



# Community Board No. 5

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

Gary Giordano  
*District Manager*

## Minutes of Community Board 5 Public Meeting January 8, 2020

### Board Members Present

Vincent Arcuri, Jr; Antonetta Binanti; Robert Cermeli; Walter E. Clayton, Jr.; Patricia Crowley; Brian Dooley; Jerome Drake; Dmytro Fedkowskyj; Steven Fiedler; Fred T. Haller; Fred Hoeflerle; Richard Huber; Paul A. Kerzner; Maryann Lattanzio; Edward Lettau; Mike Liendo; John Maier; Patricia Maltezos; Edgar Mantel; Katherine Masi; Eileen Moloney; Michael O’Kane; Donald Passantino; Michael Porcelli; Kenneth Rehberger; Theodore Renz; Kelvin Rodriguez; Luis Rodriguez; Lee S. Rottenberg; Walter H. Sanchez; Carmen Santana; Dennis Stephan; Megan Tadio; Gyanal Thapa; Barbara Toscano; Patrick J. Trinchese; Michaeline Von Drathen; Maryanna Zero; Nan Zhang

### Board Members Absent

Patricia Grayson; Margaret O’Kane; Connie Santos; Catherine Sumsky; Crystal Wolfe

### Elected Officials

Acting Queens Borough President Sharon Lee, and Staff Joseph Nocerino  
Cristian Romero – U. S. Representative Grace Meng, 6<sup>th</sup> C.D.  
Julio Salazar – U. S. Representative Nydia Velazquez, 7<sup>th</sup> C.D.  
Sarah Spellman – State Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, 15<sup>th</sup> SD  
Antziri Campos – NYS Senator Michael Gianaris, 12<sup>th</sup> SD  
Kevin Wisniewski – NYS Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi, 28<sup>th</sup> AD  
Lesi Hreb – NYS Assemblyman Brian Barnwell, 30<sup>th</sup> AD  
Alison Cummings – NYS Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, 37<sup>th</sup> AD  
Christine Stoll – NYS Assemblyman Michael Miller, 38<sup>th</sup> AD  
Charles Vavruska - NYC Council Member Robert Holden, 30<sup>th</sup> CD

### Staff Present

Gary Giordano, District Manager, CB5 Queens  
Catherine O’Leary and Laura Mulvihill, Community Associates - CB5Q Staff

### GUESTS

Shruti Murti, Angela Xiong and David Yurman – Partnership Specialists, US Census Bureau – NYC Office  
P.O. Michael Berrish and P.O. Asar Sanad– Community Affairs Unit, 104<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct  
P.O. Eugene Lee and P.O. Brian Abbondandolo – CPO Unit – Glendale, 104<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct  
Benjamin Fang, Queens Ledger; David Russell, Queens Chronicle; Max Parrott, Ridgewood Times

Board Chairperson Vincent Arcuri called the monthly Board Meeting to order at 7:32pm, following the Salute to the Flag. He informed everyone that tonight’s Board Meeting will be livestreamed by Mark Moss of Harish

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Studios in Ridgewood. He said that the video is being uploaded onto YouTube, and will appear on our Community Board website at [www.nyc.gov/qnscb5](http://www.nyc.gov/qnscb5) in the next few days.

He announced the first item on the Board Agenda as:

**Presentation – “Make Compost, Not Trash” Regarding Organics Waste Collection  
by Allie Gumas, Outreach Coordinator, NYC Dept. of Sanitation  
Bureau of Recycling and Sustainability**

Allie Gumas encouraged everyone to participate in the Dept. of Sanitation’s brown bin program by discarding any organic matter, including food scraps, bones, coffee grounds, tea bags, plant trimmings, etc., into these bins, and then put it out for collection on their regular recycling day each week. She said that the Dept. of Sanitation collection trucks pick up the organic matter once a week, regardless of holidays, unlike the collection of recycled paper, plastic and glass that gets picked up on the following week, whenever your recycling collection day is a holiday.

