



## Community Board No. 5

Borough of Queens  
Ridgewood, Maspeth, Middle Village and Glendale  
61-23 Myrtle Avenue • Glendale, NY 11385  
Tel (718) 366-1834 Fax (718) 417-5799  
E-mail: [qn05@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:qn05@cb.nyc.gov)  
[www.NYC.gov/qnscb5](http://www.NYC.gov/qnscb5)



Vincent Arcuri, Jr.  
Chairperson

Gary Giordano  
District Manager

### Minutes of Remote Community Board 5 Public Meeting

February 10, 2021

#### Board Members Present

Bhubaneshor Adhikari; Vincent Arcuri, Jr; Antonetta Binanti; Eric Butkiewicz; Robert Cermeli; Walter E. Clayton, Jr.; Brian Dooley; Dmytro Fedkowskyj; Steven Fiedler; Dr. Sukh Gurung; Fred T. Haller; Richard Huber; Paul A. Kerzner; Kinga Kurzyna; Maryann Lattanzio; Edward Lettau; John Maier; Patricia Maltezos; Edgar Mantel; Katherine Masi; Eileen Moloney; Michael O’Kane; Donald Passantino; Michael Porcelli; Kenneth Rehberger; Theodore Renz; Kelvin Rodriguez; 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

Patricia Crowley; Jerome Drake; Fred Hoeffler; Mike Liendo; Margaret O’Kane; Carmen Santana; Megan Tadio; Nan Zhang

#### GUESTS

Joseph Nocerino – Queens Borough President Donovan Richards

#### 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 tomorrow on our CB5Q Website Homepage at [www.nyc.gov/qnscb5](http://www.nyc.gov/qnscb5).

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

### **PUBLIC HEARING RE: THE FISCAL YEAR 2022 PRELIMINARY BUDGET OF THE CITY OF N.Y., AS IT RELATES TO THE COMMUNITIES OF RIDGEWOOD, MASPETH, MIDDLE VILLAGE and GLENDALE**

The District Manager Gary Giordano briefly explained the City’s budget process to those present, particularly why we’re conducting this annual Public Hearing. He said that this Public Hearing gives the public an opportunity to comment on the Mayor’s Preliminary Budget for FY2022, which was released on January 16th, 2021. Community Boards are required to submit their responses on the Proposed FY

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2022 NYC Capital and Expense Budget on or before February 16<sup>th</sup>, this year. He said that the next step in the budget process is the Queens Borough Board's meeting on Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> when the Borough's budget recommendations for the FY2022 Capital and Expense Budget of the City of New York will be reviewed and voted on. As there were no other registered speakers for this Public Hearing, the District Manager read aloud the list of our Community Board's Top Ten Capital Budget Priorities, as follows:

- 1 **Redesign and Reconstruct Sewer System in Portions of CB5Q Area Having Worst Flooding Problems.** The District Manager reported that as part of Project ID 877, the City is working to complete the design of new sewer main installations on 77 Avenue, between 80 Street and 88 Street, in Glendale.
- 2 **Reconstruct Wyckoff Avenue, from Flushing Avenue to Cooper Avenue**
- 3 **Replace Existing Bridge on Grand Ave over Newtown Creek in Maspeth**
- 4 **Reconstruct Sidewalks, Curbs and Pedestrian Ramps along Myrtle Avenue, from Fresh Pond Road to Wyckoff Avenue**
- 5 **Rehabilitate Ridgewood Reservoir - Phase II and the Surrounding Area, Including Portions of Highland Park**
- 6 **Reconstruct Deteriorated Catch Basins and Provide New Catch Basins in the CB5Q Area**
- 7 **Reconstruct Benninger Playground in Ridgewood**
- 8 **Provide New Street Tree Plantings, and Provide Funding for Stump Removals, Planting of Replacement Trees, and Street Tree Removals**
- 9 **Reconstruct Softball Field Area and Basketball Courts at Rosemary's Playground**
- 10 **Provide Replacement of the Synthetic Turf Field and the Running Track at the West End of Juniper Valley Park**

The District Manager reported that last October, we submitted a total of 33 Capital Budget Priorities to the Mayor's Office of Management and Budget, largely based on input from Board members and local residents. He said he would like to emphasize our most important Capital and Expense Budget Priorities in our Preliminary Budget Response.

