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Community Board #1, Queens**
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**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING and PUBLIC HEARING
Tuesday, December 17, 2024, 6:30 p.m.
Astoria World Manor
25-22 ASTORIA BOULEVARD**

Meeting is in person; public may view on YouTube Livestream
<https://youtube.com/live/3968irtoqDw>

6:30 PM PUBLIC HEARING/REGULAR BOARD MEETING

**Item #1: School Construction Authority/New Elementary
School, Hallett's Point**

Informational Presentation:
Proposed school site located on the NYCHA Astoria Houses
Campus, primary and intermediate school, 547 to 754 seats.

PUBLIC SESSION – Members of the public are invited to speak.
Limited to two (2) minutes per speaker.

BUSINESS SESSION - Only board members are permitted to speak
during this portion of the meeting

- Adoption November 2024 Minutes
- Chair's Report
- District Manager's Report
- Committee Reports
 - Consumer Affairs: Vote on NYSLA, Dine Out and Cannabis Applications

• Old/New Business

ELECTED OFFICIALS/REPRESENTATIVES

- Announcements/Updates

ADJOURNMENT

**Next Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting
January 21, 2025**

BOARD MEMBERS (cont.)

George Alexiou
Cristian Batres
Kian Betancourt
Ann Bruno
Gerald Caliendo
Jean Marie D'Alleva
Dean O. Feratovic
Adam Fisher-Cox
Frank Fredericks
Jacqueline Ibarra
Vanessa Jones-Hall
Cristina Lastres
Raga Maddela
Athanasios Magoutas
Patricia Mahecha
Jeffrey Martin
Doreen Mohammed
Stella Nicolaou
Dino Panagoulis
Juliet Payabyab
RoseMarie Poveromo
Marisela Santos
Judy Trilivas
Mario Vergara
Quinella Williams
Thomas Wright

Community Board 1 Queens Full Board / Public Hearing Meeting Tuesday December 17, 2024

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: Welcome to our December 17th board meeting and public hearing. Item number one on the agenda is the School Construction Authority presentation on a new elementary school and middle school. We have our public session, then our business section, followed by updates from our elected officials or their representatives.

So with that, we would like to get started with item number one - School Construction Authority presenting a new elementary school at Halletts Point. This is an informational presentation. The proposed site is located on the NYCHA Astoria Houses campus and will have approximately 547 to 754 seats.

Presentation by Benjamin Goodman, School Construction Authority.

Daniel Aliberti: You mentioned 71,000 square feet - is that the footprint or is that the total footage, including all the floor area?

Benjamin Goodman: That is the total lot area that we are proposing to acquire on behalf of the DOE. We have not begun the design yet.

Daniel Aliberti: 71,000 square feet is a large footprint. I mean if it's all going to be on one floor, but if it's going to be tall, then it's going to be a big building.

Benjamin Goodman: Usually the school buildings are anywhere between three to five stories on average, but without getting into the site specifics, which you know we don't have yet, that's just generally an average of what we build across Queens and across the city.

Amin Mehedi: Thank you for your proposal. We need that school and the Education, Library and Youth committee will check the whole thing out in our next meeting and come back to the board.

Corinne Wood-Haynes: I would like to know, did you all do any community engagement? Did you engage the community leaders on what this plan is?

Benjamin Goodman: Yes, my colleague attended a meeting of the Astoria Houses Tenant Association a few weeks back. When we get closer to the start of actual construction I'll be out in the field posting their neighbor notices so folks have my contact information and my email, because we also will serve as the construction managers for this project. If the project is approved by the City Council, we will also then provide our contact information and a letter summarizing the project and explaining the construction that will be going on.

Brian Martinez: I don't know if you mentioned anything about that cul-de-sac area that you can see on the proposed aerial view. I know at the end of that, there's a little like a walkway. Is that going to be opened up for vehicular traffic to come out from that side as well, because at this point I don't think there's any access, there's only one way in and one way out. It's congested as it is, especially with those new buildings going up in the Halletts Point area. Has there been any talk of opening up any access for vehicular traffic to come in and out from the other side - from the back?

Benjamin Goodman: That wouldn't be something that would be an SCA's purview. You'd have to speak with NYCHA or the Department of Transportation.

Richard Khuzami: On that point - the original rezoning in 2010 did incorporate opening that hole up right up the first street. It is going to be a throughway. That's the rezoning with Lincoln Equities which is now the Durst Complex. It's separate from this, but that will be opened up.

Vanessa Jones-Hall: I'm also the Tenant Association President for Astoria Houses. Years back it was stated that they would be planning an elementary school on Astoria Houses property. We were never told it would be an elementary and junior high school. I had to fight for somebody to come to the meeting we just had on December 11th. We had a meeting prior to that with the board and you guys met with us along with NYCHA. Then NYCHA came because you guys were not able to come to our resident meeting which, because of the rain, not many residents showed up, but the fact remains that this situation has been changed from back in 2010 and since then we have not had proper engagement. You said that this public hearing on December 21st was open but there were no notices about this in the Astoria Houses or online until you came to see us. The problem that we're having is that these decisions and changes were not brought to our attention until recently. The location that you're talking about will remove two parking lots and two playgrounds. At the meeting on December 11th NYCHA said they were going to seek to replace those parking lots and playgrounds but there is no place to replace those parking lots and playgrounds. Also, those are paid parking lots which are very scarce.

Also, these talks about opening Astoria from one end to the other end and having the street being opened up to go down the center of the community - many of us were against that idea when the original plan was brought up. It's truly disappointing that the residents are unaware of what's about to happen to them. A lot of the residents are unaware of the massive construction that's going to take place and displace their parking and the playgrounds.

When we talked with you on December 11th and also on the week before that, we told you that there's a lot right across the street, which is owned by the Parks Department that has not been utilized since I was a kid. It's a large enough space to cover exactly where you want to have the school. I feel that with the way this is happening in the area, if you all go into my community and look for yourself, you will see that the proposed area is extremely small and it's going to be where you have this big huge building smack in the middle of other buildings that has very little space as it is, and no parking whatever. Even when y'all came up with the design to do the school, which was supposed to be only an elementary school, we were like okay, great we're going to have a new school in the neighborhood, but where was the plan of making sure that those parking lots and playgrounds were replaced? That was not even in the plan because you have no place to put those things back in the neighborhood. So the only way that's going to happen is if you remove other things away from us. We welcome the school. We don't welcome the way it's going down. We were not properly notified. I had to fight for you guys to come to speak with us. I am thankful that you did come, but it's unfair what's going on in our community.

Durst - first it started with Lincoln Series - and I have to say to you all and I'm going to be very honest because I'm sick of this. Let's keep this real now. Come on, enough is enough, and when it came down and once again, I told the people from your organization, it's unfortunate that you're going to read the front of the complaints when it's not your fault, but the fact remains is that when Richard spoke-and everybody else spoke about this, it's the fact that we have not been allowed to have our say properly and when you'll make the changes. No one told us about these changes until just recently, and it's not fair to us. We're tired of you thinking that we don't care about our community. The same thing happened when it came to Hurricane Sandy. You're only coming now because it's equitably involved for y' all. It's economically sound. You didn't care about that ahead of time. I say this to you because when you want to come and to do these things, you're not being honest of what you're doing, you're not telling us the truth, and then you think that we are supposed to accept immediately what's going on in that space. It's too small to put that huge school there and then when it was asked to you about how big the building is going to be or how tall it is, you said it was going to be from K to 8. How big is that supposed to be?

Benjamin Goodman: So the parking that will be taken as well as the playground NYCHA will be relocating that to another area on the Astoria Houses development. We don't have more details to share about the design of the new school because we're not in design as of yet, and we don't have that information as we don't own the property as of yet. My colleague from NYCHA is here if he is permitted to speak.