She pointed out that the rate of participation is only 10% of what it was originally expected to be. She said that her team is recruiting volunteers to help canvass this area, by going door-to-door to ask local residents about their participation in the City’s organics recycling program, and how it could be improved. She explained that apartment buildings with 10 or more units have not been automatically enrolled in this program, and they’re hoping to be able to increase their participation rate this year. For more information about how to enroll a large multiple dwelling in this program, she said tenants could fill out and mail in a postcard that was distributed, New Collection Service Available, and/or visit their website at: [www.nyc.gov/organics](http://www.nyc.gov/organics).

She also distributed bundles of leaf bags to collect yard waste, leaves, grass clippings, and plant materials. She informed everyone that this Spring, she and her team will host several local community events, including clean ups, street tree care events, and free compost giveaways. She welcomed everyone to learn more about how to compost their food scraps at a free event that is titled Compost Trivia, from 7 to 9pm on Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, at the Footlight Bar, 465 Seneca Avenue, in Ridgewood.

In closing, Ms. Gumas also reminded everyone that single-use plastic carryout bags will be banned in New York State, beginning on March 1<sup>st</sup> this year. She said that local businesses will begin collecting a 5-cent fee on paper carryout bags from customers, except for anyone who pays their bill with Food Stamps or WIC coupons. She pointed out that New Yorkers use 9.37 billion carryout bags per year, the vast majority of which aren’t recycled and end up in the City’s waste stream, littering sidewalks and street trees, or clogging up our sewer drains. Reusable shopping bags were distributed.

In response to a question from the floor, Ms. Gumas said that take-out food purchases and deliveries are exempt from this regulation. Kelvin Rodriguez asked if the deadline to comply with this law could be delayed. She replied that she did not anticipate any delay in enacting this law.

Patrick Trinchese, a Board member, said that, to his knowledge, 3 cents of the 5-cent charge per bag will be allocated to the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation, while the remaining 2 cents may be used to defray the cost of purchasing paper bags for each store’s customers.

Richard Huber asked where the compost material that’s collected by the Dept. of Sanitation ends up. Ms. Gumas replied that the City has been operating a compost plant in the Bronx, and in October, a new compost plant opened in Staten Island. In addition, she said that the Department of Sanitation transports truckloads of excess capacity to another site that’s located within 20 miles of NYC.

The Board Chairperson thanked her for her informative presentation.

Prior to announcing the next item on the Board Agenda, the Board Chairperson reminded everyone that in order to maintain proper decorum at all Board Meetings, no personal attacks, public “trials by accusation,” unparliamentary procedures, will be permitted.

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### **PUBLIC FORUM**

Robert Cermeli, a Board member and Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee, spoke about the importance of responding to the US Census this year. He pointed out that the US Constitution mandates the completion of a Census count of the population in all 50 states and US territories once every ten years. He said that this is the first year that residents are being encouraged to complete the Census questionnaire on-line. Mr. Cermeli explained that federal block grant allocations for capital improvements, social services and so forth are apportioned to local districts, based on the most recent Census statistics. He said that if residents are not counted in the Census process, it can result in a loss of federal funding for social services and programs, schools, parks, capital improvement projects, etc. He pointed out that after the Census count in 2010, NYC lost two seats in the House of Representatives in Congress, which was due to the undercount of the population in Queens. In addition, he reminded everyone that 5 local hospitals in Queens were closed during bankruptcy proceedings in the past two decades.

In closing, he said that by law, any personal information that is collected as part of the Census count must remain private and anonymous. He urged everyone to either complete their Census questionnaire on-line as soon as possible, or mail in their completed questionnaire before the end of March this year.

Maryann Lattanzio, a Board member and Chair of the Public Safety Committee, said that she's opposed to re-routing the Q18 and Q67 Bus Routes in Maspeth because there are many elderly and disabled residents who live in the large block of apartments on 65 Place and can't walk to and from Grand Avenue to do their daily shopping.

