



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
www.NYC.gov/qnscb5



Vincent Arcuri, Jr.
Chairperson

Gary Giordano
District Manager

Minutes of Community Board 5 Public Meeting May 13, 2020

Board Members Present

Vincent Arcuri, Jr, Antonetta Binanti, Robert Cermeli, Walter E. Clayton, Jr., Patricia Crowley, Brian Dooley, Dmytro Fedkowskyj, Patricia Grayson, Fred T. Haller, Fred Hoefflerle, Richard Huber, Paul A. Kerzner, Maryann Lattanzio, Edward Lettau, John Maier, Patricia Maltezos, Edgar Mantel, Katherine Masi, Margaret O’Kane, Michael O’Kane, Donald Passantino, Kenneth Rehberger, Theodore Renz, Lee S. Rottenberg, Walter H. Sanchez, Dennis Stephan, Catherine Sumsy, Gyanal Thapa, Barbara Toscano, Patrick J. Trinchese, Michaeline Von Drathen, Maryanna Zero, Nan Zhang

Board Members Absent

Jerome Drake, Steven Fiedler, Michael Liendo, Eileen Moloney, Michael Porcelli, Kelvin Rodriguez, Luis Rodriguez, Carmen Santana, Connie Santos, Megan Tadio and Crystal Wolfe

Elected Officials

Joseph Nocerino – Acting Queens Borough President Sharon Lee

Staff

Gary Giordano, District Manager
Laura Mulvihill, Community Associate

Guests

Chae No, Queens Community Liaison – NYC Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene

Board Chairperson Vincent Arcuri welcomed everyone to view this Remote Board Meeting, which is being conducted and livestreamed in real time to the public tonight, due to the current constraints placed on the Board during the COVID-19 Pandemic. He informed everyone that next month’s Board Meeting on June 10th will most likely be a remote meeting.

After the Salute to the Flags, the Board Chairperson announced the first item on the Board Agenda as:

Presentation re: Update on the Coronavirus (COVID-19)

By Chae No, NYC Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene

Mr. Chae No began his power point presentation by stating that the current situation is rapidly changing with the COVID-19 pandemic, and so is the Health Department’s knowledge about it. He gave a brief overview of recent developments by stating that since the first COVID-19 case was detected in NYC two months ago, the number of cases, hospitalizations and deaths have been steadily increasing. As of yesterday, he said that worldwide, there were 4,310,000 confirmed cases, with 293,000 deaths attributed to COVID-19. In the United States, 1,380,000 COVID-19 cases have been identified, which has resulted in a total of 83,000 deaths, while in NYC, 185,000 COVID-19 cases have been confirmed, with

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over 20,000 patient fatalities that have resulted from both confirmed or probable cases of the COVID-19 disease.

Mr. No reminded everyone that COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus which is part of a large family of viruses that cause illnesses that range from the common cold to severe respiratory infection. He said that its name, Coronavirus, comes from its crown shape, as shown in the diagram on the screen. He explained that the first case of human transmission of COVID-19 was diagnosed in China, in December of 2019. He said that now, scientists all over the world are working hard to develop a vaccine and treatment for this highly contagious disease.

Mr. No explained that one of the reasons that this disease is so contagious is because anyone can transmit this disease, without being symptomatic themselves. He said that most people with COVID-19 will have mild or moderate symptoms and get better on their own. However, people age 50 or older face a high risk of contracting a severe case of COVID-19; and people age 65 or older, or anyone who has other health conditions, such as, lung disease, asthma, heart disease, obesity, diabetes, kidney disease, liver disease, cancer, or a weakened immune system, face the highest risk of all, because it could prove to be fatal to them if they don't receive adequate medical treatment in the early stages of this disease.

Mr. No advised that if you are sick with COVID-19 symptoms, everyone should assume you have it. He said that the most common symptoms are: fever, cough, sore throat and shortness of breath. Other symptoms include feeling achy, loss of taste or smell, headache, and diarrhea. He cautioned anyone who is over the age of 50, or who has a heart condition, to contact their doctor for medical advice if they're not feeling better after three days of showing these symptoms.

He said anyone with severe symptoms of COVID-19, or any other serious health issue, should always contact a doctor or go directly to the hospital emergency room for help. He said that recently, there have been too many cases of people waiting too long to call 911, which unfortunately has ended in fatalities. He urged everyone to call 911 immediately if you have trouble breathing, or have pain or pressure in your chest, upper abdominal pain, are confused, or cannot stay awake, have difficulty speaking, or have bluish lips or face.

