



# Community Board No. 5

Borough of Queens  
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Vincent Arcuri, Jr.  
Chairperson

Gary Giordano  
District Manager

## Minutes of Remote Community Board 5 Public Meeting

January 13, 2021

### Board Members Present

Bhubaneshor Adhikari; Vincent Arcuri, Jr; Antonetta Binanti; Eric Butkiewicz; Robert Cermeli; Walter E. Clayton, Jr.; Patricia Crowley; Brian Dooley; Dmytro Fedkowskyj; Steven Fiedler; Dr. Sukh Gurung; Fred T. Haller; Fred Hoefflerle; Richard Huber; Paul A. Kerzner; Kinga Kurzyna; Maryann Lattanzio; Edward Lettau; John Maier; Patricia Maltezos; Edgar Mantel; Katherine Masi; Eileen Moloney; Margaret O’Kane; Michael O’Kane; Donald Passantino; Michael Porcelli; Kenneth Rehberger; Theodore Renz; Luis Rodriguez; Lee S. Rottenberg; Walter H. Sanchez; Dennis Stephan; Catherine Sumsky; Gyanal Thapa; Barbara Toscano; Patrick J. Trinchese; Michaeline Von Drathen; Maryanna Zero

### Board Members Absent

Jerome Drake; Mike Liendo; Kelvin Rodriguez; Carmen Santana; Megan Tadio; Nan Zhang

### GUESTS

Joseph Nocerino – Queens Borough President Donovan Richards  
Chae No – Queens Community Affairs Representative, NYC Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene

### STAFF

Gary Giordano, District Manager-CB5Q  
Laura Mulvihill, Community Associate-CB5Q

Before proceeding, the Board Chairperson stated that due to the COVID19 pandemic, our Monthly Board Meetings are being conducted remotely on the Zoom platform. Board members, staff and guests have been provided a link to participate. Members of the public are welcome to view the livestream of this Board Meeting on YouTube, which will be posted on our CB5Q Website Homepage at [www.nyc.gov/qnscb5](http://www.nyc.gov/qnscb5) tomorrow.

Following the Salute to the Flag led by Donald Passantino, the Board Chairperson announced the first item on the Board Agenda as:

### Status Report on the Coronavirus by Chae No, Representative of the NYC Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene

Chae No gave a brief status report on the COVID19 pandemic. He said that to-date, over 91 million COVID19 cases have been identified worldwide, including over 495,000 confirmed cases to-date that

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have been reported citywide. He said that unfortunately, 341 deaths due to COVID-related illnesses were reported in New York City within the past 7 days.

He reported that to-date since March of last year, there have been 128,292 confirmed COVID19 cases in Queens, with over 21,000 patients requiring hospitalization, and over 6,000 fatalities due to COVID19. Mr. No urged everyone to continue practicing good hygiene by washing your hands with soap and water frequently; wearing a face mask when you leave your house; keeping at least 6 feet distant from other people; seeking medical attention when you're sick; and getting tested if you have any symptoms of COVID19.

Mr. No described the roll-out procedures for vaccine distribution in New York State. He explained that the COVID-19 vaccine and supplies are being distributed in phases to groups of people at increased risk of COVID-19 exposure or severe COVID-19 illness, beginning with Phase 1a, which includes health care workers, emergency medical personnel and nursing home staff. As of Monday, January 11, he said that the Phase 1b eligibility guidelines for COVID19 vaccinations expanded to include first responders, transit workers, grocery workers, school personnel, Court and Corrections officers and support staff, and residents over the age of 65 years and/or residents who have chronic medical conditions. Due to the current vaccine shortages throughout our country, he said that there's a long waiting list for vaccination appointments right now.

Mr. No said that preparations are underway to open more vaccination sites throughout the City and State, including Citifield's parking lot in Flushing Meadows Park, Queens, where over 5,000 people could be vaccinated per day by NYC Health and Hospitals personnel. He said that it's expected to be open to the public on January 25<sup>th</sup>. Vaccinations will be administered by appointment only. For more information about the vaccine roll-out, he recommended visiting the City's official COVID19 webpage at [www.nyc.gov/covidvaccinedistribution](http://www.nyc.gov/covidvaccinedistribution). He said that you can either call 1(877) VAX-4NYC or (829-4692) from 8am to 9pm, 7 days a week, or go to [www.nyc.gov/vaccinefinder](http://www.nyc.gov/vaccinefinder), to find out where the vaccine is being administered and make an appointment. He said that there are two different vaccines that are currently approved by the FDA and available, one is manufactured by Pfizer, the other one by Moderna. He said that both vaccines are reportedly 94% effective against COVID19. He said that the Pfizer vaccine is being administered to anyone over 16 years of age, while the Moderna vaccine is restricted to anyone over 18 years of age. He said that the registration form for your appointment can be completed on-line, and then verified on-site before you're inoculated.

