

Community Board 1 Queens Full Board / Public Hearing Meeting Transcription

Tuesday, September 17, 2024, 6:00 P.M.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: Good evening everyone. Welcome to the Community Board 1, September meeting.

We are starting today with an annual Public Hearing that we do regarding Capital and Expense Budget priorities. This is an opportunity from 6:00 to 6:30, for any member of the public to step up to the podium and share a capital project that they might like to see in our district or as an expense item that they would like as well.

For those of you who may or may not be familiar with those terms, Capital means, kind of like, infrastructure. So you might want a new library, a new school, pedestrian improvement somewhere - whatever it might be - new facilities. Those are all capital expenses. Expense items are things like staffing, so maybe you want something like more sanitation service or things like that. Those are capital and expense items.

So we're going to get started with the Capital Expense Budget Committee. Our committee co-chair Amy Hau is here to kick off the discussion.

Amy Hau, Co-Chair Capital/Expense Budget Committee: Good evening everyone. Thanks for coming. For those who are speaking please step up to the podium - make sure you sign in. I will be taking down the information and I'll share that with all the committee chairs.

Lynn Kennedy: I am a co-founder of the friends of Astoria Heights Park. We've been in existence for over 10 years. This would actually be our 10-year celebration for advocating for playground renovations. Unfortunately, I am here to advocate for two things for the park. We are now at that five-year mark, and I'm surprised at how badly things last and how they're not as well built as they used to build things 35 years ago. I'm here to represent our tennis players. The field is a three-court field and it is disintegrating. It has splits in several of them, it puddles, it's uneven. It is not good for tennis, but we are a highly utilized park space - a very diversely utilized park space for all ages, and these tennis courts are heavily used. They come here because you don't need a permit, they just show up and they play the game every single day.

You can go there and see tennis players, so we feel that we deserve a proper tennis field, since this takes up the entire upper level of the field.

The second item that I'm requesting is expense funding to increase funding for PEP officers and perhaps even homeless outreach. We have a bounty of different issues since Covid-19 that have piled up, including vandalism, violence, motorcyclists hanging out on the upper level handball courts at 2:00 a.m., to children climbing on the roof of the bathroom that is accessible because you can climb up on a water fountain that allows you to climb up there. We've had, and no fault to people needing refuge, but we do have a homeless population that is seeking to bathe and to use the toilets.

If those are not open, they will just use the grounds as their bathroom, so I'm hoping that there can be an increase in general safety and security and wellness for everybody in our community.

The tennis courts are between 46th and 45th Streets and 30th Road. Astoria Heights Playground is the proper name. Thank you.

Paul Talbot: I am the owner of East River Sharks, which is a nonprofit travel baseball organization for 18 and under. I live across the river in Manhattan, and I can see Whitey Ford Field. It's a beautiful place. I've been there. We were planning a home run derby there recently. It didn't get pulled off because it rained, but it's a field that I see empty often, and it has lights. It's gorgeous, it's right on the river, so I'm proposing that money be put into it so it's turfed and like a batting cage where kids can bat. Thank you.

Jannatal Ahmed: I am a 25-year-old lifelong resident of Community Board 1. I'm also the Director of Operations of Long Island City Feral Feeders, a 501c3 and fully volunteer run non-profit cat rescue based in Hunters Point with a focus on helping the cats and Cat Guardians of Western Queens. Feral Feeders participates in a variety of initiatives to combat the cat overpopulation crisis that has been worsening for years in New York City.

We advocate for and practice spay/neuter, foster care and adoption to reduce the stray cat population and provide friendly socialized cats with adoptive homes. We also feed and monitor feral cats in our local communities. These cats have already been fixed and continue to dwell alongside us in our shared urban environment.

To better illustrate why we do what we do. I'd like to share some quick statistics with you. A kitten can get pregnant as early as 4 months old, have its first litter at 6 months of age and get pregnant again as soon as 2 weeks after giving birth and according to the Humane Society, only 25% of kittens born outdoors survived past 6 months of age, so our rescue practices spay and neuter to prevent this ongoing cycle of kitten birthing and early death. But it's not possible to make a lasting impact with the limited resources we have now. Our 100% volunteer run rescue is overwhelmed operating at

repeated all-time highs year after year. We need more resources to continue doing the work we do for the benefit of our community.

One of the biggest barriers to effective population control is the lack of affordable veterinary resources present in Western Queens. We're incredibly fortunate to now have access to the brand new ASPCA Community Veterinary Center in Ravenswood, however, there are only a maximum of around 100 appointments made available each month to the 800 certified rescuers across all five boroughs. Appointments are booked within seconds of being available and we're unable to coordinate the high volume spay and neuter projects necessary to effectively manage the population crisis.

This month alone, we only had access to 15 appointments. In addition to our spay/neuter initiatives, we take on special needs, medical cases that require high expenses for life saving tests and procedures. For example, tomorrow I will be driving one of our foster cats upstate for a CT scan and even when discounted, that will cost over \$1,000. This is just one of multiple steps needed to properly diagnose and treat this cat until policy changes from higher up bring about more affordable clinic services.

We need funding to take cats in our community to other private clinics, pay for holding and recovery and coordinate transportation. Allow me to also share the environmental risks posed to our feline neighbors, risks that without the proper infrastructure or support, we cannot begin to address or mitigate over the 9 years that we've been in operation. We have witnessed outdoor cat populations be directly harmed by the waves of land and building development in our community. Besides the obvious displacement caused by typical construction activity, there are increasing emergency cases, such as cats showing up covered in toxic wet cement in areas with heavy traffic. Colony cats have also experienced various vehicular accidents that have led to death from Hunters Point to Astoria.

Our beloved cats are being displaced and continue to suffer, and much of the public may not know of this issue in our city. One of our ultimate goals is to provide colony cats who are not suitable candidates for adoption with a sanctuary. This Capital project would serve not just as a home for our community cats, but also for the people who need a resource center for our community education. This is both a Capital and Expense request. Thank you.

Steve Maybaum: I'm an Astoria resident. I love this community, but I'd like to ask for two things in terms of Capital Improvements. Number one: pickleball courts. Some of you may know there are pickleball courts in Astoria. I believe the address is Hoyt Avenue North and I want to say 23rd Street. Now those courts are often not available because of construction equipment that's parked there. So I would like to make those courts more readily available. They were not available all summer long. I'd also like to ask for additional pickleball courts wherever we can find room for them. Number two: Whitey Ford Field. I don't have the address for Whitey Ford Field, but I would like improvements to Whitey Ford Field. The soil needs to be improved, as you would do with any baseball field. That field could be a gem for the youth to really play baseball or softball. It's being underutilized right now, so, in addition to the improvement to the soil, add a pitcher mound - let's add a batting practice area - that does not take up a lot of room. It seems like there's room there for that. Thank you.

Mauricio Lopez: I'm the proud father of two young kids that go to The 30th Avenue School. Our school, Q300, has slightly more than 500 kids that are split between two different buildings. The first building is shared with PS 17, a school that is 25% over utilized and that serves some of the most underserved communities. The other half of our school is in a building shared with IS126. A building that is severely underutilized. It actually has enough empty space to potentially house our entire school together. Our school is among the best performing in Queens, and it's one of the schools with the highest demand from parents. However, when you think about being in two schools in two buildings, what that means is our kids don't enjoy some of the things that we normally associate with public education like an arts classroom or like space for dancing. We don't even have a theater or an auditorium where they can do drama. So the petition that we have here is to help us relocate our school into an underutilized building like IS126 or one of the many others in Queens, so we can all share one space - we can all be in one school. Doing so would not only benefit all of the families that attend the school today, it would also release significantly valuable space in PS17 that would allow them to not be over utilized, but also prepare for adapting for the class size reduction act which seeks to improve education for everyone by reducing the number of students to teacher ratio. Thank you.

Lynn Kennedy: I'm just another parent from Q300 to help support, but I'm not going to duplicate anything else. I just want to add that we've been working on this for years - to try to get one school. We have many letters of support and we have tried to work with the school construction authority to find a viable space, and we really need this. It would save money.

Ross MacWhinney: I am a resident of Astoria and I have a host of issues I want to raise and I think that they are in part Capital related issues. These are related to the Amtrak overpass on 23rd Avenue and basically the issues are chronic. Illegal dumping, trash chronic parking on the sidewalk and concrete chunks falling from the bridge. I was almost hit by concrete a year ago and I sent an email to our council member. Since then, I've seen that there's been a news story that other individuals have seen concrete falling. I think this could definitely kill someone. The chunk that I saw was about this large and I have photos of it. My children pass through there every day, as do I and I don't want any of my family or anyone else's family to get hit by concrete from a bridge. Additionally, there are trash bags dropped there nearly every day. I've been reporting them to 311 for the last month, and so as soon as they're reported I see more trash there nearly the

next day, and it's not just trash bags. It's televisions, car batteries, medical waste, it's gross. It's unsanitary and I see rats in this trash. This is at 36th Street and 23rd Avenue. This also happens at 35th Street.

Illegal parking is also chronic. Someone who parked on the sidewalk nearly backed over me late at night. Illegal parking can be observed every single day of the week.

Amy Hau, Co-Chair Capital/Expense Budget Committee: We have a lot of chronic issues like this in the district and I think it would be helpful to bring that to the attention of the Board Office so that we can monitor results that we can get with sanitation. I mean this is an ongoing issue, so I think it'll be helpful to put that in as a 311 issue.

Ross MacWhinney: I have been. I don't think 311 is a sustainable solution, because trash appears repeatedly. Concrete is still falling from the bridge. I think that this is an Amtrak issue with the concrete falling.

Amy Hau, Co-Chair Capital/Expense Budget Committee: I think we need to also work with Amtrak, which is not a city agency, so we need to kind of come up with some assistance from an agency to help us resolve that.