Jenifer Rajkumar, a resident of Woodhaven and a candidate for the State Assembly in the 38<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, said that she appreciates the role that Community Boards play in resolving local issues and improving services for community residents and businesses. She thanked Board members for all the work they do to improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods. Regarding her professional background, she said that she's an attorney who previously worked in the Governor's office, and now works as a professor at the City University of New York. She said that she looks forward to working with the Community Board, if she is elected to represent the 38<sup>th</sup> AD. Flyers were distributed.

John Ortiz, the owner of the Sundown Bar at 68-38 Forest Avenue, in Ridgewood, informed everyone that the Dept. of Buildings recently approved the renovation plans for this new bar, that includes partial use of the cellar. He welcomed everyone to visit the establishment.

Shruti Murti, Partnership Specialist for the Census Bureau, informed everyone that she's reaching out to local residents, community organizations, religious groups, etc., throughout the borough and recruiting field operators to canvass their neighborhoods in order to ensure that there's an accurate count of the population in Queens. She explained that Queens was severely undercounted in 2010, and the City lost two Congressional seats in the House of Representatives in the following election. She said that the Census Bureau is working to improve local response rates to the Census by permitting residents to respond on-line to their census questionnaires in March. She urged everyone to complete their questionnaires as soon as possible and to encourage their family, friends and neighbors to do so also. In closing, she welcomed anyone interested in working for the Census Bureau this year to sign their name and contact information on the registration sheet on the back table where her colleagues were sitting. Flyers were distributed.

### **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

**Vincent Arcuri, Jr.**

The Board Chairperson announced that lapel pins with the Community Board 5 Queens logo printed on them are available for distribution to Board members, as a means of identifying themselves as a member in good standing

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on our Board. He displayed his lapel pin and encouraged Board members to wear it on their collar or jacket whenever they attend any public functions.

Chairperson Arcuri recognized the staff present: District Manager Gary Giordano, Catherine O'Leary and Laura Mulvihill, Community Associates. He thanked the press corps for their accurate coverage of our Board Meetings and local events.

P.O. Michael Berrish, Community Affairs Officer in the 104<sup>th</sup> Precinct, reported that the number Grand Larcenies reported in the precinct last year drove their crime statistics steadily upward. He said that in many cases, items that have been stolen include valuable personal belongings, such as, cell phones, ladies' handbags, or iPads, that were left unattended inside parked cars on the street, either in front their homes or local shops. He cautioned everyone not to leave any valuables inside their parked cars, even for a short time.

Officer Berrish said that the number of phone scams that are reported to the precinct keeps increasing also. He warned everyone against scammers who are calling residents, pretending to work for the Social Security Administration. He said that the Social Security Administration's policy is to only contact individuals by mail.

P.O. Asar Sanad, Community Affairs Officer in the 104<sup>th</sup> Precinct, warned about scammers who often appear to be calling from a local phone number, but in fact they're not. She said to hang up on any caller who you don't know personally who says they'll put you on hold. She also warned against contributing any money to anyone who solicits donations by phone for a charitable organization, because that is a very popular scam.

On behalf of US Representative Nydia Velazquez, Julio Salazar wished everyone a Happy New Year. He said that the Congresswoman has been working hard to enact legislation to reform the Community Reinvestment Act, in order to guarantee that a portion of the financial profits that are generated by banks that serve lower income neighborhoods will be reinvested into these areas to revitalize the economy. He welcomed calls for more information to their district office located at 266 Broadway, in Brooklyn, at (718) 599-3658.

On behalf of US Representative Grace Meng, Christian Romero reported that over 400 Bills were passed by the House of Representatives during the current session of Congress, and that 179 Bills were co-sponsored by the Congresswoman and passed in the House with bipartisan support.

He also reported that the Congresswoman supports the passage of H.R. 3, known as the Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act, which would require the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to negotiate prices for certain drugs, including insulin, and at least 25 single source, brand-name drugs that have generic competition. He explained that current law prohibits the CMS from doing so.