The Board Chairperson opened the floor to questions and comments.

Ken Rehberger, a Board member, said that he's heard from friends who were visiting in Florida that their state is administering vaccines to anyone who travels there to get vaccinated. He asked how is that possible? Mr. No commented that Florida does not have an orderly vaccine distribution plan.

Edward Lettau, a Board member, asked if the COVID19 viral infections and the new variants of this virus are all included in the overall count of infections and deaths related to COVID19? Mr. No replied that the caseloads due to COVID19 virus and variants are all counted as part of the COVID19 pandemic, but the cases that are due to variant strains of this virus are being tracked separately now.

Cathie Sumsky, a Board member, asked what's the recommended procedure for anyone with a history of sensitivity to certain medications. Board Chairperson Arcuri responded that everyone should first consult their personal physician in order to obtain a list all of the medications that they're taking.

Dmytro Fedkowskyj, a Board member, asked if the City is accelerating the pace of opening more vaccine sites throughout the City. Mr. No replied that additional vaccine sites are opening daily, and personnel from the Dept. of Health are continually making site visits to determine the eligibility of any new proposed sites. Mr. Fedkowskyj asked if and when the City opens more vaccine sites, would additional

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vaccines become available. Mr. No said that at present, there's a nationwide bottleneck in obtaining additional vaccines.

The Board Chairperson asked everyone to consult with their primary care doctor for more information. Edward Lettau said that he was exposed on the job to the COVID19 virus but he did not test positive for it, and has no antibodies for it in his blood. He asked if someone would be eligible to be vaccinated, when and if they tested positive for COVID19. Mr. No responded that if you test positive for COVID19, then you won't get vaccinated because others could be contaminated.

The Board Chairperson thanked Mr. No for his presentation, and announced the next item on the Board Agenda as:

### **PUBLIC FORUM**

Peggy O'Kane, a Board member, spoke about the homeless encampment on Myrtle Avenue under the train trestle at Fresh Pond Road. She said that pedestrians are afraid to walk past them on the sidewalk, and bus passengers don't want to wait at that Bus Stop nearby. She said that the City should pick them all up off the street and bring them to a shelter.

Theodore Renz, Executive Director of the Myrtle Avenue Business Improvement District, said that these homeless men have been living on the street at different locations on Myrtle Avenue for most of the past year. He said that Breaking Ground has been reaching out to the homeless people at this location once or twice a day over the past month.

District Manager Gary Giordano said that due to a change in the City's policy in the past few years, the homeless cannot be removed from the street unless they're willing to go into a shelter, even if the weather is below freezing. He said that the Dept. of Sanitation has completely cleared this location twice recently, but the homeless have reappeared shortly afterward each time.

Staff member Laura Mulvihill took attendance of Board members and staff who were present at the meeting.

On behalf of Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, Joe Nocerino wished everyone a Happy New Year and introduced the new Deputy Director of Community Boards Katherine Brezler.

Ms. Brezler announced, that beginning this year, they're initiating a new application process for Board Membership. She said that notarization is not required for any Board Members who fill out the new on-line application form that's posted on the Queens Borough President's website. She advised everyone that if they'd like their Council Member to nominate them for Board membership, they should reach out to their Council Member's office. For more information about the new process, she asked everyone to please visit their website at [www.queensbp.org](http://www.queensbp.org). She welcomed everyone to contact her via email in the Community Board section of their new website.

## **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

**Vincent Arcuri**

### **MINUTES**

The Board Chairperson asked Board members to review the minutes of last month's Board Meeting which was conducted on December 9, 2020. The minutes were adopted by acclamation on a motion by Walter Clayton, seconded by Maryann Lattanzio.