Justin Lamorella: I'm the Deputy Director of Community Planning at NYCHA's Real Estate Development Department. We've been working with Ms. Jones-Hall and the TA board over the last couple of weeks on this. I'm happy to answer any questions, but this is really something that, I'll speak for myself and for my department, is new to really learn what happened over a decade ago. Many of the people who we work with are continuing to understand all of the different agreements that occurred over a decade ago. We have committed to the Astoria Houses residents that we want to continue to update them on a regular basis.

When it comes to things like: where are we going to relocate the playgrounds or the parking spaces - the documents from 2013 are very clear that all the parking must be replaced space for space, the playgrounds must be replaced and any utility work must be done to accommodate the school. So we're going to continue to work with Astoria House's TA board and the residents on coming up with a plan for those things that meets their needs, and make sure that our sister agencies like SCA and DOE and others come to the table as well to work with them.

Kathleen Warnock: I am in favor of a brand-new state-of-the-art school for the kids in the neighborhood. What I'm concerned about is that a plan that was initiated three Mayors ago suddenly comes to life again and you're asking for positive feedback and approval from the board without giving us the kind of things that can allow us to make an informed decision, because the kids need a new school. The feedback is that there is a dearth of information about what the needs are and what's going to happen with this. You will get people behind you if you're creating the kind of school that will be a great asset to the neighborhood without putting a burden onto the already existing facilities like the playgrounds and the parking lot. So as far as I'm concerned, the more specific information you can get out to the community, particularly Astoria Houses, the better.

Brian Hunt: Is there any research that identified this location to be an ideal situation for a school?

Benjamin Goodman: This was actually the location that was given to us back in 2013 by NYCHA as part of the Halletts Point rezoning for the specific site location. However, we do see enrollment trends and need for compliance with the State's new class size reduction law across District 30.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: Thank you very much for coming to present. I hope you will keep us informed about how this is progressing and we can have good, robust public engagement. Next, we have our public session where members of the

public are invited to speak, limited to up to 2 minutes per speaker or less. If you want to come and speak just please step up to the podium and make sure that you sign in and write legibly.

Neil Hayden: Today I want to speak about restaurants. There was a report put out by the Astoria Homeowners Association a couple of weeks ago, which I attended. It was highly inaccurate and I will even say somewhat irresponsible. It was picked up by a member of the press in the Astoria Post, who had only been here about 6 months and so didn't really know what was going on. Let me tell you a little bit about myself: I have been tracking restaurants since 2010. I set myself a goal of visiting and reviewing every restaurant prior to Covid-19. We had about 600 restaurants in total of which I had visited approximately 450. After Covid-19 we've gone up to 1,300 restaurants and I'm now at about 900 reviews. So let me tell you a little bit about what I think is happening. There were mistakes. First of all, Baleno hadn't closed. It had moved. Retro Pizza lost their lease, but they hadn't closed. They had moved to Ditmars and last week I spoke to Leo, who wants to reopen back on the Broadway side again. So let me give you some little bits of facts here that I think we all need to track down. Many restaurants closed because their establishments got run down. Either Associated Peter Palace and Mike Stein. They were an absolute disgrace. Today I found out the oldest pastry shop in Astoria got closed down for health violations, including smoking of tobacco in a food area. Doesn't really surprise me - the establishment has been pretty poor for the last few months. Dining patterns have changed. Most of the restaurants now are empty. When I say empty, you'll see a few people sitting in them. .

Trasonia Abbot: I'm an Astoria resident, who was fired by Amy Hau for wearing a Keffiyeh. I was expecting her to be here tonight. She's not here so I hope she's enjoying her holiday. I will instead just say that I'm not just coming here every month because it's some petty grievance about me losing my job. I had planned on moving on from Noguchi. There wasn't a lot of upward advancement in that situation for me. I had very personal reasons as to why I began wearing the Keffiyeh and one of which is that I had lived in this neighborhood and met Palestinian people and Arab people and I saw what was going on. I saw this war start and while yes, murdering people is wrong always. There is a clear one-sidedness at this point and it bothered me and so I just thought I could wear this scarf and it would mean something to the people who are suffering so much. Amy Hau firing me for wearing that scarf had nothing to do with office policy. I had been wearing a multicolored scarf before I put on the Keffiyeh. So I'm going to keep coming here, and maybe Amy is done showing up to these meetings, but she still holds power on this board and so I will continue to show up until she is officially removed, because I do not think that someone who would bend to whatever forces that be should be holding a position of leadership in this community. She did not - I know for fact that she was not hard-lined about this issue. She was one way or the other for a while, and she unfortunately decided to end the working lives of four people over this. She had the same choice I did at some point - do this or lose your job and I chose my morals. Thank you and free Palestine.

Kristen Kirnan: I would also like to speak on the Noguchi Museum's decision to ban Keffiyehs. The Noguchi Museum's 2017 exhibition, "Self-Intern" just details Noguchi's decision during the second world war to voluntarily enter a Japanese internment camp in solidarity with the displaced citizens there. In his own words, he willfully became part of humanity uprooted. Noguchi's decision to stand with the oppressed as a free man of conscience is representative of Humanity's Collective responsibility to the dispossessed. It is because of this that I and others find ourselves so horrified by the Noguchi Museum's Keffiyeh ban which blatantly defies his legacy. This ban is even more disturbing in light of the recent findings by both the UN Special Council and Amnesty International that Israel is committing genocide in Gaza. The International community agrees that we are watching a genocide unfold before our eyes and the Keffiyeh is a symbol of resistance against that genocide in which Israel has killed over 200,000 people, including 17,000 children, in which Israel has set dogs loose in hospitals to ravage people seeking medical care, in which Israel has deliberately assassinated Palestinian writers and artists, charged with safeguarding their cultural history, which is why both the ICJ and the ICC have called for its leaders to be arrested and tried in the Hague. The Noguchi Museum has responded to this disturbing news by relegating anti-war artifacts to private spaces when Noguchi himself was, in fact, a prolific creator of public anti-war art. On August 6th 1945, the US dropped an atomic bomb on the Shin-Ohashi Bridge in Hiroshima, killing hundreds of thousands of innocent people in its place. Noguchi designed the Nisha Bridge to emulate the bow of a ship representing the heart's journey back to God. Once again, American bombs are killing hundreds of thousands of innocent people and we are once again complicit, as our hearts go home to God. Those who are charged with safeguarding Noguchi legacy have chosen to align themselves with a state that has dropped 25,000 tons of explosives on the Gaza strip since October 7th - equivalent to two nuclear bombs. I second her motion for the removal of Amy Hau from the Community Board in light of this information.

P.O. Wanzer: I've been a Community Affairs officer for about a month and a half now so be nice to me. I have been in Astoria for 17 years. I love it here. Anything I can do to help just reach out to me. I have a great relationship with Florence and the team.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: For those who aren't familiar with the Community Affairs officer, what is your role and what you do.

P.O. Wanzer: Everything. In the beginning I thought it was more like working with businesses and maybe homeowners that have specific issues, just trying to work with everyone to see how we could help each other out, but it's a little bit of

everything. From the night life to schools, planning youth events, Christmas parties, any problems in the community, whether it be blocked driveway problems with your neighbor. You got a summons for whatever, like it's just pretty much trying to help everyone with the specific problem they have in this community. We have three people in Community Affairs, so someone's always in the office and we check voicemail every day. You can call (718) 626-9327. My email is Rosemary.Wanzer@NYPD.org Thank you guys.

Clare Collins: I'm not speaking on behalf of a public official, this is me. My name is Clare. I live in Sunnyside. I wanted to talk really quickly about Astoria Park. I think I wanted to ask the board for a letter of support for putting lights at the Skateboard Park section of Astoria Park. This is the only skate park in western Queens and there's no lights there. It's the only part of the park that doesn't have lights. Yeah, it's really dark there. Most people only have time to skate after work and like the sun set's at 4, and it also would I think would make the park safer if underneath the bridge it was not dark.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: So usually that will go through committee. So Richard is our Parks chair right there. So you should speak with him.

