



Community Board No. 5

Borough of Queens
Ridgewood, Maspeth, Middle Village and Glendale
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Vincent Arcuri, Jr.
Chairperson

Gary Giordano
District Manager

Minutes of Remote Community Board 5 Public Meeting

March 10, 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 Hoeflerle; Richard Huber; Paul A. Kerzner; Kinga Kurzyna; Edward Lettau; John Maier; 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 Sumsy; Barbara Toscano; Patrick J. Trinchese; Michaeline Von Drathen

Board Members Absent

Jerome Drake; Maryann Lattanzio; Mike Liendo; Patricia Maltezos; Kelvin Rodriguez; Carmen Santana; Megan Tadio; Gyanal Thapa; Maryanna Zero; Nan Zhang

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 were 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 tomorrow.

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

PUBLIC FORUM

The District Manager read aloud the following statement submitted by Mario Matos, Jr., Community Liaison at Maspeth High School:

“Greetings from Maspeth High School.

Beginning Monday, March 22, Maspeth High School will resume classes using the BLENDED LEARNING model that was used in the fall. FULLY REMOTE instruction continues for all students who previously selected FULLY REMOTE instruction.

It’s important that schools can reach parents and guardians to share crucial information quickly, including alerts about confirmed COVID-19 cases in schools. We encourage families to sign up for a NYC Schools Account (NYCSA) so you can be contacted via phone, email, or text message. With NYCSA, you

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can access your child's grades, test scores, schedules, transportation information, and more—from anywhere, and in all nine standard DOE language translations.

If you don't have an account, sign up today at www.schools.nyc.gov/nycsa. It only takes five minutes!

Our 'Maspeth Makes a Difference' Club is looking for opportunities to take part in community cleanups.

Please contact Mr. Pachter, Assistant Principal at jpachter@schools.nyc.gov.

For updates, check our website at www.mhs.nyc.

If you have questions, email us at D24Q585@schools.nyc.gov

Thank you, stay safe, and stay healthy!"

The District Manager read aloud the next statement, written by Barbara Kulesa, a Middle Village resident:

"Hello, I would like to know what is being done to address the following issues now and this summer when it is likely to get even worse:

- cars with exploding exhausts driving around the neighborhood
- cars blasting Spanish music circling the neighborhood
- cars (with exploding exhausts) drag racing on Juniper Valley Road (vs. Juniper Blvd). This usually happens in the evenings
- cars speeding down Juniper Valley Road between 76th street and 80th streets to make the lights. I can't tell you how many times I've almost been hit by a car there!
- sketchy people coming to the park and making it unsafe for parents with children to go to the park or for people to walk their pets, i.e., hold ups at knife/gun point, drinking and drugs in the park, gang fights in the park?
- cars parked full of guys drinking and smoking drugs by the soccer field/railroad tracks in the evenings
- underage kids walking around drunk and high in the park stumbling and falling over because they are so drunk / high

These items are of major concern to me as these things were a huge problem last summer and I anticipate this summer will be no different. An increased police presence on Metropolitan Ave (to dissuade any would be robbers), driving around the neighborhood (to dissuade people with exploding exhausts and loud Spanish music from driving around), and in the park (to dissuade drinking, drug use, robberies and group fights) would put a lot of normal citizens at ease and in a better position to enjoy our wonderful neighborhood and the coming nice weather.

Perhaps if the 104 Precinct is unable to provide this service to Middle Village, then Middle Village should have its own police precinct. The neighborhood would be a much safer place and drug dealers wouldn't come to live and sell drugs in this neighborhood because they would be afraid of being caught by the police. The 104 is clearly focusing its resources in other locations and NOT middle village or perhaps it's stretched too thin. If that is the case, then it's even more of an argument for Middle Village to have its own police precinct."

Statement from the 104th Police Precinct submitted by P. O. Michael Berish, Community Affairs Unit:

"Here in the 104th Precinct, we are proud to say that we continue to see a decrease in the majority of crimes in the 104th Precinct.

For the past 28 Day Period, Robberies are down 56%; Felony Assaults are up 9.5%; Burglaries are down 17%; Grand Larcenies are down 50%; but Grand Larceny Auto Thefts are up 150%.