Laura Mulvihill, CB5Q staff member, read aloud the following Liquor License notifications that were received at the Board office since last month's Board Meeting:

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## LIQUOR, WINE and BEER LICENSE APPLICATIONS and RENEWALS

### New Liquor License

- 1) **Thai Mission Inc.** 70-11 Grand Avenue, Maspeth, NY 11378

### Liquor License Renewals

- 1) **Seneca Fiesta Corp.** 603 Seneca Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 2) \* Jungo Road LLL d/b/a **The Deep End** 1080 Wyckoff Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 3) **Loyal Order of Moose Lodge 1642** 72-15 Grand Avenue, Maspeth, NY 11378
- 4) JNS Ventures Ltd. d/b/a **Vixen** 60-07 Metropolitan Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385

### New Wine and/or Beer Licenses

- 1) **Rosa's Deli and Pizza Corp.** 63-98/100 Woodhaven Blvd., Rego Park, NY 11374

### Wine and/or Beer License Renewals

- 1) Craft Culture NY Inc. d/b/a **Craft Culture** 59-04 Myrtle Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385

\*Licensed Outdoor Area

### Other Notifications

- 1) **IVB Deli Grocery Corp. 59-59 69 Street, Maspeth, NY 11378** will be submitting a new application for a Grocery/Wine, Beer, Cider License.

## Demolition Notices

Staff member Laura Mulvihill reported that there were no demolition notices received at the Board Office since last month's Board Meeting.

The District Manager reported that P.O. Michael Berish, 104<sup>th</sup> Pct Community Affairs Unit submitted a report on the monthly crime trend over the past 28 days in the precinct that states that there's been an uptick in the number of robberies, burglaries and Grand Larceny Auto theft during the past month. He said that the increase in robberies has been concentrated in the Maspeth area, where local storeowners have been robbed of LOTTO Scratch Offs on display, and the increase in burglaries involve commercial stores for the most part. He said that the precinct advises local storeowners to secure their shops with roll down gates and make sure their surveillance cameras are in proper working condition. Regarding the increased incidence of Grand Larceny Auto crimes, he advised everyone not to leave their car keys or key fobs in their cars while they're parked on the street. Regarding a shooting incident in the 104<sup>th</sup> Precinct that occurred last Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, he welcomed everyone to go to the precinct's Twitter Page for more detailed information. In closing, Officer Berish thanked everyone for their input in solving local crimes and he wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Ken Rehberger, a Board member, commented that at last night's meeting, members of the Liberty Park Homeowners Association were informed by their local NCO Officer that car owners should not leave their car key fobs on the window sill in their house, because it enables thieves to open your car doors without your knowledge. Board Chairperson Arcuri also stated that car owners should not leave a spare key fob in the car's glove compartment either.

District Manager Gary Giordano read the following statements from local Elected Officials:

### **Announcements from the Mayor's Office as submitted by Jessica Schabowski**

"Happy New Year! The City set an ambitious goal of administering 1 million COVID-19 doses by the end of January. We are opening large-scale vaccination centers in the coming weeks, which will operate 24 hours, 7 days a week. The CitiField site will launch the week of 1/25. We will also open 12 additional vaccine hubs across the city, which will be open 9:00AM - 7:00PM, seven days a week.

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Last week, the Mayor advocated for the State to expand the distribution categories to include both 1A and 1B, and the Governor announced this expansion on Friday. 1B includes individuals age 75 and older, first responders, teachers, public transit workers, grocery store workers, and public safety workers. On Tuesday, the Governor announced the expanded eligibility for individuals age 65 and older, as well as immunocompromised populations. The City's vaccination pace is picking up quickly but we are not getting enough doses from the Federal government and the manufacturers. The Mayor continues to advocate for the Federal government to invoke the Defense Production Act. Eligible New Yorkers can reserve their appointment by calling 877-VAX-4NYC (877-829-4692) or visiting [www.vaccinefinder.nyc.gov](http://www.vaccinefinder.nyc.gov).

Jessica Schabowski, Queens Borough Director, Mayor's Community Affairs Unit (347) 443-4029"

### **Announcements from Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez submitted Julio Salazar**

"Good evening Community Board 5.

Firstly, I would like to express appreciation on behalf of the entire Office to everyone who called and texted to inquire about the Congresswoman's and her staff's safety during the Capitol Hill riot.

Thankfully, I can report the Congresswoman and her staff were able to shelter in place without injury. However, we ask that you keep those lives that were lost in mind.