Richard Khuzami: That particular item has been on our Capital request list since the day that skateboard was built, so we've been trying to get it, and if you manage to get your people together and can get petitions and things like that, all that kind of stuff can help.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: Maybe the Borough President can allocate the funds. We understand you're here as a resident. That will close the public session. Moving on to the business session, we're going to start off with the adoption of the November 2024 minutes.

Motion to adopt minutes - Amin Mehedi. Second - Tom Ryan. No Discussion. Motion passes. Minutes adopted.

Chair's Report

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos:

I just want to thank Florence for ordering the food. Tom for making the suggestion for the holidays. I also want to thank Tom for filling in last month. I was traveling and Amy was traveling. So thank you for stepping in to chair the meeting. I heard it was like the shortest meeting ever, maybe not ever but yeah, but thank you Tom.

I also just wanted to wish everyone happy holidays and a safe and healthy new year for everyone, and with that I will hand it over to Florence.

District Manager's Report

District Manager Florence Koulouris: Our board has had a busy holiday season. The District Attorney has been in our community warning residents of various scams that have been occurring. The types of scams vary. How the scams take place, how to protect yourself from scams and agencies to contact. If you are a victim you may contact the DA's office at (718) 286-6000 for further information. Also, you may email Info@QueensDA.org Additionally, the District Attorney's office has been speaking about a program for businesses owners. Business owners can sign up with the Queens District Attorney's program through the local precinct. Merchant Business Improvement Program is to assist small businesses to combat repetitive shoplifting, and it is created to support small businesses during this difficult time. If you would like more information, the DA's office will be supplying flyers tonight on the table.

The date of November 29, 2024, recommended by the Department of Transportation, has passed for street cafes, known as roadway cafes, to be removed. If you happen to see cafes in the street, please call 311 and the board office. Roadway cafes are to return April 1st, 2025, please visit the DOT website for more information.

The Department of Homeless Services has announced a reduction in temporary housing for those in need citywide. Our office is waiting to learn from the agency of 25 sites being reduced including any Astoria, Long Island City, site location, specifically in the Dutch Kills area of this district.

The MTA has announced the roll out of the bus network redesign plan suggested today visit

<https://new.mta.info/project/busnetworkredesign>. We look forward to their updates and scheduling the plan to invest \$30 million in Queens. There will be virtual Town Halls scheduled in the future. More information will follow soon. Thank you all for what you do for the community and happy holidays to you all.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: Thank you Florence. I also want to thank the other office staff who don't come to these meetings but are also helping to make things happen and that's Anthi and Dustin, and we actually are going to be bringing on I forgot to mention this, a new staff person as well, so she hasn't started yet she's going to be starting in January, but we're excited about that.

Business & Economic Development: Co-Chairs, Brian Hunt & Brian Martinez:

We will keep you posted for any scheduled meetings upcoming. Right now there are none. Happy holidays and everybody have a happy and healthy new year.

Communications & Public Outreach, Huge Ma: No meeting since last month. Please feel free to reach out if you have any agenda items.

Consumer Affairs & Licenses, Kathleen Warnock: We had a very good meeting last week. First of all, there were no cannabis dispensary licenses to approve. Then when we were doing the dining out applications, everyone who had applied showed up. They were all fairly long-time Astoria businesses that know what they're doing with roadside dining and agreed to participate in and follow the regulations set by the city, including the taking down of outdoor sheds. I think that you've probably seen a lot of the outdoor sheds go away recently because they are not there. There is to be no roadway dining from November to April. We had good feedback from everybody who had applied.

Moving on to the liquor licenses. You have a list that you see that has more than 30 businesses that are applying, either for a new liquor license, or to renew it. We called in two businesses in particular due to concerns. The first one was Agenda which, some of you may be aware, there was a murder there in November. It's a club located on 31st Street, where the club Don Coqui used to be. Florence had received a number of emails from people asking us to please take note of the fact that the club was creating a lot of noise and really being a drag on the neighborhood with late closings and fights and noise. We had an anecdotal story of their valet staff attempting to extort a member of the public for 40 bucks to park on a public sidewalk. So we had the owners in and we asked them about what had happened and what they were planning to do. I would say as a committee, we found their response less than adequate. They weren't really planning. They couldn't give us any specific changes that they were planning to make and in fact, they denied some things that we knew they were actually doing, such as third party promoters booking the space and things like that. So in particular, for Agenda, the committee felt we should recommend that it be reviewed by the SLA because they are a bad neighbor with a consistent pattern of public disturbance, police response, including many 311 and 911 calls.

The second one was Solletto. They were doing business under another name until the last couple of years. They also did have a murder on their premises three years ago. Their management said that they were very interested in cleaning up their act. They have been regularly meeting with the police at the 114th and plan on bringing in more security and to be more responsive. In terms of the kind of club that they want to be, they want to continue operating and they want to have less of a party type club. So we asked them and they agreed to write an affidavit with some initial stipulations, because, as you know, everybody who gets a liquor license in the area does sign stipulations which are about their conduct. So we've asked them for the additional stipulations of meeting regularly with the 114 and continuing to follow up on the plans that they have said that they would do to make their business more welcome in the neighborhood.

To summarize, the folks that are on the list for the liquor licenses we will recommend that you vote that they be either granted the licenses or be renewed with two exceptions. One is Agenda which we do not recommend that their liquor license be renewed. With Solletto, it's yes with stipulations, and we will send in a letter to the State Liquor Authority regarding this and how basically we are keeping an eye on them.

So that's a very quick thumbnail sketch of a meeting that had a great deal of participation and a lot of people contributing. I would suggest that we recommend the approval of the dining out applications for the businesses that are listed on your list. There are six of them. Actually, a couple of them have two applications put in, one for roadway dining, one for sidewalk dining. I believe that all of these will be following the rules and regulations from the Department of Transportation in their outdoor dining and their roadway dining.

Motion to approve dining out/roadway applications: Doreen Mohammed. Second: Jean Marie D'Alleva. No Discussion. Motion carries

Kathleen Warnock: Moving on to the liquor license applications, it would probably be easier to ask for a motion to approve the applications with the exceptions of Agenda and Solletto.

Motion to approve liquor license applications as is with the exceptions of Agenda and Solletto: Rod Townsend. Second: Juliet Payabyab. No Discussion. Motion carries. 1 opposed 2 abstentions.

Kathleen Warnock: I'd like a motion that the board not approve the renewal of the license for the club, Agenda.

Motion to disapprove the liquor license for Agenda Night Club: Marie Torniali. Second: Jean Marie D'Alleva. Discussion:

Brian Hunt: What was the reason to disapprove? I'm just unfamiliar with Agenda. I know the location based on the address, but I can't picture it. I'm just concerned with what was the actual issue with the place?

Kathleen Warnock: Continued public disturbance up to and including a murder in the club on November 11th, that is still under investigation - it has not been solved.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: We did get the police report in terms of the number of 911 calls, number of 311 calls, the types of calls that came in regarding not just disturbances but also fights. There were a bunch of things that happened. The community did send in a number of very specific emails with problems with the club covering the same topics.

Jean Marie D'Alleva: I'm on the board and I also was in attendance of the meeting. They were very vague when being questioned about how they prepare to improve their business to be more adaptable to our community and they didn't really give satisfactory answers. So that's the reason why most of the board felt that they don't deserve to be renewed.

Call the question: Tom Ryan. Motion to disapprove the liquor license renewal for Agenda Night Club carries.

Kathleen Warnock: Lastly, Solletto. Can I have a motion to recommend that Solletto be given their liquor license renewal with stipulations, including a letter from the board about the specific steps, in addition to the affidavit, they are going to take to improve their operations such as: additional security for the parking lot across the street and for them to continue to stay in contact with the 114th Precinct as they have been doing.