Regarding the Mayor's Preliminary Expense Budget for FY2022, the District Manager explained that a large part of the City's Expense Budget pays for personnel costs. He read aloud the list of our Community Board's Top Ten Expense Budget Priorities for FY 2022, as recommended by the Board:

- 1 **Assign Additional Personnel for the 104<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct Patrol Force.** The District Manager explained that within the last 7 years, the patrol strength of the 104<sup>th</sup> Precinct has dropped to under 130 Police Officers. He pointed out that in 1995, 200 Police Officers were assigned to patrol in the 104<sup>th</sup> Precinct.
- 2 **Provide Field Workers for the Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations**
- 3 **Hire Inspectors and Plan Examiners, in Sufficient Numbers, to Inspect Illegal Uses of Property and Questionable Construction Jobs**
- 4 **Provide Sanitation Department Cleaning Personnel, to Clean Illegal Dumping and for Litter Basket Collections**
- 5 **Provide Funding for Educational and Recreational Programs for Children and Teens**
- 6 **Provide Funding for Fire Department Services**
- 7 **Provide Needed Services for Senior Citizens**
- 8 **Provide More Frequent Garbage and Recycling Pick-up for Schools and Institutions**

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**9 Allocate Funds for the Operation and Enhancement of the Division of Forestry in Queens**

**10 Provide Sufficient Personnel for Traffic Safety Inspections, Sign Installations, Pavement Markings and Sign Manufacturing**

The District Manager reminded everyone that he submitted a total of 25 Expense Budget Priorities to the Mayor's Office of Management and Budget last October, at the beginning of this annual budget process.

The Board Chairperson opened the floor to questions and comments.

Robert Cermeli, a Board member, asked why school construction is no longer listed as one of the Board's Top Ten Priorities. The District Manager said that there is no longer a pressing need for additional classrooms in local schools. Over the past 10 years, he said that several new public schools have been built, such as PS 320, the Geraldine Ferrara School, on Metropolitan Avenue in Ridgewood, and PS 239 on Cypress Avenue, PS 305 and PS 320 on Seneca Avenue, in the area where St. Aloysius School once stood, and PS 58 on Grand Avenue, in Maspeth, as well as several school additions, including PS/IS 128 and PS/IS 49, in Middle Village.

The Board Chairperson also pointed out that several local parochial schools have closed in the past 10 years. For instance, ever since St. Pancras School closed, their classrooms have been utilized for Pre-K for All classrooms, as well as to accommodate the overflow of students enrolled in PS 91, on Central Avenue, in Glendale. After the Redeemer Lutheran School on Cooper Avenue closed two years ago, the space was converted into a charter school, he said. Besides, he said, demographic trends show an increasingly aged population in our district. Paul Kerzner agreed.

Ed Lettau asked how the City's budget might be impacted by the fact that so many City residents this past year have moved out of state. The Board Chairperson replied that once the 2020 Census data has been compiled and released, our City could lose two Congressional seats, which will have a negative impact on the allocation of federal resources for New York City. He said that Mayor DeBlasio stated that funding for the current Fiscal Year remains stable because the City's using up its budget surplus from prior years. However, funding for the next Fiscal Year's Budget will be problematic, he said. The District Manager replied that New York City's projected deficit for the next Fiscal Year could be as high as \$7 Billion, in an overall Annual Budget of \$90 Billion.

Ken Rehberger, a Board member, asked for clarification on the current budget process. The District Manager explained that we're now in the middle of the budget process for FY 2022, which begins on July 1<sup>st</sup>. He said that the office of Queens Borough President Donovan Richards is now in the process of preparing FY 2022 Budget recommendations for the Borough of Queens, largely based on testimony they've received from Community Boards, local civics and elected officials this year. Once budget negotiations are completed this Spring, the City Council votes to adopt the final version of the City's Capital and Expense Budget for FY 2022 in June, before the Mayor will sign it into law.

**Statement from P. O. Michael Berish, 104<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Affairs Unit** was read aloud by Laura Mulvihill, a Staff member of CB5Q, as follows:

"For the past 28 Day Period, we are down in all categories, with the exception of Grand Larceny Auto: Rape: down 10%; Robbery: down 78%; Felony Assaults: down 40%; Burglary: down 40%; Grand Larceny: down 35%; but Grand Larceny Auto is up 150%.

Grand Larceny Auto has been on the rise. Many of these incidents are taking place throughout the Precinct, mainly in Glendale, Ridgewood, and Maspeth. One cause for the rise in these crimes involves people leaving their keys/key fobs in their vehicle, or people leaving their vehicle running while they run

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into a corner deli quickly. These are major crimes of opportunity that can be prevented. We urge you not to leave your keys or valuables in your cars or leave them running while unattended.