At the close of 2020, the Congresswoman released a newsletter detailing progress on a number of issues, most importantly COVID Relief. The latest relief bill included \$300 billion for the U.S. Small Business Administration's programs: Paycheck Protection Program, Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL), and EIDL advances, amongst others. Additionally, there were a number of changes to the previous lending rules expanding the eligibility of qualified businesses, and additional resources are being provided to Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) that have existing ties to mom and pop shops throughout our neighborhoods.

In regard to the stimulus payment, if a constituent has not received the direct transfer payment or debit card please let us know and we can inquire with the IRS on your behalf.

If you have a specific case that we can assist you with or any questions, please feel free to reach out. Thank you, Chairperson, District Manager, and Board Members."

### **Statement from US Congresswoman Grace Meng, 6<sup>th</sup> C.D. submitted by Cristian Romero**

"On behalf of Congresswoman Meng, I would like to wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year! The Congresswoman was in DC earlier this month to be sworn into her fifth term in Congress. As the new 117<sup>th</sup> Congress starts, the Congresswoman will be prioritizing COVID-19 recovery; the safety, health, and livelihoods of Queens families; making sure that no one goes hungry, everyone has affordable and accessible internet; and clean air and water. She will be working with her congressional colleagues, as well as the incoming Biden-Harris Administration, on these priorities. She extends her gratitude to all of you and looks forward to continuing to serve many of you over the next two years. Please see some legislative updates below:

- The Congresswoman secured record a \$180 million for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program – which is a federally funded program to help houses of worship and nonprofits improve security. This is a \$90 million increase from what she secured in the last fiscal year.
- At the end of December, Congress passed and the President signed into law – a massive end of the year package that included \$1.4 trillion to fund the federal government and \$900 billion in another Coronavirus Relief Package.
  - Some Key federal funding includes:
    - \$114 billion for SNAP, with \$6 billion for the Women and Infant Children Program (WIC);
    - \$3.8 billion for opioid prevention and treatment;

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- \$952 million for Senior Nutrition programs;
- \$90 million for VA medical care; and
- \$3.5 billion for the Community Development Block Grants

As always, if you have any questions, our office is here to help. Our main office number is 718-358-6364. Everyone should have my work cell, please feel free to call me at 202-420-8819. Thank you.”

### **Statement from NY State Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, 15<sup>th</sup> S.D.**

“Good Evening, and Happy New Year! Last week, we started the 2021 New York State legislative session, and I was proudly sworn into office virtually. I would like to thank the community for their support over the years, and I look forward to serving the community up in Albany. I truly appreciate the honor and privilege given to me by my constituents to represent them as their NYS Senator. My Middle Village office is monitoring various issues including library reopenings, the 70<sup>th</sup> Street sewer project, and no parking signs for film shoots. I know that some people have pending unemployment cases, and my office is available to assist anyone who is still waiting for unemployment benefits. If any constituent has questions about the COVID vaccine distribution or COVID testing sites, they can contact my office. I have directly reached out to the Mayor’s office about the lack of vaccine distribution sites in Community Board 5, and I am working on adding more sites throughout my district. My Middle Village office is open Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm, and can be contacted 24/7 by calling 718-497-1630.”

### **Statement from State Assembly Member Brian Barnwell**

“Happy New Year to everyone and their loved ones! Thank you to the Community Board and its staff for their continued service to our community.

Assemblyman Barnwell and our team would like to thank the community for donating to our annual Toy Drive. We were able to bring toys to families in need, and we sincerely appreciate the time and effort of everyone involved.

Our office has been continuing to deal with the issue of loud music and drag racing throughout our neighborhoods. As you know, this issue has been ongoing for months. We, alongside Councilmember Holden's office, have demanded action from City Hall on this issue. Recently the NYPD have confiscated speakers and have issued criminal summonses. We will continue to monitor the situation and be in constant communication with the NYPD and the community until this issue is permanently resolved. Luckily, for the last few weeks (given the holidays and recent snowfall) there have not been any reports of the music/drag racing as far as we know. However, if you notice the music again, please report it to 311 and let us know. Even if you are not sure where the music is coming from, file it with 311, as 1) this helps the police officers pinpoint the location and 2) it creates a written record for the City to see how bad the issue is. After reporting it to 311, regardless of what time of the day/night it is, you can call us at 718-651-3185 or email [barnwellb@nyassembly.gov](mailto:barnwellb@nyassembly.gov) so that we can let the NYPD know. If you observe drag racing, you can call 911 and report it for dangerous driving.

