



Vincent Arcuri, Jr.  
Chairperson

## Community Board No. 5

Borough of Queens  
Ridgewood, Maspeth, Middle Village and Glendale  
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Gary Giordano  
District Manager

### Minutes of Community Board 5 Public Meeting

February 13, 2019

#### Board Members Present

Vincent Arcuri, Jr.; Tobias S. Bloch; Walter E. Clayton, Jr.; Patricia Crowley; Brian Dooley; Jerome Drake; Dmytro Fedkowskyj; Sarah Feldman; Steven Fiedler; Patricia Grayson; Fred T. Haller, III; Fred Hoefflerle; Richard Huber; Paul A. Kerzner; Maryann Lattanzio; Edward Lettau; John Maier; Eileen Moloney; Margaret O’Kane; Donald Passantino; Michael Porcelli; Ted Renz; Kelvin Rodriguez; Luis Rodriguez; Lee S. Rottenberg; Walter H. Sanchez; Connie Santos; Dennis Stephan; Barbara Toscano; Patrick J. Trinchese; Maryanna Zero

#### Board Members Absent

Antonetta Binanti; Robert Cermeli; Peter Comber; Deborah Cox; Mohan Gyawali-Chhetri; John Kilcommons; Michael LoCascio; Edgar Mantel; Kathy Masi; Michael O’Kane; Carmen Santana; Christopher Sperrazza; Catherine Sumsky

#### Elected Officials

Joseph Nocerino - Queens Borough President  
Melinda Katz  
Julio Salazar – US Congressional Representative  
Nydia Velazquez  
Joseph Addabbo, NYS Senator, 15<sup>th</sup> SD, and Staff  
Neil Giannelli  
Brian Barnwell - NYS Assemblyman, 35<sup>th</sup> AD  
Alison Cummings – NYS Assemblywoman  
Catherine Nolan, 37<sup>th</sup> AD  
Samantha Kung - NYS Assemblyman  
Michael Miller, 38<sup>th</sup> AD  
Alexa Arecchi – NYS Assemblyman  
Andrew Hevesi, 28<sup>th</sup> AD  
Robert Holden – NYC Council Member, 30<sup>th</sup> CD, and Chief of Staff  
Greg Mitchell  
Alexis Rodriguez – NYC Council Member  
Antonio Reynoso, 34<sup>th</sup> CD

#### Staff Present

Gary Giordano, District Manager, CB5 Queens  
Laura Mulvihill and Catherine O’Leary, Community Associates - CB5Q Staff  
P.O. Asar Sanad, P.O. Michael Berish, P.O. Brian Abbondandolo, P.O. Eugene Lee - 104<sup>th</sup> Precinct

#### GUESTS

Benjamin Fang, Queens Ledger  
David Russel, Queens Chronicle  
Stephan Albrecht, president of Glendale Volunteer Ambulance Corps  
Frank St. Jacques, Associate, Akerman LLP  
James Coakley, owner, CS Cooper Avenue LLC  
Shoshoni Fulcher, Director of Children of America  
Georgia Kromrei, Columbia School of Journalism student  
Robert Monahan, Executive Director of Greater Ridgewood Youth Council & Ridgewood Kiwanis member

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Board Chairperson Vincent Arcuri called the monthly Board Meeting to order at 7:34pm, following the Salute to the Flag. He introduced Council Member Robert Holden, who addressed the Board. Council Member Holden spoke of the recent tragic loss of Detective Brian Simonson, in a Queens robbery, and wished Sgt. Matthew Gorman a speedy recovery. He said that the alleged perp is 27 years old and had 25 prior convictions. The Councilman stated that this criminal should have been incarcerated, and doesn't understand how he was out on the street.

He said that there was a hearing of the Immigration Committee of the City Council today, and that a resolution is proposed to allow undocumented immigrants to get a driver's license. The Council Member argued against it because he has learned that some states have allowed undocumented immigrants to get licenses and there is reportedly a lot of fraud going on. He recommended to the City Council that they establish that applicants have lived in the City of NY for a certain period of time. Some states require you submit your state income tax form as proof that you lived in the state, others don't. He does not know what NYS is proposing but the Assembly and the Senate are expected to review this issue very soon. He recommends you speak with your State Representatives if you want to comment on this important matter. Council Member Holden stated that the proposal in N.Y. State is that you will not be required to have a social security card to get a license. Councilmember Holden told the City Council that this needs to be debated. He said that, at today's meeting of the Immigration Committee of the City Council, this item was proposed as a resolution, introduced, and never debated, yet voted on by the full body today.

Councilmember Holden gave an update on 78-16 Cooper Avenue. He said he spoke to DHS Commissioner Steven Banks who informed him that this site is being considered for a school, instead of a homeless shelter. He said that we need to find another location for a homeless shelter. Councilmember Holden said that he is working on a few locations – one is faith based, and the city will pay to house 12-15 homeless people in some faith based settings. He said an important goal is getting the homeless men in Ridgewood out of the cold. He said that the Council Speaker is having \$35,000 allocated for one church site, and they will try to get a few more.

Regarding the flooding on Edsall Avenue in Glendale, Council Member Holden said he will be working with Assemblyman Mike Miller to get capital money to build catch basins there, as well as curbing and a sidewalk. He stated that this is a priority, and hopes that the Board agrees.

He said that he has introduced 31 bills, and spoke about some of the legislation that he's proposed. He went on to say that when he first came into office, he was faced with the Penelope Avenue/74 Street Area Sewer Project which was stalled since late October, and the N.Y. City Dept. of Design and Construction would only say that they found ash in the soil. He said it took 2-3 months to find out, after grilling the staff at DDC, that high levels of lead were in the soil. He said he learned that the lead contaminated soil was being stored in a lot across from PS/IS 128. He spoke of how dangerous leaving high levels of lead in excavated soil, uncovered, especially across from a school was. He therefore proposed a bill in City Council which has already been approved in Committee, and will be voted on very soon. The bill states that, if lead is found in the soil when a project is taking place, the Community Board and the Council Member's Office will have to be notified. He further advised that, due to NYC soil lead content, leafy vegetables should either not be planted in urban soil, or you should raise the bed and use clean soil.

He wrapped up by stating that the Housing Bills that he sponsored may be found in his newsletter. He further stated that there is a new bill in the Council regarding cement spills. The Council Member spoke of a recent cement spill on the corner of Mt. Olivet Crescent and Eliot Avenue. This bill will require a cap on the spout in a cement truck. He said that another Bill he introduced with City Council Speaker Corey Johnson states that police can arrange for cars to be towed from hydrants, crosswalks, bike lanes, and bus lanes within minutes through the NYPD's Rotation Tow program.