This past Friday night into Saturday morning, our Public Safety Team, NCO Sector C (Maspeth), Crime Prevention, Highway Safety, State Liquor Authority, and the NYC Sheriff's Department all played huge roles in successfully closing down a location on Grand Avenue in Maspeth that was hosting an illegal party with approximately 150 people. This great work by all our officers led to the removal of a firearm, illegal drugs, alcohol, and large sums of cash from the location.

We hope everyone is staying safe as we make it through the Winter storms and continue to battle the pandemic. I look forward to seeing everyone again soon."

CB5Q Staff member Laura Mulvihill took attendance of Board members and staff who were present at the meeting.

## **PUBLIC FORUM**

The District Manager Gary Giordano read aloud the following letter submitted by Tony DiPiazza, regarding this year's application for a Street Festival on Fresh Pond Road, in Ridgewood:

"Dear Board Members, My name is Tony Di Piazza and I'm the chairman of the Federazione ItaloAmericana di Brooklyn & Queens promoter of the Fresh Pond Road Street Festival. Although last year's festival was approved by an overwhelming majority, it was not held due to the COVID-19 situation. We are once again asking for this board's approval for this year's event, which is expected to be held Sept 9-12th. The event has always been an opportunity to share part of Italian culture which manifests itself in these festivals. This event has also become an opportunity for Fresh Pond Road to show the thousands of people attending the festival what Ridgewood and specifically Fresh Pond Road has to offer.

In these times of slowing retail sales, Fresh Pond Road merchants can use all the help they can get to attract new customers to the area. As always, we have shared part of our profits with local not-for-profit organizations and profits from the event also helps us maintain an office at 65-54 Myrtle Avenue, which provides assistance to the elderly of our community in matters of Social Security, and a variety of other services.

I thank you in advance and trust in a favorable decision. Naturally, we realize that any approval is contingent upon the COVID-19 situation permitting such an event in September 2021."

## **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 January 13, 2021. The minutes were adopted by acclamation on a motion by Luis Rodriguez, 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:

## **LIQUOR, WINE and BEER LICENSE APPLICATIONS and RENEWALS**

### **New Liquor License**

- 1) ***\*Eagles Café & Bar Corp.*** 68-69 Fresh Pond Road, Ridgewood, NY 11385

### **Liquor License Renewals**

- 1) ***\*Patrizia's of Maspeth LLC*** 69-35 Grand Avenue, Maspeth, NY 11378

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- 2) \*Raheny 5 LLC d/b/a **Walsh's Pub** 68-67 Fresh Pond Road, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 3) \***Serbian Association of NY Inc.** 72-54 65 Place, Glendale, NY 11385
- 4) **Carlo Pizza of Metropolitan Ave, Inc.** 74-02 Metropolitan Avenue, Middle Village, NY 11379

#### **Wine and/or Beer License Renewals**

- 1) **6265 Exclusive Rosa's Corp.** 62-65 Fresh Pond Road, Ridgewood, NY 11385

\*Licensed Outdoor Area

#### **Other Notifications**

- 1) Kalimkosella Group LLC d/b/a **Pan Am, 1563 Decatur Street, Ridgewood, NY** has amended the d/b/a on their original notification, and will be doing business as "**Pan Am.**"
- 2) **Jie Zhou Er, Inc. 67-11 Myrtle Avenue in Glendale** will be renewing their Grocery Beer/Wine License.

#### **Demolition Notices**

Staff member Laura Mulvihill reported that the Board received one demolition notice since last month's Board Meeting: full demolition of a 1-family house and garage at **76-09 58 Avenue, in Middle Village.**

District Manager Gary Giordano read the following statement from the Mayor's Office:

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

"Today, the Mayor visited the Citi Field vaccination site. Half of the appointments were reserved for eligible Queens residents, and the other half were reserved for TLC-licensed drivers and food delivery workers from all five boroughs. We're going to continue to build out vaccination sites, but we still need an increased supply of dosages from the Federal government. For appointments, eligible New Yorkers can go to [www.nyc.gov/vaccinefinder](http://www.nyc.gov/vaccinefinder) or call **877-VAX-4-NYC** (1-877-829-4692).

