



Melinda Katz
Queens Borough President

Community Board 7

Borough of Queens

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Chairperson

Marilyn McAndrews

District Manager

COMMUNITY BOARD #7 PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING

MONDAY, JUNE 11TH, 2018

UNION PLAZA CARE CENTER

33-23 UNION STREET

FLUSHING, NEW YORK

PRESENT

Charles Apelian

Tyler Cassell

Chin-Hsiang Chiang

John Choe

Kim Cody

Christine Colligan

Nicholas Corrado

Arlene Fleishman

Richard Forman

Fred Fu

Vincent Gianelli

Pablo Hernandez

Lawrence Hughes

Eugene Kelty

Phil Konigsberg

Peter Kwiath

Esther Lee

Frank Macchio

Barbara McHugh

Selma Moses

Kim Ohanian

Millicent O'Meally

John Park

Terence Park

Kris Ram

Paul Rifino

Marc Schiffman

Warren Schreiber

Kevin Shields

Matthew Silverstein

Joshua Sussman

Peter Sutich

Joseph Sweeney

Alison Tan

John Tsavalos

Peter Tu

Clarissa Wong

Dian Yu

Linna Yu

Lei Zhao

Jie Zhu

ABSENT

Alfredo Centola

Li Mei Li

James Cervino

Rev. McEachern

Michael Cheng

Belal Salim

Jeff Huang

Harpreet Wahan Singh

COMMUNITY BOARD #7 STAFF

Marilyn McAndrews, District Manager

Mary O'Neill, Community Assistant

GUESTS

Amber Yoon - Assemblyman Edward Braunstein's office

Joyce Choi - Councilman Peter Koo's office

Vito Tautonico - Councilman Vallone's office

Tony Cao - Assemblyman Ron Kim's office

Justin J. Connor - Congressman Thomas Suozzi's office

Lynn Koester - Assemblyman Daniel Rosenthal's office

Since Chair Kelty was to arrive later, First Vice Chair Chuck Apelian opened this evening's meeting at 7:15 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag followed by a moment of silence honoring our soldiers fighting for our freedom abroad. He then took the roll call of the evening's attendance as follows:

(41) Present (3) Absent (5) Excused

First Vice Chair Apelian sadly announced the passing of Carlos Talisaysay, a Board member for the past 20 years. First Vice Chair Chuck Apelian and several other board members were able to attend the wake. Carlos was active on many of the committee meetings that were held and will be sorely missed. Our prayers are with him and his family. Also, Kris Ram's mother passed recently at the age of 93. Memorial services were held in India. One of our office aides, Mary Zuliani, suffered several injuries recently, and while recuperating her husband passed away yesterday, Sunday, June 10, after a long illness. Details about the wake were sent today by the office staff.

Chair Kelty announced several job postings listed by Metro-North Railroad as follows: Senior Construction Engineer, \$80K to \$105k; multiple Compliance Officer Posts, \$75k to 105K; Engineer for Retaining Walls, \$75k to 90K; and a Category Acquisition Manager \$80k to \$105K. He then listed the following upcoming events of the month in our community as follows:-

- 109th Pct. community BBQ to be held on June 13th at 6 pm at the precinct.
- Workshop addressing various city agency summonses to be held on June 14th by Councilman Koo & Borough President Katz.
- Friends of Ft. Totten Family Field Day June 22nd from 12 to 3 pm.
- Rain barrel giveaways sponsored by DEP on June 23rd at 1711 73rd Ave. from 12 to 3 pm.
- Councilman Vallone's annual fireworks June 27th at Ft. Totten at 9:15 pm. Parking at Clearview Golf Course & Bayview Terrace. For seniors and the disabled the lot at Ft. Totten is reserved.
- Several of our board members will be recognized for their long running service by Borough President Katz on June 27th.
- Assemblyman Braunstein's Senior Health Forum at Samuel Field's Y at 10 to 12 pm.

ITEM #3A – Detective Park Dance announced a Harmony Day Picnic on July 17th from 10 am to 2 pm at Alley Pond Park, 76th Avenue and Springfield Blvd. for children ages 7 to 12. There will be live music, events and many giveaways. They are looking for sponsors, so contact them at **718/520-8839**.