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He said that he proposed other legislation this year. He thanked the Board for their time and their volunteer efforts.

### **PUBLIC HEARING Re: BSA Cal. No. 2019-15-BZ at 79-40 Cooper Avenue in Glendale for a Day Care Center**

Chairperson Arcuri introduced the next order of business, a Public Hearing Re: BSA Calendar 2019-15-BZ, at 79-40 Cooper Avenue in Glendale for a Day Care Center. He stated that the applicant seeks a Special Permit, pursuant to ZR Sections 73-19 and 42-10, to allow the development of a new Use Group 3 school (daycare) for 167 children at this site, which is located within an M1-1 zoning district.

Frank St. Jacques, from Akerman LLP, introduced himself as the Land Use Attorney for this project. He was joined by James Coakley, who represents the property owner and Shoshoni Fulcher, Director at Children of America, the chosen operator of the proposed daycare center at the site. He distributed copies of their presentation, and presented basic facts.

Mr. St. Jacques stated that a special permit is required to allow a daycare center at this site, because it is located within a manufacturing district zoned M1-1. He said that this site is located on the south side of Cooper Avenue (on pg. 3) between 79<sup>th</sup> St and 80<sup>th</sup> St. It's a single zoning lot comprised of a number of tax lots (tax map on pg. 6). The entire lot is about 84,000 sq. ft. M1-1 districts permit commercial manufacturing and certain community facility uses as of right but not daycare or school use. There's a self-storage facility currently being built on the rear portion of the site. He stated that he and project representatives met last week with the CB5Q Land Use Committee, with respect to this application, and James Coakley, the property owner, met with the Committee in the spring of 2017 to discuss the site when they were initially planning the self-storage facility. The existing neighborhood is a mix of residential, commercial and industrial uses. Residential uses near this site are located primarily north of Cooper Avenue and south of 77<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and are generally characterized by two story one and two family buildings. Industrial uses to the east, south and west are generally north of 77<sup>th</sup> Avenue and the train tracks of the Montauk Branch of the LIRR and south of Cooper Avenue. Cooper Avenue itself is a traffic corridor. The Shops at Atlas Park is located just east of the site. There are a number of nearby child related establishments along Cooper Avenue. Artistic Stitch indoor sports complex is to the west across 79<sup>th</sup> Place, and Triumph Gymnastics is directly across from the site. Party Solvers Entertainment and Elite Dancing Academy are located to the east at Valentine Place.

Mr. St. Jacques said that the building where the proposed daycare center would be located is a new one and two story building. The community facility, or the school/daycare center, will be located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the building and a commercial use is planned in the 1-story portion of the building. On the roof of the 1-story portion of the building is a playground for the daycare (see Slide 8). Slides 10-14 have drawings showing the development. He noted that the commercial tenancy has not yet been determined and will more than likely be for medical use, or some complimentary use to the daycare center. He also stated that the self-storage facility being built at the rear of the property, while it's at the same location and site, is not related to the application, and it will have a separate parking lot from the proposed school/daycare center. He said the proposed school/daycare center will have a surface parking lot with 32 spaces, for both the daycare and the planned commercial use.

Mr. St. Jacques stated that Children of America (COA) has been chosen to be the operator of the proposed school/daycare center. He said that they are a national daycare provider with 64 locations across 12 states. In Queens, they opened a location in Jackson Heights on Northern Boulevard, and they have another location in Queens Village, and they are working to open another location on Jericho Turnpike in Bellerose. He said that Children of America serves children from very young infants to school age children of about 12 years old, and they hope to be a NYC Dept. of Education Universal Pre-K provider at this site. Mr. St. Jacques stated that, in

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addition to daytime daycare and pre-k programs, COA also offer after school summer camp and enrichment programs for children. He said that they operate on weekdays, from 6am to 6:30pm, that children arrive between 6am and 9:30am and are picked up between 3pm and 6:30pm, and that there are different programs to accommodate different ages of children who will be attending their programs on this site. Mr. St. Jacques said the space has been designed to accommodate different age groups and to comply with Article 47 of the NYC Health Code (shown on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floor plans).

Mr. St. Jacques said that, when he and other project representatives presented to the Land Use Committee last week, there were concerns about parents arriving at the space without queuing on Cooper Avenue. They discussed this with COA and the traffic consultant they're working with on this project. They believe that the 32 space parking lot should provide adequate room for parents to park and/or drop off their children, which typically takes about 4-5 minutes. He said that, based on COA's experience at other locations in or like Queens, they have not had issues with queuing or overflow of the parking lot out into the street.

Mr. St. Jacques explained that this is a Special Permit application – different from a zoning variance where they would ask for a waiver of zoning. He said that, according to the zoning resolution, a special permit is considered a use that's appropriate, but needs to meet certain findings. He stated that they've submitted an application that very thoroughly explains their compliance with all four findings, as follows:

1. There's no other viable location available within a district where the use is allowed as of right. COA had conducted a search for another location of appropriate size. They needed about 10,000 sq ft to fit their programming, as well as space for an outdoor playground that would be safe and could accommodate the fencing required by the Dept. of Health, and adequate parking for drop-off and pick-ups. They were not able to find such a space within the residential districts in the surrounding area which is why they are seeking this special permit.
2. The manufacturing district where you're seeking to locate a daycare center is within 400' of the boundary of a district where the school use or daycare use is allowed as of right. The zoning district boundary for two R-4 zoning districts is within 400' so they are meeting that finding as well.
3. There is adequate separation from noise, traffic and other adverse effects that you might find in a manufacturing district. Their traffic consultant is also their overall environmental consultant who prepared an environmental assessment statement and thoroughly looked at noise, air quality and any potential adverse effects. It was determined there would be adequate separation, and with construction techniques, including specific windows, that there aren't adverse effects from noise, traffic or air quality.
4. The fourth Finding is that children would be safe travelling to and from the school on the streets. Slide 15 indicates the current high visibility crosswalks that are located in the area. This application has already been referred out to the NYC Dept. of Transportation for their review of this application, including suggestions the traffic consultant has made. They've recommended adding high visibility crosswalks to ensure safety and DOT will either undertake adding those crosswalks, or they will make additional suggestions.

The Board Chairperson opened up the floor to questions.