In the event that you are sick at home, he said that your household members may go out for essential work and to shop for basic essentials, but they should monitor their health closely, too. In order to avoid spreading this disease, he cautioned everyone to: 1) Create physical distance by staying at least 6 feet away from others; 2) Wash your hands with soap and water frequently, and don't touch your face before washing your hands; 3) Don't have visitors; 4) Sleep head-to-toe if you share a bed with someone who is sick, or sleep on the couch; 5) Keep people who are sick separate from anyone at risk for serious illness; and 6) Frequently clean any common surfaces that are touched, such as, doorknobs, light switches, faucets, phones, keys and remote controls; 7) Wash towels, sheets and clothes at the warmest possible setting with your usual detergent, and dry completely.

Mr. No also urged anyone who's been sick to stay at home until they are fever-free without taking medication, such as, Tylenol, for at least 3 days, and it has been at least 7 days since their symptoms have subsided and their overall health has improved.

Again, he urged anyone who doesn't have a family doctor, and needs one, should seek medical advice by calling 844-692-4692 (844-NYC-4NYC). He said that New York provides healthcare, regardless of your immigration status, insurance status or ability to pay.

Regarding the most recent discovery in connection with the COVID-19 virus, Mr. No informed everyone that there have been dozens of young children who have been diagnosed with Pediatric Multi-Symptom Inflammatory Syndrome in NYC since the beginning of April. He said that this disease is life-threatening and requires hospitalization, the sooner, the better. He said that common symptoms of this disease include fever, irritability or sluggishness, abdominal pain, diarrhea, vomiting, rash, red or pink eyes,

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enlarged lymph node (“gland”) on one side of the neck, red cracked lips or red tongue or swollen hands and feet. Routine laboratory tests reveal evidence of inflammation and involvement of the heart, kidneys, lungs, skin, gastrointestinal, and neurologic systems are components of this new syndrome. Fortunately, he said, most children who have been hospitalized with this disease have since recovered. He said that after they fully recovered and were tested for antibodies to the COVID-19 virus, they tested positive.

Mr. No also pointed out that there are two types of laboratory tests for COVID-19 that are available now: 1) a virus test, which involves a swab or saliva test to determine if you are infected with COVID-19; and 2) the antibody test, which is a blood test that checks if there are any antibodies, or special proteins in your blood, that are produced by the body when fighting off a COVID-19 infection. He cautioned that these tests cannot determine your immunity to COVID-19, and they won’t detect antibodies if you are currently sick, or if you were recently exposed to the virus. He said that, unless and until we have a vaccine, there’s no way of knowing if it’s possible to develop immunity to this disease.

Mr. No reminded everyone that NY State is now on PAUSE (Policies Assuring Uniform Safety for Everyone) which extends until May 15th, and may likely be extended further by the Governor, depending on the situation. He said that this means that even if you haven’t been sick, you should only leave your home for essential work or errands, or to exercise, while staying at least 6 feet from others. He said that if you must leave your home: 1) Avoid crowded places; 2) Stay at least 6 feet away from others; 3) Cover your nose and mouth with a bandana, scarf or other face covering; and 4) Wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds before you go out, and use alcohol-based hand sanitizer while outside.

Mr. No informed everyone what steps the Dept. of Health is taking in response to this pandemic, as follows:

- Enhanced surveillance to track the spread of this disease
- Educating the public about this disease through webinars, public forums, social media, flyers
- Providing guidance to doctors, hospitals, nursing homes, and other healthcare workers
- Laboratory testing in the NYC Dept. of Health Public Health Lab
- Planning for a future phase of this pandemic

He said that the City is providing the following support services for New Yorkers during the lockdown:

- Childcare for essential workers, primarily healthcare and emergency services
- Free Grab-n-Go meals for youth from Monday to Friday, 7:30am to 11:30am and for adults from 11:30am to 1:30pm, in local schools
- Financial relief measures, including paid sick leave for people under quarantine/isolation
- Student debt relief
- Temporary injunction on debt collection
- Freeze on COVID-19 related evictions until August 20th

To learn about other resources available for New Yorkers, he said to visit www.nyc.gov/helpnownyc.