ITEM # 4 – DEP Storm Water Management Plan- David Montoya spoke on the MS4 System combining sewer runoffs. The NY DEC issued a permit in 2015 for the Stormwater program Pollutant Elimination System (SPDES) which is renewable every 5 years. The system calls for separate storm drains covering much of eastern Queens, southeastern Brooklyn and much of Staten Island. It requires interagency coordination and community engagement. The legal authority of the Stormwater Mgmt. plan includes public outreach and involvement, necessary construction as needed, complete mapping and detection of any illicit discharge with the elimination of same, pollution prevention,, commercial as well as industrial stormwater sources, control of any settled or floatable trash and debris, special handling of impaired waters, and essential reporting and recordkeeping.

Q. Is this a replacement project or the replacement for combined sewers?

A. This is a separate program.

Q. What will be the impact to our community?

A. There is a current permit process, and we will be inspecting people who are in violation or who require permits. City agencies will have to comply also.

Chair Kelty added much of the storm sewer's overage now goes into Flushing Bay, and the chlorine used to treat this is in violation of the Federal Clean Water Act.

- A. I can't speak to that specifically. Wastewater plants do not fall into this permit! They have their own permits with the State. We only address the storm sewers that go directly from 30 to 40% of land area in NYC into the surrounding waters to reduce the pollution from this source.
- Q. Could we be in violation of this permit as a homeowner?
- A. It would not affect most homeowners, unless you were illegally dumping materials into the storm drain, or if you were constructing and redeveloping a large area project with an acre or more of disturbance.
- Q. Is the area behind Citi Field covered by this plan?
- A. Yes, this will likely be captured within the area of the plan.
- Q. What's the reasoning behind the acre or more disturbance criteria for homeowners to require this permit.
- A. The State already has a permit for this particular case. However, the plan is to reduce it at a later date with the recommendation to bring it down further to 20,000 sq.ft. Environmental activists are pushing for an even lower threshold.

ITEM #5 - NYC OFFICE OF THE MAYOR STREET ACTIVITIES – Dawn Tolson, Director – The Citywide Event & Coordination Management Office is responsible for overseeing permission of any and all outdoor activities in the City. The Street Activities office, working under the auspices of CE&CMO, reviews applications for possible permits giving final approval after review and comment with the area Precincts and community boards.

Events can include allocating Summer Streets, Sidewalk Farmers' Markets, Block Parties (no alcohol or solicitation allowed), Health Fairs (with health vans), Street Festivals (single block events only with capture of payment), Religious events (with no food), Movie Production events, Street Events (fundraisers, concerts, catered & sponsored events, both for & nonprofits), Plaza Events (managed by BID or Plaza partners), Rally's & Stationary demonstrations (must process through NYPD first), and Press Conferences (Street Naming's). **Applications must be submitted (60) days in advance.** Online apps require profile and login. Supporting documentation will be required based on the event type. There is an application fee and a possible assessment fee. Any changes after submission must be in writing to their office. If your event will have vendors, you must provide information on them, including whether they charge for services or not. Vendors can be added or removed. If your application is denied by the community board, you will be notified why, and will have 5 days to appeal. If denied by Street Activities Office, you can appeal to the Executive Director.

Points to remember: - Street closures require a 15 foot fire lane. Minimum insurance coverage required is \$1 Million, with the exception of block parties. Last year with the submission of 673 applications in this community, only 31 were approved!

- Q. Would an event in a parking lot require a permit?
- A. No, only if you're using an adjoining street. There will be other permits required though.
- Q. What if an event that is not on the street, but impacts adjoining streets via traffic?
- A. You would only need a permit for usage of a curb lane and the NYPD for crowd control.
- Q. Are there any dates that will not be allowed?
- A. No, but you may not get the date you want based on NYPD constraints, etc. Some areas have limits on the number of days a street can be closed for events in a given year. Also, preference is given to organizations that have several events every year.
- Q. If a child wants to sell lemonade on a sidewalk in front of his or her home, what are the issues?
- A. The issue is the Health Dept. A permit to sell lemonade on any sidewalk is necessary on any city sidewalk except in front of your home. However, even if a permit on private property is not necessary for the child, you would still have to answer to the Dept. of Health.

**ITEM # 6 - One -Way Proposals: 17th Road westbound from Clintonville Street to 150th Street
17th Avenue eastbound from 150th Street to Clintonville Street**

Chair Kelty explained the first portion of the surrounding one-way proposals included Junior High School 194 approved at an earlier Public Hearing. However, an important component missed was the second school in the area, St. Luke's, and the possible need for an extension of one more block to 150 Street with the DOT's approval. **Transportation Committee Chair Nicholas Corrado** introduced, Deputy Director Al Silvestri from the Dept. of Transportation to discuss it tonight for the Board. Mr. Silvestri explained the original submission by CB #7 was from 17th Road westbound from 157th Street to Clintonville Street and 17th Avenue eastbound from Clintonville to Francis Lewis Blvd., which DOT did approve and CB #7 voted on earlier. Before the implementation by the DOT, we were asked by CB #7 to view the western section near St. Luke's and DOT agreed the extension to the original conversion could now be changed by one block to 150th Street, which had Rev. Msgr. Tosi 's blessing also.