On behalf of Council Member Robert Holden, Charles Vavruska wished everyone a Happy New Year, and welcomed everyone to attend the street naming ceremony for Jack Zwerenz Way at the intersection of 82 Avenue and Myrtle Avenue in Glendale at 2pm this Saturday, January 11th, 2020. He also reported that the Council Member opposes the MTA's Draft Queens Bus Redesign Plan because it eliminates and/or redirects local bus routes throughout the district.

On behalf of State Senator Joseph Addabbo, Sarah Spellman said that the Senator is currently up in Albany, representing the district. She welcomed calls for assistance to their district office located at 66-85 73 Place in Middle Village at (718) 497-1630.

On behalf of State Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi, Kevin Wisniewski said that he was happy to report that several bills that the Assemblyman sponsored to improve the social safety net and offer better protections for survivors of human trafficking, and victims of domestic violence, were signed into law this past year. He thanked everyone who donated gifts during their Holiday Gift Drive for the benefit of mothers and their children who are homeless, or at-risk of becoming homeless.

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On behalf of State Assemblyman Brian Barnwell, Lesi Hreb wished everyone a Healthy and Happy New Year. She welcomed donations for their annual Coat Drive this Winter, either by dropping a warm coat off at their office at 55-19 69 Street in Maspeth, or by calling their office at (718) 651-3185 to request that staff pick it up. She welcomed anyone who'd like to help with preparing peanut butter and jelly sandwiches once a month for distribution to homeless people in their district.

On behalf of Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, Alison Cummings wished everyone a Happy New Year. She requested that constituents call their office at (718) 784-3194 to give their input on the MTA's Draft Queens Bus Redesign Plan. She said that a series of public information workshops on these proposed plans will be held throughout Queens over the next two months. The Winter newsletter was distributed.

On behalf of Assemblyman Michael Miller, Christine Stoll wished everyone a Happy New Year and welcomed calls to their office regarding the MTA's Draft Queens Bus Redesign Plan. She announced the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Valentine's for Veterans drive that the Assemblyman is sponsoring this year and welcomed everyone to participate. For more information, please call their district office at (718) 805-0950, which is located at 83-91 Woodhaven Boulevard. Flyers were distributed.

Joe Nocerino, Community Coordinator in the Queens Borough President's Office, introduced Acting Queens Borough President Sharon Lee, who took over from the former Borough President Melinda Katz, who was elected to serve as Queens District Attorney in November.

Ms. Lee said that she's been working as Deputy Queens Borough President for several years and looks forward to working with all the members of the Community Boards in the borough until the Special Election for a new Queens Borough President is held on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020. She said that she is not a candidate. She welcomed calls for information and assistance from constituents to their office at (718) 286-3000.

Walter Sanchez, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairperson, reported that at the Queens Borough Board's Meeting in Borough Hall last week, the MTA's Draft Queens Bus Redesign Plan was the main item on their agenda. He said that the MTA's representatives said that these plans are designed to create a new network of Queens bus routes for daily commuters, with the goal of speeding up their commute time by reducing the number of stops per ride and creating the most direct bus routes to the nearest subway stations. He said that the first public information workshop is slated to begin at 6pm on Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, in the Greater Ridgewood Youth Council, at 59-03 Summerfield Street, in Ridgewood. He said that the public is welcome to attend this meeting and he encouraged everyone to join in the discussion.

Kathy Masi said that under the proposed plans, the Q23 Bus route will be eliminated between Union Turnpike in Glendale and 108 Street at Queens Boulevard. She said that, as it is now, Glendale does not have many options for public transportation. She objected to the elimination of any bus routes that serve daily commuters in Glendale. She also pointed out that there are no stops in Glendale on any of the Express Bus lines that transport commuters north and south along Woodhaven Boulevard, and asked why not?