Ross MacWhinney: I have all these things documented, pretty well, I emailed them to the board. Some things may not be Capital items but I think Capital improvements to the bridge are clearly needed.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: I just want to emphasize this part of the meeting tonight is the capital expense hearing. If you have specific requests to make, we do have a public session at every board meeting where anyone can come and talk about quality of life issues that you're talking about as well and can also contact the board office about that as well, but from what we hear, you're looking for Capital Improvements for the bridge and perhaps more sanitation services.

Deena Hadhud: I'm, actually, fourth generation Astoria, Italian American on my mom's side and a daughter of an Egyptian immigrant on my dad's side. What that means is I find myself walking a lot between Ditmars and Steinway, the little Egypt portion of Steinway I've noticed that the lighting is really not great, especially by Ditmar's Park area under the bridge, going from that section of Steinway through to Ditmars very dark at night I'm also with an organization called Malikah, we have an office on Steinway again in that little Egypt portion, we serve primarily the North African Muslim immigrant community in the neighborhood teaching, self-defense and whatnot. What that means is through providing safety training to the communities, we're also asking what their safety concerns are. We work, especially in schools, for example, at Twills and different schools on safety work and a lot of the students talk about safety issues on their commutes. Safety issues in terms of lighting, things like that, and so in regards to our direct request, additional lighting is really important for our community.

There's also a lot of trash we have if you've walked around Little Egypt, you know that there's a lot of people - it's a highly populated area, there's a lot of litter, especially directly in front of our office, there's constantly dumping that we have to figure out what to do with, but are also trying to respect that there's specific days for garbage to be put out so definitely more trash bins in that neighborhood would be super helpful.

Finally, something that would be really great for our community, that I know might be a little bit more of a long shot is having a somewhat regular, open street. Traffic congestion in that portion of Steinway is really intense. I cross it all the time, I am nervous to cross it. It's very congested. We work with youth organizers who come in and out of the office - some folks say: hey I don't feel comfortable riding my bike or riding my scooter because it's very congested. We also know that our aunties and uncles sit in these little folding chairs on the sidewalk, which is beautiful, and we love that. Having an open street would allow for us to actually use our block more effectively to create intentional spaces of convening for cultural spaces. We hosted the Astoria Halal Fest recently and it provided opportunities, especially for immigrant women in the neighborhood. Thank you.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: Regarding an open street, DOT does have an application that they open in the spring so you should be on the lookout for that.

Sharuk: I'm also one of the community managers with Malikah, the organization that Deena just spoke with and in speaking with our community members one of the things that we realized is a big problem is housing and so I'm here to see if there's a way that we can request some housing or shelter, especially for women that are Muslim women and Swana women, which is like Southwest Asia and North African women. In my line of work, I've noticed a lot of women, especially over the age of 60, don't have housing stability. Some are homeless on the street and some don't have the funding necessary.

Last week there was a client who came in and said I'm basically living on the streets and she's been sleeping on the couches of the Hookah Lounges that have been basically on Steinway Street. I've been really just trying to figure out a way to find her housing and another client came in today at the same age group. She said: I lost my job and I basically, don't know if I'm going to end up on the street within the next couple of weeks, and so I feel like this topic is kind of necessary to bring up, because we don't have the means and there's a lot of resources that these women don't have.

Bobby Feltault: I'm a resident of CB1 and just here to request what I believe is in the expense category. Several months ago, earlier this year, a crosswalk was installed - white paint - in Astoria Park right before the parking lot to the park between the public street and fence - the actual parking lot itself - which connects the pedestrian path that's within the

park. That was a big help because previously, there was literally nothing to kind of indicate that this is a crossing of pedestrian space. It's a place where I have had many near misses with drivers myself and also just witnessed several more, but that crosswalk has completely faded and eroded, and it was never actually built to the same design spec as the one we see in the real street. So my request is just to put it back and make it a more permanent, lasting crosswalk at Hoyt entrance. Thank you so much.

Maryam S: I have been a Queens resident for the past 22 years - born and raised in Jackson Heights and Astoria. I've lived my developmental years in Astoria going to high school in TYWLS of Astoria right down the street. I currently work for Malikah, which is an organization that strives to give women - more Muslim, North African and Middle Eastern women, just some strand of protection and any strand of kind of equalizing disparities within our societies. I have noticed that women who have primarily been victims of domestic abuse, have been victims of the unstable housing system that we have here in Queens and in New York City - have no stable housing rights or really no stable housing opportunities - so I would really love if we can consider an expense opportunity to build a co-op system that would give women, specifically Muslim and Swana women, the ability to seek refuge in a shelter, because we have a lot of women who come into the medical center who have been victims of abuse, and we have nowhere to turn them because, often times they want to stay in Queens and in their communities and often times we have to defer them to shelters in Brooklyn that do accommodate Muslim women. As a daughter of a first-generation Muslim mother, I would really appreciate it if we just have the ability to expand our expenses in investing in health for women who are seeking protection in a housing shelter that specifically atones to the needs of Muslim women. Similarly, we really need a lot of food options and benefits that also atone to Muslims with regards to Halal food options and meets and follows the Halal requirements. As a Muslim, I don't necessarily see a lot of Halal options that are accommodated towards SNAP benefits or EBT benefits, so it would be an acknowledging factor if the community here can acknowledge the specific needs that Muslims have in our community.

Considering that one of the largest communities that build up Astoria are Muslims and our Arabs and our Middle Easterners, and here at Malikah we try to provide for those people, but when we don't have the systems to defer those people to, it really creates a disparity in what we are able to achieve and what we are able to do in closing set disparities. So I would really appreciate it if we could take my concerns of co-op housing, and options for Muslim and Swana women into consideration. That would be a barrier that could be broken. Thank you so much.

Amy Hau, Co-Chair Capital/Expense Budget Committee: Anyone else? If no one else, this section will be closed

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: Thank you so much. I want to say it was great to see so many people come out and advocate for the needs of the community. I think last year no one showed up to this meeting so go Astoria, and other places too, not just Astoria but go CB1. Thank you so much to everyone who came-and you know spoke out, people can also submit written comments to the Board via our email, which is QN01@CB.NYC.GOV. So if you have something, if you're watching on YouTube or something that maybe you didn't get up to express this evening, you can still send in your Capital or Expense request.

What's going to happen is the Board, over the next month, will be looking at survey data, and we'll be having committee meetings. We've already started these conversations. We'll be looking at our list from last year - we'll be taking input from the public like we did tonight, and we'll be compiling our list for submission to the city. So this is like our priorities list. This doesn't mean the city's going to give it to us, but we're going to advocate for it, and our elected officials will also advocate for it as well. So, that's kind of how it works. It's part of the city budget process and that's one of the things that we are charged with as a Community Board to do.

With that, we are going to start our regular monthly board meeting.

Just to kind of go through the agenda - everyone is aware we are going to start with a presentation by Alexander Kipp, who is from the NYC Conflict of Interest Board. He's going to do some training for all of us here on conflict of interest. Then we'll have a presentation by Con Edison who will talk about their Climate Change Resiliency Plan and how that applies to CB1. Then we're going to have a Public Session, which is where anyone who wants to, can come up and speak for 2 minutes about an issue in the community. This is coming right now at the middle of the meeting before we do our board business. Then we're going to get into our Business Session where we do our Committee Reports and take any votes that we need and then we'll hear from our elected officials and representatives, and then we adjourn.

That's the agenda for this evening and with that I would like to call up Alexander Kipp, who will be doing our Conflict of Interest training.

Presentation Alexander Kipp, NYC Conflict of Interest Board

Q&A

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: I just want to make sure that I heard you correctly. So when we vote, if you abstain, it counts as a no.

Alexander Kipp: Correct. I would never call someone who is disqualified to vote on an issue due to conflict of interest - I would not call that an abstention. Sometimes that's happened in the past. An abstention is something you're only able to do

if you're qualified to vote, because it's going to be counted with the nos. It's a housekeeping thing, but just to keep that clear.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: Got it. Someone who has to not vote - it's just not counted at all.

Alexander Kipp: Ineligible vote due to conflict of interest disclosed. Yes.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: Thank you so much. If anyone has any questions, you can always reach out to Alex. He's very responsive and, if he's not available, there's a lawyer of the day who can answer any conflict-of-interest questions.

Presentation John Rella, Senior Planning Analyst for Con Edison

Q&A

Tom Ryan: The capacity is 1.75 inches. We have had many storms over 2 inches. We've known this for years and I keep hearing we're going to do something about it. We're not doing anything about it. We haven't done anything since Sandy came. When Sandy came we were going to do all the stuff. Nothing happens. The electricity we're talking about - heat, more demand for air conditioning, electric cars, all the new buildings are going electric. Are we anticipating this honestly? Are we just you know, creating a lot of numbers and sounds good and we do nothing as always?

John Rella: Load forecasting. Listen, I'm not an electrical engineer - I'm a climate scientist, but I will answer as best as I can so take it with a grain of salt. What we do is, we look at annual growth demand every year and they make projections on it. We have a network resiliency index. So what we do is we have all of our networks in a feeder, some of the parts of Queens have the overhead system, but if you think about just this area, if it's all underground cables, it's kind of fed in a big grid. So if something goes out over here, we still have power from over there. So we have Network Resiliency Indexes to show how much strain could be on there and a lot of times you have different sources of power, so it all feeds in. So what we do is we anticipate the heat and we put it out there. We look at temperature ratings. One of our variables in here is temperature variables called TV, and that's kind of - we have the real heat index where it takes in, for like our temperature - like the humidity and the hotness, you start sweating - we actually have a similar one that we calculate - it's like a wet bulb temperature but for electrical equipment. So we do look at all of that. What I will say is that in general demand we're seeing a lot more future anticipated demand from electrification CLCPA. We have Local Law 97, as we all know.

I'm the president of my Co-op board so you know, I'm fully aware of things that are Energy Efficiency, but yes, we look at load change, load demand changing every year. Bringing projections closer, obviously is an issue looking at the 2030 Local Law 97, you know initiatives that increase the demand, so we take all those things into account. We have our next rate keys coming up. You know you'll kind of see what investments we're going to make. We need new substations. We got to increase capacity, you got to remember, Con Edison also doesn't generate, we distribute. We get the generation from sources like Champlain Hudson Express Power.