Middle school students in Grades 6 to 8 will return to school in-person starting February 25th, 2021. A majority of students will be in school five-days-a-week. We're adding teams to conduct weekly testing in middle schools, as well as continued weekly testing in all of our elementary schools. We're also prioritizing in-person staff returning to work for vaccine access at City hubs from February 12th through the 21st and over mid-winter recess. Beginning February 24th, 3K and Pre-K for All applications are open. Families can apply online at [www.myschools.nyc](http://www.myschools.nyc) or over the phone at (718) 935-2009.

In his State of the City address, the Mayor announced that beginning this year, communities will have a direct role in selecting NYPD precinct commanders. Precinct Councils will hold interviews of NYPD's proposed candidates for precinct commanders and provide the NYPD with feedback on the candidates. Following the selection of a new Precinct Commander, the panel will have an ongoing relationship with the commanding officer, and will evaluate their general effectiveness, engagement with the larger community and responsiveness to issues raised by the community.

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

On behalf of Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, Joe Nocerino reminded everyone that next Friday, February 19, is the deadline to apply and/or reapply for Community Board membership. He said that applications can be completed online this year through the Queens Borough President's website at [www.queensbp.org](http://www.queensbp.org). In response to several questions from Board members, he asked that if anyone has trouble with this new application process, to please either contact him or Katherine Brezler, the Deputy Director of Community Boards, in the Queens Borough President's Office.

Mr. Nocerino also announced that local groups may apply for available grant funds that are posted on the Queens Borough President's website now. He also announced that next Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, the Queens Borough President is sponsoring a Virtual Job Fair with local businesses that are looking to hire personnel. He said that applicants will be able to meet with job recruiters from 9am to 5pm by visiting the Queens Borough President's website.

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The Board Chairperson commented that one of the Queens Borough President's goals this year is to appoint new Board members from diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

The District Manager read aloud the following statement from the NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer:

**Statement from NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer submitted by Haris Khan**

"On behalf of the Office of the Comptroller, I hope everyone is safe, well, and healthy. I'd like to report briefly on a few office items this month.

This week our office released a comprehensive plan with immediate city, state and federal recommendations to combat food insecurity and close gaps in the social safety net. Comptroller Stringer called for the City to allocate \$25 million to food pantries, expand SNAP outreach and purchasing power, and increase cultural competence by including Halal and Kosher foods in the City's current food programming to ensure food access to all New Yorkers.

In January, Comptroller Stringer shared recommendations for the City to proactively help small businesses apply for and receive this vital lifeline— including creating a multi-lingual community outreach team, partnering with Business Improvement Districts, merchant associations, non-profits and external stakeholders to increase awareness, and creating a comprehensive list of all the financial institutions administering the Payroll Protection Program, so businesses know exactly where to go. Lastly, Comptroller Stringer has been focused on the need for a fast, transparent, and equitable vaccine distribution, and is concerned with the twin failures of outreach and technology under the Administration's vaccine rollout.

Comptroller Stringer outlined his recommendations including implementing a single, functional online platform for vaccine sign-ups; developing a centralized database to help hospitals and health care providers track demand and usage; and publicizing information on vaccine eligibility, where to receive vaccinations, and how to register in advance.

As always feel free to reach out to me if there is any way our office can be of assistance. My email address is [hkhan@comptroller.nyc.gov](mailto:hkhan@comptroller.nyc.gov) and my number is 929-512-1946."

Laura Mulvihill, CB5Q Staff Member, read the following statements submitted by local elected officials:

**Statement from Council Member Robert Holden, 30<sup>th</sup> CD**

"Hello neighbors, Community Board 5 members, and fellow elected officials. I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy, and I thank you for your continued work and volunteerism during these challenging times. We must maintain our collective efforts to practice social distancing, wear masks and practice good hygiene. My office is hard at work serving our constituents, and should you need any assistance, please do not hesitate to call us at 718-366-3900 or email us at [District30@council.nyc.gov](mailto:District30@council.nyc.gov). Mayor de Blasio this week announced a mega vaccine site at Citi Field. However, this is not enough. I have been in constant contact with the mayor's office and have proposed several locations within Community Board 5. As we continue to receive more vaccine supply, I hope we can announce new vaccine sites soon. On that note: next week, Wednesday, February 19, the Council Committees on Health, Aging, and Technology will be hosting an emergency hearing on the vaccine finder website and vaccine accessibility for our seniors. My office has received countless seniors' complaints on the difficulty of scheduling an appointment to receive their vaccines. The city must do more on this front if we are going to win the war against COVID-19. My district office in Middle Village hosted self-swab testing events, and tomorrow, Thursday, the 11th, is the last day at this time. I invite you to take advantage of this free PCR test, to give you peace of mind. The event runs from 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM. All are welcome. On Thursday, February 18, at 7:30 PM, I will be hosting a virtual Conversation with Your Councilman event. This will be an opportunity for constituents to bring up their issues and concerns, and have questions answered. Please visit my social media pages to learn how you can register for this event. Tomorrow, my bill, Intro 2044, will be passing in the City Council's Stated Meeting. Intro 2044 will extend the moratorium on business awning and sign enforcement for another 2-years from the date the bill becomes law. It will