Mr. No explained that planning for the next phase of NY on PAUSE involves working toward meeting the following set of criteria that has been established by the State, in order to ease the work and physical distancing restrictions that have been imposed during this lockdown:

- Decline in new infections
- Decline in hospitalizations
- Decline in deaths
- Increased hospital capacity (equipment and beds)
- Increased diagnostic testing capacity
- Increased contact tracing capacity

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He said that Mayor de Blasio has convened a 6-Sector Advisory Council to inform him about their plans to restart NYC's economy. These six sectors are comprised of: 1) Non-profit and Social Services; 2) Public Health and Healthcare; 3) Faith-based; 4) Construction and Real Estate; 5) Education; and 6) Surface Transportation.

Mr. No also reported that under the City's COVID-19 Hotel Program, the City will provide hotel rooms to enable physical distancing for anyone who needs to quarantine themselves but can't because of their housing situation. In addition, he informed everyone that, as part of a joint initiative undertaken by the NYC Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene and the NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation, a NYC Test and Trace Corps will oversee case investigation, trace and monitor contacts, and provide analysis of data and inquiries of this program.

Regarding the impact on mental health that the pandemic and lockdown is having on patients, their family members, healthcare workers and the surrounding community, he urged anyone who's feeling anxious, sad or overwhelmed by their situation to call 888-692-9355 (888-NYC-WELL), or text 'WELL' to 65173, or chat online with a counselor at www.nyc.gov/nycwell on the Dept. of Health's 24/7 hotline. In addition, if you'd like to speak with a specially trained counselor, he said that the State Dept. of Health has set up a help line at 844-863-9314 that is available from 9am to 10pm, seven days a week.

Regarding COVID-19 health disparities, Mr. No reported that his department is analyzing their data regarding the age, ethnic background, income levels, and geographic areas that COVID-19 patients represent to determine why the rate of infection is disproportionately higher among Black and Hispanic populations, as compared to other ethnic groups throughout the City. He said that so far, their findings indicate that disparate health outcomes may be attributed to the absence of self-isolation options where they live, either at home or in shelters; the prevalence of pre-existing health conditions, such as, diabetes, heart conditions, high blood pressure; and the lack of access to primary care medical facilities; and other determinants, including substance abuse and structural racism. He said that the City has begun to address these disparities by translating health advice about how to protect yourself and your family from COVID-19 infections into 17 different languages and disseminating it throughout local neighborhoods where the virus is most prevalent. He said that the City has adopted a policy to provide free hotel rooms for COVID-19 patients. He said that, to-date, half of the homeless adults who are living in shelters have been relocated into hotel rooms instead, in order to afford them the capability for physical distancing. In addition, he said that the Mayor's Office has just convened a task force to address the inequities in the economic future of residents of low-income neighborhoods, as compared to other areas of the City.

He said that in order to counteract lots of false information about COVID-19 that's printed in the media, his department began a media campaign to give people the facts about this disease, so they'll have the information they need to be able to protect themselves and their families. He said that it's very important to prevent stigma and discrimination from spreading any further. He reminded everyone that it's illegal to discriminate against anyone, based on race, ethnic background, or religion. Everyone should be treated with respect, he said.

Lastly, he said that with proper treatment, physical distancing, wearing face masks, and practicing good hygiene, we can stop the spread of COVID-19. He thanked everyone for doing their part to curb this disease. For more information, he said to visit www.nyc.gov/coronavirus.

The Board Chairperson thanked him for his excellent presentation and opened the floor to questions and comments.

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The Board Chairperson asked where a resident with a doctor's prescription could go to get tested for antibodies to the COVID-19 virus. Mr. No replied that anyone who's experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 can go to one of the City's Public Health Labs for free testing. He said that regarding the blood test for antibodies to the virus, his department is still working on ramping up their capacity for the widespread availability of testing at sites throughout the City. He said in the meantime, you can call 311 to find out where you can call to make an appointment for a test at a Health and Hospitals Corporation facility.

Maryann Lattanzio, a Board member, said that last weekend, she observed large crowds of people in Forest Park, who were not observing social distancing in certain areas of the Park. Mr. No replied that social distancing is currently being enforced by the NYPD, but there's a disparity in enforcement from one precinct to the next. He said to contact Patrol Borough Queens North about any situations that should be addressed. In future, he said that the Mayor's Office plans to hire health ambassadors who will visit hot-spots and hand out face masks and explain the need for physical distancing.