Generally, you have a holistic comprehensive framework to be more resilient. So short answer, yes.

Tom Ryan: You didn't answer what I asked. You got all the numbers - but get to 2025, 2035, 2050 - it doesn't sound like you're doing anything to meet those goals.

John Rella: So it's a little bit different. In our Resiliency Plan, if you open it up, we have Investments by decade and we actually have - it's a rate case, so we actually are submitting and we'll know next month what the State gives us for our first five years of funding request. Con Ed requested about \$900 million over 5 years over the entire system to invest in our system over the next 5 years and then there's a projection for the next 10 and the next 20. So I know it's a really long presentation. If you actually just look at the Resiliency Plan, you'll see kind of the breakdown of what we plan to do, for example, storm hardening. We have a projection of sea level rise in the next year. We're not going to do everything now right - we're going to incorporate that into our planning process. At the same time, I showed you New York City's stormwater scenarios. We just contracted the project manager of VAR engineering to do a flood study for us. So we're looking at our own climate scenario based off of what we think and figuring out what is going to be the climate scenario in 2080, with one of those 10,000 year events and then drop all that water on top of our grid and see what the flooding would look like. So things like that, we are definitely planning on.

Maybe next summer you guys can invite me back and I'll show you the results of that study.

Tom Wright: Let me first thank you for all of the emails that I get from you when it tells me it's going to rain, or it tells me it's hot outside. I appreciate those and I sometimes change my plans, but I do have one question relevant to the New York City flood map that you showed. I was looking at those because I have a dear friend who's actually in one of those flooding areas and it is interesting and that was very timely. The flood map, it seems, has not been updated in New York City for over a decade is what my information is. Are we working on data on a flood map such as that, indeed is over a decade old yeah?

John Rella: So this is actually not that kind of data. People are very confused when we hear FEMA data. FEMA preliminary flood insurance rate map is what bases off your houses. FEMA data is dated and no one's using it anymore. It's based off of coastal flooding or near a water source. Those FEMA maps do not take into account inland flooding. That

weird fact I got that from one of the companies that posted for that Hurricane Beryl in Texas. Ninety percent (90%) of the flooding was outside of the FEMA map, there's like \$12 billion worth of damage outside of the FEMA maps. So no, we don't use those.

So we actually do this specific data set. We overlay it. It's called H&H, modeling - hydraulic and hydrological modeling - to show where it's coming from and the direction. We don't use those data sets. This is a public dataset you can get if you contact the DM she'll give it to you. This is also through the Mayor's office. They released this resiliency report. I want to say, in the last two years. The same thing with our data sets - they're brand new and, like I said I'm doing actually through Con Edison, because this is kind of the city's. We're doing our own version of this. So, like I said, I think it'll be done - it's a year-long contract. I just started it in July, so hopefully, next fall. I can do some more fun presentations on that. Thank you.

Antonella DiSaverio: Just curious. Have you talked to the Army Corps of Engineers? I know they did an evaluation study in our area by Hallett Cove, so I think that's probably a good move. Also I don't know how much of an increase we can further withstand. Our electricity bills and gas bills have gone up tremendously. Outrageously.

John Rella: I can't comment on the bills. I know we have different things on that, but you know generally, for every dollar in resilience - you're going to spend more money in costs. So that kind of just goes with any flood mitigation or things like that. We obviously are cost conscious as we plan out our investments. You know we can't do everything overnight. That's why we are looking ahead 20 years with planning, so we spread the cost out.

We want to do Investments now that actually make sense, because at the same time you don't want to have another heat wave and lose power. So those things are really important for us and that depends on just general demand.

Obviously, you know people get some EV cars, we'll get more buildings with electricity, so those things will play a role, but we do like to plan things out. If you want to see kind of in our Resilience Plan like what we're actually doing, I know it's not like fun work, I mean, but our work that we're doing is just technical - we have to be on the ground, you're going to see trucks out there upgrading feeders doing things like that.

Our pipes are the oldest - they're so old. You know we have feeders that have been in there since 1960. Everything's reaching the end of its useful life. So, overall we need to make general improvements to the system.

To get to your answer about the Army Corps of Engineers, yes, the Army Corps has some grandiose ideas. If you see on Staten Island the Living Breakwaters Project - that's kind of like post Sandy - 10 years in the making. At this point they had some grandiose ideas, but you know the EDC and the Army Corps both have really strong opinions on things that could happen, especially with Community Boards, as you guys start, building out waterfront infrastructure, but are looking to invest, living shorelines and then green infrastructure is more rain gardens, green roofs, things like that at substations. So if you see a new substation that comes out, it may likely actually have some of these green initiatives to make that less impactful.

Kathleen Warnock: Yes, following up there, I was on that tour that the Army Corps of Engineers took us on, and one of the things that made the most impression on me is that even several years after Sandy, a considerable amount of seawall was still impassible and since we are very much a Coastal Community, what does the role of rebuilding and strengthening the seawalls do because ocean water, I assume is even worse than plain water for your equipment and everybody else's.

John Rella: Even during Sandy, all of downtown, we had gardens and how many vaults were flooded. That's where Resilience is a shared goal. You know we could only really control and most likely, it's not necessarily Con Ed's responsibility, but we do work closely with the Mayor's Office and we do talk to the DEP, but that's some challenges that New York City is going to have to make. They're not easy decisions.

If you've been down there in the Lower East Side, that was 10 years of community board opposition until everything happened. It's construction. No one wants it. Listen, I live in Manhattan. I'm used to this. I used to work in construction. I did all of our environmental permitting before doing this. So a lot of major construction projects - but usually the juice is worth the squeeze. It's going to be hard, but at the same time we all need to kind of play our part with it. So that means getting on the DEP if they have a major water main or sewer main that they got to do. You know we usually kind of get there at the same time so we coordinate and try to make it as painless as possible. But there's a lot of building that's going to have to happen.

You know sea levels are rising. No one wants to talk about it as much, but we're in New York City and we're smart people. We don't deny climate change, so you know I'm glad that we do have a Mayor's Office, and agencies who are all willing to work together - especially us with the MTA.

Vanessa Jones-Hall: You mentioned houses. Out of the four houses, Astoria is the only one that sits right on the water. Of course we were affected by Hurricane Sandy more greatly than the other three. So what is Con Ed doing to assist us in the improvements? Because right now, Astoria is dealing with multiple amount of gas outages, and we rely on Con Ed once NYCHA does what it need to do, we rely on Con Ed to come out and actually finally put the gas on which you guys kind of suck when it comes to that, to be honest with you. The length of time that it takes - the way you go about it, and a lot of the residents are staying home and then you guys either no show or you do come out and you just pick one or two

but you have the whole building stay home. Currently we have an entire building out that's been out since December, some of them been out since September, so we're trying to figure out how can this be improved, where we will not be finding ourselves having to wait long periods of time with this situation because of the fact that, of course, our infrastructure is old, but how are you assisting NYCHA in those upgrades?

John Rella: I won't talk too much on the gas system because we work more with electricity. Gas really isn't impacted too much by climate change - there's all heat issues with gas - it's all gas mains, but we do have a critical facilities program where we do prioritize low-income housing and then hospitals, cooling centers, and things like that, where we'll provide additional redundancy if there's a storm. As you guys know, sometimes a lot of low-income housing apartments have air conditioning. They rely on cooling centers, and you know during those events, the heat waves, so Con Ed does know where those facilities are, and we do look to make sure that they're redundant as well with things like battery storage and things like that, you know in terms of specific locations a lot of times it's a different group. I wouldn't be able to talk too much about that.

We have a big program called Selective Undergrounding. In general, what we'll look to do is find out where there's a lot of customers on a network, that's usually going down. So you have a lot of overhead lines right, storms - trees fall over all the time. We know that. Looking at the most at-risk locations - disadvantaged communities and prioritizing putting those ground lines underground and then with the submersible equipment - anything that's in our floodplains. If you guys flood over there, you're most likely within our floodplains. They have submersible equipment at some point, I'm assuming we have everything into a FEMA plus three, which is the way we design things.

Just FYI, we use FEMA just for the sake of designing flood elevations for buildings we're actually building now to a FEMA plus five. What that means is three feet of sea level rise plus 2 feet of freeboard - kind of like the reserve space. When you have wave action, we're designing a lot of our equipment, building, substations and everything to that, but in terms of what you're thinking of, if that house is on a, let's call it a network, that's more vulnerable.

We measure our networks in terms of network resiliency index. With our program, our primary feeder reliability program, which is explained in the resiliency plan, I'm not an electrician, but essentially, it is bifurcating feeders allowing backup sources. So if you do have a network that's underperforming, we are looking to make upgrades to those areas.

Richard Khuzami: I realize that you're primarily a distribution firm, however, what's very important is obviously both Local Law 97 and also the development of new sources of energy. What is Con Ed doing to support and facilitate those two? Are there any plans for loans or grants for private building owners to upgrade so they can meet Local Law 97, and are you supporting anything like new energy sources like hydrogen and things like that?

John Rella: We have a whole clean energy commitment and one of the pillars of that is helping customers get energy efficient. We have rebates for all that kind of stuff. I'm not in that department, but we do have tons of resources for energy efficiency - heat pumps, all those kinds of things that actually do make a goal difference to Local Law 97. As a co-owner there are free, nonprofits out there that will show you your building score. So if you are worried, just in general, not associated with Con Ed, but you know they will look at your building's emissions.

In terms of preparing for distributed generation from renewable sources, of course we're looking at it. Space is far between. We have two. We have one in Ozone Park and then we have the second one we just built in Fox Hills, Staten Island. Energy storage is a great thing. FDNY took a long time to get them to come around. Hopefully we see a lot more of it.

Eighty percent (80%) of the next energy storage buildout is in Texas and California next year, which means every state is lagging in battery storage and I think that's going to help us get over the edge.