Motion to recommend the approval of Solletto liquor license renewal with the stipulation that, in addition to the affidavit, the business provides additional security for the parking lot across the street and continues to stay in contact with the 114th Precinct. Frank Fredericks. Second: Andreas Migias. Discussion:

Dominic Stiller: How do we stop them if they don't sign the stipulations after we put this in motion today to say recommendation to renew with stipulations? Should we possibly see the stipulation signed and then say yes with the additional stipulations?

Kathleen Warnock: They have sent an affidavit into the Board office with the additional stipulations.

Florence Koulouris: Stipulations signed by any entity become attached permanently as long as they're open for business. They must abide by the stipulations. You give the stipulations once and only once, unless the business fails and opens as a new entity. When we get an affidavit, it is legally binding by being notarized and it is also attached permanently to their license. So they're abiding by this and the state is fully aware of it. It's a permanent hook on their license.

Motion to recommend the approval of Solletto liquor license renewal with the stipulation that, in addition to the affidavit, the business provides additional security for the parking lot across the street and continues to stay in contact with the 114th Precinct carries. 2 opposed. 2 abstentions.

Education, Youth and Libraries, Amin Mehedi: Good evening everyone and happy holidays. We are going to have a meeting next month to be scheduled by Florence to talk about this new school and our letter to the board. Everyone, please join us.

Environmental & Sanitation, Antonella DiSaverio: I just want to remind everyone that effective January 2nd, we will be getting tickets - first offense \$50 second offense, \$100 third offense and all subsequent \$200 if we do not have garbage cans with lids. Then in June of 2026, we'll need to have the specialized New York City official bins, which you could get at www.BINS.NYC and Home Depot. Happy holidays, everyone.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: What does a homeowner or building owner need to do right now?

Antonella DiSaverio: You have to have a lid on your garbage can. If you don't have that lid on your garbage can, you could be subject to tickets? It can be any kind of lid as long as it is on the can securely. Right now we are in a warning period. January 2nd is when they can start officially giving tickets. I have to get clarification about recycling.

Marie Torniali: You can put your recycling of both types in clear plastic bags. For garbage, you have to have your regular garbage that you're not composting - you're supposed to be composting too - you can no longer put out a bag. The trash has to be in a bin that has a tight fitting lid right now. You can use your own garbage can until 2026.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: At that point you have to get the city approved, garbage cans, but for now you can use any trash cans with a secure lid for your garbage. Put the lid on because it really does help with the rats and we got a big problem. Late next year you will have to have the city approved 55 gallon under with a little hook in the back, so the trucks can pick it up and dump it into the trash.

The composting bins still go out. Composting is good, so just use the brown bin and you can pretty much put any food in there right now. If you don't have the brown bin you can get a compost sticker from DSNY and put it on your own bin.

Health and Human Services, Shahenaz Hamde: Happy holiday and happy new year coming soon. I'm a New Year person. We are going to meet next month. If you have any opinion or any suggestions please let us know. Thanks so much.

Housing Committee, Katie Ellman: Everyone should know that the City of Yes Plan passed the City Council. So hopefully that will mean more housing units rolling out for us whether or not you agree with it. Hopefully there will be

more affordable, deeply, affordable housing and that's TBD. Last month we talked about our committee meeting where the committee did not agree with the plan for an additional family shelter near Queensbridge Houses. So we drafted a letter that, unfortunately, due to illness, I could not get into the office until today and I believe it's in your packet and that Vanessa and I worked on that together. So that's in the packet that will go to Evie and Florence and the Department of Homeless Services.

Vanessa and I will work with the board office on our next meeting. Technically, it's scheduled for January, but if we don't have and collectively we'll speak as a committee, but if we don't have anything for January, then hopefully we'll be able to do something for February. But I just wanted to thank my committee and my vice chair for working with me. It's an honor to serve with all of you and I wish everyone the best time and the best of health in the new year.

Land Use and Zoning, Elizabeth Erion: This is time for your comments on the proposal by the SCA and the school. I think a valid issue that came up was the length of the street access itself, but you said that was being remapped. Richard said it was being remapped so that it will be a through street - it will no longer be a cul-de-sac. So it's not an issue at this point. Frankly, I don't know what we're responding to. Let me just put it that way. This is because of the development at Halletts Point. There is a commitment to mitigate the number of students that will be coming into the area and joining the other overcrowding situation in western Queens. So there is a school that's necessary to be built and there's no question that it has to be built. This is the area that was designated in the large-scale development plan that was approved back in 2015, so that is the site where it's supposed to be. The problem I have with responding to SCA at this point in time, is the fact that we don't know what's going to go on in that particular building. It was originally supposed to be an elementary school now they're talking about it being a joint school with children who have high needs. Perhaps there may be traffic issues that were not evaluated back then. I find it a little interesting that there is this wide range of seats that are being provided from approximately 500 to 750 seats. That's a large school. There are so many unanswered questions and I think their request for us to respond is premature. But what can be told to them is that they have not done the requisite outreach to the community.

Vanessa talks about the fact that most of the residents in Astoria Houses are not aware of this project coming down the line. There are legitimate questions that need to be answered with respect to the relocation of the playgrounds and the parking areas for the residents. If this was in the restrictive declaration that says that it has to be relocated on site, then we have to know where this is going to be on site. There's so much information that just isn't there, so we need a little help. First of all, do we want to comment at this point in time?

Richard Khuzami: Clarify for me something on procedure. I'm not sure about this. School construction in a normal ULURP would go through the process with each level of government commenting. In this particular case, because the City Council approved it all of that is just waved and it's not needed. Is there an environmental study to be done once they actually come up with the plans? Will we have a chance to comment? Does it have to be reapproved by the City Council? I'm just not aware of how this works, particularly since they said the City Council approved it.

Elizabeth Erion: The School Construction Authority does not play by the same rules that anybody else or any other city agency does. If they're going through a State Environmental Review. Now we don't know what issues are going to come up from that.

All we have now is what was adopted as a result of the rezoning, and that is on a deed restriction. It has a restricted declaration that says that it goes there and everything else has to be put back someplace on the NYCHA property. So I guess we can ask these questions. We can say that these are the issues we're dealing with and we want more openness. They seem to not really understand that they're supposed to be making this outreach to the community. It seems like it was the first time they've ever done anything like that. So the point is: are we going to make a comment and what comments are we going to make to the SCA?

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: This is not a ULURP item and their outreach is just tick the box kind of thing. But they don't have to get our approval. It's not a ULURP, because it was part of the rezoning; it was already rezoned and in that rezoning it included the building of a school on NYCHA property. That's in that rezoning text in the restrictive declaration, so it's kind of an odd thing. They come to tell you about it, but ... we can still ask them for better engagement with the community. Community outreach could be more robust, more frequent, certainly I feel people have been left in the dark.

Dominic Stiller: Where's Melanie La Rocca when you need her?. My only point is I always thought the SCA kind of just built what they were told to build. I don't think they're the deciding agency that comes from the DSF or someone.

Elizabeth Erion: There was a funny thing that was mentioned with regard to what they talked about. They only show in that one diagram that they gave us the lot 102, which encompasses that large area. It's that 71,000 square ft, but in the filing that they made they said and additional properties nearby. It's not really defined what they're, how much they're going to be acquiring, or how far they're going to go, they're giving themselves a lot of leeway depending on what program they put in the school and how big the school is going to be, and we don't know the impacts of that which will come out eventually I guess in the state's SEQRA review.

Richard Khuzami: I just think that we should just basically say you-can expect a comment from us once we have the state's review and actual plans in front of us. I don't see how we can comment on it other than needing more community outreach.