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also create a 100% discount on permit fees so that our small businesses can legalize their accessory signs or awnings. Several businesses in Community Board 5 were affected by the issue of DOB awning enforcement, and this legislation comes as a welcome relief. Our small businesses are struggling, and the last thing we need is a flood of inspectors issuing thousands of dollars in fines during this crisis. As always, feel free to contact my office with any of your questions or concerns. Thank you again for your continued dedication to our communities, and I hope to see you soon.”

### **Statement from State Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr, 15<sup>th</sup> SD submitted by Sarah Spellman**

“Good Evening and thank you to the Community Board for all the work they put in to make these monthly meetings possible. While my colleagues and I are up in Albany working on passing this year's budget, if anyone would like information or opinions regarding this year's budget process or issues, I encourage individuals to reach out to my offices.

We have a few upcoming events, including the extension of our Valentine's Day Food Drive to benefit the Sacred Heart food pantry. Acceptable donations include pastas, rice, canned fruits and vegetables, canned soups/stews, cereal, and other nonperishable food items. Items can be dropped off at my Middle Village Office located at 66-85 73rd Place. We will be collecting items this week and from Tuesday February 16th to Friday February 19<sup>th</sup>, next week.

In addition, our offices will be Drop off Locations for a month-long Dept. of Sanitation E-Cycle Event, starting on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Folks who are interested in this event should call my office.

If any constituent has questions about the COVID-19 vaccine distribution or COVID-19 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. Thank you and stay safe.”

### **Statement from NYS Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi, 28<sup>th</sup> AD submitted by Kevin Wisniewski**

“Assemblyman Hevesi hopes everyone is staying safe and well. As the new chair of the Assembly Committee on Children & Families, the Assemblyman is currently advocating for policies and budget priorities for the Assembly counterproposal to the Governor's Executive Budget. Since the pandemic has begun, 325,000 kids have reached or fallen below the poverty line - and many additional families have faced economic hardship - and from March through July alone, more than 4,200 kids experienced the loss of a parent or caregiver. The top priorities at this time are to ensure children and families can access available resources, to ensure parents have convenient and affordable childcare options, and to ensure that childcare providers can easily access state support.

Assemblyman Hevesi has hosted a series of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) giveaways since November. If anyone needs masks or sanitizer, we ask that they reach out to our office at (718) 263-5595, or email the Assemblyman at [Hevesia@nyassembly.gov](mailto:Hevesia@nyassembly.gov). Additionally, we ask that constituents reach out if they need help on any other state issues, including, but not limited to scheduling vaccine appointments, assistance with unemployment, and to submit applications for SNAP and other programs.

Kevin G. Wisniewski, Senior Advisor, NYS Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi

Phone: (718) 263-5595, and FAX (718) 263-5688.”

### **Statement from NYS Assemblyman Brian Barnwell, 30<sup>th</sup> AD, submitted by Olesya Hreb**

Our office would like to remind the community that the deadline to apply for property tax exemptions is March 15, 2021. There are a number of exemptions that exist for varying income levels, age groups, veterans, and more. Our staff is continuing to assist individuals with their applications. If you need assistance applying for any of these programs, including the STAR or E-STAR, Senior Citizen Homeowners' Exemption (SCHE), the Veterans exemption, rent freeze programs (SCRIE/DRIE), etc.,



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please do not hesitate to reach out to us. We are happy to assist with any questions or concerns. We can be reached at 718-651-3185 or [barnwellb@nyassembly.gov](mailto:barnwellb@nyassembly.gov).

There are also a number of virtual outreach events being hosted by the NYC Dept. of Finance (DOF). The DOF staff will discuss how your property taxes are calculated, exemptions that can help you save money, and more. The virtual events will be held throughout the month of February at 10am and 4pm timeslots. If you are interested in attending one of the virtual events, please visit our social media page for the exact links to register or call our office at 718-651-3185 so we can provide you with the links to register. You can also email us at [barnwellb@nyassembly.gov](mailto:barnwellb@nyassembly.gov), and we will email you the links as well."