Dom Stiller: My question is about solar energy. I know that Con Ed doesn't produce energy, you transmit it, but it just seems to me and from recent discussions with electrical engineers at work that there doesn't seem to be from Con Ed encouragement for New York City houses to put solar panels on their roofs.

I went to Ireland last month. I stayed with four relatives and guess how many had solar panels on their houses? Four. It's just exploding over there. What's going on? What is New York City doing wrong or Con Ed.

John Rella: I won't say specifically, but what you're talking about is called Distributed Energy Resources - DER. That's local power that can feed back into the grid. That allows for that interconnection to net metering, and things like that. We are pushing hard for it, government forces are at play, building forces are at play and everyone else. California is very big on that. You know what you're talking about is a kind of like virtual power plants, where you kind of have a whole parking garage with solar panels or something that would feed back into the grid. That's just very difficult to do in New York City. As you know, building anything is difficult to do in New York City, but we are proponents of DER. So that's not really climate resilience, that's energy efficiency and that's a whole another section.

If you go to our website, we do talk about supporting solar and everything else, www.coned.com

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: Thanks for coming in and filling us in on the resiliency plan. We're going to get to the public session now, but to just kick it off, we have Benjamin, who is new and who's working for Assemblyman Mamdani who

has to leave so he just wanted to say a quick hello and introduce himself. So you can step up to the podium and while he's going up there, if there's anyone in the audience, a member of the public who would like to come up and talk about an issue that you're concerned about, an event that you want to promote or share, you can do that right after Benjamin finishes.

Benjamin Lotto: I'm Assemblyman Mamdani's new Communications Director in District 36. Just to give you an overview of some of the items on our agenda in the coming months, we're hosting a community paper shredding event on Tuesday October 1st coming up very quickly along with Senator Gonzalez's team. The event will go from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in front of the Queens Public Library Tech Lab at 41st Avenue and 12th Street. Zohran will be in attendance, and anyone can come and shred any paper they want for free. We also want to inform our neighbors here that free federally funded Covid-19 tests will become available by the end of this month. Soon each household can get four free tests when the tests do become available. Our office will be sharing information publicly on social media and you'll be able to access those tests. Lastly, in terms of the work our office has been doing, as of late, 30% of our cases have covered unemployment and unemployment assistance. 30% of cases have dealt with housing and related utility issues such as with Con Ed, and 40% of cases have related to concerns with state agencies, quality of life, transit, etc. I have cards for our constituent services director, Mariel, I can share with anyone who's interested and thank you so much.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: Any member of the public who wants to come up and speak just make sure you sign in. You're going to have two minutes. Tyrone has the clock over here so just watch the clock and if you can be under two minutes.

Steven Williams: I am the Outreach Coordinator for the Accessible Dispatch Program, a program that connects the community to wheelchair accessible taxis all throughout New York City. It's a wonderful program. Basically there's an app where you can get service. You can also call our 24-hour customer service line. You can also go on our website. I'll leave all the information and the brochures on this table behind me. So it's a really great program. So, if you have any family members who are disabled or any seniors that have issues with getting accessible transportation in New York City, this is a wonderful program. I'll also send my information to the Community Board, so they can send it to you tomorrow and via email.

Maryam Ford: Thank you. I'm here to ask the community board to deny roadside dining, shed and sidewalk licenses for Bario restaurant, which is at the corner of 33rd Street and 34th Avenue, which is where I happen to live. I've lived there for 20 years and since Bario opened, they've been completely disrespectful and unresponsive to the neighbors' polite requests that they turn down their music. I have dozens and dozens of 311 complaints from my neighbors that I've accumulated and many times the 114 Police show up only for them to turn down their music and 5 minutes later they turn it back up again. During their Sunday Funday events they use the outdoor area to basically become a drunken sidewalk club. They have somebody in a tight suit who pours liquor straight into the mouths of people who are walking past. Just anybody who's just passing by like able to get a free shot straight out of the bar bottle. I have some photos from there. You can see them doing that here. This person's just walking by. This woman is a patron, but has ordered nothing at the bar, so I'm just here to say that they are not good neighbors. We've had different restaurants over the years there and we've never had a group like this. We've really asked them to work with us and they have refused, and I don't know what kind of hygienic laws they're breaking, like just pure decency. We just got out of a worldwide pandemic. I don't know why they're pouring liquor straight into people's mouths, but it's really a quality-of-life issue. I have the signatures of 11 people I gathered in one day asking that everyone in the Community Board please help us by denying these licenses. So thank you very much.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: We will be reviewing that particular application next month, but not tonight. I believe you have been in touch with the Board office. Notices have been sent to NYPD, DEP and the State Liquor Authority. But obviously there is more information coming. Thank you for coming in tonight.

Maryam S: I'm here to specifically express a concern around Public Safety and I put that in really large air quotes. As a Palestinian American and also more importantly, as a Muslim, I feel like the presence of the NYPD on Steinway Street is increasingly criminalizing Muslim Agencies on that block and by extension, in the borough of Queens. We are 3 weeks away from October 7th, and not only has the city not called for a ceasefire, and much less divestment, but we are also 3 weeks away from a very imperative moment in history.

As a Palestinian American I feel like we will see more criminalization of Muslims, Palestinians, Arabs and Mina people in the area, given that this city has exhibited a history of unnecessary surveillance of Muslim agencies since 911, the initiation of the SRG the Special Response Group and the anti-terrorist unit of the NYPD are two of the most racist sects of the NYPD.

So I would really appreciate if we can do anything to minimize NYPD presence on Steinway Street, or let me reframe, sorry, any unnecessary presence of the NYPD on Steinway Street, given that it is a threat to society on Steinway Street and given that, as a Muslim, and as a Palestinian, I feel endangered when I do see an NYPD officer when I'm trying to exercise my First Amendment right to free speech, considering that this city has not, again, has not voted for neither a ceasefire and much less divestment.

So I would appreciate that come October 7th when there are protests here on this block or anywhere else in New York City, that we contribute to minimizing NYPD presence for the sake and safety of Muslims, Palestinians and really any allies to the Palestinian cause. Thank you so much.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: Thank you Maryam. Just so you know, tomorrow evening there is a Public Safety Committee. Chris, raise your hand. Chris is the new chair of our Public Safety Committee, and we will be meeting with the NYPD. He can relay your message. You can also watch it on Zoom as well. Anyone who wants to watch any of the committee meetings, those committee meetings are posted on our website and any member of the public can watch those meetings as well, so that will be happening tomorrow night.

Susan Ferrara: I am a long-term Astoria resident, basically the same house for over 70 years, so I've seen lots of changes here in Astoria, some good, some, not so good. Three areas of major concern for me and a number of my senior friends are the big ones: rats running rampant in the streets. Secondly, the crosswalk to go to the NYCHA Hanac Senior Center at the southwest corner, is in such disrepair. You take your life in your hands navigating the humps and bumps in the crosswalk. Cars are turning in there and not yielding to pedestrians. When you got almost hit just twice in the last few weeks and the last one with all these restaurants, and I know during Covid they got these special expansions out into the street, but we've got some of them that are out 8 ft from the storefront. You've got a 4 ft flag to walk on and now they're, taking the other three feet up for lines to get into the restaurant and into their outdoor facilities. Ditmars Boulevard - a boulevard is a place for people to meet, move around and traverse. You got to take your life in your hands going down now - three restaurants in a row. You've got a narrow path. Two people can barely pass so really how much more? I thought these sheds were going to come down.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: Florence is making a note of that and she can follow up on that. Anyone can file a constituent complaint and we will work on it. You can also call 311. It's good to log both ways. About the rats. I know there is a rat czar, but maybe our sanitation committee could actually invite someone in from the city to talk about that. There are mitigation strategies that you can do if you're a homeowner but obviously there's a larger issue that we have here as well, that it might be good to bring that up. And the third point, there's a new program - the sheds that existed under Covid have to be dismantled and any restaurant owner has to make a new application - it's called the Dine Out Program, so a lot of those, if they haven't been disassembled, they will be and they're going to have to conform and reapply if they want to extend that so I think some of those are just going to be going away anyway.

Jodie: My name is Jodie I'm, a longtime resident of Astoria. I've lived in Astoria for 13 years. I'm here with my wife, Sharon who's born and raised in Queens. I'm here to speak about a specific concern that we have that's happening or potentially going to happen right on the block that we live on. We live on 43rd Street between Ditmars and 23rd Avenue. We're immediately behind the LaGuardia shopping center. I'm familiar with the proposal to redevelop that lot or that block. We watched the Zoom on it a few months ago, so I believe it's going to be a nine story, 480 unit apartment building and we just wanted to come and speak to voice our concern and also our opposition to the current proposal of what they proposed in that Zoom call about three or four months ago. We watched it on YouTube a few weeks after it was posted. The main concern for us is just the size of what they're planning on building. As far as we're concerned, it's far too large of a footprint. The main thing for us is the shading. It's quite literally going to put everyone on our block in the dark. I've spoken to all of my neighbors, and I know that one of my neighbors has put together a petition. I'm not sure if it's been handed in yet, but I know that a lot of people, and pretty much everyone that I've spoken to that live on that block are also of the same opinion as me. We don't welcome the size of what's being planned. Another concern is parking. You know one of the things that the design people spoke about, they apparently are planning on building a smaller quantity of parking spaces than the minimum because they claim that there's excess parking available on the streets, which is simply not true. We live there - we park, or try to park, on our block and it's not a fair assessment that they can come and say that there's too much parking available already. One final point I'd like to make, that we've already just inherited a big development, one block away on 45th Street with the fabric building, which I believe is 180 units, and we've already experienced the result of that with respect to parking.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: That project seems to be on pause right now. We did get an update from City Planning, so it has not been certified yet. I suggest that if you haven't, you can connect with Councilmember Caban or her representative. There we go, right there. Certainly, if you have any information you want to send to the community board as well.