Edward Lettau asked what happens to homeless individuals after they're removed from train stations overnight. Mr. No replied that staff from the Dept. of Homeless Services are on hand to offer them services, and transport them to an Intake Center. However, he wasn't sure what happens to people who refuse to accept their services.

Richard Huber asked what law was passed by the City Council to enforce social distancing. Mr. No replied that the City is abiding by multiple Emergency Executive Orders signed by Governor Andrew Cuomo earlier this year, in response to this COVID-19 Pandemic. The Governor initially declared a State of Emergency under Executive Order 202 on March 27th, he said.

Maryanna Zero asked if ice cream vendors are considered a necessity. Mr. No replied that all food vendors are considered essential businesses. But, he asked that she send him more information about the vendor, Mr. Frostie, so he could check to see if he's a licensed operator who meets all of their criteria.

Walter Sanchez asked who will make the final decision to reopen the City's economy. Mr. No replied that the Governor and the Mayor have reached a consensus, to follow the same criteria that applies to all other regions in the State. Mr. Sanchez then asked him if City Parks are under the Mayor's jurisdiction. Mr. No said that the Mayor has jurisdiction over City parkland, but the Governor can override him, if the situation warrants it. The Board Chairperson commented that over the weekend, Riis Park in Queens was open, but Rockaway Beaches were closed. Fred Haller contradicted him by saying that the beaches in the Rockaways were open to the public in the afternoon over the weekend. But, no one was permitted to swim, he said. John Maier pointed out that Gateway National Recreation Park is open, with limited access to facilities.

Dmytro Fedkowskyj asked how long you'd be considered contagious after coming down with COVID-19. Mr. No replied that at least 7 days after you're free of any symptoms, and your overall condition has improved. He said the incubation period of the virus is anywhere from 3 days to 14 days, when you could be spreading the disease without having any symptoms.

Fred Hoefflerle asked if there's a time limit on the State of Emergency that was issued by the Governor, and if not, could it be lifted by an act of the State Legislature. Mr. No replied that the Disaster State of Emergency Order is in effect until Sept. 7th, 2020. The Governor signed another Executive Order this past Monday to extend it indefinitely, based on meeting the 6 criteria for reopening each region of the State in different phases. The Board Chairperson asked if he was questioning the legality of this shutdown. Mr. Hoefflerle said he'd wait to see what happens next. Paul Kerzner commented that as long as the Governor issues a Declaration that's within reason, he's acting within his authority, and if both houses of the State Legislature decided to countermand the Governor's Executive Order, they could pass

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legislation to do so. Mr. Kerzner stated that if the Governor vetoes their legislation, it would require a 3/4ths majority vote in both houses in order to overrule the Governor. The Board Chairperson thanked him for that clarification.

As the next item of business, the Board Chairperson requested that staff member Laura Mulvihill call the roll for attendance at tonight's Board Meeting.

PUBLIC FORUM

The District Manager Gary Giordano read into the record the following statements from the public.

The U.S. Census Bureau wrote: In light of the COVID-19 outbreak, the US Census Bureau has adjusted their 2020 Census operations in order to protect the health and safety of the American public and Census employees, implement federal, state and local COVID-19 guidance, and ensure a complete and accurate count of all communities. To-date, there's been a 58.6% response rate to the 2020 Census nationally, with a 53% response rate for New York State and a 47% response rate for Queens residents. In the Community Board 5 area, he said that the response rate is lower: 43% in Ridgewood; 47% in Maspeth; 46% in Middle Village; and 43% in Glendale. He urged everyone to respond to the Census so that Queens can get its fair share of federal funding.

Due to the Pandemic, the Self-Response Phase has been extended until October 31st, and the Non-Response Follow-up Phase is set to begin on August 11th and end on October 31st, as well.

He said that all Census Bureau workers wear ID badges with a photo on front, US Dept. of Commerce watermark stamped on it, and an expiration date. The Census Bureau never asks for your Social Security number, bank account or credit card, anything related to politics, or charitable donations. If you suspect fraud, please call (844) 330-2020. He urged everyone to fill out their census questionnaire by going directly to their website at <https://2020census.gov/en.html>

Mario Matos, Jr., the community liaison for Maspeth High School, wrote to say that since March 23rd, their school has been actively engaged in remote learning. This year, their school received special recognition as one of 2020's Best High Schools in the country by U.S. World Report. He said that the COVID-19 pandemic has seriously impacted the neighborhoods where their students' families live. For more information about the school, please visit www.mhs.nyc.