**Statement from NYS Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar, 38<sup>th</sup> AD submitted by Vjola Isufaj**

"Good evening to Community Board 5! Thank you for the labor of love you undertake every day on behalf of our community. It is now my 5th week as your new Assemblywoman. It is an honor and a privilege to serve you. I took over my predecessor's district office at 83-91 Woodhaven Boulevard. As you may have noticed, we painted the outside of the office red, which should come as no surprise. We are open Monday through Friday 9am to 5pm, even during the pandemic. Please stop by if we can be of assistance. To be accessible to all, we have also expanded hours of operation to weekend hours. The office is open Saturday from 11am to 2pm, or anytime by appointment.

My office is going to be a free COVID-19 testing site on February 19th, 20th and 21<sup>st</sup>, from 8am to 7pm. I encourage all who want to get tested to come by at that time. To help the food insecurity in our district, my office is also holding a free food give away in front of my office on February 18th from 4:30pm to 6:30pm. My office also regularly distributes Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to those in need. In this time of crisis, my office has helped many constituents collect their unemployment benefits. We also have helped many seniors schedule their appointments for their vaccinations. Getting the district vaccinated and keeping the residents of Glendale and Ridgewood safe and healthy, is a top priority of my office. Please be in touch with my office. We are always here for you.

I also have news from Albany. I am proud to announce that the Speaker of the Assembly has appointed me to several important committees: Veterans' Affairs, Aging, Small Business, and Consumer Affairs, as well as the powerful Judiciary Committee. I was also appointed as Chairman of the Diversity in Law Subcommittee on the Judiciary Committee.

In my first five weeks, I have co-sponsored and helped pass several pieces of legislation to tackle the health and economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. I co-sponsored and spoke on the chamber floor for a bill that allows 4 hours of paid time off for all employees to get their COVID-19 vaccinations. I also co-sponsored a bill that helps small businesses by creating a moratorium on evictions and foreclosures for small businesses until May 1st. I also voted for and supported a bill that will allow unemployed individuals to take on part time employment without being penalized in their unemployment benefits. All of these bills passed the Assembly and I am hopeful they will soon become law.

I am also proud to announce that I authored my first bill. Entitled the "COVID-19 Early Intervention Act," which already has more than 15 co-sponsors. Its purpose is to make the monoclonal antibody treatment available and accessible to high risk COVID-19 patients. If made widely available, this treatment has the potential to save an innumerable number of lives and prevent vulnerable COVID-19 patients from dying from the disease in the next few months. This monoclonal antibody treatment was the same treatment President Trump and other prominent figures were given when they were infected with COVID-19. My bill will make it more widely available to New Yorkers that need it.

I look forward to working closely with all members of CB5 for our community. Thank you."



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## **Proposed Street Fair Applications in CB5Q in 2021**

Board Chairperson Vincent Arcuri reported that six Street Fair applications were submitted to the Mayor's Office by local organizations for events to be held in the coming year. He asked the District Manager to read aloud the list of street fair applications, as submitted. Walter Sanchez asked if there were any new applicants, besides those who applied to hold Street Fairs last year. The Board Chairperson replied that there aren't.

The District Manager announced the proposed Street Fair applications in date order.

### **1) Myrtle Avenue Festival in Ridgewood**

On MYRTLE AVE btw Wyckoff Ave & Fresh Pond Road – Ridgewood - 11 blocks

**SUNDAY – APRIL 18th** - 10 AM to 6 PM (Street closing 8am to 8pm)

SPONSOR: RIDGEWOOD LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORP.

Theodore M. Renz, the Executive Director of the Ridgewood Local Development Corp, explained that generally the 104<sup>th</sup> Precinct assigns between 8 and 16 police officers to patrol the length of this Street Fair, which is usually conducted between Wyckoff Avenue and Forest Avenue, on the commercial corridor of Myrtle Avenue in Ridgewood. He said that the Ridgewood Local Development Corporation pays 20% of the proceeds from this annual event to the City to cover the cost of all the city services that are allocated to this event.

Walter Clayton made a motion to recommend approval of this application and was seconded by Walter Sanchez.

The Board Chairperson opened the floor to discussion. Ken Rehberger, a Board member, expressed concern about furthering the spread of the COVID19 virus by holding such large-scale public events. Maryann Lattanzio, a Board member, agreed with his statement by saying that it's impossible to observe social distancing in large crowds of hundreds of people in the street.