We got a pre kind of informational presentation that you watched on YouTube, but it has not actually been certified yet by City Planning. Once it's certified, then the whole public hearing process will happen, but you can certainly start having conversations with the Board. You can obviously connect with the Councilmembers' representative as well if you want to talk about that with them. Thank you.

Claudia Coger: I'm an Astoria Houses resident. I just wanted to address a very serious condition that we have on Astoria Boulevard and 12th Street from 12th Street to 8th Street, where all the buildings that are going up and there's also a trucking business there, where the service trucks are standing there. We have the Newtown Road that comes up also in there, and there's nothing in there where you can see around to see where the traffic is coming from or going. It's really a situation waiting for an accident to happen, and it's also our children's school crossing as well, and there's no school crossing guards there or anything. We've addressed this before with the Board some time ago but this has gotten even

worse with all of the buildings going up. It's just horrible. As a driver, it is horrible for drivers with the children walking back and forth to school.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: Thank you so much Miss Coger for bringing that to our attention again and Florence can hopefully follow up and help rectify the situation.

Jeremy Estrada Perez: I'm part of Astoria Tenants Union. I don't have any complaints right now, but I do want to make an announcement that the Astoria Tenants Union will be hosting a Block Party, September, 28th and it'll be in Athens Square Park. I just wanted to make sure that everyone's invited and everyone can come and other than that, that's all I have to say. Also free Palestine. Thank you.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: Thank you Jeremy. Athens Square Park. What time?

Jememy Estrada-Perez: 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Walter Drobenko: I've been a longtime resident of Astoria living on 31st Avenue for over 50 years, I'm a practicing attorney and I'm also a resident in that location on 31st Avenue between 31st Street and 21st Street and I'm here to voice my objection as well as my concern about the new traffic pattern that was recently created in that location. All avenues in Astoria are two-way streets. that portion of 31st Avenue between 31st Street and 21st Street now has been turned into a one-way street where I have a backyard garage area. It's very difficult for me to get out of my parking space in my garage and make a right-hand turn. There's other residents that have driveways with parking spaces by the house. It's almost impossible to get out because it appears to be that the bicycle lane is much wider than the actual traffic lane for the car and the fact that they put the parking lane in the middle during the winter hours and there's going to be winter storms.

All the residents on that street will not be able to get out of their parking spaces and parking driveways. In addition to that, if the garbage truck comes there on Tuesday and Friday, there's going to create a lot of backup traffic. The last thing that they've done, they're forcing everybody coming up 31st Avenue to make a right on to Crescent Street and everybody coming down from 31st Street down 31st Avenue, to make a left onto Crescent Street is a one-way street, as it is already and creating that additional traffic flow onto Crescent Street is ridiculous.

In light of the fact that every Avenue on Steinway in Astoria is a two-way street. In order for me to pull into my driveway, I literally have to drive around several blocks in order to get into my driveway. Before I was able to go straight down 31st Avenue, make a left and I'm there. I am creating more traffic by having to go around and taking the long route.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: I know that the changes were recently implemented so I don't even think they're necessarily complete yet, but certainly our transportation committee will take feedback as it kind of goes along and we did have a public hearing about that in June and there were several sessions that happened last year as well that were led by DOT. Thank you for coming out and sharing your thoughts on that. We appreciate it.

Okay, I am going to close that section of the meeting and we are going to head into the business section. I would like to start with the adoption of the June 2024 minutes. I hope that everybody had a chance to read them over. Did anyone have any comments or changes?

Motion to Accept the Minutes: Tom Ryan Seconded: Marie Torniali Motion to Accept passes by voice vote.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos Report: First of all, I'd like to welcome everybody back from the summer. I hope you had a wonderful few months and got some rest and relaxation. I would like to welcome back Rosemary Yelton who had a baby daughter back in June. So congratulations and it's nice to see you here. I hope you're doing well and also just want to emphasize the fact that attendance is important at our board meetings. So please come to the board meetings. If you can not make it, please send me and the board office an email. It's important to let us know. Also, committee attendance is really important as well, so if you aren't able to make a committee meeting, let your committee chair, me and the board office know as well, but we really encourage everyone to participate to the best of their ability.

I did want to say that we did our first call for public members over the summer and we got 48 applications which I thought was great. Everyone was really wonderful and I appreciate so many people wanting to serve on the board. Jalisa is the new public member for our consumer affairs committee. I just wanted to welcome her because she's here tonight. Bobby was here earlier. He's on our transportation committee. Thank you to the chairs for helping with the selection process.

Is Phyllis here? She brings the donuts and she's also on our Parks committee as a public member. I want to thank the previous public members for their service as well. Richard and I have talked about something to honor them, so maybe we'll present them with something in the future.

I just also wanted to let you know that two board members have resigned: Ethan Lowens who moved to Philly for a new job, so we thank him. I thanked him for his service to the board, he's now getting settled there and also Diana Limongi who just had a lot of commitments and didn't feel like she could give enough time to her position as a board member and felt that it was time for her to step aside, so appreciate all the work that Diana has done as a board member as well.

Florence Koulouris, District Manager Report: Welcome back everybody. I hope you had a wonderful summer hiatus. Our office has had a very productive summer. We hired a new Community Service Aide, Dustin Rajan.

We are making changes to operations in the office. As our new chair has a vision for operations, we are working to fulfill those goals. We have added a Zoom calendar to the calendar page and are using a soft grand opening by having it hosted on our interactive tab until all the glitches have been worked out.

We have been working with the Office of Technology and Innovation for all updates on our site. We have removed the contact tab from the back to the second tab on the front of the page so people can see our contact information promptly for easy access. On the resources page of our website, we added a capital budget guide so when each committee is doing capital and budget, they have easy access on the website.

We have had some computer issues arise, so we had our office updated. We are no longer using Windows 10 and are now in Windows 11 - finally - and we are being modified into the Cloud. We will be training to use Share Point soon, which will allow us to share documents. Please note there have been several glitches since the turnover, so if you notice anything unpleasant, please bear with our growing pains. It hasn't been easy.

Our Board office also has been working closely with the NYPD task force for illicit parkers in our district. We have seen commercial vehicles towed, cars removed from the sidewalk and illegal parking removed. Additionally, RVs have been encouraged to move from illegal parking spots.

I wanted to throw in, which I didn't write in my report, over the summer I was able to attend the virtual Rat Academy. I think that everybody should attend this. I'm advocating for the Health Department to put the Rat Academy on YouTube so people have easy access. Sometimes the Rat Academies do not coincide with people's work schedules, but it is very educational with a lot of useful information. So if you have an opportunity, when you're on YouTube or Twitter, please sign up for Rat Academy, it is well worth your time.

We are now scheduling committees for capital and expense budget review. If your committee requires a date, please call the office at (718) 626 -1021 or (718) 626 -1024. I look forward to seeing you next month and hope to hear from you all soon.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: Thank you so much Florence. I also wanted to make a note that longtime member, Ann Bruno, is just having some health challenges and we are sending positive thoughts to her. We hope to see her back here at the board meeting soon. So, with that we're going to go to committee reports

Economic Development Committee Report, Brian Hunt and Brian Martinez, Co-Chairs

Brian Hunt: Everybody welcome back. Before the session ended, on Tuesday 6/11 at 6:30 p.m., we had our first committee meeting with myself and co-chair Brian Martinez. We had met with the Central Astoria Local Development Coalition and the Queens Economic Development Corporation. They presented The Neighborhood 360 program. We had some members that had the opportunity to ask questions in regards to the scope of the work, their community outreach efforts to local businesses and the diversity of their outreach to local businesses in the area, and also a timeline for the program to take place which turned out to be about two to three years.

The second item that we discussed this was with the New York State Department of State Representatives, their presentation of the Downtown Revitalization Initiative in Long Island City. We discussed the scope of work and the timeline that it would take to allocate the grant money to the local businesses in the area.

We are going to look to set up another committee meeting tentatively, which we'll discuss with you further at this point, on October 8th, the Tuesday before our next regularly scheduled board meeting, at which point we'll be able to send out an email with any agenda items. As of now, we're going to look to see if we can get that date together and schedule that on the calendar. That's all that we have for this particular item.

Capital & Expense Budget Co-Chairs Amy Hau and Corrine Wood-Hayes

Amy Hau: Over the summer we were preparing a new format for the capital and expense item list. To the chairs of the committees, I've organized the format so that it's by committees first on both capital and expense. Please take a look at that as you meet over the next month. Please look over those items to see if there's still things that we are asking for. We heard some of the requests tonight and I understand that there's a survey that went out over the summer and we're hoping to get those results early October so we can incorporate some of those requests.

Corrine and I will both be reaching out to you or, if you want to send us your notes right after your meetings, we will be happy to incorporate everything. Hopefully, by the next meeting, we will have a standard list that Florence has to submit with all the rankings, so we'll be busy working on that for the next few weeks.

Richard Khuzami: Will there be actually a meeting of capital/expense with all the committee chairs?

Amy Hau: I think we should. It's a matter of figuring out the dates of when the survey is, when all your meetings are happening and when we need to submit, so we'll try and get a date on the calendar.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: We'd want to do it before the October board meeting. Next up we have Communications and Public Outreach. I don't think Huge is here. The committee did meet in June. We've started making some tweaks to the website, including actually like a grid calendar where you can see the month and all the different meetings so more things

along the way. I want to thank Huge and his committee for getting that process started. I'll have him update next time on what they've been doing.

Consumer Affairs/Licenses Chair Kathleen Warnock: Good evening. We met last night and welcomed our newest public committee member. We heard from two people who had applied for dispensary licenses and we did talk to one of the people who had applied for the official outdoor dining license. Then we looked at the people looking at liquor licenses. I will go through them one at a time.

We had two official applications for cannabis dispensaries. We brought both of the owners in and we spoke to them about what their plans are and how they are conforming to the city's regulations for this and just overall plans for how they plan to conduct themselves with security and checking IDs, and things like that. Both of these dispensaries gave us good answers and they have every intention of operating within the legal strictures of New York City. So that part is good and the consensus was that there was no problem with them.