Michael Park, the homeowner of 60-58 68 Road, wrote to request that the Board review the installation of solar panels on his rooftop, in order to comply with the regulations of the Landmarks Preservation Commission. He explained that part of the installation involves the installation of an electrical conduit down the front of his 2-family house, similar to other installations on his block. The Board Chairperson referred the matter to the Zoning and Land Use Review Committee for their consideration.

The Board Chairperson read a report from P. O. Michael Berish that gives a brief overview of crime statistics in the 104th Precinct for the past 28 days. He said that the report includes: 1 rape; 3 robberies; 5 additional Felony Assaults over last month which mainly involved domestic violence; burglaries are up by one over last month; 13 Grand Larceny and 3 Grand Larceny cases were reported during the past month. The Chairperson said that most of the burglaries and Grand Larcenies occurred in the business district where many stores are closed due to the shutdown. Peggy O'Kane asked why the Mobile Command Unit was stationed on Myrtle Avenue at Fresh Pond Road for the past few weeks. The Chairperson replied that it was because that's where most of the break-ins and burglaries have been occurring, because most of the stores are closed now.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Vincent Arcuri

The Board Chairperson gave the floor to Joseph Nocerino, representing the Queens Borough President.

On behalf of the Acting Queens Borough President Sharon Lee, Joseph Nocerino sent her regards and well wishes. He announced that their office is continuing to partner with IKEA Retail Stores in donating thousands of goods to Queens families at-risk during the COVID-19 health crisis, including new bedding, towels, batteries, children's clothing and household items to Community-Based Organizations and Shelters. In addition, their Operation 5-Borough Food Drive that is being co-sponsored by FreshDirect and Liberty Coca-Cola Beverages has delivered over 11,000 FreshDirect grocery boxes to 50 local Community-based organizations since March. He said that this Food Drive will continue through July.

Mr. Nocerino reported that, in addition to Operation 5-Borough Food Drive, Borough President Lee's "Fuel the Frontlines" initiative is providing meals to frontline medical workers at Queens' nine hospitals, first responders and bus operators while supporting Queens' small food service businesses continues to operate. Originally a one-week partnership with the Queens Economic Development Corporation and the Queens Night Market to support a dozen local small food service businesses and workers across Queens' nine hospitals, "Fuel the Frontlines" has extended cumulatively to two months and expanded to serve first responders and MTA workers, while partnering with an additional dozen small businesses. The extensions have been made possible due to generous contributions ranging from \$5 to \$40,000 from numerous individual and corporate donor, bringing the total amount of funds raised to more than \$88,000 since the launch of the initiative on March 29th. Anyone who would like to donate can do so at www.queensbp.org/fuel-the-frontlines.

Mr. Nocerino also announced that their office is co-sponsoring with the Office of the Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz, a Virtual Town Hall on Domestic Violence from 11am to 12:30pm tomorrow, May 14th, 2020. A live stream of the Town Hall will be available at www.queensbp.org.

He urged everyone to get out the count in the 2020 Census and get out the vote this year. He said that no one should have to choose between exercising their constitutional right to vote and the health of them and their families. That's why we're encouraging everyone to apply for an absentee ballot ahead of the June elections. To do so, visit www.nycabsentee.com.

Regarding new appointments to the Community Board, he said that Borough President Lee will issue the 2020 appointments to the borough's 14 Community Boards by the end of May, ahead of the May 31 commencement of the terms for 2020 community board appointees.

The District Manager read into the record the following statements from our local elected officials:

Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez's statement:

Rep. Nydia M. Velázquez (D-NY) announced two local hospitals within New York's 7th Congressional District are receiving federal funding from the CARES Act, legislation Congress enacted in late March. The resources, being disbursed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is targeted to hospitals with high rates of COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations. The two local hospital groups, NYC Health and Hospitals Woodhull and Wyckoff Heights Medical Center, will receive an aggregate of \$99,779,000 to directly combat the COVID-19 pandemic. "New York City has been an epicenter of this pandemic," said Velázquez, "Our healthcare workers are performing heroically to provide patients with quality treatment, but hospitals are struggling against unprecedented surges in patients and demand for care. These targeted grants, appropriated under the CARES Act, focus on specific hotspots of activity,

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servicing the areas that need it most. I'm pleased to see these funds allocated for our hospitals to supply our doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals with the tools they need."