We continue to remind everyone not to leave their vehicle running with their keys in the ignition or key fobs in the cup holder, and please be sure to lock your vehicles. This is the major reason for the uptick in Grand Larceny Auto crimes. These opportunistic crimes continue to drive the bulk of the crime that

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takes place here in the 104th Precinct. Please help us spread the word, as you hear us say time and time again: “Lock your vehicles and do not leave your keys in your vehicles.”

Last week, there was an image circulation on social media. This image consisted of a picture of a sign that was posted to a tree in Middle Village, with offensive language geared toward the Asian American Community written on the sign. This incident is currently being investigated by our Hate Crimes Task Force.

Hope to see everyone soon.”

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 February 10, 2021. The minutes were adopted by acclamation on a motion by Walter Clayton, that was seconded by Margaret O’Kane.

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) **681 Seneca Bar Corp.** 681 Seneca Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385

Liquor License Renewals

- 1) **Assembly Bar & Grill, Inc.** 72-02 Cooper Avenue, Glendale, NY 11385
- 2) * **Minderbinder Enterprises LLC d/b/a Milo’s Yard** 564 Seneca Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 3) **B&B Espresso Bar Inc.** 66-07 Fresh Pond Road, Ridgewood, NY 11385

New Wine and/or Beer Licenses

- 1) **El Buen Sabor Restaurant Inc.** 1070 Cypress Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385

Wine and/or Beer License Renewals

- 1) **El Montenero Bakery Restaurant Inc.** 55-21 Myrtle Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385

Other Notifications

- 1) **El Montenero Bakery Restaurant Inc., 55-21 Myrtle Avenue, Ridgewood** is intending to submit a Class Change application to upgrade their current Restaurant Wine License #1288937 to a full On-Premises Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider License.
- 2) **Fajitas Sunrise Restaurant Bar, 59-24 Myrtle Avenue, Ridgewood** is intending to submit a Corporate Change application to the NYS Liquor Authority.
- 3) * **Kalimkosella Group LLC d/b/a Pan Am, 1563 Decatur Street, Ridgewood, NY 11385** amended their notification to include a licensed outdoor area on a patio or deck.

*Licensed Outdoor Area

Demolition Notice

Staff member Laura Mulvihill reported that there was one demolition notice received at the Board Office since last month’s Board Meeting: **1818 Grove Street, in Ridgewood.**

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

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

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

"I hope all is well. Please see below for information on an in-home vaccination interest form, transportation assistance options for seniors, and job opportunities to support vaccination efforts.

Homebound Seniors: New York City is providing in-home Covid-19 vaccinations (Johnson & Johnson) to eligible NYC residents who are fully homebound, have not already been vaccinated, and do not already have access to a vaccination program.

New Yorkers who believe they are eligible for an in-home vaccination can express interest using the form below. The City will use this information to call back to further discuss eligibility for the program: <https://forms.cityofnewyork.us/f/homebound>.

Transportation Assistance Options: If you are 65 or older, cannot use public or private transportation and do not have anyone to take you to your vaccination appointment, other free of charge transportation options are available:

- If you use Access-a-Ride, Medicaid-provided, or Medicare-provided transportation, you can schedule rides as you normally would.
- If you do not use Access-a-Ride, Medicaid-provided or Medicare-provided transportation, you can schedule a free ride to their vaccination site through:
 - Curb (Cab): [646-349-0289](tel:646-349-0289)
 - Hunter (Ambulette): [718-991-2211](tel:718-991-2211)
- To schedule transportation through these options, you should call and state you are 65 or older, going to be vaccinated in NYC, and that you understand that there is a contract with the City of New York for free transportation

Job Opportunities: The City will hire 2,000 New Yorkers to work on City-run vaccination efforts as part of the Vaccine for All Corps. No healthcare experience is required for many positions, which include roles in site management, operations, and client services, in addition to clinical roles.

Join us for a Vaccine for All Corps info session. These sessions provide valuable information for community-based organizations and other partners to understand the details of Vaccine for All Corps positions and eligibility, introduce the Workforce1 Career Center System, and best empower partners to refer qualified candidates. These info sessions are not intended for jobseekers themselves and interested organizations can register here:

- Tuesday, March 9th at 2:00pm – [Register here](#)
- Wednesday, March 10th at 10:00am – [Register here](#)
- Thursday, March 11th at 10:00am – [Register here](#)
- Friday, March 12th at 10:00am – [Register here](#)

Jessica Schabowski, Deputy Commissioner, Mayor's Community Affairs Unit, (347) 443-4029"

Statement from NYS Attorney General Letitia James, submitted by Darryl White

"The Office of the Attorney General's Protecting Our Community Program - Ideas that came up in our Community Liaison Outreach meeting discussions was to set-up pop up offices to better service the residents in Brooklyn/ Queens and the Bronx and have more of a presence. This important effort created our "New York State Attorney General Office for the Day" office hours program. This new program provides direct services to residents of Brooklyn and for the Queens's residents since

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travel to the Brooklyn Regional Office for assistance for the 2.5 million Queens residents provides a challenge for many.