John Maier, Co-Chair of the Public Transit Committee, said that the draft map of Queens bus routes will be discussed at a series of public workshops that have been scheduled to take place over the next two months. He said that the public is welcome to go on-line to submit their comments and suggestions about these proposed bus routes, by typing in 'Queens Bus Route Redesign' in the search box on the MTA's webpage at [www.mta.info](http://www.mta.info), where they will find the entire proposal. He cited as an example the fact that the Q58 Bus route, that travels back and forth between Flushing and Ridgewood, has been one of the slowest and busiest bus routes in the City for decades. He said that the Draft plan calls for cutting that bus route into 2 different routes, with each half of that route ending at Queens Boulevard, in Elmhurst, with the goal of improving the travel times of thousands of local commuters.

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On behalf of the Acting Queens Borough President Sharon Lee, Joe Nocerino announced that local elected officials will conduct an all-day public hearing this Friday, January 10, in Queens Borough Hall to receive public input on the Draft Queens Bus Route Redesign. He said that the NYC Transit President Andy Byford will be present at the hearing. In addition, he said that at least 13 additional workshops about the Draft Plan are scheduled to take place in every Community District in Queens. He said that the NYC Transit's Bus Route Redesign plans are currently slated for implementation in 2021.

Mr. Nocerino also announced that the Queens Borough Board's FY 2021 Capital and Expense Budget Hearing is tentatively scheduled to begin at 10am, Wednesday, January 29th, in Queens Borough Hall - Room 200.

The Board Chairperson announced that five Street Fair applications have been submitted to the Mayor's Office for permits to hold events in our Board 5 area in the coming year. He read aloud the names of the sponsoring organizations, locations and dates of the proposed Street Festivals, as follows:

- 1) The Ridgewood Local Development Corp – Myrtle Avenue Ridgewood Festival on Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>;
- 2) Maspeth Chamber of Commerce, Lions and Kiwanis Club – Grand Avenue Festival on Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>;
- 3) Glendale Kiwanis Club – Myrtle Avenue Festival on Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup>;
- 4) Federazione Italo-Americana of Bklyn & Queens – Fresh Pond Road Festival on Thursday thru Sunday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> to September 6<sup>th</sup>;
- 5) Myrtle Avenue Business Improvement District – Myrtle Avenue Festival on Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>.

He said that the Executive Committee will meet with the applicants to review these Street Fair applications before next month's Board Meeting and will present recommendations to the full Board for a vote at next month's Board Meeting on Wednesday, February 12, 2020.

## MINUTES

The Board Chairperson asked Board members to review the minutes of last month's Board Meeting conducted on December 11, 2019. Maryann Lattanzio requested that a correction be made to the minutes on Page 3. She said that she is 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the 104 COP/G-COP, not the 104<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council. The minutes were adopted as amended, on a motion by Kathy Masi, seconded by Fred Haller.

### **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 last month's Board Meeting on December 11, 2019. Each Board member received a copy of the list.

#### **New Liquor Licenses**

- 1) \* Panina Inc. d/b/a **Joe Dollars** 68-38 Forest Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 2) **Sports Club of Glendale Corp.** 74-03 Myrtle Avenue, Glendale, NY 11385
- 3) \* **Baby Johnson's Café Corp.** 1684 Woodbine Street, Ridgewood, NY 11385

#### **Liquor License Renewals**

- 1) Cahill Enterprises Inc. d/b/a **Glen Patrick's Pub** 53-73 65<sup>th</sup> Place, Maspeth, NY 11378
- 2) Chicken Soup & Rice LLC d/b/a **Sundown Bar** 68-38 Forest Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 3) \* We are 138 LLC d/b/a **Sweet Jane's** 64-02 68<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 4) **London Lennie's Inc.** 63-88 to 63-96 Woodhaven Blvd, Rego Park, NY 11374
- 5) **Hungry Burrito Taco Inc.** d/b/a 811 Seneca Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 6) **El Nuevo Jorge's Restaurant Corp.** 689 Seneca Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 7) \* **Rogner LLC** 63-59 Forest Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385

#### **New Wine and/or Beer Licenses**

- 1) \* **Xoxo Kitchen & Bakery Inc.** 883 Cypress Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385