Walter Sanchez, Chairperson of the Zoning and Land Use Review Committee, observed that they had 32 spaces planned for the school/daycare center, but 37 people would likely work at the facility. He asked if there was any offsite parking provided to employees, i.e., in the back. Mr. St. Jacques replied that, based on experience at other locations, they weren't expecting all their employees to drive – some would be carpooling or using mass transit. No offsite parking will be provided but they believe the lot will be utilized so that during peak hours it's mostly parents dropping off their children or picking them up. He said that their employees will be parking in the

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furthest away spots; that as the day goes on, and more children arrive, the staff is staggered so that the parking lot will not be fully used at one time; and employees won't be arriving the same time that children are arriving. Mr. Sanchez asked if the parking would be used for just this facility, or would other people share it. Mr. St. Jacques replied that it's for the facility as well as the 1-story building used for commercial use at the site. Mr. Sanchez asked if they had spoken with DOT to request a new traffic signal, because automobiles travel pretty quickly on Cooper Avenue, especially at the time of the morning when drop off will occur. Mr. St. Jacques reiterated that they submitted the application and it was referred out to DOT. He said that when they receive their initial comments back, they will start the dialogue about adding signaling, or whatever other changes DOT would require.

The Chairperson recognized Edward Lettau, a member of the CB5Q Public Safety Committee, who referred to the diagram on page 10, and asked if there was any fencing that will be put up to separate the parking lot from the self-storage facility to prevent children from being abducted or dragged into the self-storage facility. Chairperson Arcuri pointed to page 11, a "hatched" line between two lots and asked if that was a fence or a wall. Mr. St. Jacques replied that there will be a separation by just a median, but the rear of the daycare site will be fenced, and more importantly, COA has a number of different safety protocols. He said children are accompanied by their caregivers from the parking lot into the COA facility, and on the way out similarly. Chairperson Arcuri suggested that a barrier be installed between those two lots. Mr. St. Jacques said he would take that suggestion to the owners.

The Chairperson recognized Rich Huber, who said we're talking about pick up and drop off and we have 32 parking spaces shared by 37 employees, as well as commercial tenants. He asked if pick-up and drop-offs would take place in the rear of the building, front of the building, or both. Mr. St. Jacques replied that as the entrance to the daycare will be located at the rear of the building, all entry will occur at the rear of the building.

The Chairperson recognized Fred Haller, who said that both Cooper Avenue and 80<sup>th</sup> Street have very high traffic volumes, and vehicular traffic is often very backed up on both of these roads. Chairperson Arcuri said that the Transportation Committee is going to have to look at this. Mr. Haller then asked how many UPK classes will there be, to which Mr. St. Jacques replied that hasn't been determined yet. Mr. Haller pointed out that there are UPK spots available and the neighborhood probably doesn't need any more UPK programs. Chairperson Arcuri said that he has received complaints regarding double parking by parents dropping off their children at the dance studio and gym across the street, and reiterated that the Transportation Committee will need to review traffic issues related to this application and make recommendations. Mr. Arcuri stated that drivers should not be permitted to make a left turn from the proposed site of the school/day care facility onto Cooper Avenue westbound.

Peggy O'Kane asked how drivers could travel to Ridgewood, if nobody can make a left turn onto Cooper Avenue. She said that a traffic signal would be needed at this site, if the proposed application is approved.

The Chair recognized Mike Porcelli, who said entering the parking lot is one problem, and exiting the parking lot is another problem. He pointed out that, the way the parking lot spaces are laid out, cars will pull in from Cooper Avenue, drive into the space and then back out too close to drivers who are pulling into the lot. He recommends that they arrange the layout so all the cars flow towards the exit, so people don't have to pull into a space and then back out toward other cars pulling into the lot.

The Chairperson recognized a Middle Village resident, who stated that she had the same concern about sharing parking spaces for the school/daycare facility with spaces for commercial tenants. She said she is also concerned about the number of Pre-K students in the proposed facility and the number of buses that will impact

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traffic flow on a very busy thoroughfare, particularly during morning and afternoon rush hours. Mr. St. Jacques said any bussing of children would be for the after school programs, where children from local public schools may be bussed to their facility in the afternoon, during non-peak hours between 3pm and 4pm. He said that no arrangements have been made to bus students to the day care center at the proposed site.

Rich Huber said that he didn't know if the correct analysis was done on the driveway as to whether small school buses could drive in from Cooper Avenue safely. Chairperson Arcuri replied that the Transportation Committee would take a look at the size and angle of the driveway. Walter Sanchez, Chairperson of the Zoning and Land Use Review Committee, said that the applicant and project representatives will be invited to the next committee meeting to discuss the application and to address the concerns that were expressed during tonight's meeting. Mr. St. Jacques assured that they will review the concerns expressed this evening. The Board Chairperson closed the public hearing and announced the next item on the Board Agenda.

### **PRESENTATION Re: Proposed DeWitt Clinton Historic Marker on the southwest corner of Maspeth Avenue and 56<sup>th</sup> Terrace**

The Chairperson reported that the next item of business, the Proposed DeWitt Clinton Historic Marker on the southwest corner of Maspeth Avenue and 56<sup>th</sup> Terrace, which was to be presented by Christina Wilkinson, was cancelled.

### **Public Forum**

Chairperson Arcuri stated that during the Public Forum, participants can speak for up to 3 minutes, no more than 3 speakers can speak on the same subject, and that there can be no foul language or personal attacks.

John Diamantis, Outreach Project, introduced himself as the Community Relations Director of Outreach, that operates a residential facility for teens, aged 12 to 19 years of age, located on Weirfield Street in Ridgewood. He said that Outreach House is a substance abuse organization with offices in Brooklyn, Queens and Long Island. He said that he is looking to find partners in the community to help combat substance abuse, and the negative impact that it has on this and so many other communities throughout New York. He said that he noticed that a young lady at tonight's meeting was handing out flyers for Narcan training, which indicated to him the need for substance abuse awareness and training in our communities. He said that Outreach offers a variety of programs. In addition to their site in Ridgewood, he said that there are other program sites in Greenpoint and Richmond Hill that serve ages well beyond teenage years. They have programs for Veterans, and for women with children. They partner with the DOE on an onsite educational program in their residential facility, and also a training institute offering Narcan training, as well as a variety of other training programs related to Social Services and different therapeutic techniques. In closing, he welcomed anyone who is a representative involved with a school, a church or any other organization that is interested in helping to combat substance abuse in this area, to please give him their name, phone number and email address so they could continue this conversation with him. He said that he believes that the best way to combat substance abuse is by developing partnerships with people in the community.