Vanessa Jones-Hall: When the talk started it was just the elementary school. Just recently they told us about it being K to 8. They did tell us about it's going to be State of the Art and everything, and they told us the massive part of the property they were going to take in a small area. But when they came on December 11th to meet with community residents, not only did they state that they're going to put the school there, they also mentioned how they're going to put an apartment building in that same location. So that's why I'm also upset because they did not show that to y'all. This is why we're really upset. They are adding something extra after all these years. Without telling the community they are now adding a junior high school and an apartment building. The bright idea left out where they are going to put those parking lots and the playgrounds. They're trying to figure it out now. They're not being honest about what's going on. It's a major impact to our neighborhood. If they take a walk in our neighborhood, they will see there's no way they can replace those parking lots, no way they can replace those playgrounds.

My disappointment with the School Construction Authority tonight was because, at the meetings we had they already had an idea of what the school was going to look like. They did not mention that tonight and I felt that there were a lot of things that were not properly stated this evening.

Elizabeth Erion: I think we need to be more diligent. This has to be one of the topics that we follow up on and pay attention to, so that it doesn't slip back into well we're the state, we don't really have to do any outreach etc. I think we have to be more in touch with our Council representative to make sure that she's aware that this is going on. Let the community express their issues with this development.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: This rezoning was 2010 - two council members ago. I remember this rezoning and I think we've gotten a lot better as a board of asking a lot of questions too, because we've learned from not getting specific details when a lot of this is happening.

Daniel Aliberti: 71,000 square ft is almost a city block. What percentage of the complex is this thing taking up? Is this like 25%? Is this like 50% of it? Sounds like a tremendous portion.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: We don't know the answers to those questions, but we will hopefully get some designs and hopefully they will have better engagement. Hopefully they got the message tonight just from the presentation and the Q&A after.

Elizabeth Erion: Our next meeting is on the 9th. It's on a Thursday in 2025 and I want to wish you all a good holiday and a happy New Year.

Parliamentary, Rod Townsend: We will be having a meeting on January 29th, bylaw reviews. If you have thoughts about the bylaws, feel free to come, it'll be fun.

Budget & Staff, Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: We haven't met so no report.

Parks, Recreation & Cultural, Richard Khuzami: We will be meeting in January, we don't have a determined agenda, yet. You will be getting that information. Everybody have a great holiday and look forward to seeing everybody in 2025.

Public Safety, Frank Fredericks: We met jointly with Transportation. The information is covered in the transportation report.

Transportation, Dominic Stiller: We had a well-attended meeting last night, a joint meeting between the Public Safety and Transportation committee. Our main guest was Police Officer Wanzer from the 114 Community Affairs. We laid out community concerns and tried to gauge NYPD level of concerns for infractions, including darkened windows, which make it impossible for pedestrians to have any communication with the driver of a moving vehicle; parking in crosswalks which reduce or eliminate visibility for pedestrians when crossing streets; failure to yield violations; additional items concerning placards and purposely defaced license plates. The main topic of discussion was, however, a much more somber topic. It was about the increasing amount of Police Department high-speed car chases. Joining the committee members among the public was Frank and Ary Servedio parents of Amanda Servedio, a 36-year-old resident who was killed as a victim in one particular highspeed police chase on 34th Avenue on October 22nd. Frank said a few words and also emailed the following quick note to Frank Fredericks and myself. Thank you for the opportunity. We are forever heartbroken by the tragic, unnecessary death of our daughter, Amanda Servedio, which occurred as a result of a high-speed police chase on the night of October 22 2024. We would like to know NYPD's policy and criteria regarding car chases, because the department does not seem to be adhering to its written policy. Ultimately, what are the consequences for officers for failure to follow policy? We would like to know that the NYPD is doing everything it can to ensure that a terrible tragedy like this will never happen again.

After the meeting Evie put us to work and Frank Fredericks, who's a few chairs to my left, drafted a strong letter. It is enclosed in a board package and was emailed earlier to all board members by Florence. We would like to take a vote on sending this letter from the board to the NYPD police commissioner and others to hopefully drive effective change.

Motion to approve letter written by Frank Fredericks on behalf of the Public Safety and Transportation committees requesting the NYPD refrain from unnecessary high speed car chases; provide the public with a written policy pertaining to chases and to send said letter to NYPD Commissioner Tisch and other relevant entities - Shahenaz Hamde. Seconded - Tom Ryan.

Tom Ryan: What is the objective of this letter?

Frank Fredericks: I would like to point to the four points on the second page. This is the most direct set of recommendations we can make, which is a revision of the policy; changing of interpretation of the policy; making that policy explicitly written as it is no longer public and, lastly, we would like a response from them on these matters. That is all we're asking.

Dominic Stiller: I was told we're not going to read the letter because the procedure is to put it in the packet, so please don't think I was purposely vague and not reading more of the points of the letter.

Tom Ryan: This is a very serious subject. I guess my question is: how do we ensure that the police can do their job, at the same time providing as much safety as they can. Because you seem to have a current policy, I'm not going to say lawlessness but encouraging criminals to act without thought about what they're doing. That was just my comment.

Kian Betancourt: I think all we're really asking for here is for them to adhere to their own written policy. We're not even necessarily trying to change the rules of engagement here. Their own rules are simply that they will chase only if the threat to the general public is not as great as the threat of letting said criminal go. In most cases that's going to connote a violent offense. So, for instance, someone commits a violent offense if they think that person getting away is going to have another violent offense and hurt other people in the process, possibly worth chasing right, I think it's circumstantial. But where it's not would be something like in this instance. It was a burglary, that's a property crime. We can acknowledge that's not a good thing. These people should be caught in theory, but it comes fundamentally down to whether we should enact that chase with the threat to the general public. So again, that is their own policy. That's what they say and that's where we're simply asking them to hold to account to that policy and simply say no amount of chases and we're really calling for the reduction or even elimination of unnecessary chases within the district.

Frank Fredericks: Point of information. The one thing I want to highlight is we are also asking for revision of the policy that is included on here, but to the question, the reason why it's coming back is that police chases are up in our district 4.7 times. We don't have 4.7 times the crime as the previous administration nor are we 4.7 times safer. So those numbers speak for themselves. They're in here. We make that case pretty specifically.

Ron Townsend: For anyone wanting more information about this, not only in the community but on a city-wide basis, there's an article in the city that was published on December 16th, the headline being "More Than a Crash a Day as NYPD Keeps Pedal to the Metal on Car Chases." Basically, it outlines how these car chases have become much more common under the current administration. It's a good article worth reading.

Daniel Aliberti: My thought is that what we are saying in the letter, or should be saying in the letter, that we want fewer but safer chases, not no chases, because there are times when these people need to be chased. The other thought is that when the police officers are doing a chase, their safety, their lives are in jeopardy as well because they could run into anything themselves. So my thought is, if I were a cop, what would I think about when in one of these chases. I didn't attend the meeting last night. I listened to the recording of it this morning and the question wasn't asked of that police officer about what it's like when the police officer is doing these chases, their lives are in danger too. I mean he mentioned that the most dangerous thing was a car stop, but I'm pretty sure it's pretty dangerous when they're chasing and so for their own safety there should be fewer chases and safer chases for the safety of the cops as well.

Richard Khuzami: What is the revision that you're envisioning exactly?

Dominic Stiller: The revision is to clearly get it across to the population of police officers, consideration of what is necessary and what's not necessary because the Chase Policy has been removed from the website. We don't have it to make a precise, specific revision. So that's why this is, in my opinion, very well written to say, elimination of unnecessary police chases. While I have the mic, I just want to respond to Rod. Rod said there's a crash a day. Rod is implying that there's a police car crash a day. There's actually an average of 273 vehicle crashes in New York City every day. I just wanted to clarify that. That's not due to the police.

Huge Ma: The NYPD doesn't have a policy. Should we ask for a policy if they've taken it down?