NYC Health and Hospitals Woodhull will receive \$39,901,000 for their programs serving Bushwick, Williamsburg, Greenpoint, Bedford Stuyvesant, and Fort Greene. And Wyckoff Heights Medical Center will receive \$59,878,000. WHMC medical center serves Northern Brooklyn and western Queens.

"One painful lesson from this pandemic will undoubtedly be that our healthcare and public health infrastructure have been chronically underfunded for far too long. These funds will help to meet the immediate needs of the current crisis, but, for the long term, we must also look to strengthen and adequately invest in our healthcare system."

State Senator Joe Addabbo's statement:

My team and I hope all at CB5 are well and staying safe. Please know that my Middle Village Office has remained open during the Coronavirus pandemic, Monday through Friday, 10am to 2pm, and can be reached at 718-497-1630. Thereafter, a 24 hour live operator service is available. My team and I have been addressing virus related matters, such as unemployment benefit claims and food services, in addition to the usual community and quality of life issues. Please let us know if we can be of any assistance. Hoping all remain safe, as together we get through this pandemic. Thank you.

Statement from Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan:

Thank you to the District Manager and the Community Board 5 staff for organizing this remote meeting, and continuing your work for our community, and to the Chair and Board members for their dedication during this time.

I know that many of my constituents are facing difficulty with their unemployment applications, many have contacted my office. I encourage anyone who is having trouble, who has not yet reached out to my office, to do so by emailing me at NolanC@nyassembly.gov, or by calling my district office at 718-784-3194. I will continue to advocate on your behalf to the Department of Labor. I hope everyone stays well, and thank you again for your participation here tonight.

Statement from Assembly Member Michael Miller:

My office staff in the District Office at 83-91 Woodhaven Boulevard is providing refills for hand-sanitizer bottles Monday thru Friday, from 9am to 5pm, for anyone who needs a refill. Please feel free to call our office at (718) 805-0950 with your questions and concerns during this health crisis. If you need to reach me directly, my email address is: millermg@nyassembly.gov. Stay safe.

Statement from Assembly Member Brian Barnwell:

Our office has created a COVID-19 Resource Guide for distribution to our constituents. During the past month, we've been able to restock the Food Pantry for St. Jacobus Church in Woodside. In addition, we secured and distributed 11,000 face masks for emergency responders and frontline workers. Please feel free to call our office at (718) 651-3185 with any questions or concerns that you may have.

Statement from Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi:

"I hope everyone is doing well. Thank you to CB5 for continuing to serve as a resource and leader under these conditions. As many of you may know, we are seeing a spike of unemployment claims that remain pending or incomplete even weeks or months after the initial filing date. People experiencing this problem can reach out to our office - we have been forwarding cases to our contact at Department of Labor and are working to resolve a number of these cases. With May being Mental Health Awareness month, I am also providing a list of resources that can help with stress, anxiety, and other forms of emotional distress, which are being exacerbated in the pandemic. If there are any other concerns with

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general resources or the state response to COVID-19, or any other problem for that matter, please call us at (718) 263-5595. Thanks again and stay safe and well.

Support may be found by calling the NYS Emotional Health Support line at 1-844-863-9314, the National Suicide Prevention Line at 1-800-273-8255, or by texting Got5 to the Crisis Text Line at 741-741."

Statement from Council Member Robert Holden:

"I hope that you are all staying safe and healthy, and I thank you for your continued work and volunteerism as we navigate this unprecedented crisis together. Even though our efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19 have been effective so far, it's important that we all continue to practice social distancing, wear masks in public, and practice good hygiene so that we can all see each other again as soon as possible.

My office in Middle Village remains closed, but my staff and I gladly continue to serve our constituents every day while working from home. Please do not hesitate to call (718-366-3900) or email (district30@council.nyc.gov) my office any time when you need assistance.

Over the past month, the City Council has been working hard to conduct its business as usual given the legislation related to the city's coronavirus response. We are also conducting virtual committee hearings every week as we deliberate over Mayor de Blasio's proposed budget for fiscal year 2021. During a recent Transportation Committee hearing, I urged Department of Transportation Commissioner Polly Trottenberg to work with local communities in developing a plan to close streets around the city to give pedestrians more safe space for recreation. In the following days, we worked together to pinpoint three roads within Forest Park that could safely close without adversely affecting the surrounding communities.