Tony DiPiazza, Executive Director, Federazione Italo-Americana di Brooklyn and Queens, thanked the Board for listening to their appeal. He introduced himself, and went on to say he came to this country in 1966 to Ridgewood. He moved out of Ridgewood in 1980, but has always kept his office on Fresh Pond Road. He said that Fresh Pond Road is where he is every single day and can proudly say he loves Ridgewood and has a vested interest in its future. For the benefit of the new board Members, he reviewed the history of the Fresh Pond Road Street Festival, as it relates to our Community Board. He said the first few years were contentious, but he proved within the first couple of years that they would be able to stage the festival in a peaceful, joyous manner

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and share their heritage with pride and joy with the community. He said that for the next 8 to 9 years, this 4-day, 5-block event was automatically approved. He said that the proceeds from this street festival enabled their organization to run a community assistance office, providing services for elderly residents in applying for benefits, such as, medicare, social security, etc. He said that in the last five years, things changed, and the Board objected to the Fresh Pond Road Festival. He said that for this reason, the Federazione had to shut down the operation of their community assistance office. He said a 2-day festival is not financially viable. He pointed out that the construction of the Metropolitan Avenue Bridge at Fresh Pond Road was a reason that the Board voted against the 4-day festival, but now that the project is completed, it should no longer be an issue. He respectfully requested that the Board reconsider granting them the 4 day, 5 block festival on Fresh Pond Road, so they can make enough money to reopen the office, and provide assistance to the community. He said that the festival also has provided free spots for not for profit organizations. He said that the Federazione has always been involved in the community, whether it is by providing streetlight decorations and Christmas lights, or whenever the 104<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council seeks a donation, they have always supported them. He reiterated his request to reinstate the festival on Fresh Pond Road to 4 days, 5 blocks.

Dr. Joseph Reina, owner and operator of JRX Pharmacy, spoke in favor of the Fresh Pond Road Festival being returned to a 4 day, 5 block festival. He's observed recently many empty storefronts along Fresh Pond Road and believes the festival has been great exposure for Fresh Pond Road, bringing new people to the area. He believes through social media promoting the festival, i.e., Ridgewood Social, it gives more exposure and the potential for entrepreneurs to consider investing in this community, and attracting new people to Ridgewood. He thanked the Board for their time.

Joseph Natasi, a member of the Federazione and Ridgewood resident, pointed out how important the Fresh Pond Road Festival is for the Italian Community. He said that it is important to celebrate the Italian American culture, and the 4 day, 5 block festival on Fresh Pond Road should be reinstated.

Luis Ross, a Glendale resident and bus driver for 26 years, said that he lives next to the freight railroad tracks in Glendale. He pointed out that he has lived there for the past 25 years. He said that lately, one of the train drivers has been blasting the horn. He said that at 1:15am, this morning, the driver blasted the horn and made different sounds with it, leaning on the horn and blasting it for a good period of time. A neighbor believes he does this on purpose. He said that the train driver blows the horn 4 times before the train crosses the intersection at 73 Place, where the cemetery is located on one side of the track and there's clear line of sight on the other side. Mr. Ross said there's a difference between blowing a horn and blasting a horn, and this horn is blasting, he said. He stated there is no reason for him to be blasting the horn, and this is an abuse. He contacted the company, and was told that by law he has to blow the horn. He said the other drivers toot the horn and are not disturbing the peace in the community.

Chairperson Arcuri pointed out that this is a problem along the LIRR in the residential communities. He said they are currently looking into having the horns on the LIRR Mainline and Montauk Line built into the crossing, so the sound is low. The question is if they redesignated this portion of the LIRR as a freight yard, can that be done also. He said that the Board will contact local elected officials about this situation. He asked Joe Nocerino to make sure this situation is addressed.

Crystal Wolfe, founder of Catering for the Homeless, Inc. said that her organization has provided almost 25,000 meals for the homeless and poor throughout the city. She is working on more drives for the homeless, and asks everyone to support her efforts. She said that her friend, Regina Shanley, who sits on CB2, does an annual sock and glove drive sponsored by the United Forty Civic Association in Woodside from January 21<sup>st</sup> to February 28<sup>th</sup>. Socks or gloves can be brought to 13 locations, United Forty Civic Association, Office of Community Board 2,

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Queens, Councilmembers Jimmy Van Bramer and Bob Holden, State Senators Michael Gianaris and Joseph Addabbo, Assembly Members Brian Barnwell and Andrew Hevesi, St. Sebastian's Academy and Parish Center, Catholic Migration Office and Catering for the Homeless. She said that she is willing to make pick-ups, and said this is a critical time for the homeless, and they really need our help. She said that homeless people need help year round, and she likes to hold her drives in the fall and spring. The next toiletry drive begins on March 6<sup>th</sup> and runs thru April 20<sup>th</sup>, with Queen of Angels parish, and Assembly Members Brian Barnwell and Andrew Hevesi and State Senator Joseph Addabbo participating. She welcomed any other organizations who would be willing to use their offices as a drop off center. She said that the donated items are given to All Saints Church whenever they need them. Anyone interested in volunteering can contact her via email at: [cateringforthehomeless@gmail.com](mailto:cateringforthehomeless@gmail.com). She said that she'll distribute flyers about the next toiletry drive to next month's meeting.

Ms. Wolfe announced that the Friends of Maspeth Library has begun holding regular meetings, and thanked Board Members Deborah Cox, Jerry Drake and Maryann Lattanzio for joining as members. Their last meeting was held on Monday, and the Chartering Ceremony will be scheduled for Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at the Maspeth Library. The Friends' next meeting will be held on Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup> and all are welcome to attend. The Agenda includes a discussion of the types of community events that they might participate in, by providing fun, educational and historical programs. She thanked the Board for their support.

Claudine Thuilot, a resident of Middle Village, asked the Board for help in limiting overdevelopment in her residential neighborhood. She said that she lives in an attached house near Juniper Valley Park, and has noticed that, over the last two years, 9 out of 10 times that houses are sold, she sees them being converted into 2 family homes. Essentially, 18' wide house houses have been converted into two families, and sometimes, illegal 3 families, which is hard to prove when you have a 3<sup>rd</sup> family living in the basement. She believes the zoning laws that legally allow for 2 family homes will overload the community's infrastructure, schools, and parking. She said she is now facing a brick wall when she walks out into her back yard, due to the bumping out of building next-door, and the quality of life in this community is going down. She wants to know what is being done, and she doesn't feel as though it is being addressed. Chairperson Arcuri said he would refer the matter to the Zoning and Land Use Review Committee. Fred Haller said if work is being done and you don't see a permit, a complaint should be filed immediately. Chairperson Arcuri suggested that if she has specific addresses, to call the Board Office so the staff can check the Building Information System, and the NYC DOB Representative can be notified.

Paul Kerzner, a Board member, said that the bottom line is that the Dept. of City Planning is not interested in downzoning any neighborhoods in the city. He said that the Mayor's policy is to create more housing, more density, and areas that have one family homes could go to two and three family homes, and areas like Ridgewood that have 4 to 6 family homes could go to 8 to 12 families. He said that this is happening as-of-right, and several attempts to propose rezoning, as per the Ridgewood Rezoning Proposal that was approved by this Board last year, is not moving along, and has been brushed off by City Planning. He said that he believes that in order to be successful, we must involve our elected officials, who have good relations with the Mayor, to see if they can persuade him to allow this request for downzoning. He said that if the Dept. of City Planning's position changes, there's a possibility that Councilmember Bob Holden will submit legislation to downsize parts of CB5Q and City Planning will embrace it. He said that is the only way we can protect the housing stock in our communities.

