

# Community Board 1 Queens Full Board / Public Hearing Meeting

**Tuesday October 15, 2024**

**Chair Evie Hantzopoulos:** Welcome everybody to the Community Board 1 October, full board meeting and public hearing. My name is Evie. I'm the board chair. Thank you so much for being here. We welcome the members of the public and, of course, all the board members. Just to give a rundown of the agenda.

Today we are going to start with a Land Use item which is regarding the Vernon Broadway rezoning special permit renewal.

We will hear from Liz who's the chair of the Land Use committee. We will have a public session where members of the public are invited to speak - limited to 2 minutes per speaker, then we will get into our business section. This is where the board conducts its business. We'll have the adoption of the September 2024 minutes, chair's report, district manager report and the committee reports.

The big item for tonight is our capital and expense list which we will be submitting to the city which the different committees have been working on. I really appreciate all the work there. Amy will be leading that. Corinne is not here this evening. She couldn't make it, but the two of them have chaired that committee, so we'll be talking about the list and making any modifications to that list and voting on it.

We'll then hear from Consumer Affairs, Land Use and any other additional reports from the different committees. Lastly, we'll hear from our elected officials.

Okay, any questions on the agenda before we get started?

Okay, so we are going to start with item number one, which is the Vernon Broadway rezoning special permit renewal for review and board comment.

**Elizabeth Erion, Chair Land Use Committee:** Good evening everyone. The applicant is not here so I'm basically representing him. I'm going to relay to you what happened at the last Land Use meeting on October 1st.

This is an application submitted to City Planning, to renew a City Planning special permit and to extend it in order to facilitate the development of a large-scale, residential development that was approved by this board in 2019. This is going to allow them to construct the project which hadn't begun, but was approved in 2019 by the City Council, and then we got hit with the pandemic and they didn't go into construction. Their permits expired at the end of 2023.

It's a full block in Ravenswood - Astoria, that's bounded by Vernon Boulevard, Broadway, 11th Street, 33rd Road and 10th Street. It's the block that is right across from Socrates Park.

The property was rezoned in 2019, from R5 to an R6B and an R7X, with a commercial overlay near Broadway and 10th Street on the northern part of the site. It's almost 2 acres and the zoning and the large scale development plan is going to enable three mixed use residential and ground floor commercial and a community facilities project. They are proposing to have approximately 350 dwelling units. 113 are proposed to be income restricted. There is a 166 below grade accessory parking garage and, as I said, ground floor, commercial uses and community facilities. There is going to be at the southwest corner of the site, a fairly large landscaped public and open space, a park and there's a private open space midblock on 11th Street.

The applicant is requesting that the permit now be renewed so that they can initiate construction. City Planning referred it out. This is a non ULURP item. It doesn't require a public hearing but City Planning would like to have your comments on the renewal. They referred it out in September and we have to respond by November 12th.

The reason they have the large scale development is because it enables them to move floor area around the site. City Planning, can issue a special permit for allowing a modification to the height and set backs of buildings, and so what they've done with that is to stagger the heights of the three buildings that are on the site, putting the higher building closer to the more open area by the Vernon Boulevard / Broadway area and then having the lower, four-story building closer to the existing development in the neighborhood so it respects the character of the area.

There are no changes made to the plan or proposed to be made to the plan that we know of, and this is the findings that they have to meet. The findings that apply to this application include the fact that it meets the large scale development definition; it's within a commercial zone, which is a requirement; the plans for the development are actually the same as they were originally proposed so that there are no changes in the bulk modifications being made. The floor area distribution and the building locations result in a better site plan and surrounding streets can handle the traffic that's being generated by the development and a declaration regarding the ownership requirements has been filed with City Planning. So they meet the requirements.

I think the only question someone asked, within the zoning resolution for this particular action -someone raised the question, to what extent can the project be changed without having a public hearing? The answer was there are no changes proposed in this from what we saw a few years ago and what we approved.

**Gerald Caliendo:** I just want to disclose that I was the architect back in 2019 for an architectural piece.

**Cristian Batres:** Who is the applicant?

**Elizabeth Erion:** The applicant is Cipico LLC.

**Chair Evie Hantzopoulos:** Is there any member of the public who wanted to speak for or against this renewal? You can go up to the podium and make sure you sign in.