Discussion followed:

Q. Are you extending the already approved one-way conversion westward?

A. Yes.

Q Can you clarify the issue with the cut out (S movement) at Murray Street?

A. Chair Kelty expressed the desire not to close the cutout and the DOT said this will be the case!

Patricia Marshall, representing local homeowners made the following public comment.

- a) She has 92 signatures to vote in favor of this proposal from the community.
- b) This will help improve safety conditions for students getting off busses at 150th Street and walking to school.

The motion put forth by First Vice Chair Apelian now on the floor is to approve the one-way proposals as follows: 17th Road westbound From Clintonville Street to 150th Street and 17th Avenue eastbound from 150th Street to Clintonville Street, seconded by several members.

The vote to approve was unanimous!

ITEM #6A – Safety Improvement for 26th Avenue & Francis Lewis Blvd. presented by DOT

Proposal:-

- a) Add left turn signals
- b) Increase the width of sidewalks
- c) Close two slips
- d) Build in concrete
- e) This should be completed by end of year
- f) The intersection has had 3 serious accidents in the last year

Chair Kelty's comments on this process was 1) The original presentation for this was pulled. 2) Vote is being postponed on this due to dissatisfaction with how the City has handled this in the past. 3) We can put forward a letter that we approve with some of the ancillary improvements that don't require a vote, and they will return with a full presentation later with budgets and implementation details.

ITEM #7 – NYPD ULURP – Calendar #C 180285 PCQ – Committee Chair Joseph Sweeney - This application is to extend current expired long term parking lease on privately owned properties located in the College Point area of Queens at the end of 112th Street, just past 14th Avenue in the Industrial Park. The ULURP is needed to continue vehicle storage parking of NYPD assets located at 14-04 111th Street and 109-15 14th Avenue. Inspector Steven Boller gave the following background.

When this NYPD facility was originally built, parking was a major issue. The City then acquired an additional lot bringing in 310 spaces. Currently 202 department vehicles are on site. The maximum number of staff on site at any one time is 332. The current parking situation is now sufficient for the needs of the facility with no offsite parking occurring at this point. Summonses are issued for violations.

Q. What's the term of the lease?

A. Ten years expiring in 2028 with the parking lease conforming to the facility using it.

Q. Who's the landlord?

A. Steel Equities!

Q. Are the parking spaces used for towed vehicles also?

A. No, only for personnel vehicles and department vehicles.

Q. What NYPD functions are taking place here?

A. No uniformed officers. Gang officers, narcotics officers, long-term investigations.

Q. Why is Queens South Narcotics housed here?

A. Narcotics used to be one unit, but northern Queens wasn't getting enough coverage. Queens North Narcotics was created for this purpose.

Q. Are you asking for new parking or keeping existing parking?

A. We are keeping existing parking, and the existing lease is being extended.

Q. Is there a possibility that what's defined as NYPD assets changes over time?

A. We have other locations to store seized vehicles, etc. I don't think this is going to happen.

Public comment was made by College Point Civic Association! Since this second lot was acquired, there have been no problems, **so please approve this.**

Committee Chair Joe Sweeney and his committee made the following recommendations:-

1. Confirmed details of the current capacity.
2. Outlined prior history of issues with the community from overflow offsite parking.
3. Pointed out we have secured a letter from NYPD Facilities confirming they will not go above current allotment of parking.
4. A motion was made at the first committee meeting to table for additional information regarding parking violations.
5. Follow up committee meeting immediately preceding this meeting. Motion was made to approve this application with the stipulation that no more than 375 personnel would be assigned to this location. We asked for their letter consenting to this amount.

Motion was made to approve and was unanimous!

a) Letter provided did not pertain to the parking. A second letter will be forthcoming from

Legal Dept.