As there were no further speakers, the Chairperson closed the Public Forum.

### **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

**Vincent Arcuri, Jr.**

The Board Chairperson introduced staff members present at the meeting: District Manager Gary Giordano, and Community Associates Laura Mulvihill and Catherine O'Leary.



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The Board Chairperson welcomed representatives of local elected officials to address the Board. On behalf of the Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, Joe Nocerino announced that the Borough President's Internship Program in Queens Borough Hall is accepting applications for spring and summer interns now. He welcomed any students interested to either visit the Borough President's office, or go to the [www.queensbp.org](http://www.queensbp.org) website, or contact him directly, as he runs the program. He read a statement that on January 18<sup>th</sup>, Borough President Melinda Katz made the first 71 appointments to her Queens Complete Count Committee (CCC) with regard to the Census. Many of the appointees are also members of the Queens General Assembly and Immigration Task Force, who will strategize how to assure everyone is counted, among other tasks. He said that how we are represented in Congress, and the amount of Federal money our borough receives for schools, infrastructure and other sectors depends on the census. He said that the count will be done mostly online, and may include the aforementioned citizenship question, making the Queen's CCC's task of ensuring everyone is counted in Queens vital. For more information, you can go to her website at [www.queensbp.org](http://www.queensbp.org).

Chairperson Arcuri announced that they had to leave, but members of the 104<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Affairs Unit, P.O. Asar Sanad and P.O. Michael Berish, and the NCO's from Sector D in Middle Village, P.O. Brian Abbondandolo and P.O. Eugene Lee were present tonight.

On behalf of Congresswoman Nydia Velasquez, Julio Salazar reported that the Congresswoman is working with her colleagues on both sides of the aisle to come up with a resolution to prevent another government shutdown, with the deadline looming this Friday. Their office will share any information that they receive with the Board and the District Manager. He said that the Congresswoman wants to extend condolences to the friends and family of the detective in the 102<sup>nd</sup> Precinct who was shot and killed today, and to thank all police officers for their hard work. He said that their office will reach out to Community Board 5, Queens regarding the 2020 Census Count, and that they're planning to host a meeting in their office for local community boards and agencies to discuss ways to get the message out to the entire community, about how important it is for everyone to be counted in the upcoming census.

On behalf of Council Member Antonio Reynoso, Alex Rodriguez announced their office is assisting PS 305, on Seneca Avenue, with a Community Resource Fair on March 9, 2019. He also provided some L train updates. He said that MTA President Andy Byford and DOT Commissioner Trottenberg met today with what was supposed to be a meeting with elected officials. He said that Council Members were unable to attend the meeting, and there has been a lack of transparency at the MTA to disclose their plan for the L Train. He said that recently, the MTA installed a new ventilation system to address complaints about the smell on some of the L Train stops in Williamsburg. He said that the Councilmember will allocate \$1M for Participatory Budgeting items this year. He said that PS 239 in Ridgewood is requesting \$350,000 for new computers, and encouraged anyone 11 years and older, who lives in the 34<sup>th</sup> Council District to vote during this session of Participatory Budgeting.

State Senator Joseph Addabbo thanked all the members of CB5Q for all the work they do, and he looks forward to working with the Board over the next year. He announced that he is optimistic that up in Albany they will be done with the NYS Budget by April 1<sup>st</sup>. He encouraged anyone who has an issue or an opinion about the \$175M budget that runs our state, or any other legislative matter, to weigh in and to please let him know any questions or concerns you may have.

He announced four upcoming events: a Job Fair co-hosted with Central Queens Y on Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 2pm at 108<sup>th</sup> Street in Forest Hills; a Mammogram Van on Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 5pm at Maspeth Federal Savings Bank, co-hosted by Assembly Member Brian Barnwell; a recycling event co-hosted by Assembly Member Mike Miller to include E-waste, electronic waste, paper, American Flags, eyeglasses, clothing, and small furniture on Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> in the Forest Park Bandshell Parking Lot from 10am to 2pm; a Senior

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Only Job Fair for ages 55 and over, on Friday, May 31<sup>st</sup> from 10am to 2pm at 80-02 Kew Gardens Road, co-hosted by the Queens Community House.

On behalf of Assembly Member Hevesi, Alexa Arrechi thanked the Board for their support on the Assemblyman's Home Stability Support Proposal, as well as other Community Boards, over 120 Assembly Members, 20 State Senators, and that number continues to grow. She said a rally was held in Albany on Tuesday with advocates and supporters, and a press conference today, in City Hall Park, which included Council Members Holden, Grodenchik and Levin. She said that the HSS Proposal has extensive support, but the Governor needs to fund the program. She provided call sheets on how you can contact the Governor directly to let him know you support this initiative to keep people in their homes, and asked for everybody's help by making calls to the Governor.

Assembly Member Brian Barnwell announced again that he is hosting a free Mammogram Van on February 27th in Woodside from 9am to 4:30pm, and urged residents to make an appointment for this free screening, or the other event that is co-hosted by State Senator Addabbo on April 17<sup>th</sup> at Maspeth Federal Savings Bank. He said to call their office at (718) 651-3185 to make an appointment as spots are filling up. He is also bringing multiple women's rights groups together for a Woman Empowerment Event which will focus on Domestic Violence in the Woodside Library on Wednesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> from 12pm to 3pm. He also reported that he is working on legislation that would require developers who are looking to build high rise luxury condos, and offering 60% or higher of AMI, to obtain Community Board Approval as part of the review process.

On behalf of Assembly Member Catherine Nolan, Allison Cummings announced that Assembly Member Nolan has been back and forth to Albany during this Budget session. She announced that during the Spring and Summer breaks, there are a number of STEM related programs being offered to K-12 students all over the city, and urged anyone interested to explore them. She said this information has been posted on Facebook.

The Chairperson recognized and thanked members of the Press Corps: Benjamin Fung from the Queens Ledger and David Russell from the Queens Chronicle. He also recognized Stephan Albrecht, the new president of the Glendale Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Columbia Journalism School student Georgia Kromrei, and Bob Monahan, the Executive Director of the Greater Ridgewood Youth Council and Ridgewood Kiwanis member.

### **MINUTES**

The Board Chairperson asked Board members to review the minutes of last month's Board Meeting which was conducted on January 9, 2019. The minutes were adopted by acclamation on a motion by Jerry Drake, and seconded by Barbara Toscano.