**Kevin Graham:** So for the last three years I have been a resident one block north of the proposed project. For the last 3 years, we have seen the growth of the west side of Astoria with Astoria West, New Sun condos, Verona Towers, the Marina Condominiums including the numerous projects up in the Halletts Point neighborhood. As residents of the neighborhood, we have experienced increased vehicle and pedestrian traffic, reduced parking, increased noise, environmental pollution and crime.

My questions for the board are the following: have traffic studies been conducted? What are the traffic contingency plans with Costco and the extremely limited existing infrastructure, during this construction project along Vernon Boulevard? Will this project contain enough private parking on premises to reduce the parking availability strain on the neighborhood? What are the noise mitigation plans for the Long Island City High School, just a block and a half away north of the proposed project. The increased growth in the neighborhood has already shown strain on the existing infrastructure in city services, as we have seen a decrease in frequency and quality of city services related to repairs, maintenance etcetera. In addition, we have seen an increase in crime in the neighborhood, most recently, a shooting just last week in broad daylight, at The Hallet's Cove playground. What are the city's plans to increase police head count to support this population increase and project?

We have experienced firsthand, unchecked growth with the construction companies working past the construction hours and without permits posted. I am in full support of the vitalization of this neighborhood and continued growth. As someone who has studied urban studies in college, I do have to caution its unchecked potential. More questions must be asked with transparent answers before we allow this project to move forward.

**Chair Evie Hantzopoulos:** Thank you Kevin. You asked a bunch of questions. Just to be clear, the rezoning was already voted on, so this is for the special permit renewal, but I think Liz might be able to answer some of the questions that you had.

**Elizabeth Erion:** I can tell you that the rezoning went through an environmental assessment and the issues that they talked about were noise, air quality and traffic. They went through shadows also and those were the things that were flagged to be studied further. When they did the analysis of those situations, it resulted in a negative impact. It was not going to impact the surrounding area for any significant time of day, or it was, somehow within the context of the project, be addressed and mitigated.

We have really vetted this project. The letter that we sent to City Planning with our issues were very similar to yours and we enumerated them. I mean we were concerned about the rents rising. We were concerned about the traffic. We were concerned about the flooding that might ensue and the connections and the traffic also, but in the long run it was a good project. The board felt the environmental impacts were studied on this.

**Richard Khuzami:** Will this special permit have to be approved through the City Council or through any other entity?

**Elizabeth Erion:** No. It's strictly City Planning - we're just advisory.

## **Public Session**

**Stephen Winer:** I'm a local wills, estate and guardianship attorney and my wife was born in Astoria. I just wanted to publicly comment on a couple things that are immediate issues. I found in the course of my work, there are couples who have been in long-term relationships but aren't married formally and what happens in that case is that there's no automatic inheritance right. I've had some tragic situations where I've had to talk to people who weren't going to inherit anything because there was no will - there was no arrangement made, and they were together and they had a long-term relationship and it was a shock. So that's something I think is important that people should know - that if there is a long-term relationship, establish something in writing. There's one other issue I want to raise, which is of concern very soon, actually beginning October 26th, the early voting process starts and one of the things that concerns my profession, the wills, estate and guardianship attorney, is a Surrogate Court in Queens and the ballot. I've seen a copy of the sample and it says the election is for surrogate, it doesn't say court, it doesn't say judge and I think that some of the people are probably very sophisticated in this room - they'll know what that means, but a lot of the people in the public will immediately think of invitro fertilization. That's the immediate go-to when people hear the word surrogate. I've had people say this to me: oh, is

that about invitro? So it's important, I don't know why the Board of Elections did it this way. They only have that word surrogate with no modifier just to bring the attention of the people in this room. Anybody you know who's going to have that question. What is this position, because it's on the first page of the ballot without explanation?

**Joseph Ottomanelli:** I'm with the Department of Sanitation's Community Affairs Bureau. I just had a couple of brief updates to talk about tonight. So beginning November 12th, residential establishments of 1 to 9 units will be required to place trash out in bins of 55 gallons or less with a secure lid. This mandate is going to be for garbage alone. Recycling can be continued to set out as residents have been doing so. Regarding the use of these bins - residents can use their own bins or the bins for sale at NYC.gov or they can purchase over the phone at (855) NYC BINS. There will be a warning period for this mandate for who aren't compliant starting November 12, 2024 - January the 2, 2025, after which on January 2, 2025 violations will be issued and the breakdown is \$50 for the first offense, \$100 for the second offense and \$200 for any third and subsequent offense after that. In terms of service of the bins, empty bins must be removed from the curb by 9:00 p.m. the day of collection and storage of the bins can be stored within the rear of the yard or within property boundaries. If no space is available, bins can be stored within 3 ft of the building line.