Some locations for our pop-up services have been inside Senior Centers and some Queens Library locations before the pandemic. These Library and Senior Center locations would serve as a “Neutral space” as our mobile office space to provide services to the residents who wish to speak to an OAG attorney within the community board’s area and the borough of Queens. This would also be helpful for residents who want to file complaints with our office or simply to learn more about “What does the Attorney General do?”

We also produce and distribute flyers that identify issues of concern to residents such as Deed Theft, Seniors Scams, Elderly Abuse and Fair Housing. We have also attended monthly community meetings to help spread the word with Community Board District Managers, Civic Associations, Tenant Associations and various Elected Officials, and communicated our services and future locations through email and presentations to make the community aware of these services and ask everyone to pass the word.”

Darryl White, Community Outreach, Brooklyn Regional Office, NYS Attorney General’s Office
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Statement from NYC Council Member Robert Holden

“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 continues to work hard serving the constituents of Ridgewood, Middle Village, Maspeth, Glendale, Woodside, and Woodhaven and can be reached via telephone, at 718- 366-3900 and via email, at District30@council.nyc.gov. No task is too big or too small for us to handle, and we welcome all inquiries.

In the New York City Council, the month of March begins our budget season for the upcoming Fiscal Year 22 budget. As the Chair of the Council's Committee on Technology, I held a budget hearing earlier today on the New York City Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications, also known as DoITT. DoITT's proposed Fiscal 2022 Expense Budget totals \$699.2 million, including \$171.2 million in city funding to support 1,824 full-time positions. The budget also includes \$528 million in Other Than Personal Services, of which \$248 million is allocated to contractual services. We discussed issues such as the IT Infrastructure Modernization project, 5G Broadband Expansion, Next Generation 911, and much more. As the Tech Chair, I oversee 311, 911, cybersecurity, the City of New York's IT infrastructure, and more.

I recently introduced a bill with Speaker Corey Johnson and Council Members Mark Gjonaj and Vanessa Gibson to provide small business relief. **Intro 2233** would mandate city agencies warn a small business first before issuing a violation. It would also allow businesses to cure the violation instead of receiving a monetary fine. This legislation comes from several businesses within CB5 that received thousands of dollars in fines over minor violations that could have been easily cured. This bill provides real, tangible relief that local merchants will feel in their wallets, not just more talk about the importance of small businesses.

My bill, **Intro 2044**, recently passed in the City Council and now sits on Mayor de Blasio's desk awaiting signature into law. Intro 2044 expands and amends Local Law 28 of 2019, which was known as the Awning Acts. It would extend the moratorium on small business awning enforcement and the NYC Department of Building's Temporary Assistance Program, which helps small businesses navigate the bureaucratic process of legalizing their store awnings for 2-years. Even more critical, it discounts related permits by 100%--meaning that awning permits would cost nothing for small businesses.

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Finally, I am very proud to announce that two pieces of legislation that I co-sponsored, along with Council Members Joe Borelli of Staten Island and Robert Cornegy of Brooklyn, passed in the City Council, making movie sets safer. These bills directly resulted from FDNY Firefighter Michael Davidson's tragic death, who died while responding to a fire at a movie set in Harlem. His widow, Eileen, worked tirelessly along with the UFA and UFOA unions to move this past the finish line. This will go a long way to prevent a tragic death like Davidson's from ever happening again.

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 all soon.”

Staff member Laura Mulvihill read the following statements from several elected officials:

Statement from NY State Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, 15th S.D.

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

We have few upcoming events, including a small business seminar with the Queens Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday, March 16 at 6:30 p.m. Small business owners can get information on what grants/loans/and programs are available for them through the COVID pandemic. Call my office to get the registration link.