If you look at your wonderful color coded spreadsheet you will see that they've got the liquor, the dining and we do have the cannabis notifications. There was one from Urban Clouds and another one from Better States. We met with the owners of both these businesses and they have done all of their due diligence and we've let them know of our expectation that they'd be good neighbors and they agreed to it. So may I hear a motion to approve the licenses for these two cannabis dispensaries.

Motion to Approve All Cannabis Licenses: Tom Ryan Seconded: Christopher Hanway

Discussion

Dominic Stiller: Do the Cannabis applicants sign any stipulations that we can kind of fall back on in terms of a quality of life expected standard?

Kathleen Warnock: Yes, they do and those were attached to the applications that they put in and they sign the stipulations, get them notarized and return them to the Community Board Office so that there's going to be some teeth in it, which is good.

The question is called. The Motion To Approve Carries - 1 Opposed - 2 Abstentions

Kathleen Warnock: Moving on to outdoor dining. There's actually an excellent application that they have to put in and we have a copy. We get a copy of it that we can look at that completely explains what they are doing and how they are doing it. They agree to follow the city regulations in terms of the space that they may take up and what they may use for the outdoor dining areas. The built up roadside sheds are no longer going to be there and they are coming down after November of each year. The ones that are actually in the street, they will have to come down from November until April.

Each year we had a list that you can see here, starting with Pronto Pizza and ending with Mimosa Cafe of people who had applied for sidewalk dining and their applications. All looked pretty good. We did ask Anassa Taverna to come in and speak to us because they had such a large number of tables and chairs. We went over their application with them and they had not just photos, but also an architectural drawing of how it fits within the city's limits on outdoor dining. There were no comments or complaints about any of the other places.

I would say that, based on the feedback we received and also from having talked to the owner of the particular business, I would say we should go ahead and approve these applications for the outdoor dining.

Motion to Approve All Outdoor Dining Applications: Amin Mehedi Seconded: Tom Ryan

Discussion:

Amy Hau: Are these all open sidewalks or are they enclosed? I remember years ago we used to have the enclosed application.

Kathleen Warnock: These are all sidewalk dining, which means there's a fence, but no enclosures - no extra building added on.

Elizabeth Erion: A point of clarification - I'm just looking at this Anassa Taverna - 31 tables, 62 chairs outdoors.

Kathleen Warnock: Yes, that's why we called them in. Based on the frontage of their property, because it's a very long frontage and based on the depth before the building actually starts. We looked at their architectural drawings and at the photos that they submitted, and it appears that they can indeed do that and still be within the regulations of New York City for sidewalk dining.

The question is called. Motion Carries Unanimously

Kathleen Warnock: The third and most numerous applications, as you can see, were this summer's liquor license applications. We had reached out and wanted to hear from our community policing officers whether there had been specific complaints about specific bars, restaurants or clubs, and in fact we did have some anecdotal evidence that HOA, which used to operate as Home, had become problematic again. So in discussion, one of the things that we didn't have all

the answers for were: is it the same ownership or is it a new ownership group? Florence gets the reports from the community policing officer, and they did in fact send us a rather detailed email which told us about stuff that's going on there. They said that HOA Restaurant and Lounge at 28-49 Steinway Street from 6/01/23 to 7/07/24, had 73 calls for noise to 311 and 43 calls total to 911, Their advice was that we should call them in for a meeting, find out what's going on and see what we can do about enforcing the stipulations that they signed or, if they claim that they are a new business, find out who actually owns the business. So that's definitely on the agenda for next month, as well as the one the community member suggested - that Barrio has to come in and talk about what they're not doing right.

Based on the reports, both anecdotal and from Community Police, which were given to us, the police report we got today, I would suggest that we go ahead and approve the other ones, but not HOA, formerly Home.

Motion to Approve All Applications Excluding HOA: Tom Ryan Second: Amin Mehedi

Discussion:

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: We did not have this information about all the 911 and 311 calls at our meeting last night so we didn't discuss it then. That's why you're hearing about it now. I see people looking at me puzzled about why we didn't talk about this last night, but we didn't have that information. We got that information today, so it doesn't matter about the stipulations. We didn't have the information to discuss last night. So anyway, we didn't receive it in time so Kathleen is making that recommendation.

Tom Ryan: Usually when we get to this point with the applicants, we usually call the State Liquor Authority, so I think we should because this seems to be way out of hand.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: The 114th did recommend that the Consumer Affairs Committee meet with the applicant, but we did not get that information until today. It was sent to the board office, but we didn't get it until today - In terms of committee chairs.

Tom Ryan: When that many numbers come up, that's a red flag.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: Absolutely I think that's why Kathleen is recommending that we do not approve that license.

Athanasios Magoutas: Hi, I'll, just add anecdotally my partner lives across the street from HOA, formerly Home, formerly a bunch of other stuff. It is most definitely a chaotic, weird, dangerous situation there so definitely worth having them come in.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: The motion is to approve all the applicants except for HOA. Kathleen is going to look to set up a meeting with the NYPD, HOA and the Consumer Affairs Committee to discuss it further, but we will make a recommendation. We'll have a delayed recommendation to the State Liquor Authority after we meet with them.

Kathleen Warnock: I wanted to say that the people that we have met with for the most part have been grateful to come in and see us and talk to us and I think it really helps make them realize that being a good neighbor is good for everybody. So that's another good thing: that's coming from seeing people face to face or Zoom to Zoom.

The question is called. Motion to Approve All Licenses Excluding HOA Carries - 2 Abstentions

Education, Libraries and Youth Chair Amin Mehedi: Thank you for giving me that chance with this committee. I've been serving on the Community Board for four years. This is the first time that we are going to have a meeting. I just spoke to Florence because there are a lot of things we can do for the community. Anybody who has any ideas you can just share with me. We can make a good impact in Community Board One. Thank you so much.

Environmental and Sanitation Chair Antonella Di Saverio: We have our next meeting on October 8th. Hopefully we'll have the Department of Sanitation there and we're going to talk about the budget.

Health and Human Services Chair Shahenaz Hamde: Hi, everyone. We're going to meet on September 25th. Please, if you can attend because we're going to speak about the capital and expense budget. Besides this, we have a speaker going to come from the Department of Health. Also, if you want us to bring any speaker or any idea to the meeting, please let us know you can email Florence and CC me. Thanks so much and I wish to see all of you in the meeting.

Housing Vice Chair Vanessa Jones-Hall: Good evening everyone. The committee met on September the 9th on that Monday. I apologize I was unable to attend because of illness. Katie sends her greetings. Her daughter is ill so keep both our children in your prayers.

The Housing Committee report that was sent by Katie - Attorney Denal Rodriguez of Queens Legal Services, joined the committee to discuss and answer questions about tenants' rights, building code compliance with New York State Housing Law. A good portion of his presentation was about Good Cause Eviction Law, which is new and went into effect in April of 2024. Good Cause Eviction is a New York State law that went into effect on April 20th of 2024. It gives some tenants in unregulated, also known as market rate homes, in New York City, new protections from landlords of homes covered by the new Good Cause Eviction. The requirements are that landlords cannot end a tenancy without a good cause reason and tenant without good cause reason and tenants can use this law as a defense in Housing Court. Tenants can also use the law

to challenge rent increases above a certain level if they are evicted for non-payment of rent. This law applies to eviction cases that started on or after April 20th of 2024, meaning cases where the landlord first filed documents in court to begin the court case on or after this date. Good cause eviction is enforced through the courts so tenants who wish to challenge an end to their tenancy or who have questions about rent increases should refer to the additional resources that are listed by the legal council and seek legal counsel. You can look this up on your website within New York State housing.

The committee welcomed our newest public member Clint. The remainder of our meeting was dedicated to the capital and expense budget and brainstorming what the housing committee should include in priorities. We will coordinate a meeting with the district manager and the board chair for October to reconvene the committee to finalize our priorities for the full board meeting next month. This is the end of our report.

Land Use and Zoning Chair Elizabeth Erion: Welcome back everyone. I hope you enjoyed your summer. We were working almost the whole time during the recess. We found out about a DCP public scoping hearing on the Long Island City Neighborhood Study. It was scheduled for August 12th and so I watched it, and they requested comments from the public. We did not get a presentation on the proposals that are going to be put forth until the beginning of September, but I will tell you I put together a little something to go on record with respect to the scoping meeting. This is for the work that's going to be done for the environmental impact statement for the whole Long Island City Study and what I started out saying was it is an outrageous disregard for the fact that we were not in session during the summertime.

Secondly, the outreach was really minimal in Community Board 1 because the study is primarily focused in Community Board 2. The purpose of the hearing itself is to elicit comments about what has to be studied as impacts within the environmental impact statement, but instead I would say 95% of the people who made their comments had to do with supporting the rezoning itself.

So you know it was: let's get our act together and if you have a scoping hearing, go for the scoping not for what is being proposed specifically, but what the impacts are going to be. With respect to that, I wrote something about open space in the community, with all of the development that is being anticipated and in that respect, they're talking about the project, 14,000 dwelling units, 4,000, affordable units, 3 million commercial square feet and a 3 million square feet of Industrial and Commercial space and Waterfront access and open space improvement. So this is a big proposal and I wanted to emphasize that Board 1, though we have a small portion of this study, is one of the lowest ratios. We have one of the lowest ratios of open space to density in Queens, if not the city, so that has to be assessed. Also the issue about affordability.

Zoning has a very small role in determining affordability, but what they do have percentages that they designate at times and in conjunction with HPD, so I advocated for that and then the third thing was the mixed-use development. Dutch Kills has always been a mixed use community and what was missing was what we'd, like the DEIS to look at, is to assess and evaluate the types of industry that are leaving and are coming into that kind of area, so that at least we can focus on zoning issues that would encourage that.