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

The Board Chairperson read aloud the list of establishments in the Community Board 5 area that are in the process of applying for liquor, wine and beer licenses since the last monthly Board Meeting on January 9, 2019. Each Board member received a copy of the list.

##### **Liquor License Renewals**

- 1) **Taqueria Kermes Inc.**, 66-36 Fresh Pond Road, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 2) **Assembly Bar & Grill Inc.**, 73-02 Cooper Avenue, Glendale, NY 11385

##### **New Wine, and/or Beer License**

- 1) **Los Andes Meat Corp.**, 60-54 Metropolitan Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385 (Grocery)

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### **Demolition Notices**

The Board Chairperson reported that the Board received the following demolition notices since the last monthly Board Meeting on January 9, 2019: **66-53 Jay Avenue, Maspeth (Garage); 64-72 84<sup>th</sup> Place, Middle Village (Garage), and 1616 Summerfield Street, Ridgewood.**

The Board Chairperson asked Board members to remain vigilant and to advise the Board 5 staff about any questionable construction work in the Board area, so they can investigate further.

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

#### **Gary Giordano**

The District Manager informed everyone that they can expect to see some nighttime resurfacing this year. DOT is committed to resurfacing certain portions of Metropolitan Avenue, Fresh Pond Road and Myrtle Avenue at night. He said he has been after DOT, as far as Fresh Pond Road and Metropolitan Avenue go, since the middle of last year. He reported that since the Metropolitan Avenue Bridge Project is done, NYC DOT wants to come in the spring and resurface Metropolitan Avenue from Flushing Avenue to Fresh Pond Road and from Fresh Pond Road to Pleasantview Street. He said that DOT plans to resurface Fresh Pond Road from Myrtle Avenue to Bleecker Street, and he would like them to resurface to the edge of where the Bridge Project ended. He said that he believes that Myrtle Avenue, from Cooper Avenue to 76<sup>th</sup> Street, and 88<sup>th</sup> Street to 80<sup>th</sup> Street, will also be resurfaced at night. He said that he had requested that DOT do more night resurfacing in our Board area, and he's glad to see that more money has been allocated in the budget for resurfacing this year.

The District Manager reported that the sewer project in the vicinity of Penelope Avenue and 74<sup>th</sup> Street is moving west. He reported that at least two chambers in the intersection of Penelope Avenue and 74<sup>th</sup> Street have been built. He said that he hasn't gotten a firm commitment yet for a new sewer project on 77<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Glendale, but he informed Brian Dooley that there will likely be a significant sewer project there to alleviate the problem of sewer backups during heavy rains. He said that our Board pushed for the Calamus Avenue sewer project, which turned out to be more of a mess than it should have been. And, thankfully, Community Board 2 supported our request for a new sewer main project on 69<sup>th</sup> Street, he said. He went on to say how heavy rain storms impacted the area around Middle Village around the park, and how the homes on Penelope Avenue at the bottom of the hill had up to 2' of water during some of the heavy rain storms, when 3-4 inches fall within a half hour to 45 minutes. He explained that we are trying to get our flooding problems solved by getting the city to build more capacity.

The District Manager announced that there will be a sewer project on 71 Street in Middle Village soon, that we did not ask for. He said that he wasn't sure why they need that much capacity because a sewer pipe was installed under the railroad tracks years ago, when they built a big sewer chamber between Phillie's Restaurant and Our Lady of Hope (in the dead end of 74<sup>th</sup> Street). Now, they plan to go under the tracks again with another sewer line into 71<sup>th</sup> Street, down the dead end of Our Lady of Hope's block, and install a new sewer line north to the LIE.

The District Manager urged everyone to put their garbage and recycling out the night before Sanitation is coming because once snow season comes, there is no way of telling what route they're on at any specific time. He said that our Board continues to be 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Borough of Queens as far as recycling tonnage goes, and pointed out that we don't have the population that other Boards in Queens have.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Executive Committee**

#### **Vincent Arcuri**

The Board Chairperson reported that the Executive Committee met on February 11<sup>th</sup> in the Board 5 office. The first item of business was to interview all of the applicants and review their Street Festival Applications. He said that since there was no quorum at their meeting, the Committee took no position and therefore the Board will vote as a committee of the whole on all applications, one at a time.

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**1) Ridgewood Local Development Corp. Myrtle Avenue Festival**

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

SUNDAY – **APRIL 28TH** - 12 Noon to 6pm (Street closing 10am to 7pm)

**SPONSOR: RIDGEWOOD LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORP.**

Pat Grayson made a motion to approve, seconded by Walter Clayton. District Manager Gary Giordano took the vote. There were -29- in favor, -1- opposed, and -1- not voting as he is employed by the RLDC.

**2) Maspeth Chamber Of Commerce-Lions-Kiwanis Grand Avenue Festival**

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

SUNDAY – **JUNE 9TH** - 12 Noon to 6pm (Street closing 10am to 7pm)

**SPONSOR: MASPETH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE-LIONS-KIWANIS CLUB**

Dmytro Fedkowskyj made a motion to approve, seconded by Walter Clayton. Maryanna Zero disclosed that she was on the Board of the Maspeth Kiwanis Club. District Manager Gary Giordano took the vote. There -30- in favor; -1- opposed; -0- abstentions; and -0- not voting.

**3) Myrtle Avenue Festival in Ridgewood**

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

SUNDAY - **JULY 21st** - 12 Noon to 6pm (Street closing 10am to 7pm)

**SPONSOR: KIWANIS CLUB OF GLENDALE**

Brian Dooley made a motion to approve, seconded by Walter Clayton. As there was no further discussion, District Manager Gary Giordano took a vote. There were -28- in favor, with one Board member opposed, -0- abstentions; and -2- not voting.

**4) Fresh Pond Road Street Festival**

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

THURSDAY - **SEPT. 5th** - 6:30pm to 10:30pm

FRIDAY - **SEPT. 6th** – 6:30pm to 10:30pm

SATURDAY - **SEPT. 7th** – 6:30pm to 10:30pm

SUNDAY - **SEPT. 8th** – 6:30pm to 10:30pm

**SPONSOR: FEDERAZIONE ITALO-AMERICANA di BROOKLYN and QUEENS**

John Maier made a motion that was seconded by Peggy O’Kane, to deny the proposed 4-Day Street Festival on Fresh Pond Road from Thursday, September 5 to Sunday, September 8, 2019. Sarah Feldman clarified that although her social media group advertised the Street Fair, they did not accept any money and she was free to vote. She also said she was saddened that their community assistance office closed due to lack of funds, because running a 2-day street fair they weren’t able to raise enough money to run their program for the Italian community. She said she would like more information on how this is negatively affecting their bottom line. Dmytro Fedkowskyj clarified that the motion is to deny the 4-day festival as presented, and John Maier affirmed that the Board is voting on the motion to deny the 4-day festival. After general discussion, the Board voted on the motion to deny the application for a 4-Day Street Festival on Fresh Pond Road, which failed to carry by a vote of -13- in favor; -18- opposed; -0- abstentions; and -0- not voting.