Our offices are currently Drop off Locations for a month long DSNY E-Cycle event. You can drop off your old, small electronics at my Middle Village and Howard Beach offices to be properly recycled.

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. Thank you and stay safe.”

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 as Spring nears! This March, the Comptroller testified at the City Council Committee on Finance on the Preliminary Fiscal Year 2022 Budget where he supported the immediate need to aid families and jumpstart our economy, as well as highlighting the areas of spending without proven results. He noted that we are spending over \$400,000 dollars a year to incarcerate one person on Rikers Island while violence continues to climb and spending over \$3 billion a year on homelessness — twice as much now as we did seven years ago. Additionally, the City spends \$200 million dollars a year on mental health programs without sufficient accountability, data or measurable outcomes to show for it. This spending must be evaluated and agencies must be held accountable for producing measurable results.

He acknowledged the work of the Comptroller's Public Finance team with the Mayor's Office of Management and Budget to already realize over \$800 million dollars in savings this year and next. Altogether, lower debt service costs account for over 40% of the Citywide Savings Plan and the Comptroller is proud to have helped achieve this.

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 and my work number is 929-512-1946.”

Statement from State Assembly Member Brian Barnwell

“We hope everyone and their families are safe and well!

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As a reminder, 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 with your application, 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.

Please also do not hesitate to contact us if you need help with any other issue. If we do not answer, please leave a voice mail message and we will call you back. Stay safe and well.”

Statement from Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar

“Good evening Community Board 5!

In response to a spate of recent crimes in our district, I am holding a Town Hall on Public Safety this Monday, March 15th at 7 pm. The Commanding Officers from the 104th, 102nd, and 106th precincts will be present, as well as numerous community leaders. The event will take place through Zoom. This Town Hall is in response to recent crimes including 3 attempted sexual assaults around Forest Park, and a shooting on Woodhaven Boulevard that occurred just 2 blocks from my office, resulting in the death of a 26 year-old youth. We must take action to ensure the safety of our community.

Next, I would like to update you on vaccinations. Every day, my office helps constituents secure vaccination appointments. Please call my office if we can be of assistance. My office is open Monday through Saturday, even during this pandemic. As a reminder, we have expanded to weekend hours and are open Saturday from 11am to 2pm. Those who do not have access to computers are welcome to come to my office and we will help you make appointments to get vaccinated. New York State is rapidly expanding eligibility criteria for receiving the vaccine. Please remember to keep up to date daily on the NY State site to see if you are eligible or contact my office for help.

According to City data, the number of people getting COVID-19 vaccinations in Glendale is low compared to other neighborhoods, so we need to pick up the pace. Our office will be focusing on Glendale to make sure constituents, especially seniors, know how to access vaccination appointments. On a happy note, I am proud to remind you that it is Women’s History Month! I will be honoring women leaders in our district at my “Women of Distinction Awards” Event at the end of the month. Do you know a woman who is dedicated to our community, who is a leader, a pathbreaker or changemaker? Please nominate her today! Call or email my office to nominate her or fill out the google form on my social media pages. Nominations are due March 15th.

I have been proud to host two major food distributions at my office. Hundreds of constituents came to each one. My office provided produce, meat and fresh food. I am hosting another major food distribution at my office tomorrow, Thursday, March 11th, at 5pm. Please spread the word to your networks.

With regards to legislation, during my first two months in office, I have co-sponsored over 30 bills and have introduced 6 new pieces of legislation as the prime sponsor. This legislation is focused on helping our community through the health and economic crisis we are in, with a particular focus on seniors and veterans. The State is in the process of creating our annual budget that is due April 1st. I have been relentlessly questioning the heads of State Agencies to ensure that the State Budget meets the needs of our district.

I am honored every day to do the People’s Work as your State Assemblywoman. I am here for you 24/7.”

District Manager’s Report

Gary Giordano

The District Manager said that according to the most up-to-date data available, there have been almost 3 million vaccinations administered citywide, 2 million were the first dose, and 1 million doses were the

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second dose. He cautioned everyone, even those who've been vaccinated, to continue 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 graffiti vandalism, the District Manager said that the NYPD's emphasis has changed from making arrests of graffiti vandals to painting over graffiti in public areas. He commended the work of the Greater Ridgewood Restoration Corporation in cleaning graffiti off brick buildings in our Board 5 area for many, many years. He said that the 104th Precinct has scheduled a Graffiti Clean Up day on Saturday, April 10th when they plan to paint over graffiti with a group of volunteers in our Board area.