We don't know what's going on in Dutch Kills with respect to the industry. We know what's happening with the residential part, but the industry is largely within the IBZs that are in that area. So the Long Island City Partnership and the IBZs have this information, which is very difficult to get. With respect to the Long Island City study. It extends into our district for a couple of blocks north of from Queens Plaza North to about 39th Avenue, and it's currently zoned M15 and M13. What they're proposing for those two blocks on Queens Plaza North are M16A/R10, they're paired districts, which is an FAR of approximately 12 residential. For the two blocks north, they're proposing M15A and M14A. So at this point there were some comments that the members made. We've been told that the study is a framework. It is not a specific proposal, although they have them written down for a start for discussion, and some of the things that we wanted them to focus on was the affordability of the housing that's going to be coming in and that it should be towards the lower end. The kind of protections that would be in place for existing, affordable units in the area, so they don't get priced out with the incoming of the new development. We wanted to know what the potential for converting existing commercial buildings on Queens Plaza North to residential is. The other buildings that are not within the study area are part of the special district so they're not going to assess that - it won't be affected by it. The special district regulations will apply to them.

There was concern about the effect that these zoning districts are going to have on the adjacent development, especially in Dutch, Kills, and also we wondered, did they really express to Queensbridge and whoever they did outreach to, the realities of what an R10 or R12 structure looks like when it's so close to an existing neighborhood and on narrow streets?

Colin is here and I think he can talk more about the timeline if he would be so kind to do that.

Colin Ryan: Hi everybody. Nice to see you, it's been a little while. I can give a little bit of the timeline. So our scoping comment period ended last week. That is not the last time to give input on this plan. We are planning to certify for this project in March. The date is still TBD, but from there we'll be going into a public referral period. So we'll go out to that typical Community Board review, and Borough President, and to the City Council to vote on by the end of the year. So this is a lengthy process and there will still be ample opportunities to weigh in. I think that one other thing I'll mention

outside of that is, we are planning some engagement in the fall and winter dates and plan is still TBD, but I'll share that with Florence as soon as I'm aware of them.

Elizabeth Erion: We didn't have anything certified, but we did have an update meeting with City Planning and we have about three or four that will be coming before the board within the next few months. So I think that's really all I have at this point.

Legal, Legislative and Parliamentary Chair Rod Townsend: Welcome back.

Parks, Recreation & Cultural Chair Richard Khuzami: First of all, we'd like to start off by thanking Lynn Kennedy. She was our public member for maybe up to 15 years. We'd like to thank her so much for all her service, and we also like to thank Angie McCormack and Phyllis Parra for joining us as public members. We appreciate their participation.

Our next meeting - our first meeting, will be on the 23rd. In that meeting we'll be discussing the budget. We also will have a presentation by Parks on the Halletts Point playgrounds, their proposals for the renovations there and just for people to know, if they want to look online - it's actually called Halletts Cove A, but it's known in the neighborhood as Halletts Point Playground.

There will be a classic car event sponsored by the Astoria Park Alliance this Saturday between 11am and 4pm in Astoria Park. Also I'd like to thank Florence. I'm not sure where she is at this point, but we had a wonderful Parks budget consultation together going over some of the needs and the status of our Capital projects that are in the pipeline and what their needs are for the upcoming budget, so Rosemary and I will be working diligently to put together information. There's a lot of capital projects and expense projects having to do with Parks. We probably carry the most and we're looking forward to sharing them very soon with the committee members and then eventually with the whole committee. So thank you.

Public Safety Chair Chris Hanway: Hi everybody. As Evie mentioned earlier, we will have our first meeting tomorrow evening at 6:30 p.m. We encourage everybody to join us if you can. It's been quite a while, since there's been a meeting, it's my understanding, so my co-chair Frank Fredericks and I are looking forward to revitalizing the committee and we will have a presentation from someone from Community Affairs at the 114th Precinct, and then we will go into capital and expense needs as well. I do want to stress that while we thought it was appropriate to have someone from the precinct at the first meeting, we intend to invite a diverse and wide-ranging group of guests and speakers to our meetings so that all voices can be represented. We look forward to seeing you.

Transportation Chair Dom Stiller: Good evening everybody. Quick report. We had a meeting on September 11th. We had 8 of 12 members present. We had very impressive speakers from the Queens Youth Activity Committee, Youth Activist Committee, from Transportation Alternatives (TA). Two gentlemen named Miles Vender, Wilson and Michael Burkart, and they were kind of chaperoned by Laura Shepard, the Queen's TA rep, and they presented a well-polished resolution draft to us for consideration which we expect to vote on here, regarding a Citi Bike reduced fare program for public school attendees which basically mirrors certain programs now, which is basically half price. They also were advocating for a \$5 a month reduced monthly fee, which is significantly cheaper than the current \$200 plus dollar a year charge for membership. So I do have their draft resolution here. It was emailed to everybody, so I don't think I need to read the whole thing. The committee discussed it and was basically in strong support. So I think we're going to have a vote here to send the draft resolution from the committee supporting this resolution.

Motion to Approve the Resolution for Reduced Fare: Amin Mehedi Seconded: Shahenaz Hamde

Discussion:

Gerald Caliando: Who is this resolution going to?

Dom Stiller: It's mainly going to Citi Bike, that's who it's going to. They intend to start discussions with Citi Bike and public officials in January after they make their rounds of many Community Boards.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: Our elected would be copied on that, so they would get it also.

Board Member: Citi Bike is connected to the Department of Transportation right?

Dom Stiller: Citi Bike I believe, is a private entity with City support. I'm not 100% sure. I don't think that it's an arm of the DOT at all.

Board Member: I have not read the resolution and I apologize, but is there any language about helmets for young people who will be using Citi Bikes? It's bad enough to see grown adults riding Citi Bikes throughout the city without helmets, but I feel like we're talking about youth and frankly, children and I wonder if there's anything there in the language?

Dom Stiller: So that's a great question and it is limited to 16 and up. It does intend to parallel the current laws about helmets in New York City, and there are a lot of opposing views on the benefits of helmets in the cycling advocacy community regarding hardship of using and discouraging riding and so forth. There's also a lot of stats about people in automobile accidents getting head injuries too. They did mention it and I believe that it is in here, but I'd have to find it.

Athanasios Magoutas: They did also speak to this point, because the whole part of it is that the electric Citi Bikes are quite expensive and they do want to see students who are close to school ride a bike to school because of health benefits and congestion benefits - all these things. They were saying that if Citi Bike staff were to agree to getting students on board with a program like this, that they would also incorporate education in terms of safety and general use of the streets and how to be safe while riding as they might obviously be a lot of inexperienced riders.

Dom Stiller: They did talk about actually having to take a photo like the Revel scooters used to do, but it's not in the resolution, but they were saying that they were open to that. So I think that's a detail that I'd like to leave their resolution the way it is when it comes to the vote, but thank you.

Rod Townsend: I just looked up if Citi Bike is profitable and just for the information of the board, its revenue for 2023 was \$14 million. So maybe this doesn't go far enough.

Dom Stiller: Is that profits or revenue that's revenue? Is the \$14 million profits over and above expenses or just the amount that came in, because obviously they've got operating costs, but I'm actually going to look into that this month too. I think that it's more the reason to consider and accept this resolution. If the idea is that they're doing well.

Rod Townsend: The company declined to put out financials for only the Bike Share program so unknown.

Andreas Migias: I'm wondering if you know or got any of the history of how the NYCHA partnership came to be with Lyft and Citi Bike. If somebody is subsidizing that, is the city giving money towards that program to allow those discounted rates or is Lyft taking on that burden, and would it be the same setup with this program as well? Also I'm not sure about this, but I mean I've been reading that Lyft is trying to sell the Citi Bike part of its portfolio because it might not be super profitable. So that's another thing to potentially consider so I find that with resolutions in this area when they get broader and they just get weakened.

Dom Stiller: If your question is, is Lyft planning to sell Citi Bike? I don't know.

Andreas Migias: I'm more so curious about if you know anything about the current partners between DOT or Lyft and Citi Bike, who's subsidizing the cost? Is it the city or is it Lyft?

Dom Stiller: I don't know specifically, but it's an interesting point. I'm going to make some notes and find out, but I don't want to hold up getting this off our desk.

Andreas Migias: Just because that could potentially bring up different issues in terms of actually getting the program up and running depending on who would actually be funding it and whether you know the city could mandate it or not.

Dom Stiller: So they brought some numbers about the current NYCHA reduced price program and they were impressive, but they were a small percentage of the daily ridership. I don't remember the numbers, Andreas. I think it was something like a low percentage - 16,000 using 16,000 out of like 1.3 million or so rides are on the reduced fare program. So it's a pretty small percentage at this point, which is a shame.

Tom Ryan: Do we have jurisdiction here? These are two private companies, Transportation Alternatives and City Bikes. Do we have jurisdiction in this matter?

Dom Stiller: We're voting to give a resolution, which is a letter of support to enable New York City residents to take advantage of these programs. These were members of the public that have brought this through this advocacy group.

Tom Ryan: I'm talking about Transportation Alternatives and City Bikes. Those are two private entities and I don't think we have jurisdiction here.

Dom Stiller: Do you think we don't have jurisdiction? The Board can state matters of opinion on any matter.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: It is a city program - a partnership with the city. It is not completely private. It is like there's a contract for them to do it on behalf of the city.

The question is called. The motion carries. 1 Nay No Abstentions

Dom stiller. I just like to say one thing while I have the floor, and that is about that woman earlier who complained about the music and I just think that's really brave of her and a really important thing to do, and whatever this community can do regarding coming down strong on things like that I really would be interested in helping and then secondly, the woman that came and spoke about the police presence on Steinway Street I think that's also a really important issue for this community. So I think that I'd recommend a committee meeting specifically with those different groups to get them together, because it's stressful and whatever we can do to help that as a Community Board 1, I would support.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: I appreciate everyone who got up whatever they say that people show up and speak about whatever. So thanks to everybody for that.