After further discussion, Walter Sanchez made a motion in favor of the application to hold a 4-day festival on Fresh Pond Road, which was seconded by Walter Clayton. The Chairperson recognized John Maier, who said he thinks that it’s a very inappropriate use of the north/south street in our community. He said that it affects local bus service, it does not just take a day of the festival where people come in the morning, and leave in the evening. He said the event vendors often show up one or two days before the festival, and stick around. Last year, he said that there were rides sitting on Fresh Pond Road affecting traffic for at least a week afterwards. He said that the city is not allowing other agencies and organizations to hold street festivals, and we really need to

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work with the city to see how we can better serve all of our community. He said that this is not a good use of our streets, and this festival is unlike the others as it spans over four days, and that is why we have been separating it from the other applications.

Walter Sanchez said this Street Festival has been run for a couple of decades, and store owners have said that it helps bring in more people to Fresh Pond Road. He said they do a good job, it's clean and although the rides may not get off the street as soon as they should, Forest Avenue is an alternate north/south route to Myrtle Avenue. He said the Federazione does a great job for the community. He said that the city placed a moratorium on Street Festivals because there were a number of organizations that really did not do the right thing by the city. He said that is not the case here.

Eileen Moloney said that the Festival on Fresh Pond Road is always an exciting time for children and the community, and she thinks it's great that they give so much back to the community by helping immigrants, and local sports organizations.

Rich Huber said that as a member of Glendale Kiwanis, it is very difficult for charitable organizations to compete with government organizations and for grant money programs, and this is one way that a good organization with a good track record can raise money and help our community help our seniors. He said that unfortunately, this is one of the few ways left that they can make money.

John Maier pointed out that the paperwork submitted by the Federazione was not as complete as the other applicants' submissions. He said that the Federazione submitted a one-page accounting of their event, while the other organizations submitted a 4-page summary of their costs and expenses.

Barbara Toscano said that the Federazione is a good organization, and that it is important to promote Italian Heritage as there are a number of Italian residents in the community. She said that now that the construction of the Metropolitan Avenue Bridge over the LIRR at Fresh Pond Road is over, the city will probably approve the four day festival again.

Sarah Feldman said that she attends the Festival every year, and enjoys the diversity of this event.

The Board Chairperson called for a vote on the motion on the floor, to approve the application for a 4-Day Street Festival on Fresh Pond Road, which carried by a vote of -18- in favor; -13- opposed; -0- abstentions; and -0- not voting.

### 5) Myrtle Avenue Festival in Ridgewood

**MYRTLE AVENUE btw WYCKOFF AVE AND FRESH POND ROAD in Ridgewood - 11 blocks**

**SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup> - 12 Noon to 6pm (Street closing 10am to 7pm)**

**SPONSOR: MYRTLE AVENUE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**

Pat Grayson made a motion to approve, seconded by Luis Rodriguez. As there was no further discussion, District manager Gary Giordano took a vote which carried by a vote of -27- in favor, with one Board member opposed, -0- abstentions; and -2- not voting.

Chairperson Arcuri said the next item discussed at the Executive Committee Meeting was the Community Board's Internal Budget, which included modifications to the existing budget and discussion of how we plan to use the one-time \$42,500 a year allocation, provided by the City Council. The District Manager provided copies of his "Proposed Respect Promotion Program". He explained that the first page represents a tracking of our budget prepared by staff member Laura Mulvihill. He pointed out that the original budget was \$233,911, and to that, \$54,000 was added. Almost \$12,000 was added to cover Union and Managerial Salary Increases, and a one-time increase of \$42,500 was added by City Council members favorable to Community Boards, including the Speaker and Fernando Cabrera, the Majority Whip. The District Manager said that most Boards have been scrambling to come up with ideas on how to spend this money without being wasteful, since this allocation may not be spent on new hires, or increases in staff salaries. He said that if we continue spending as is, there would be a significant budget surplus, and that this money cannot be rolled over into the next fiscal year.

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He said that some ideas for how to spend this allocation include carpeting and painting the office and upgrading three office computers. The District Manager said that he has an idea for a Community Program that addresses respect – particularly, issues related to women and girls not being respected enough, and promoting environmental respect, as well. The District Manager said that he is considering digitizing some of our files, to reduce the volume of paper in our office. Dmytro Fedkowskyj asked for a clarification of what he meant by digitizing some files i.e., 30%. The District Manager replied that it depends on how much it will cost to digitize each page. Mr. Fedkowskyj asked again to provide a percentage to target, and the District Manager replied that he did not think we could physically do more than 30% of the office files, due to the coordination and amount of work involved. Walter Clayton asked how many years the files go back, to which DM Giordano said about 25 years. He asked about the legal requirements for storing files, and Chairperson Arcuri referred to Fred Haller who concurred that for reference, there is no timeline. Further discussion ensued regarding storing staff timesheets for 7 years, etc. The District Manager said that we have Committee files that he does not want to give up. Chairperson Arcuri noted that the Dept. of City Planning may no longer provide blue prints, but may be sending discs instead, which may require Community Boards to purchase an engineering type printer. Lee Rottenberg suggested purchasing a scanner. Rich Huber said that the TV screen being used at the Transportation Committee Meeting is too small, and he suggested buying a larger screen.

Jerry Drake asked for more information about the District Manager's recommendation for Community Program that addresses respect, particularly how he intends to run it, possibly buying radio ads. The District Manager replied that he would like to entice the media to this issue, and get other Community Boards to do something similar. He said that he would start with local papers, and go to radio. He pointed out that when he saw sexually explicit programming, related to women, on QPTV, he called the station to complain, and they said it was Freedom of Speech. He said that he has a problem with how women are treated in certain situations, and that he would like to involve some High Schools with regard to this issue. He said that the CB5Q Graffiti Removal Program that began in 2003 cleaned up 30,000 sites, and he intends to make this work. Jerry Drake saluted his efforts, and offered to help in any way he could. Brian Dooley said he supports this program 100 percent. One thing that upset him as much was the NYS Legislation that passed this year regarding abortion. He said that we need to promote a respect for life. He believes that late term and partial birth abortion is infanticide, and attention needs to be brought to bear on this issue. Sarah Feldman thanked the District Manager for the respect promotion.