Paul Kerzner, a Board member, said that the cost of running local street festivals far exceeds the reimbursement that local organizations pay the City for the services they require. He said that it's not reasonable to dedicate our limited city resources for this purpose.

Eric Butkiewicz, a Board member, asked for clarification about the motion on the floor, if it applies to the whole list of proposed Street Fairs in our Board area this year, or just this one. The Board Chairperson replied that each application is being considered separately.

The District Manager Gary Giordano said that due to the low rate of COVID19 vaccinations throughout the City, he doubts that the City will permit any Street Fairs until mid-Summer at the earliest.

John Maier, a Board member, requested a Roll Call vote on the motion on the floor.

Theodore M. Renz disclosed that, due to his position as Executive Director of the Ridgewood Local Development Corporation, he's refraining from voting on this issue to avoid a conflict of interest.

As there was no further discussion on the motion on the floor, the Board Chairperson requested a Roll Call vote on the motion in favor of recommending approval of this Street Fair which carried by a vote of - 23 - in favor, - 13 - opposed, - 1 - not voting, and no abstention.

The District Manager announced that another Street Fair application was submitted by the Ridgewood Local Development Corporation for the same date, Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, for one block of Myrtle Avenue, between Wyckoff Avenue and St. Nicholas Avenue, in Ridgewood. Theodore M. Renz, a Board member, said that he submitted this application as an alternative to the earlier application.

The Board Chairperson ruled any discussion of this application as out of order. He said that this Community Board cannot consider multiple applications for the same date, the same time, at the same destination.

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District Manager Gary Giordano announced the next proposed Street Fair application as:

**2) Grand Avenue Street Festival**

On GRAND AVENUE btw 65 Street to 72 Street - Maspeth - 7 blocks

**SUNDAY - JUNE 27<sup>th</sup>** - 10 AM to 6 PM (Street closing 8am to 8pm)

SPONSOR: MASPETH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE-LIONS-KIWANIS CLUB

Fred Haller made a motion to recommend approval of this annual Street Festival, which was seconded by Walter Clayton.

Maryann Lattanzio disclosed that she's a member of the Board of the Lions Club.

As there was no further discussion on the motion on the floor, the Board Chairperson requested a Roll Call vote on the motion in favor of recommending approval of this Street Fair which carried by a vote of – 24 - in favor, - 13 - opposed, - 0 - not voting, and no abstention.

The District Manager announced the next Street Fair application under consideration as:

**3) Myrtle Avenue Festival in Ridgewood**

On MYRTLE AVENUE btw Fresh Pond Road & Forest Avenue in Ridgewood - 4 blocks

**SUNDAY - JULY 18<sup>th</sup>** - 10 AM to 6 PM (Street closing 8am to 8pm)

SPONSOR: KIWANIS CLUB OF GLENDALE

Walter Clayton made a motion to recommend approval of this Street Fair application, which was seconded by Edward Lettau. Board Chairperson Vincent Arcuri, Fred Haller and Richard Huber disclosed that they are members of the Glendale Kiwanis Club.

As there was no further discussion on the motion on the floor, the Board Chairperson requested a Roll Call vote on the motion in favor of recommending approval of this Street Fair which carried by a vote of – 24 - in favor, - 13 - opposed, - 0 - not voting, and no abstention.

District Manager Gary Giordano announced the next proposed Street Fair application as:

**4) Fresh Pond Road Street Festival**

On FRESH POND ROAD btw Woodbine Street & Menahan Street – Ridgewood – 5 blocks

**THURSDAY - to SUNDAY, SEPT. 9<sup>th</sup> to SEPT. 12<sup>th</sup>** - from 6:30pm to 10:30pm

SPONSOR: FEDERAZIONE ITALO-AMERICANA di BROOKLYN QUEENS

The Board Chairperson opened the floor to discussion on this Street Festival.

Walter Sanchez asked if this year's application is basically the same as last year's application. The District Manager replied that it is virtually the same as last year's application, except for the change in dates.

Walter Clayton made a motion to recommend approval of this Street Fair application and was seconded by Edward Lettau.

As there was no further discussion of the motion on the floor, the Board Chairperson requested a Roll Call vote on the motion in favor of recommending approval of this Street Fair which carried by a vote of – 20 - in favor, - 17 - opposed, - 0 - not voting, and no abstention.

