 26, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Details are still being worked on, but activities for all ages is planned.

Committee Chair Gregory Spock also reported on Moore Homestead Park and had requested an update from the Parks Department. Unfortunately, there had been a delay in fence components and stone stairways. As a result, Parks Dept. will not meet its deadline for mid-March. More information will be forthcoming.

**ULURP/Zoning**

No Report.

**Youth**

No Report.

District Manager Cassagnol reported this year the Youth Fair will be held in Corona. Details to follow.

As there was no further business, Board Member Lucy Schilero made a motion, seconded by Board Member Edgar Moya, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.