Fred Haller made a motion to accept the CB5Q Budget Modifications as proposed, seconded by Walter Clayton. The Board Chairperson requested a Roll Call vote on the recommendation, which carried unanimously by a vote of -30- in favor; -0- opposed; -0- abstentions; and -0- not voting.

## **Zoning and Land Use Review Committee**

### **Walter Sanchez**

Committee Chair Walter Sanchez reported that Metro Mall representatives made a presentation to the Board last month, and came to the Committee Meeting on February 5<sup>th</sup>, regarding their proposal to install a large curb cut, driveway and two additional loading bays on the east side of the Metropolitan Avenue front of Metro Mall/Rentar Plaza, at 66-26 Metropolitan Avenue, in Middle Village. He lamented on how well the Community Board process works in this situation. He said that the applicant met with the DOT and the Buildings Department and didn't seem to care too much about potential gridlock on Metropolitan Avenue, but we do. After the meeting, a number of people approached the applicant with the idea to extend the wall, as they want the trucks to stay inside the property, the way they are on the west side of the property. The applicant went back to the drawing board, extended the wall, and made it so that the trucks are off the street, which the Committee supports. As the applicant made significant changes to the plan, making room for trucks to turn

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within the property and not interfere with traffic on Metropolitan Avenue, the Committee recommends approval of the application as presented to them on February 5, 2019. The Committee requests that the applicant plant trees every 20' along the sidewalk in accordance with Parks Department regulations, if possible. Toby Bloch questioned in the diagram there is a 42' trailer, not the most common trailer seen in the city, crossing a yellow line going into oncoming traffic – which is an illegal motion. The Board Chairperson requested a Roll Call vote on the committee recommendation which then carried by a vote of -27- in favor; -3- opposed; -0- abstentions; and -0- not voting.

Chairman Sanchez requested that representatives of the proposed Daycare Center at 79-40 Cooper Avenue attend their next Zoning and Land Use Committee Meeting to discuss their concerns related to traffic congestion and parking.

### **Public Safety Services Committee**

#### **Maryann Lattanzio**

Committee Chairperson Maryann Lattanzio reported that the Committee met with the 104<sup>th</sup> Precinct's Community Affairs Det. Thomas Bell on Wednesday, January 16<sup>th</sup> in the Board Office, to review the most recent crime statistics for our Precinct as well as to identify crime patterns throughout the precinct. She said that the committee reviewed the Crime Statistics for the 104<sup>th</sup> Precinct for the end of 2018, as compared to the same time period in 2017. She reported that the incidence of Murder remained the same, 2; while the incidence of Rape increased by 1; the number of Robberies decreased by 5 (from 142 to 137); the number of Burglaries decreased by 41 (251 to 210); the number of Felony Assaults decreased by 23 (from 183 to 160); and the incidence of Grand Theft Auto decreased by 29 (from 147 to 118). She reported that the incidence of Grand Larceny was the only major crime that increased by 14 over last year's statistics, probably due to the mailbox phishing.

Ms. Lattanzio said that NYPD statistics show that crime in the 104<sup>th</sup> Precinct has decreased by 87%, from 1990 to 2018. Det. Bell said crime was down significantly in the past 28 days, however there was a significant amount of package thefts due to the Holiday Season – 20 of them. Det. Bell stated that the Police Department advises home owners to install cameras, which greatly assists police in identifying and apprehending thieves.

Ms. Lattanzio reported that there was an attempted kidnapping of an 11 year old girl, on her way to IS 77, in Ridgewood, on Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, at approximately 7:50am, when she was approached by a 42 year old male. He cornered the girl and was trying to abduct her until a local resident came out of his home and engaged the perpetrator, a known sex offender, until the police arrived. When she questioned Det. Bell about providing schools with names and pictures of known sex offenders to be distributed to parents, she said that the precinct provides this type of information to schools only when a sex offender moves into the neighborhood. She said that parents can look online at a sex offender registry.

Ms. Lattanzio reported that Det. Bell informed everyone that the Ridgewood Kiwanis Club is sponsoring a Safe Haven Program where businesses place a sign in their window to let a child know that they can go into that store for protection. Community volunteers have been going into stores to inform storeowners about this program and ask them to enroll in it.

Ms. Lattanzio announced that the committee has been working with the 104<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct to offer local residents training in how to administer Narcan in order to save a person's life in the event of a drug overdose. She said that State Assemblyman Mike Miller is sponsoring a free Narcan training session that is scheduled for 7pm, on Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup> in the Peter Cardella Senior Center at 68-52 Fresh Pond Road, in Ridgewood. She said that all are welcome to attend, but RSVP is required by calling (718) 805-0950, or via email to [isabellac@nyassembly.gov](mailto:isabellac@nyassembly.gov).

Ms. Lattanzio reported that the committee also discussed Code Blue, when the temperature drops below 30 degrees, or there is 5 or more inches of snow. She advised that if you see a Homeless Person, please call 311 or send a text your NCO.

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Ed Lettau commented that there has already been one murder this year, in Ridgewood.

### **Transportation Services Committee**

#### **Toby Bloch**

Toby Bloch reported that the Transportation Committee met in the Board Office on Tuesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>. He reported that the committee discussed the L Train service disruption that is planned to begin in April of this year, and essentially concurs with elected official reports that the Transportation Authority is providing incomplete information about what their plans are and what the implications will be for their ridership.

He said that the committee also discussed how the M Train line service continues to be disrupted by preparations that were part of the L train upgrade, which has caused a lot of confusion.

He said that the committee briefly reviewed the Rentar Plaza project and how it will impact traffic flow on Metropolitan Avenue.

The Board Chairperson reported that construction of the second span of the Kosciuszko Bridge is moving along quickly. He said that the contractor is about to connect to the land with the deck.

Mr. Bloch said that the committee also reviewed the Safe Streets to School project in the vicinity of PS 239, on Weirfield Street in Ridgewood. He said that the Committee found that the alignment that DOT is proposing for a sidewalk bump out, on Weirfield Street at Myrtle Avenue, is problematic, and asked DOT representatives to reconsider their design plans for this project.

Mr. Bloch commended District Manager Gary Giordano on his advocacy for night time resurfacing, and his outreach to DOT for trying to collapse the time between milling, surfacing and striping. He said that many times, DOT will mill a street, and leave it milled for many weeks, then come and pave, and many weeks later come and stripe it. He said that the committee reviewed numerous traffic requests at their meeting.

He announced that their next meeting is scheduled for 7:30pm Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019 in the Board 5 office.

As there was no further business to come before the Board, the Board Chairperson adjourned the public meeting of Community Board 5, Queens on a motion from the floor at 10:09pm.