Kian Betancourt: It's on point three. A written public declaration. There used to be a policy that was written and essentially what I iterated before, but they have since removed it from the website, which makes it unclear and kind of ambiguous. Hence us saying "unnecessary". The point is to change the rules of engagement here. But I did want to point out that what we're calling unnecessary is not going to have discretion. So realistically, are we ever going to get chases down to completely zero? Probably not. But I think we should be striving for the elimination of unnecessary ones. I pulled up a stat that said in 2022 there was something to the effect of 2 police chases ending in crashes. There were 16 in 2023. All I'm saying here is that there has been a massive surge in 2023 and 2024 and under that surge they have also removed the policy from the website. So we're just trying to be prescriptive and simply recommend that they reconsider what they consider necessary at the expense of public safety.

Andreas Migias: You said that they used to have a policy online. Were you able to obtain an archived copy of that policy? Did that review have any effect on the letter and your discussion from the meeting last night?

Frank Fredericks: In the letter we have the last thing we could find the actual online one, of course is gone, but there was a memo by Chief Madre in August 2023, which stated "a vehicle pursuit must be terminated whenever the risk to members of the service and the public outweighs the danger to the community if the suspect is not immediately apprehended." So we're dealing with dated information, that's the last we're aware of.

Andreas Migias: But then at some point there was another more full-fledged policy online, you're saying as well and that you weren't able to reference.

Frank Fredericks: It was an ethos the same as this, just more technical. This is the vibe we understand it to have been if that makes sense.

Daniel Aliberti: I think it's premature to send the letter out if they've taken that down from the website, maybe they're revising it already. Maybe we should ask them what they're doing? Why did they take it down and what are they doing?

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: Thank you. There is a motion on the floor and you can vote yes or no on it. We're going to take a vote now.

Motion to approve letter written by Frank Fredericks on behalf of the Public Safety and Transportation committees requesting the NYPD refrain from unnecessary high speed car chases; provide the public with a written policy pertaining to chases and to send said letter to NYPD Commissioner Tish and other relevant entities carries. 23 in favor. 11 opposed.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: That ends our committee reports. Is there any old business? Any new business? Hearing none, we will go to comments from our elected officials.

Elected Officials or Representatives

Tiffany Echevarria, Congressmember Velazquez's Office: I'm just going to give a few quick updates. As for federal updates, the congresswoman has secured the authorization for \$125 million in water infrastructure improvements for climate and resiliency and Comprehensive Flood Protection for both Queens and Brooklyn. The legislation includes language that ensures that the HATS study is to be better protected against all types of flooding which includes erosion, rainfall and other types of natural causes, such as sea level rise. I also have this handout with a ton more information on the table. This is also available on her website. As for more local community news, the Congresswoman attended the Jacob Riis Annual Older Adult Holiday Lunch this past Saturday. At this event, she also delivered some toys for the toy drive. On behalf of Congresswoman Velazquez I also attended the Queensbridge Community Protest with a protest for the proposed shelter on 40th Avenue. The Congresswoman acknowledges that the saturation of shelters in Long Island City is a very abundant amount. She also believes that everyone deserves the right to have truly affordable, deep and permanent housing, rather than just having another temporary solution.

As for Woodside, the congresswoman advocated for flood mitigation efforts for the Woodside Community Center. We can happily say that renovations for that Community Center are 90% complete and towards the beginning of next year it will be 100% complete with new renovations for the residents to return.

If you want to reach out to us, please reach out to this number (718) 340- 6244. The congresswoman wishes you such a happy holiday and I wish you, in my personal capacity, a happy holiday as well, and look forward to seeing you next year.

Kazi Maryam, Assemblymember Steven Raga's Office: We would like to thank everyone that participated in our sock and toy drive in partnership with the solution of hunger. Our office will be going remote from December 23rd to December 24th and December 30th to the 31st. Our office will be closed from December 25th to the 27th and on January 1st. On December 18th, which is tomorrow, we will be having our Know

Your Rights government benefits presentation by Queens Legal Services. If you like, please come by. Our address is 55-19 69th Street, Maspeth, New York 11378 and the following mobile office hours are for the month of December and January. On December 20th we will be having mobile office hours from 2 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Jackson Heights Public Library. On January 2nd we will have mobile office hours from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Elmhurst Public Library. On January 9th we will have mobile office hours from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., at Maspeth Public Library. Thank you so much. We hope you have a Happy New Year and happy holidays.

Tessa Blum, Councilmember Caban's Office: We had a hearing on our gender pay equity bill, which requires large employers to provide data on pay disparities within the workforce. This bill would make New York City a national leader in enforcing pay equity and would put it on par with European countries.

We're introducing a bill to require DSS to supply receipts for applicants who are applying for social services programs, as well as a resolution condemning the Trump Administration for attacking democracy. We're also working on a bill to create an office of cooperative economics in New York City. In terms of our district updates, I put the flyers over there. We're having a consumer utility clinic. We're partnering with the public utility law project for a clinic that can help you understand your Con Edison bill, discover energy saving programs and learn about assistance options like HEAP and the energy affordability program.

Brian Straub, Public Advocate Williams' Office: Car crashes injured 315 people, which is 47% higher than the same data collection period last year, especially following the death of our neighbor Amanda Servedio, who was killed as mentioned in October by a truck abating the police in a high-speed pursuit. Our office is continuing to be concerned about the prevalence of high-speed police chases.

Our office would like to remind everyone here that the Federal Authority for replacement of skimmed SNAP benefits ends this Friday. This means that you can no longer receive SNAP skimming replacement for theft that occurs after that date. New Yorkers using SNAP can still file claims to replace SNAP benefits. However, claims must be filed within 30 days of learning that the benefits were skimmed or stolen, and the theft must have occurred on or before that date. Thank you. Happy holidays.

Kaylyn Munoz, Senator Kristen Gonzalez's Office: This Thanksgiving holiday in collaboration with the community organizations, we gave away a total of 800 turkeys in Stuytown as well as in NYCHA Astoria, Queensbridge, Ravenswood, and Straus Houses. We also joined several Thanksgiving feasts and holiday events, including the Jacob Riis Fall Family Feast, HANAC's Thanksgiving Celebration, and Jacob Riis' NNORC holiday celebration. In preparation for the Christmas holiday our office partnered with Woodside on the Move, Fuller Houses, Ravenswood Houses at the New York Irish center's 2024 Toy Drive.

More recently, our office also joined Brighter Bites to distribute food at PS 112Q.

Congestion pricing goes into effect on January 5th to ensure the MTA receives the funding for necessary signal and accessibility upgrades, as well as help in New York's mission to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and cultivate safer and cleaner streets for all.

Here are some quick facts about congestion pricing:

The congestion pricing zone, also known as the Central Business District, is Manhattan below 60th Street. Major highways such as the FDR Drive, the Westside Highway, and the Battery Park underpass will be exempt. For passenger vehicles with E-Zpass, once-a-day tolls will be set at \$9 from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on weekdays, and 9 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on weekends and \$2.25 for all hours otherwise unstated.

A heat reminder. Your landlord is required to provide heat until May 31st. Our office is here to help if you're experiencing heat, gas or hot water outages.

In 2024, seven young New Yorkers lost their lives while subway surfing, but there have also been many more injuries. The seven train is the epicenter of this problem and we're committed to finding solutions. Our next office hours in Astoria will be held on January 27th at the Astoria Houses Community Center, please stop by if you have any questions, concerns or need assistance.

Our office is collecting budget requests for the fiscal year 2025 to 2026 in preparation for the legislative session. If you're interested, please grab a card from me. The deadline to submit a budget request has been extended to January 26th. The Senator recently introduced her Data Centers bill, which places environmental sustainability at the forefront and ensures we stay on track with our State Climate goals. We're agreeing up for the 2025 session and are planning to reintroduce a Statewide Healthcare Assessment, as well as our Chatbot box disclosure and liability bill.

Thank you so much everyone and happy holidays.