District Manager Gary Giordano announced the last proposed Street Fair application as:

**5) Myrtle Avenue BID Festival**

On MYRTLE AVENUE btw Wyckoff Ave & Fresh Pond Rd – Ridgewood - 11 blocks

**SUNDAY – SEPT. 26<sup>th</sup>** - 10 AM to 6 PM (Street closing 8am to 8pm)

SPONSOR: MYRTLE AVENUE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Walter Clayton made a motion to recommend approval of this Street Fair application, which was seconded by Edward Lettau.

As there was no further discussion of the motion on the floor, the Board Chairperson requested a Roll Call vote on the motion in favor of recommending approval for this Street Fair. Antonetta Binanti

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disclosed that she serves on the Myrtle Avenue Business Improvement District's Board of Directors. Theodore M. Renz disclosed that due to his position as Executive Director of the Myrtle Avenue Business Improvement District, he's refraining from voting on this issue to avoid a conflict of interest. The motion on the floor carried by a vote of – 23 - in favor, - 13 - opposed, - 1 - not voting, and no abstention.

### **District Manager's Report**

#### **Gary Giordano**

The District Manager reported that the Dept. of Sanitation's snow removal operations were very effective in clearing snow and ice from local roadways after last week's heavy snowfall. He said that today collection trucks have resumed regular operations. He advised everyone to resume placing their household garbage and recyclables out at the curb for collection before Midnight on the night before their regular collection days.

Regarding the current rate of spread of COVID19 throughout the City, the District Manager urged everyone to get vaccinated as soon as possible. He said that the supply of vaccines has been very limited up until now, but with the release of two new vaccines, manufactured by Astra Zeneca and Johnson & Johnson, the supply of available vaccines should increase very soon. He urged everyone to keep the rate of spread of this virus down by wearing a face mask, staying at least 6 feet away from each other, wash your hands frequently, and stay at home if you're sick.

The Board Chairperson commented that, as a member of the Board of Directors of Wyckoff Heights Medical Center (WHMC), he learned that no vaccines have been delivered to the hospital in the past 10 days, largely due to blizzard conditions on major Interstate Highways, that has resulted in trucking delays all across the country.

Regarding the sewer reconstruction project on 70 Street between Calamus Avenue and the Long Island Expressway, in Maspeth, the District Manager thanked Dennis Stephan for alerting him to the two large cave-ins on 70 Street between 52 Avenue and 53 Avenue. He said that over the past month, the contractor has been excavating several locations on 70 Street, where new soil and fill was poured into the trench and compacted with heavy equipment, before the asphalt pavement was restored. He said that the contractor has begun micro-tunneling down as far as 60 feet in some sections of 70 Street, to install new larger sewer mains under the street.

The District Manager reminded Board members that the deadline to apply online to renew their Board membership is next Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup> this year. He thanked Board members for their years of service and always working to serve the best interests of the entire community.

Sukh Gurung, a Board member, asked if any statistics are available that show how many people have been vaccinated in our district. The Board Chairperson replied that WHMC reports the number of people who are vaccinated by their staff each week directly to the State, but he's not aware of any report about vaccination rates locally.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Transportation Services Committee**

##### **John Maier**

John Maier, Co-Chair of the Transportation Services Committee, reported that MTA-NYC Transit crews are back at work repairing the steel structure and removing the old paint from the elevated M-train structure at the Fresh Pond Road station. He said that they'll resume painting the entire structure

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between Seneca Avenue and the Fresh Pond Road station this Spring. 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.

He reported that the Committee continues to review and recommend traffic safety measures throughout the district, based on input from staff and residents. He welcomed input from Board members regarding local streets that need to be resurfaced, as well as any traffic safety improvements that are needed on local roadways. He said that the District Manager will prepare a list of local streets that require resurfacing to the Dept. of Transportation in April.

Mr. Maier said that the next Remote Committee Meeting is scheduled for 7:30pm on Tuesday, February 23rd, to review the status of capital improvement projects in our Board area, in addition to traffic and pedestrian safety requests.

### **New Business**

Eric Butkiewicz, a Board member, asked if the Parks Department will issue permits to hold athletic events in local parks this year. The Board Chairperson replied that there's been no change in any agency COVID19 advisories yet this year. He advised him to apply online for a permit this year. In the event there's a change in policy, your application will already be in the system.

Ken Rehberger, a Board member, said that he requested that the Dept. of Transportation reinstall the bollards on the roadway along Cypress Hills Street, between the Jackie Robinson Parkway and Cooper Avenue. The Board Chairperson said that it's likely that the Dept. of Sanitation mowed them down during snow removal operations last week.

As there was no further business to come before the Board, the Board Chairperson entertained a motion to adjourn at 9:35pm.