Any old business? Any new business? If none, we will move on to elected officials or their representatives.

Shawna Morlock: Director of Community Affairs for State Senator Kristen Gonzalez. I hope you all had a wonderful summer. Thank you for having us back. I just wanted to let you know a few things that our office has going on. We're going to be holding our monthly mobile office hours with the offices of Councilmember Caban, Assemblymember Mamdani, Representative Cortez, as well at the Astoria Houses Community Center, this Monday September 23rd from 11am to 2pm. The time has changed. It used to be from 2pm to 5pm, so if you have any state agency issues or federal or city, please come and say hello to us.

We're doing a paper shredding event with Assemblymember Mamdani's office that you already heard about so I won't speak on that. We're also doing a recycling event on September 29th at the Culture Lab from noon to 300 p.m. and then we just wanted to say that we also attended the One LIC Scoping meeting that we heard about earlier and the Senator wanted to let you guys know that her position is that any development in this area needs to benefit the community and address the existing deficits that we have and we call for the inclusion of the maximum amount of deeply and permanently affordable housing, essential infrastructure upgrades and a fully connected, accessible waterfront and climate resilient shoreline infrastructure, and we're going to do everything in our power to fight for these things.

For the community, our office is happy to announce that we were able to give away over 1,200 backpacks in Astoria Houses, Queensbridge, Ravenswood and at the Variety Boys and Girls Club, and we did a separate event with the William Hallet School for new arrivals and just wanted to thank all of the community sponsors that made that possible. As always, we're working to get the Governor to sign our past bills, including the Loading Act which regulates the government use of AI while also implementing labor protections.

Javier Figaroa: My name is Javier from District Attorney Katz's office. District Attorney Katz has finalized her RFPS or request for proposals for the Youth Development and Crime Prevention Programs in the DA's approach to implement a more holistic and community-based effort to keep our youth out of the criminal justice system through social, recreational, academic or career development activities. So what does that mean? So here in the 114th Precinct District Attorney Katz has given money to five organizations. She gave \$100,000 to Long Island Gay and Lesbian Youth Incorporated - Zone 126, Jacob Reis Neighborhood Settlement and Urban Upbound and \$50,000 to Share for Life Astoria. This money is given through our RFPS, to implement various youth development programs to engage with our youth, but most of all keep them out of the criminal justice system and that's all I really have to say. If anyone has any questions, I'm always here.

Tessa Blum: Councilmember Caban's office. I'll start with some legislative updates. We have committee hearings that we're working on about alternatives to policing for people in mental health crises and another on a task force to examine the treatment of transgender, non-binary and gender non-conforming people at Rikers and both of these committee hearings are next week. We also have a coalition of groups supporting our secure jobs bill to protect workers as Councilmember Caban talked about in the May or June meeting to protect workers from unfair dismissal and we're organizing a rally and lobby day at City Hall next Thursday. We're also introducing a new bill requiring large glass buildings in New York to retrofit their exteriors with bird friendly materials in October in terms of our district office updates. We hope that we see everybody this Saturday, September 21st at dog day, which is going to be at 31st Avenue, open street. We're going to have a free, popup adoption event, nail trims, vaccinations checkups for your dog and also information that I know a lot of people care about leash hour like off leash hours and a pet supply, swap as well we're having our citizenship now attorney again in our office this month. So you can send anyone our way who's having immigration issues that they might have questions about. We're also having Astoria Houses Satellite office hours with the other electeds as was just discussed. And finally, we have a new partnership with Met Council where we're helping constituents once a month with SNAP application support so if you know anyone that needs support with that, you can have them call our office and set up an appointment with that staff member from the Met Council.

Farah Salam: I'm from Councilmember Julie Won's office, I hope everyone had a wonderful summer. Over the summer we distributed around 1,700 backpacks to our youngest neighbors and friends in the district. We also gave away 100 rain barrels and distributed another 160 rain barrels with Assemblymember Raga's and Senator Genaris' office. We hosted several movie nights, including Barbie and Little Mermaid. In terms of our legislative work, we have two upcoming hearings. One is going to be at the end of the month on September 30th. It will be upgrading school transportation and bus contracts and then around the end of October, probably around October 30th there will be a hearing on the administration's new containerization requirements. The budget passed back in June, where Councilmember Won ensured that funding to our schools, libraries and parks were restored. Julie also allocated \$43,000 to ACE for weekly rat mitigation services in the district and \$888,000 to buy DSNY better bins for the districts. Participatory budgeting has begun. We're currently collecting ideas where you can submit ideas or volunteer to be a delegate and help put together the ballot. We are focusing on capital projects which cover long-term investments in facilities and infrastructures, as opposed to expense projects which cover funding programs, services and activities. For example, renovating a basketball court is capital, whereas running a basketball youth program is an expense. Some ideas that have worked in the past are street trees, curb cuts, buses, countdown meters and cameras that capture dumping in key areas in the district.

Lastly, following the tragic death of 16-year-old Jael Zhinin and the injury of her 8-year-old sister in Sunnyside, we did a walkthrough with DOT outside is-12-25 in Woodside, the Queensboro office. The Queensboro commissioner's office is exploring additional safety measures and about two Mondays ago we held a press conference calling on DOT to work

faster to make this intersection and other intersections near schools safe. The councilmember will be introducing a bill for universal daylighting in the coming weeks, an issue this community board and others have been at the forefront of.

Janggo Mahmud: I'm a representative of District 34 Assemblymember Jessica, Gonzalez-Rojas. I'd like to start our office's report with a legislative update that's localized for the Astoria Community. Our neighborhood being known as an asthma alley with frequent breathing hospitalizations is something that the assemblymember is committed to addressing this session for her constituency. So last week she introduced a bill that would build on something that's written into this year's state budget, which eliminated the cost sharing for insulin and now does the same for asthma inhalers - eliminating cost sharing. This would mean that insurance companies can no longer require co-pays for policyholders who need insulin, because the assemblymember believes that is completely unjust. That New Yorkers would have to pay a sum of money for life-saving devices like asthma inhalers. How about that? But as for community events, if you happen to be at Steinway Library you'll see us there for mobile office hours on Thursday October 24th from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. as well as a housing clinic at our office which is at the Jackson Heights Shopping Center on October 17th, where you could speak to a housing attorney who'll be on site for legal advice and know your rights and any other housing concerns and issues that you'd like to raise.

Claire Collins: I'm a CB 1 liaison from the office of Queens Borough President Donovan Richards. I hope everyone had a good summer. I want to let everyone know that the 2024 Community Board demographic report is available on our website and our website is www.QueensBP.NYC.gov. It used to be .org now it is .gov so note that. This report gives a summary of this year's class of appointees and gives a full explanation of the demographic breakdown throughout the borough.

So for events I'll go through them quickly, so we can go home, Saturday, September 28th is the Queen's climate Expo and this is going to be at the Hall of Science beginning at 4:00 p.m. at Flushing Meadows and then on the same day we're hosting a young adult professional mixer at Kiko Studios at 6:00 p.m. and then lastly, on September 30th at 5:00 p.m. we're having the Queens High School fair to wrap up the month and you can RSVP at queensbp.nyc.gov. The land use report you guys mentioned City of Yes, the Borough President approved it conditionally, and if you want to talk to me about what those conditions are, I can talk to you about it.

Kathleen Warnock: I'm not a poet but I know most of the poets in Queens and they are getting very angry that there is not a new poet Laureate appointed, even though they've all written letters to the local papers and are reaching out at various events. So if you could mention to the Borough President that the poets in Queens want action, that would be very much appreciated.

Claire Collins: Okay, I'll put a note of that in my report.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: Okay, before we adjourn just a heads up that the next Land Use Committee is actually going to be a joint committee meeting with Housing and Education because it's regarding a school that will be built on NYCHA Astoria houses property on the Halletts Cove Peninsula. Anyone of course can join, but I just wanted to spotlight that.

Elizabeth Erion: It is also occurring not on a regular Wednesday. It's on October 1st - Tuesday, the day before we would regularly meet. It's October 1st - Tuesday because of the holidays.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: So with that, if there is nothing else, can I have a motion to adjourn?

Motion to Adjourn - seconded and passed.

**COMMUNITY BOARD 1, Queens
ATTENDANCE FULL BOARD MEETING**

DATE September
17, 2024

Community Board Member	Yes	No	Abs.	Community Board Member	Yes	No	Abs.
George Alexiou		✓		Huge Ma			E
Daniel Aliberti			E	Raga Maddela	✓		
Cristian Batres	✓			Athanasios Magoutas	✓		
Kian Betancourt			E	Patricia Mahecha	✓		
Ann Bruno			E	Jeffrey Martin			E
Gerald Caliendo	✓			Brian Martinez	✓		
Jean Marie D'Alleva	✓			Amin Mehedi	✓		
Antonella Di Saverio	✓			Andreas Migias	✓		
Katie Ellman		✓		Doreen Mohammed	✓		
Elizabeth Erion	✓			Stella Nicolaou	✓		
Dean Feratovic		✓		Dino Panagoulis	✓		
Adam Fisher-Cox	✓			Juliet Payabyab	✓		
Frank Fredericks	✓			RoseMarie Poveromo			E
Tyrone Gardner	✓			Thomas Ryan	✓		
Shahenaz Hamde	✓			Marisela Santos	✓		
Evie Hantzopoulos	✓			Dominic Stiller	✓		
Christopher Hanway	✓			Marie Torniali	✓		
Amy Hau	✓			Rod Townsend	✓		
Brian Hunt	✓			Judy Trilivas			E
Jacqueline Ibarra	✓			Mario Vergara	✓		
Vanessa Jones-Hall	✓			Kathleen Warnock	✓		
Richard Khuzami	✓			Quinella Williams	✓		
Cristina Lastres		✓		Corinne Wood-Haynes	✓		
				Thomas Wright	✓		
				Rosemary Yelton	✓		
Number Board Members Present							
Present <u>37</u>	Absent <u>4</u>	Excused <u>7</u>					