Javier Figaroa, District Attorney Melinda Katz's Office: DA Katz was just here last week. Amongst the many things she discussed was, thank you Florence for bringing it up, the Merchant Business Improvement Program. I have flyers here. I'm going to leave some on the table. If you're a small business owner I know many on the board already signed up with the program. If you want to learn more about it, contact the Community Affairs at the 114th or just grab a flyer. I'm here if you have any questions about it and I also leave our newsletter there and have a happy holiday everyone and I'll see you next year.

Clare Collins, BP Richard's Office: The community board application is going to open on January 7th. We haven't announced it yet, but we're going to soon. I also want to highlight that we're doing a coat drive right now. We're accepting new or gently used jackets, Borough Hall at the lobby between 9 am & 5 pm. You can also drop off donations at the offices of assembly members Gonzalez- Rojas or Cruz because we're partnering with them. You can just look up their office hours if you want to drop it off at their offices.

We're going to do a Kwanza celebration on December 30th at 5:00 p.m. and this is going to be at Queens Borough Hall in Q Gardens and then looking further ahead on Wednesday January 15th from 6:00 to 8:00 pm we're partnering with the Parks Department to host a Vital Parks for All forum. The parks commissioner Sue Donahue will be there as well as BP Richards, so we're inviting everyone to talk about how we can equitably strengthen our City's health, environment and communities through a Borough's Park system. So for this event you have to RSVP and it's RSVP@parks.ny.gov. I hope to see you there. Finally, I just want to remind you to be considerate of your neighbors and your mental health. You can call or text 988, which is the mental health hotline in New York City. Thank you! Happy holidays.

Jango Mahmud, Assemblymember Gonzalez-Rojas' Office: A lot of good news as of late, especially for families with young ones, we're proud to announce that the legislation the assembly member passed in the budget this year and that will soon be implemented, works to provide continual Medicaid and Child Health Plus coverage for children from birth to now the age of six. So before this bill, the minimum requirement for coverage was only 12 months, but this bill expands that and also simplifies coverage by also not requiring any tedious re-enrollment paper work right.

Another legislative update any day now our office, along with local state senator Gianaris, is waiting for the Governor's decision to sign the bill about disaggregating data for Middle Eastern and North African New Yorkers, so that we could separate Mina data from the broader white category, and this way we have the research to count accurate representation and make better policy decisions.


That's about it. Our office will be on holiday break during the last week of December so while we won't be available to call just leave us a voicemail we'll get back to you in the New Year.

Chair Evie Hantzopoulos: Before we adjourn, first of all, everyone have a wonderful, happy holiday season. The staff here at Astoria-World Manor, we did want to maybe offer them some kind of tip so if you want to contribute to that, there's an envelope over here, if not no worry but we'd like to just give them something in appreciation for all they do to set up and provide for us here at the board office.

So with that, thank you for all your work this year in 2024 and here's to a wonderful 2025 can I get a motion to adjourn.

Motion to adjourn, Marie Torniali. Second, Amin Mehedi. Motion carries.



 **School Construction Authority**
Community Board 1
Proposed New PS/IS School Site:
Block 490, Lot 102, Queens

The School Construction Authority's (SCA) mission is to design and construct safe, attractive and environmentally sound public schools for children throughout the many communities of New York City. We are dedicated to building and modernizing schools in a responsible, cost-effective manner while achieving the highest standards of excellence in safety, quality and integrity.

Notice of Filing

NOTICE OF FILING

NEW YORK CITY SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY

Pursuant to §1731 of the New York City School Construction Authority Act, notice has been filed for the proposed site selection of all or portions of Block 490, Lot 102 and any other nearby sites, located in the Borough of Queens, for the construction of a new, approximately 547 to 754-seat primary/ intermediate school facility in Community School District 30 in Queens.

The proposed site is located on the New York Housing Authority (NYCHA) campus, adjacent to the East River; just east of Halletts Point Playground and south of Astoria Boulevard in the Astoria neighborhood of Queens. The site consists of an asphalt paved parking lot, walkways, and a playground, all associated with the adjoining NYCHA Astoria Houses Campus. The site was contemplated as part of the Halletts Point Rezoning Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and is subject to a Restrictive Declaration. The proposed site to be acquired by the New York City School Construction Authority, on behalf of the New York City Department of Education, is an approximately 71,438 square foot (1.6 acres) lot.

The site plan and supplemental materials summarizing the proposed action are available at:

New York City School Construction Authority
2501 Jackson Ave, 17th Floor
Long Island City, New York 11101
Attention: Kelly Murphy, Senior Director, Real Estate Services
Website: <http://www.nycsca.org/Community/New-School-Sites>

Comments on the proposed action are to be submitted to the New York City School Construction Authority at the above address or by email to sites@nycsca.org and will be accepted until Monday, January 13, 2025.

SCA Public Process for Site Selection

Under the Public Authorities Law, SCA is required to present new sites to the local Community Board and Community Education Council

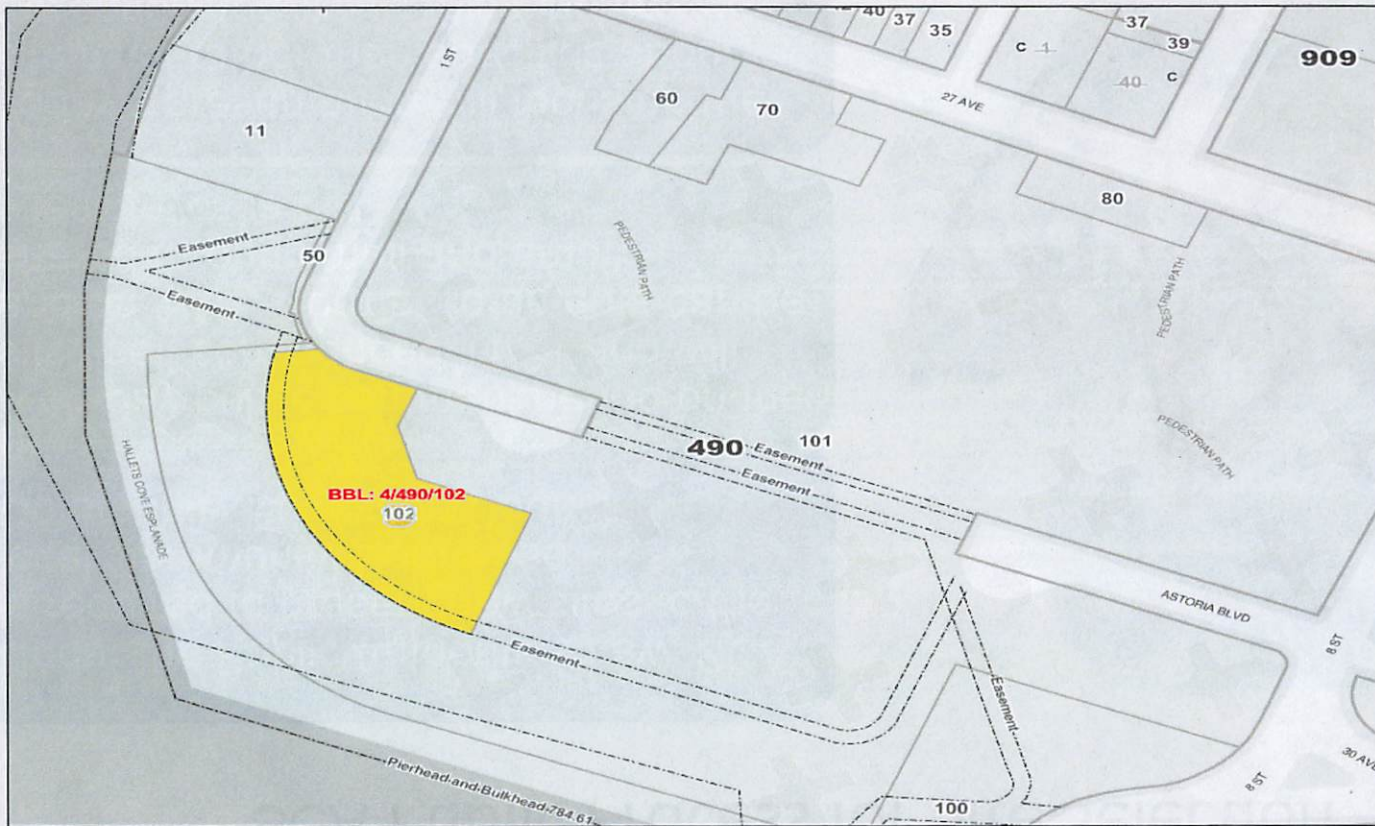
A 45-day public comment period on the site itself commenced 11/21 and will end on 1/13 – formal comments can be shared through mail and email – sites@nycsca.org