The other update I had tonight was regarding commercial violations - beginning December 19, fines for repeated commercial offenders pertaining to cleaning related offenses, failure to clean 18 inches from the curb dirty area and violations of that nature - there will be an increase in fines for the first offense will be \$50, second \$300 and the third and subsequent offense after that will be for \$500 and those offenses will be rolling.

**Dan Aliberti:** The other day I took the New York City rat training. In that training they mentioned to us that rats are able to chew through the sidewalk, and they said that the only thing they can't chew through is steel. I have a question about these bins. My understanding is that these bins are plastic, and so there's a little disconnect there. Can you address that in terms of the make of the bin?

**Joseph Ottomanelli:** Sir I'd be happy to provide additional information. I don't have any information on the make and design of the bin at this moment, but I'd be happy to connect with the board office and provide information on that.

**Antonella DiSaverio:** If you have more bags than containers for a given week what do you do then?

**Joseph Ottomanelli:** Any resident placing their trash out for collection - it does have to be containerized, so there needs to be an adequate amount of containers to keep up with the amount of trash that the resident may be generating with the exception of something larger, like a bulk item that wouldn't fit in the container. That's a separate situation, but bags need to be containerized.

**Richard Khuzami:** Many years ago we had a win in this Community Board when we had the garbage trucks parking on 19th Avenue instead of along 21st Street by your facility. I'm seeing them back on 21st Street. Also, there's been no movement towards the construction of the new facility that we've been waiting for years and years.

**Joseph Ottomanelli:** So the first point, I know that parking of the trucks on 21st Street has been an issue in the past. I can coordinate with the local district and the internal agency heads to see about mitigating those issues. In my particular purview, I can't speak to any of the real estate related matters, but I can definitely triage that back to our appropriate personnel to look into that further and obviously, if there's any updates on that front, I'd be happy to connect with the board on that. I'll provide some of my information over here in case anybody has additional questions.

**Andrew Rubinson:** I'm from Urban Dove UD Team 3, Charter High School, which is a new school in the neighborhood that's opened up right on 37th Street, actually, 31-20 37 Street and I have information here, a brochure and a flier if people want the information after I finish speaking. UD team three is a transfer school, which is a kind of a second chance school for students who have attempted but not passed the ninth grade and who want a fresh start at high school. In the NYC system there are lots of different transfer schools, second chance schools. Most transfer schools serve 17- and 18-year-old students who are close to graduation. Urban Dove has found a gap in the landscape which is the younger population of 15- and 16-year-olds who need a transfer school but can't go to the regular transfer schools because they're too young and they don't have enough credits. So Urban Dove has schools to specifically address this population of students. We have a school in Brooklyn. We have a school in the Bronx, and just this year we opened the school here in Western Queens and in East Harvard. So we have no barriers to entry. Any student who applies will be accepted and again we're working with these relatively more difficult to work with students, because we know that if we can bring those students in and engage them, we can do the academic work with them.

One quick thing about the manner in which we do this. We run a sports-based Youth Development program, which means that every student who comes into Urban Dove is placed on a team, and every team has a full-time coach and the team of students go around together all day. First period they might go to the science classroom and new science. Then the second period they go to the gym to practice their sports.

**Traysana:** I've lived in Astoria for the last 6 years. I'm here tonight to share my personal experience with Vice Chair Amy. While I believe that the time and effort that every person on this board volunteers is admirable, I also believe that the board should represent the people of this community to the best of its abilities. Amy is responsible for a discriminatory policy that bans the Cafe at the Noguchi Museum. That is not a good representation of the Queens Board Community 1. I feel very strongly that she should resign or be removed from this board. The first fact about this community that one comes to learn after moving here and as written on the Community Board website is that we have a large immigrant population and that we have the largest Middle Eastern community in Queens. Israel, in the aftermath of October 7th, has carried out an increasingly horrific violence against the Palestinian people and now the civilians of the Middle East. This violence has reached the scale that it warrants the word genocide. We are thousands of miles away from this war and for concerned individuals like me, the power to make a real difference is limited. One of the small ways I show my support is by wearing this scarf. There is nothing extraordinary about this. It cannot stop a war. It is quite simply a scarf with cultural significance to my friends and neighbors. I have been wearing a keffiyeh for months without incident and without any contact from Amy, because the official dress code allowed it. The dress code policy has since changed, specifically targeting this cultural garment. In the last couple months 52 of my former co-workers signed a petition expressing their disagreement. Over 20 articles have been written about the institution and this change and three gallery attendants, including myself, were fired for wearing keffiyeh and most horrifically the director of visitor services, the only middle eastern director, was fired with no cause. The Noguchi Museum has been a part of this community for 40 years. It is a historic landmark, created by Simon Noguchi who was a political activist that voluntarily interned during the second world war. When I started working there, I felt it an immense privilege to be working among his work and I felt proud to share that space with my friends and family. This has all been tainted by the lack of Amy's leadership. Thank you for listening.