If you have any questions or issues that you need assistance with, please do not hesitate to reach out to our office at (718) 651-3185. Thank you!”

### **Statement from NYC Council Member Robert Holden**

“Hello neighbors, Community Board 5 members, and fellow elected officials. I wish you all a happy and healthy New Year and that you all stay safe while we continue to combat this deadly pandemic. I thank you for your continued work and volunteerism as we navigate this challenging year together.

My office continues to work hard on behalf of Ridgewood, Glendale, Maspeth, Middle Village, Woodhaven, and Woodside. Should anyone need any assistance, you can call at 718-366-3900 or email [District30@council.nyc.gov](mailto:District30@council.nyc.gov).



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We have been receiving many calls from constituents on vaccine accessibility. Our seniors have relayed their frustrations with a vaccine rollout where appointments initially were only available via the [www.vaccinefinder.nyc](http://www.vaccinefinder.nyc) website. Eventually, the city set up a phone line where those without computer or internet access could make appointments; however, complaints continue to come in with the lack of availability of appointments. This is something that I have made clear with the Mayor's office, and we are working to find more vaccine centers in CB5 and other parts of my district.

As the Chair of the Committee on Technology in the New York City Council, I wrote a letter on Tuesday, January 12th, to Mayor de Blasio on how the city could better utilize technology and outreach in the vaccination efforts. We have declared war on COVID-19, yet we do not see wartime efforts in the fight against this deadly virus. The city has several agencies and officers tasked with creating tools and services to make city services more accessible and user-friendly. Thanks to Beta NYC's work, a civic organization that highlights the need for increased technology use in New York City, we discovered that several city agencies and offices with technological expertise were not asked to contribute to the vaccine rollout. This was not reassuring to learn. Earlier today, I joined Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, and Beta NYC in a press conference calling on the Mayor to do more on this issue.

Once again, I thank you for your continued work on behalf of the neighborhoods within Community Board 5. I am always at your disposal, and I wish to continue our excellent working relationship."

## **District Manager's Report**

**Gary Giordano**

The District Manager cautioned everyone that COVID19 positivity rates have increased throughout the City, and in Queens, since last month. He said that originally, Governor Cuomo and Mayor DeBlasio spoke about closing local schools if the rate of community spread went above 2%, whereas it's already above 7% in most neighborhoods citywide. He pointed out that in some areas, the rate of spread is higher than 14%. He said the least we can do to keep this virus from spreading any further is to wear a face mask, keep at least 6 feet distance from each other, wash your hands frequently, and stay at home if you're sick.

Regarding major capital improvement projects that are currently underway in our district, the District Manager reported that MTA-NYC Transit crews are back at work removing the old paint from the elevated M-train structure at the Fresh Pond Road station and repairing the steel structure. He said that work on this project has been delayed due to concerns about COVID19 this past year. The project is expected to be completed by mid-2021, he said.

Regarding the sewer reconstruction project on 70 Street between Calamus Avenue and the Long Island Expressway, in Maspeth, the District Manager reported that the contractor has begun micro-tunnelling down as far as 60 feet deep in certain locations to install new sewer mains there. He said that thankfully, the contractor agreed to delay plans to excavate a 30' wide shaft to a depth of 60 feet on Grand Avenue until after the holiday season.

Dennis Stephan reported that a large sink hole opened up in the intersection of 70 Street at 53 Avenue today. The contractor halted work in order to investigate the cause of the street collapse.

The District Manager also reminded everyone that as part of the Dept. of Sanitation's snow removal preparations, they've begun collecting household garbage and recycling overnight in parts of our district now. He advised everyone to put their household garbage and recyclables out at the curb for collection before Midnight on the night before their regular collection days.

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Regarding the upcoming capital improvement project in Juniper Valley Park for the reconstruction of the Running Track and Soft Surface Playing Field inside the track, the District Manager reported that the original contractor for this project has pulled out of this contract and the Parks Department is currently in discussions with the second lowest bidder for this project.

Dmytro Fedkowskyj, a Board member, thanked Gary for following up on this project, and asked when work on this contract is expected to begin. The District Manager said that he believes this contract will be awarded this Spring, and work should begin later this year.