I have also continued to send letters to Governor Cuomo with suggestions for how the state can aid the city during this crisis. Most notably, three of my colleagues and I urged the governor to enact temporary subway closures for regular cleaning of trains and stations, and to help homeless individuals move from the trains and into a safer location for everyone. Two weeks later, the governor announced the overnight closure of the subways between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. while providing free rides to essential workers during those hours. In addition, I called on the governor to rescind a Department of Health directive that forced nursing homes to care for COVID-19 patients, and he ultimately did just that. Going forward, I am calling on the governor and mayor to create localized task forces to determine which businesses can begin to reopen in our communities with social distancing guidelines. Our small businesses have suffered greatly over the past two months, and we must be fully prepared to restart our economy as soon as it is safe to do so.

Thank you again for your dedication to our communities, especially during this time. I look forward to seeing all of you again soon."

MINUTES

Walter Clayton made a motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Maryanna Zero, which was adopted by acclamation.

LIQUOR, WINE and BEER LICENSE APPLICATIONS and RENEWALS

Liquor License Renewal

- 1) *California Pizza Kitchen, 8000 Cooper Avenue – Bldg 7, Glendale, NY 11385

New Wine and/or Beer License

- 1) Chipotle Mexican Grill of Colorado LLC, 59-02 Maurice Avenue, Maspeth, NY 11378

Wine and Beer License Renewal

- 1) Sale Fresh, 68-10 Fresh Pond Road, Ridgewood, NY 11385

*Indicates Outdoor Area

The Board Chairperson reported that the Board did not receive any demolition notifications since last month's Board Meeting. He asked that anyone who has questions or comments about possible illegal construction in our Board area to please call the Board 5 office at (718) 366-1834 to report it.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

Gary Giordano

The District Manager announced that the Dept. of Sanitation is rescinding the household compost collection program, within the next two weeks, due to the low participation rate of households throughout the city. He also reported that Alternate Side of the Street Parking restrictions will go back into effect for the next two weeks, to allow the street sweeper to clean the streets along the ASP routes. He also informed everyone that the State's Budget deficit is reportedly \$13.5 Billion now.

The District Manager thanked all of the emergency responders, police, fire, sanitation workers, nurses, doctors and healthcare workers on the frontlines during the current Pandemic for their long hours of work every day, under very tough conditions, in order to serve the public.

Regarding the Penelope Avenue/74 Street area sewer replacement project, the District Manager reported that the contractor has completed all of the water and sewer main installations under this contract, and will begin final restoration of the roadway on Penelope Avenue soon, he said.

Regarding the installation of a new sewer in Calamus Avenue and in 70 Street, he said that the contractor on this project is proceeding very well, and the work remains on schedule.

He said that sewer installation project is slated for 71 Street, heading north to the LIE, but he's looking for more information about this project.

The District Manager also reported on the progress of a new water main project in Troutman Street in Ridgewood, where the contractor is installing a large trunk water main.

Regarding the COVID-19 Pandemic, the District Manager reported that the number of cases in the City grew from 2,400 new cases being treated per day on March 17th to over 8,600 new cases per day on April 6th, 2020. By May 11th, the number of new cases reported per day had dropped down to 586. He said that the Dept. of Health's data show that there were a total of 15,233 deaths in the City due to the Coronavirus since March, with another 5,283 probable deaths attributed to COVID-19 in NYC.

Kathy Masi asked for an update on the status of the Cooper Avenue Homeless Shelter. The District Manager reported that they have taken the first step toward forming a Community Advisory Board by calling a meeting with local elected officials and local civic leaders. Ms. Masi said that at that initial meeting, when she raised the question about providing personal protection equipment for staff and clients, she suggested that they contact two local pharmacies to obtain face masks, which they haven't done yet. She said that, with 120 men living inside and another 20 staff members working there, they definitely should provide some personal protective equipment to their staff and clients. She said that their next meeting is slated to be held within the next 45 days. She pointed out that their temporary Certificate of Occupancy expired yesterday, and was extended for another 45 days. She said that most of their clients who were working outside the shelter have lost their jobs due to the Pandemic.