**Eileen Mondello:** I'm an almost lifelong Astoria resident. Excuse me if I'm a little poetic but I just really love Astoria. I'm here to speak about the Land Use committee proposal for LaGuardia Plaza. I've been going around the neighborhood getting petitions signed and I have a letter I'd just like to read to you now if you would allow me. We address it to Dear Elected Officials and Queens Community Board 1, we, the undersigned residents of Astoria, New York 11105, East Elmhurst, New York, 11370 and neighboring areas, call this area our home and a place where we conduct frequent business. We feel safe here and choose to reside and frequent this area for many reasons. What I heard said earlier was, there's a need to respect the character of a neighborhood, so that's really what I'm all about - there's a true sense of community.

In recent years, we've seen much change. Long time, privately owned businesses have been replaced by large chain stores and businesses. There has been much construction of large, taller buildings than previously existed. These buildings increase the density of our community and negatively affect our quality of life.

The land mass is relatively small. We are literally at the northern tip of Queens. Our community is nestled between LaGuardia Airport to the east, the JFK bridge to the west, Riker's Island to the north and the Grand Central Parkway to the South. We are also home to the Con Edison and Bowery Bay Waste Water sewage plants. So these borders speak volumes.

**Chair Evie Hantzopoulos:** I do want to say that the project still has not been certified yet by Land Use, so just keep tabs on it. I hope you've signed up for the CB1 email blasts and certainly reach out to your Council Member as well. If you do have a petition, you can bring it up here, so we have it.

**Roger Alvarez:** I'm a 35-year resident of Astoria. I live on 20th Avenue and 36th Street. I am basically representing a lot of my neighbors right now. Con Edison has been doing constant work on 20th Avenue. They did it a couple of years ago, a job that was supposed to take six months took a year and a half to replace gas pipes. You know it's necessary, but this is a continuous thing and it's happening again. Apparently they did a faulty job, so now they have to reopen 20th Avenue. Our complaint is not only the noise during the days of construction, heavy machinery, but at night they put steel plates down on the street and the buses and the trucks, and it's become a truck route. They go by all hours of the night shaking the houses incredibly, so the foundations are being compromised by all this traffic by all this construction. We're just basically asking that they put up work signs that there's work being done and the speed limits of 5 miles an hour or 10 miles an hour so it doesn't shake our houses and make all this noise. My neighbors are complaining of PTSD from jackhammering and heavy construction during the day and all these trucks during the night and we're talking about 18 wheelers constantly. So our question is: who do we go to get some action done to make Con Edison do the work a lot quicker? You know they say it's going to take three months. It might take two years knowing them, so we want to expedite everything just because we need some peace and quiet and we're also very concerned about our homes. It's like having an earthquake 400 times a day. So you guys picture that living in your house and your house shakes as trucks and buses are going by. So we'd like to know what we can do to get some speed signs, maybe reroute traffic.

**Chair Evie Hantzopoulos:** So if you could just call the Community Board office tomorrow, I believe Florence has been talking to Con Ed.

**Katherine McPartland:** I was here with Eileen. So I reiterate what she said about the 37<sup>th</sup> Street and the LaGuardia Plaza construction. I've been a resident my entire life, born in Astoria, but I want to talk about two other issues right now. One is the garbage all over Astoria. When I grew up in Astoria 64 years ago, all the store owners would come out in the morning and clean the sidewalk. That never happens anymore. I don't know what the rules were back then, but maybe we can reinstate that because there's garbage everywhere and up near LaGuardia Airport near the Marriott hotel, where they have all the migrants. The garbage from 86 Street in Ditmars, all the way around is like a garbage dump. I called the sanitation department about 15 times and they did clean it up, but within 3 weeks it's back again like a garbage dump. So I think that it should be addressed consistently, because, if they're going to have all the people there they have to make sure it's clean for the rest of us. The last thing I'm going to mention is these lights that are giving people tickets. The tickets went up near the schools. The speed limit went down to 25 miles an hour. We've been living here our whole life. You turn the corner in your car, like you did your entire life since you had your license: you're not driving fast, because it's your neighborhood, but all of a sudden, the traffic speed limit is 25 and you're getting tickets. I got six tickets in the matter of two months. Did I know the traffic lights were going up; no. They just sprung them on you and it they put the camera behind a little tree, and this is going all over Astoria and probably all over New York. But in my case it's in our neighborhood and people didn't know about it. They should say something before they put the cameras up. They should give a pre-warning.