Chair Kelty proposed an amendment to lock in the existing units that are at this facility. **Kim Ohanian** discussed a binding resolution being put in place. **First Vice-Chair Chuck Apelian** remarked that NYPD themselves are not saying they have legal authority to make this binding. There is no guarantee of follow through. **Tyler Cassell** said we can't impose a specific number of people on the NYPD and you can't limit their ability to move units around. We're not voting on who they can deploy here. **Chair Kelty** disagrees, and said we are stipulating only what units can be there and this was part of the original agreement. **Kim Ohanian** added this ULURP has nothing to do with the units. It only has to do with the parking lease, and **Chair Kelty** added the accessory parking lease does have to do with the original application. **Lei Zhao** asked why can't we

table this? **Chuck Apelian's** response was there is a timeline of July 1st on this due to it being a ULURP. Finally Committee Chair Sweeney said it's simple.

We are either going to turn down the parking lease or extend it! If we turn it down, there is going to be huge negative implications to the community.

The motion on the floor is to approve extension of this parking lease with stipulations that no more than 375 NYPD personnel can be assigned to the facility using this lot, and that the NYPD only has the existing units in the facility.

Discussion followed:

Q. There is no number showing on the letter?

A. We are providing that number.

Q. Do we have the authority to put this number on the letter?

A. This was actually suggested by the NYPD. This has worked for 10 years. All they're asking for is to extend for 10 more years.

Q. How will we make sure it gets transitioned over to new NYPD leadership?

A. This has worked historically. Going forward if there are complaints, we will send it to the Facilities Division. The resolution will be on file between the Board and Facilities Division. We've always done this on faith so why would we want to sabotage a working relationship. What happens if we can't get a letter containing the language we want? Do we end the lease? For the record DCAS is looking into another lot! Chair Kelty said fine tuning this can be frustrating, but they've been good to us the last 10 years, and he doesn't have a problem with this. They should know that we're keeping a close eye on this though. Chuck Apelian added we put a huge effort into the academy, and worked on good faith. I'm going to vote against on this because there are loose ends here. Voting yes with stipulations is unilateral. There's no guarantee anything happens. The stipulation has not legally been accepted. We're the first step on the ULURP process. So if we vote no, let our councilperson hear this and consider it. The certificate of occupancy would allow 800 personnel on site. If they were to go by zoning, they could go up to this number. So I'll vote against this, not because I don't support the police, but because there are still land use issues that haven't been addressed. Joe Sweeney said if we reject this proposal, and our Councilperson and Borough President agree with us, what would the consequences be for the community? The sergeant commits to getting a letter that would be legally binding by the time of the ULURP hearing.

The vote on the motion was taken with (30) For and (9) Against (0) Abstentions

R E G U L A R M E E T I N G

ITEM #8 – DOE District 25 Pre-K Center – Education Committee Chair Arlene Fleischman -

A. Education meeting at the Borough President's Office

1. School Safety as follows:

- a) They presented the existing protocols addressing school safety.
- b) Each school has their own school safety committee.
- c) Most schools do not have cameras, but will be installed as capital funds become available.
- d) Middle and High Schools issue school ID's.
- e) Each school has a lifeline to a partnering emergency response agency.
- f) Register at 311 notify, and you'll receive updates on emergencies.

2. Five stages of active shooters

- a) Fantasies
- b) Research
- c) Planning
- d) Weapons acquisition
- e) Final approach

3. Councilman Paul Vallone called a rally today where State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli announced initiatives to address school safety.
 - a) Comptroller will do a full audit to see whether protocols are being adhered to.
 - b) 5000 security agents in NYC schools.
 - c) Much of what we put in our resolution was echoed at this rally.
- B. Whitestone Pre-K Program
 1. State of the Art Facility
 2. Built due to overflow, and also because many existing overflow facilities are nursery schools that do not have certified teachers.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Thanu Radeshway served on CB 4 in Manhattan and was awarded a fellowship for public architecture and her proposal to look at Willets Point and the recent zoning. She said businesses have been displaced, with some having to move to the South Bronx. She's looking into what has happened to these displaced businesses.

Tony Cao – Works for State Assemblyman Ron Kim who is pushing a Community currency bill which is for a Local currency to support local businesses. This would ensure that money is being re-invested in the community. This is similar to frequent flyer miles, hotel rewards points, and would function similarly but benefit local businesses. It has been implemented in the Netherlands and in the Berkshires and Ithaca. Block chain technology could help ensure exchange rates. The bill is in committee.

Frank Macchio, CB#7 Member attending the Queens Zoo luncheon which was fantastic for those in the Community board that attended. Don't miss it next year. Thanks to the zoo.

Meeting ended at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully,

Mary Zuliani