The Board Chairperson commented that someone should bring this situation to the Commissioner's attention, because the agency is not fulfilling the requirements of their contract.

Paul Kerzner asked if the homeless men who live in the shelter are sheltering in place, or leaving the facility during the day. The Board Chairperson replied that, to his knowledge, they walk up to the Bus Stop on the corner and ride the bus, or just roam the neighborhood. Mr. Kerzner asked if there was any way to request that the Dept. of Health test the shelter residents and staff to see if they're infected with the Coronavirus because they could be spreading it all over the place. The Chairperson recommended that he contact his local Assemblywoman to request that a testing site be set up at the Cooper Avenue Homeless Shelter. Mr. Kerzner asked who represents this section of Glendale. Richard Huber replied

that this shelter is located in Assembly Member Andrew Hevesi's district. He said that we will never know who's infected with the COVID-19 virus, because revealing that type of information would be in direct conflict with HIPA regulations. The Board Chairperson agreed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Transportation and Public Transit Services Committee

John Maier

John Maier reported that the committee met in a webinar session on Tuesday, April 28th to review the MTA's proposed bus route redesign network. He said that after reviewing existing bus routes, the committee agreed to recommend merging some Queens and Brooklyn bus routes in order to provide better service for the ridership. He said that all of the transit agencies in the tri-state area are losing millions of dollars per week now, given the mandate for people to shelter in place. The MTA has temporarily shelved this project as a result, he said.

Regarding Amazon's plans to move into Rentar Plaza, he said that the committee is seeking a meeting with Amazon's representatives to find out what, if any, changes have been made to the original set of plans that were presented to the Board over a year ago.

NOMINATIONS for CB5Q EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POSITIONS

The Board Chairperson gave the floor to the District Manager to conduct nominations for Executive Committee members in elections that are scheduled to take place during next month's Board Meeting. The District Manager opened the floor to nominations.

He asked if there were any nominations for the position of Chairperson which is currently filled by Vincent Arcuri. Walter Clayton nominated Mr. Arcuri for the position of Chairperson, and he accepted.

As there were no other nominations, the District Manager proceeded to ask if there were any nominations for the position of First Vice-Chairperson, which is currently filled by Walter Sanchez. Dmytro Fedkowskyj nominated Walter Sanchez for the position of First Vice Chairperson, and he accepted. As there were no other nominations for this position, the District Manager proceeded to ask if there were any nominations for the position of Second Vice Chairperson, which is currently filled by Dmytro Fedkowskyj. John Maier nominated Dmytro Fedkowskyj to serve as Second Vice Chairperson, and he accepted. As there were no further nominations for this position, the District Manager proceeded to ask if there were any nominations for the position of Treasurer, which is currently filled by Kathy Masi. Walter Sanchez nominated Kathy Masi to serve as Treasurer, and she accepted. As there were no other nominations for this position, the District Manager proceeded to ask if there were any nominations for the position of Secretary, which is currently filled by Margaret O'Kane. Fred Hoefflerle nominated Margaret O'Kane for this position, and she accepted.

Regarding nominations for four At-Large Members of the Executive Committee, the District Manager informed everyone who the current At-Large Members currently are: Theodore Renz, Patricia Grayson, John Maier, and Paul Kerzner. He opened nominations from the floor. Margaret O'Kane nominated John Maier; John Maier nominated Theodore Renz; Dmytro Fedkowskyj nominated Patricia Grayson; Fred Hoefflerle nominated Paul Kerzner; Theodore Renz nominated Fred T. Haller; and Edward Lettau nominated Walter Clayton. All of the candidates accepted their nominations.

Patricia Grayson asked if there's any possibility of re-scheduling this election until later in the year, in light of the current situation with the Coronavirus. The Board Chairperson replied by saying that the Board hasn't received a definitive answer from local authorities yet, so he's planning to proceed with elections at next month's Board Meeting.

New Business

Paul Kerzner raised the issue of whether or not Rockaway Beach is open to the public yet this year. After a general discussion of the issue, the Board Chairperson said that our Board has to concern itself primarily with any problems that arise in our local parks, including Forest Park, which is one of the largest local parks on the eastern seaboard. He suggested that Maryann Lattanzio, as Chairperson of the Public Safety Committee, follow up on the Parks Department's social distancing policy and how it should be enforced.

On a motion from the floor, the Board Chairperson adjourned the public meeting of Community Board 5 at 9:47pm.