**Chair Evie Hantzopoulos:** Florence will follow up and call sanitation about those issues. I just encourage everybody to follow. The speed limit regarding LaGuardia, like I said that project is on hold right now, but it will be coming down the pike at some point.

**Ms. Alvarez:** Today you heard from my husband Roger. We live down on 20th Avenue at 36th. I just want to say that I did speak with Florence and she told me to come here and present it to you so that's the first thing. We did speak with Con Ed over the phone. They said they were going to look into it. I did speak to the Community Affairs officer who also told me to come here. So that's the reason I'm here. So I would like to hear from the board. I mean I can't be the only person that knows about what's going on with Con Edison. I can't be the only person that has traffic complaints. I can't be the only person who has noise issues. What's going on in general? When I spoke to the Community Affairs officer, I said just put an empty cop car there just so people are deterred from speeding - help me out, He said he didn't have the funds. He couldn't help me out. They don't have the money and I get it. I know New York City's in difficult straits, but I want to go home and feel comfortable in my home. I want to feel restful. I want to feel like I can enjoy my community. I would love to hear from members of the community. Are you seeing the same thing? How do you guys feel? That's basically why I'm here.

**Chair Evie Hantzopoulos:** Well, thanks for coming and thanks for speaking, even though you weren't planning to. It is important because it does become part of a public record. So, yes, you said you had already talked to Florence, but it's good to come here as well and state it in public, because then other people might hear about it and the more complaints that come down the better, because we'll get a better response from the agencies.

Florence said she called and they said they're going to put new plates down. That will reduce the noise. I don't know if that's since you talked.

**Florence Koulouris, District Manager:** I called Con Edison and they said that they're going to put, for lack of a better word, gaskets underneath the plates. So Thursday was the first phone call I got from the community Thursday I called. They did put the gaskets, but then the plates were picked up again and they didn't put the proper amount of lining underneath. They told me that the project isn't going to be going on much longer. As your husband said, there was work done. The work was faulty which forced them to go back. They had to do it, but with traffic patterns changing in Astoria, 20th Avenue is now used more widely, and we also have the addition of a parking lot over there, which causes the problems that you as a homeowner are having.

Con Ed assured me that there's no damage. There is shaking, but there is no damage to the foundations. If anybody has a claim they can go to Con Ed. But Con Ed is not a New York agency. It is a utility. So a lot of the calls have to go directly to Con Ed through the number on your bill. You're welcome to call my office at any time, bring it to my attention and I will call Con Ed while you are on the phone with me and I will tell them your exact complaint. I did that for two other people. I don't know if I did that for you, but I did that for two other people and they're going back tomorrow to look at the linings on the plates again.

**Chair Evie Hantzopoulos:** Now we're going to move on to the business section of our meeting. First item is adoption of the September 2024 minutes. Hopefully, board members had a chance to look over the minutes. We would like to have a motion to approve the minutes.

**Motion to Approve: Amin Mehedi     Second: Doreen Mohammed**

**Discussion:**

**Thomas Ryan:** The copy of the minutes that I have a redacted portion. Is this on everyone's copy?

**Chair Evie Hantzopoulos:** Nothing should have been redacted. I'm sure it's not a redaction. I think it's probably just something that happened with the copy machine. We do have them electronically.

Okay, some people do have a full page of text, that means you have the full page of minutes right, I guess something was superimposed on some of them. I think Florence has other copies. Does anyone have any concerns about approving the minutes today? If not, we'll take a vote.

## **Motion carries**

## **Chair's Report**

**Chair Evie Hantzopoulos:** I just want to say thank you to all the committees for doing some real work on the capital and expense budget items. I really appreciate the thoughtfulness people put into it. I really appreciate the committee engagement. This is something that we want to kind of continue. We had a lot of new chairs. It was their first time doing it. We had a lot of continuing chairs and it was their first time doing it. So I appreciate everybody for the work that they've done and we're going to get into that in a few minutes when we look at the capital and expense budget, but that was really it for me today.