Regarding the status of water and sewer main projects in our Board area, the District Manager reported that work is progressing on schedule on Cypress Avenue in the vicinity of Willoughby Avenue, where the contractor is currently installing a new trunk water main from Troutman Street to Himrod Street. The next phase of this project will include the installation of a new trunk water main and sewer on Himrod Street between Cypress Avenue and Grandview Avenue, in Ridgewood.

The District Manager also reported that the sewer reconstruction project on 70 Street between Calamus Avenue and the Long Island Expressway, in Maspeth, is continuing on schedule. He said the contractor has begun micro-tunnelling down as far as 60 feet deep in certain locations to install new sewer mains as part of this project.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Safety Committee

Patrick Trinchese

In the Committee Chairperson Maryann Lattanzio's absence, Patrick Trinchese reported that the Committee met via Webex on March 3rd with P. O. Michael Berish. Regarding the most recent crime statistics for the past 28 Day Period, P. O. Berish reported that there were 10 narcotics arrests, and year-to-date, there's been an overall count of 36 arrests by 104th Precinct Officers and 19 by Narcotics Officers working in the 104th Precinct. Officer Berish said that the type of drugs being confiscated varies in each case. He said that marijuana is usually handled by summoning.

Officer Berish gave the Committee a breakdown of crimes reported in each sector of the 104th Precinct, as follows:

In Sector A, Glendale: Robberies are down by 54%; Felony Assaults are down 8%; Burglaries are down 29%; Grand Larcenies are down 55%; and Grand Larceny Auto crimes are up by 11 incidents reported this past month, as compared to 4 that were reported during the same month in 2020.

In Sector B, Ridgewood: Robberies are down by 45%; Felony Assaults are down 20%; and the number of Burglaries reported were 2 during the past month as compared to 10 during the same month in 2020.

In Sector C, Maspeth: Robberies are down by 80%; Felony Assaults are down 50%; Burglaries are down; and Grand Larcenies are down by 41%.

In Sector D, Middle Village: The incidence of Robberies has stayed the same; Felony Assaults are up by 75%; Burglaries are up by 50%; Grand Larcenies are down; and Grand Larceny Auto crimes are up 300%, with 4 incidents reported in the past month as compared to 1 during the same period in 2020.

Mr. Trinchese said that Officer Berish informed them that, as of last week, all Grand Theft Auto crimes were situations where the owner left their keys inside the vehicle after exiting their car. Regarding staffing levels in the 104th Precinct, he said that Officer Berish reported that there are 193 members of the service who are currently assigned to the Precinct including: 2 Captains, 6 Lieutenants, 19 Sergeants, 164 Police Officers (130 Males and 34 Females), and 2 Detectives in Special Districts.

In response to a complaint about the Neighborhood Coordination Officer Program, Mr. Trinchese said that Officer Berish recommended that everyone report their complaints about suspicious activity, etc. to

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a 311 operator and then, report the 3-1-1 complaint number to their NCO, and send him a copy of their complaint, as well. He said that there are days when the NCO's are required to attend training exercises or other citywide events that take them out of Precinct.

Mr. Trinchese reported that in response to a question from a Committee member about what steps can be taken to curtail graffiti vandalism in our Board area, Officer Berish responded that there's been an increase in the incidence of graffiti this year. He said that the NYPD is more focused on cleaning up graffiti than apprehending graffiti vandals this year. He said that unless Police Officers witness the graffiti in progress, they cannot apprehend them. In the meantime, he said that they're planning to organize graffiti removal events in the community in the coming months, after which they'll attempt to install surveillance cameras in graffiti-prone locations.

Regarding summoning activity in the 104th Precinct, Officer Berish reported that year-to-date, 878 summonses were issued for moving violations, including 30 summonses that were issued to truckers. He said that the Precinct has requested electronic signage to be installed on Eliot Avenue to deter truckers from driving on Eliot Avenue. He said that year-to-date, another 1,315 summonses were issued for parking violations, including 140 for Commercial Vehicle Storage.

Officer Berish also reported that during the past 28 Day Period, 482 moving violations were issued, including 126 for Speeding, 11 for Failure to Yield, 63 summonses for Driving through a Red Light, and 31 for Driving without a Seat Belt. In addition, 485 parking summonses were issued in the Precinct during the past 28 Day Period.