Regarding the situation with the homeless man who has been sleeping on the sidewalk on Myrtle Avenue, under the train trestle at Fresh Pond Road, the District Manager reported that he's been informed that the City no longer removes homeless people from a public space, including sidewalks, unless they agree to be transported to a shelter, except in cases that involve people who are deemed to be a danger to themselves or others. He pointed out that due to concerns about the spread of COVID19, the Dept. of Homeless Services has reportedly cut in half the occupancy of homeless shelters, in order to allow for social distancing between the occupants. He cited the example of the Cooper Avenue Homeless Shelter where the potential occupancy was reduced last year, from 200 single male adults down to 100 homeless men who currently reside there.

Ken Rehberger, a Board member, asked if the LIRR is responsible for the sidewalk under this train trestle. The District Manager replied that the NYC Dept. of Sanitation is responsible for clearing debris from the sidewalk under train trestles in the City. The Board Chairperson added that they are not permitted to remove their belongings, unless and until the homeless are no longer there.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Transportation Services Committee**

#### **John Maier**

John Maier, Co-Chair of the Transportation Services Committee, reported that there's no Committee Report this month. He said that the next Remote Committee Meeting is scheduled for 7:30pm on Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, to review the status of capital improvement projects in our Board area, in addition to traffic and pedestrian safety requests.

#### **New Business**

Walter Sanchez, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair, reported that he and the District Manager met over the phone with representatives from Amazon to request that the barriers that were installed by the contractor who completed interior renovations at Rentar Plaza, be relocated or removed from the eastbound traffic lane of Metropolitan Avenue. He said that when he drove past the site recently, he said the barriers are not obstructing traffic anymore.

The Board Chairperson said that, to his knowledge, there is an upcoming water main replacement project along this stretch of Metropolitan Avenue. He said that the installation of barriers at this location may be required under this new water main replacement project.

#### **Old Business**

Cathie Sumsky, a Board member, said that there is always garbage strewn along the cemetery side of 73 Place. She said that, thankfully, Sanitation crews removed the debris that was there yesterday. She also pointed out that a Speed Bump was recently installed on 73 Place, near 69 Road, which doesn't deter drivers from speeding down 73 Place toward 70 Avenue, in Middle Village. She asked the District Manager to follow up on her request for additional speed bumps on 73 Place in south Middle Village.



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The Board Chairperson asked that all service requests be called into the Board office during regular business hours. Ms. Sumsky asked the District Manager to call her on her cell phone to conclude their conversation.

Steven Fiedler, a Board member, disagreed with earlier statements that were made at tonight's Board Meeting regarding barriers that are blocking one eastbound lane of Metropolitan Avenue in front of Rentar Plaza, at 66-26 Metropolitan Avenue, as well as a portion of the adjacent driving lane. He said that the barriers impede traffic flow on Metropolitan Avenue, in Middle Village. He pointed out that there was a serious car accident recently, when a car crashed into a stack of 12" water main pipes that were stationed on Metropolitan Avenue, in the vicinity of Rentar Plaza. He said if the interior renovations were completed inside Rentar Plaza, then the barriers should be removed.

Lee Rottenberg, a Board member, commented that the City's website to schedule an appointment for the COVID19 vaccine is very confusing. He said that you will only find out if vaccines are available at each site, after you have applied for an appointment at each separate location. The Board Chairperson reminded everyone that they should consult with their primary care physician first, before looking online for a site. John Maier commented that not everyone has a private doctor.

On a separate topic, Lee Rottenberg reported that he read in a local newspaper recently about the City's practice of opening new homeless shelters in residential areas, without giving any prior notice to local Community Boards or the public. He said that, according to news reports, the Marriott Hotel in Elmhurst was recently converted into a homeless shelter overnight, in addition to another hotel located in Bayside, Queens.

Peggy O'Kane, a Board member, requested better enforcement of the dedicated Bus Lanes on the southbound side of Fresh Pond Road in Ridgewood. She said that she sees cars parked in the restricted parking lane after 3pm on weekdays.

In addition, Ms. O'Kane said that there are rumors that a homeless shelter is planned on the property of Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Church, between Bleecker Street and Metropolitan Avenue, in Ridgewood. She asked what's the status of this project. The District Manager said that plans were submitted to the Dept. of Buildings for new construction of a multiple dwelling with 45 dwelling on this site, directly adjacent to the school building. He said that their plans were disapproved recently. The Board Chairperson said that 3 buildings are located on the same block and lot at this site, and he plans to speak to the Pastor to request more information about what they're planning to build at this site.

As there was no further business to come before the Board, the Board Chairperson entertained a motion to adjourn at 9:05pm.