**Florence Koulouris, District Manager Report:** Thank you, madam chair, good evening. Our office has been assisting the committee's setting up for capital and expense. The committee for fiscal year 26 budget has been working diligently. Corinne gave her regrets for not attending tonight, as she has a family emergency. I know we all wish her well. Amy has attended the committee meetings, organizing the handouts and the material the members have received tonight. She has been working diligently and incredibly busy with that. She has been painstaking in details. I did not want to miss the opportunity to give her a shout out.

At the borough cabinet this month, the district managers had the opportunity to meet the new commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection. He grew up in Queens and is a borough centric person. I had the opportunity to discuss with him the number two item on last year's capital list. The commissioner will assign our representative to do follow-up on that item, which is the full reconstruction of 32nd Street off Ditmars Boulevard to the dead end of 32nd Street. It was a good opportunity to bring this important item to light for the agency and our community.

The American Red Cross also attended the Cabinet, and they are seeking volunteers after two hurricanes. The representatives also spoke about fire preparedness and the need for individuals to utilize fire and carbon monoxide alarms. Fire safety is so important. Create a plan for escape, it matters.

The American cross can be reached at 1-800-733-2767. To become a volunteer, go to [www.redcross.org/volunteer](http://www.redcross.org/volunteer).

The One Police Plaza task force is continuing to facilitate our office and our district. A total of 18 vehicles were removed and 21 summonses were issued. The breakdown is as follows: NYPD traffic placed 4 barnacle windshield locks on illegally parked commercial vehicles - 4 box trucks. The 114 PCT issued 21 summonses to illegally parked commercial vehicles, 17 for violating laws, 4 barnacle windshield locks; Towing removed 18 commercial vehicles, 4 illegally parked commercial vehicles, 10 box trucks. 4 large box trucks; Heavy duty towed 3 vans, 1 box truck road tow. Thank you for all you do for the community.

## **Committee Reports**

**Brian Hunt and Brian Martinez, Co-Chairs, Business and Economic Development Committee:** Last Wednesday October 9th we had a committee meeting to go over the capital and budget expense items that we were going to prioritize and submit to the board. Those are listed in the minutes. I don't think we had any major issues or questions come up at the committee meeting - what did come up we put in here. You can see in the back.

We kept everything that was already on there to continue funding it and we added two new items, one of which was to add some type of representation at the SBS office. That will be a resource for small businesses and another one was getting some type of help or support for small businesses to become M/WBE certified. Other than that, we kept it as it was and prioritized as needed, and we submitted that to the office. Our next meeting will be in December.

**Amy Hau, Capital and Expense Budget Committee:** I just want to say a little bit about the whole process because it's the first time we've done it in a number of years and we really wanted to not submit the same list and the same priorities. We know that some of those items had already been funded by different agencies and other means. Looking at past year's agency responses and knowing that there are projects that may never get funded - they will have issues funding - because it's not a Parks property or whatever the reasons are, so thinking about the methodology of how to approach the old list - how to incorporate new items - we took a step at removing some of those items that we know are either already funded or will never get funded and really just tried to bring up the new priorities that we have in the district.

I learned through this process that typically the capital list only has about 40 items per list, and the expense budget items are only listed about 25 and we've historically had like 50 plus items on our list, so it's really good for

us to take a look at it, review it and see what we want to take out and what we want to put in as new priorities. Things change and we have new needs. So I know it's a lot of material to look at and I'm sorry that it came to you late, but hopefully, next year, we'll get started a little earlier.

I want to just go through very quickly. In the interest of time you are pre-sorting a list of things that we are removing. If the chairs would just look at those removed items and let me know whether or not we want to put them back on the list, let's do that first and then we'll look at all the new items.

So can we look at the capital list first and I can read them off to you. Things that we're considering removing there's the Seawall and Esplanade.

**Christopher Hanway:** Given the need and the flooding that has happened in the Astoria Houses, what is the rationale for taking the seawall off? Is it going to be funded through another means?

**Amy Hau:** It's through the Army Corps of Engineers and they're still studying it and they've been studying this for years and years. We'll put it back on. Thank you. Any other items?