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

- 1) Greenbay Partners, LLC d/b/a **Pita Gyro & Grill** 66-39 Fresh Pond Road, Ridgewood, NY 11385

\* Indicates Outdoor Area

**Corporate Change and Other**

- 1) **Coyote Bohemio Inc.** 55-19 Myrtle Avenue, in Ridgewood, notified us of a change in their method of operation to add a small customer bar and re-arrange the layout of tables and chairs. All other operations of the establishment will remain the same.
- 2) **Palace of Zuly Inc.** 913 Wyckoff Avenue, in Ridgewood, notified us of a Corporate Change whereby Maria Mejia will replace Fabian Castillo as Principal/President.

Regarding the **Sundown Bar**, at 68-38 Forest Avenue, the Board Chairperson said that the Alteration Plans for this establishment, which were filed and approved by the Dept. of Buildings, permit partial occupancy of the cellar. He said that he plans to investigate whether there's any provision for a secondary means of egress.

The Board Chairperson reported that the Board did not receive any demolition or construction notices 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 contact our Board 5 Office at (718) 366-1834.

**District Manager's Report****Gary Giordano**

District Manager Gary Giordano wished everyone a Happy New Year.

The District Manager presented his proposal on how to best spend the additional allocation of \$42,500 in the current fiscal year's budget by creating a Respect Program Budget. He said that the funds would be used to pay a bilingual temporary worker to work with him to formulate written outreach materials, posters and advertising for the purpose of promoting respectful and positive behavior. He said that under this Program, a total of \$20,125 would be budgeted to pay an hourly rate of \$16/hour. He said that an additional \$5,000 would be budgeted to pay for supplies, advertising and sponsoring local events, and \$6,000 for the purchase of new photocopier/printer. Another \$5,000 would be budgeted to pay for an office security system, he said. A copy of the proposed budget was distributed to all Board members for their review.

Walter Sanchez made a motion to approve the proposed budget modification which was seconded by Theodore Renz. As there were no questions or comments on the matter, the Board Chairperson requested a voice vote on the proposed budget modification which then carried unanimously.

The District Manager reported that the installation of a large 96" sewer main, as part of a continuation of the Penelope Avenue/74 Street area Sewer Project in Middle Village, is likely to begin this year. In addition, he said that there's another large sewer main installation project that has just begun in the area of Calamus Avenue and 70 Street, and will extend south to the Long Island Expressway, in Maspeth. He said that the purpose of both of these sewer projects is to increase capacity in the existing sewer system in that area, in order to prevent the kinds of sewer backups and severe street flooding that had occurred too often during heavy rainstorms. He also reported that work is expected to begin later this year on the replacement of the Synthetic Turf Field and the Running Track at the West End of Juniper Valley Park in Middle Village. In addition, he said that the selected contractor will begin working this year to construct a new entrance into Forest Park, at Union Turnpike in Glendale. In addition, the District Manager reported that the Rehabilitation of Rosemary's Playground in Ridgewood is nearing completion.

Brian Dooley asked for an update on the status of the sewer project that is planned for Eastern Glendale. The District Manager replied that this sewer project, SE 877, is now in the design stage.

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### **New and Old Business**

Jerry Drake asked how many locations are graffitied in the Board 5 area each year. The District Manager replied that when our office coordinated a graffiti removal program with the Greater Ridgewood Youth Council in our Board area, there were about 2,000 locations where the graffiti was painted over each year. Mr. Drake asked how many locations are graffitied repeatedly. The District Manager replied that we didn't track how many times graffiti was removed from any particular location.

The Board Chairperson pointed out to Board members that in their folders, they should have received a copy of a letter that the Board received, responding to comments that were made at past Board Meetings, regarding the status of an Audit Report that was prepared for the Greater Ridgewood Youth Council. He said that it provides a clear explanation of their current status.

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Board Chairperson Arcuri wished everyone a Happy New Year and adjourned the public meeting of Community Board 5, Queens on a motion from the floor at 8:55pm.