Regarding the spike in the number of package thefts in the 104th Precinct, Officer Berish said that footage obtained from private security cameras can be very helpful in apprehending suspects who commit these types of crimes.

In response to a question about the incidence of COVID-19 among personnel in the 104th Precinct, Officer Berish said that last year, there had been a problem with officers out sick due to COVID-19, but he doesn't know of any officers being sick with it this year.

Cathie Sumsky, a Board member, asked why it's illegal for trucks to drive on Eliot Avenue. The Board Chairperson replied that it's unsafe for tractor trailers to drive on Eliot Avenue between 69 Street and Metropolitan Avenue, due to the configuration of the roadway.

Ken Rehberger, a Board member, asked for a link to attend the Town Hall that Assemblywoman Rajkumar is hosting regarding a recent spike in crimes in our area. Laura Mulvihill said that everyone interested in attending should RSVP to their website to receive the link to attend the Town Hall.

Paul Kerzner, a Board member, said that if police officers in the 104th Precinct don't arrest graffiti vandals, they will continue to graffiti buildings and other properties in our Board area. He said that our Board has to advocate for enforcement.

Zoning and Land Use Review Committee

Walter Sanchez

Walter Sanchez reported that the Committee met remotely twice over the past month to discuss the merits of **Intro 2186**, the proposed Bill that is currently under consideration by the City Council. He said that the Committee met first with Paul Graziano, a civic activist in Queens, who spoke about this Bill's proposed comprehensive changes to future neighborhood development. He said that Annie Levers, a staff member of City Council Speaker Corey Johnson, gave a power point presentation to Committee members at their second meeting to review the proposed legislation. He said that she emphasized the point that this new legislation would give communities the opportunity to proactively plan the future growth of their neighborhoods, as part of an overall 10-Year Capital Plan. He said that she stated that this Bill would not eliminate single-family homes in the City and that any changes in local zoning would remain subject to the Uniform Land Use Review Process (ULURP).

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He said that the Committee plans to meet once again on Monday, March 29th to discuss the proposed legislation before making their recommendation to the full Board on this matter. He said that some Community Boards in Queens have already submitted their recommendations.

Transportation Services Committee

John Maier

John Maier, Co-Chair of the Transportation Services Committee, reported that the Committee met remotely on Tuesday, February 23rd to review the status of current and planned major capital improvement projects in our Board area, as well as traffic safety requests. He said that regarding the proposed plans to replace and rebuild the Grand Street Bridge over the Newtown Creek in Maspeth, our Board is waiting for the NYC Dept. of Transportation Bureau of Bridge's representatives to arrange a joint-meeting with representatives of Community Board 1, in Brooklyn and Community Board 5, Queens. Mr. Maier said that the next Remote Committee Meeting is scheduled for 7:30pm on Tuesday, March 23, 2021. He welcomed input from residents regarding street resurfacing requests, as well as any traffic and pedestrian safety measures that may be needed in our Board area.

Education Committee

Katherine Masi

Katherine Masi reported that the Committee met remotely with Madelene Taub-Chan, the Community School District 24 Superintendent along with members of her staff on Wednesday, February 24th to discuss the ways that COVID-19 has impacted students in our school district. She said that they gave a very informative power point presentation that was forwarded to all Committee members, citing figures for daily school closures, the student enrollment participation in blended learning programs, etc. In closing, she commended the work of Superintendent Chan and her staff for their professionalism and dedication.

New Business

Ed Lettau, a Board member, spoke about how auto body shops modify the exhaust systems in cars so that when they're driven, their engines roar very loud and disturb the peace. He asked if their engines are so amped up, how do these cars pass inspection. He said that these businesses should be issued violations and closed. The Board Chairperson said that this matter would likely come under the jurisdiction of the Dept. of Motor Vehicles, not the NYPD.

Peggy O'Kane, a Board member, asked for an update on the status of the planned housing development on the property of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, in Ridgewood. The Board Chairperson said that he doesn't have any further information on this property. Paul Kerzner suggested making a phone call to the pastor of the parish.

The Board Chairperson, Vincent Arcuri, announced that the next monthly Board Meeting will be held remotely at 7:30pm on Wednesday, April 14th, 2021. As there was no further business to come before the Board, the Board Chairperson entertained a motion to adjourn, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:42pm.