**Richard Khuzami:** The seawall repair at Socrates - should that be continued support since it really hasn't started yet, but is going to be starting soon? There are quite a few seawall repair items on the list. What if we put together one item for seawalls and mention all the different seawall spots and consolidate it so we have more room for other things.

**Amy Hau:** I think that would make sense all right to be considered. I'm going to be writing all the chairs this weekend. Continuing on to number 7 - Astoria Park - build an ice-skating rink in the pool area. This was moved to the expense budget rather than capital. Another seawall at Whitey Ford - that's going under continued support. The next item - Leister Creek, had been on for quite a bit. The agency response last year was that this is not maintained by DPR for the Parks Department, so we may have to actually go to DEP or some other agency, so we can keep it on the list, but I think it has to go through some other channels other than the Parks Department. The next item on the capital to be removed is the ICU unit at Mount Sinai. They just recently got full funding and congratulations to Mount Sinai for getting an ICU unit, so that should be removed. Other projects down below - the passive recreation area for St. Michaels - that's been funded and in scoping and I can move it into continued support. The Tri Boro access roadway is actually a Port Authority project and not a DOT project. The city's response to that is that it's not within the city's budget jurisdiction, so I would like to remove that. So some will go into CS and some will be removed. Are we in agreement on that? Yes - Great. So new items under capital that we'd like to propose: Education - funding needed to renovate auditoriums at IS 141 and 126; build computer labs throughout City 1 district and elementary and middle and high schools; PS122 needs electrical upgrade throughout the building and also needs an annex constructed and a new school is needed near the Astoria Boulevard in 27th Avenue area.

**Amin Mehedi:** You can take the PS 122 request off because it's already funded.

**Amy Hau:** Thank you, Amin, so those will be removed. So we have three new education items to move up to the ranking, and we should discuss that.

**Chair Evie Hantzopoulos:** Regarding the new schools in the 27th Astoria Boulevard area, there are going to be two new schools constructed on the Hallet peninsula as part of the rezonings that we had. So that is that area. So do we remove this item?

**Amin Mehedi:** So, if they're establishing any school there, then that's fine.

**Amy Hau:** Moving on to the next committee Health and Human Services, we've added three new items here: provide new homeless shelters and upgrade existing facilities; provide a new and expanded health care facility and renovate and upgrade senior centers across CB1 District, so I think we should move all of those up to the new ranking, we'll decide the numbers in a minute.

The next committee after that is Housing. We added three new items here which are to provide supportive and adaptable housing for seniors, domestic abuse survivors and neurodiverse individuals; provide more housing for extremely low and low-income households, and create more Section 9 housing on NYCHA properties.

Parks and Culture, we have Tri Boro G canopy for shaded area, water, fountain, plug hose and ready for faucet to facilitate upkeep, Socrates Sculpture Park climate adaptation, capital improvements, so I thought some of the other seawall money could be part of this whole climate adaptation capital project. Repair and restore recently renovated tennis courts up at Astoria Heights playground, create dog park in Whitey Ford Field and construct playground in DeMarco Park. So those are the new capital projects under parks and cultural.

Transportation: We have four items under capital: the hardening and formalizing of Shore Boulevard Greenway; daylighting of l intersections with planters and blocks; greatly increase the number of loading zones in commercial corridors within the district; unification of 20th Avenue protected bike lane in Astoria and connection to promenade past LaGuardia Airport, so I think we are all in favor of these items.

So now we have additional items from the new request to add into the fold. We will be troughing the items using High, Medium, Low.

**Education Committee** - Funding needed to renovate auditoriums - High. Building computer labs for all elementary schools - Low. The new school at Astoria Boulevard and 27th Avenue area - Low.

**Health and Human Services Committee** - Homeless, shelters and upgrading existing facilities - High. Provide a new and expanded health care facility - High. Renovating and upgrading senior centers across the district. - High.

**Housing Committee** - Provide supportive and adaptable housing for seniors, domestic abuse survivors and neurodiverse individuals - High. Provide more housing for extremely low and low-income households - High. Create more Section 9 housing on NYCHA properties - High.

**Parks/Recreation/Cultural Committee** - Tri Borough G - Medium. Socrates Sculpture Park - High. Astoria Heights Playground - High. Construct a dog park in Whitey Ford Field - Low. Construct playground in DeMarco Park - Medium.