Today's presentation will focus on the site itself rather than specifics about the school facility. At this juncture, we do not have design details to share



Proposed New Primary/Intermediate School Site:

Block 490, Lot 102 Astoria, NY



Aerial View of Proposed New Primary/Intermediate School Site:

Block 490, Lot 102 Astoria, NY



Proposed New Primary/Intermediate School Site:

Block 490, Lot 102 Astoria, NY



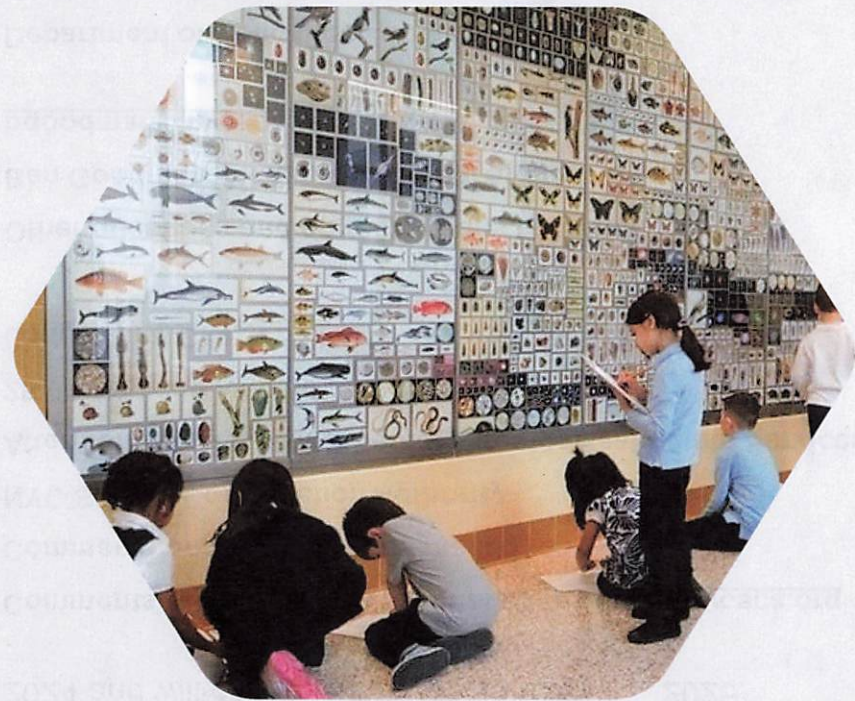
Seat Need & Proposed Site

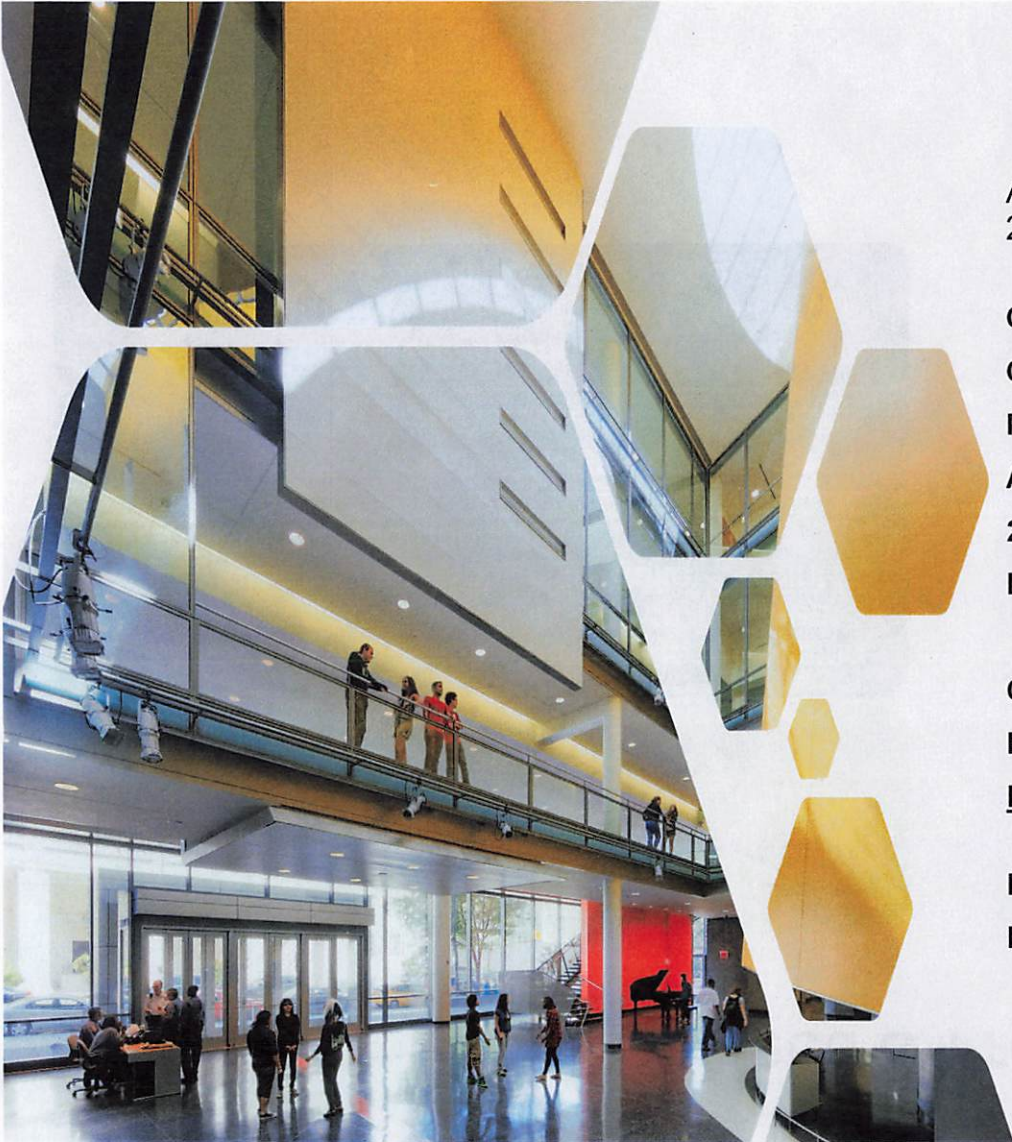
There is a need for new school seats in District 30 and this proposed new school site will enable DOE to meet its requirements under the Class Size Reduction Law.

The School Construction Authority is proposing to build a new, approximately 547 to 754-seat Primary/Intermediate School in Hallet's Point, with a District 75 component.

The site is approximately 71,438 sq ft and is located on the NYCHA Astoria Houses campus.

Process includes the project analysis under the State Environmental Quality Review Act before going to the City Council for final approval.





Thank You!

A 45-day comment period on the site began on November 21, 2024 and will continue through January 13, 2025.

Comments on the site can be emailed to: sites@nycsca.org

Comments on the site can be mailed to:

NYC School Construction Authority

Attention: Kelly Murphy, Senior Director Real Estate Services

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