**Transportation Committee** - Shore Boulevard Greenway hardening - Medium. Daylighting certain intersections - High Loading zones and commercial corridors - medium/high. .20th Avenue protected bike lane in Astoria and connection to promenade past LaGuardia Airport - Low

**Discussion about ranking for the capital requests.**

**Amy Hau:** Expense list.

**Business and Economic Development** - new requests - provide dedicated SBS staff to assist small businesses in CD1 area - Funding for in-person training and workshops for M/WBE certification throughout CD1 - Removed because City provides services citywide. Continued support.

**Education, Library and Youth** - Provide laptops and iPads for all elementary middle and high schools - High - Top 5. Extend public libraries homework help hours - High - Top 10. Provide funding in order that our libraries have dedicated multilingual sections to serve our diverse community. funding for school librarians for all schools in CD1, Funding for STEM computer lab teachers,

**Environmental and Sanitation** - Funding for E Waste/ Hazardous waste bi-annual collection - more frequent pickup in CD1 - High - Top 10

**Housing** - Provide or enhance rental subsidy programs, including Section 8 programs - High - Top 5.

**Health and Human Services** - Improve safety at homeless shelters - High - Top 10. Provide additional Senior Center Staffing - High.

**Parks/Recreation/Cultural Committee** - Increase sanitation services - Medium. Provide funding for additional lifeguards, especially in Astoria pool - Medium.

**Public Safety** - More NYPD training on cultural sensitivity, linguistic sensitivity, de-escalation, finding solutions to problems that don't necessarily involve violent or disrespectful interactions - High. Accessible traffic lights for people with various levels of abilities - Removed because it is already being addressed. The committee chair will review specific intersections where there is need in future.

**Transportation** - Further studies needed for east/west moving protected bike lanes - Medium. Traffic calming redesigned for 33rd Street - High. Secured bike racks at subway stations and bike parking at all schools - High. Funding is needed for staff for open Street programming at 31st Avenue - Medium.

**Discussion on ranking of expense list.**

**Communications / Public Outreach Committee:** No Report

**Consumer Affairs and Licenses:** Marie Torniali, Vice Chair: I think everybody should have a list of licenses on the entire spreadsheet. I'm going to do the liquor licenses first. All the ones that are listed here, with the exception of Republic. We saw no issue with Republic; however, it has been operating without a license. They also have promoters, even though they signed a stipulation 2 years ago that they would not have promoters and a lot of noise complaints. The owner could not be reached and did not appear at this meeting so the committee recommended that they withdraw their license and come back next month so we could speak to the owner, but they didn't. We are suggesting that we do not approve the renewal of this license. I will not bring up HOA right now because they are not on the list.

**Motion to Approve all Liquor Licenses with the exception of Republic which will be denied - Chris Hanway Second - Juliet Payabyab No discussion on motion. Motion carries with 2 abstentions.**



HOA, which their license was renewed a couple of months ago. However, we finally got them to come to a committee meeting, because there have been many complaints - both 911 and 311. 311 - mostly noise and 911 violence - though I must note it was outside the building, but still emanating from the club. They also signed stipulations, and they had original stipulations two years ago. While we cannot deny the license because it was already renewed prior to them coming, the committee recommended that we write a letter to the State Liquor Authority, that we met with them and these issues are ongoing just to get it on the record.

**Motion to send letter to State Liquor Authority stating we disapprove of HOA being granted a liquor license based on complaints of violence and noise - Doreen Mohammed Second - Adam Fisher-Cox. No Discussion on the motion. Motion carries.**

**Dan Aliberti:** How many complaints or violations can there be before their license will be pulled? Do they pull licenses?

**Marie Torniali:** They do, but I think it takes many instances. They had a lot of complaints. I don't have the exact number here. But just because we send a letter now, they're not going to pull their license. I think it would have to happen again and again and we would have to keep on top of it.

**Dan Aliberti:** I'm just wondering because I don't ever remember any licenses being pulled since I've been on this board.

**Marie Torniali:** Oh yes, the one that occupied HOA space before Home, about 3 years ago, after many years of complaining, their license was denied. That was called Home and there were several others like Aces. There were several, but if you think of the amount of times you have to send a letter to the SLA - it takes time. That's what I'm trying to say.

Now on to outdoor dining, which appeared simple, but it was not. We have Ovelia restaurant, a long time, good neighbor and restaurant - no problem. We have Ayy Chihuahua, a new applicant on Ditmars Boulevard who had their paperwork in order according to regulations - so that was fine. Then we got to Barrio. There were noise complaints. They were pouring drinks down people's throats outside the bar - just randomly during the day and night. It was like party time. There was a woman who came and complained about Barrio. She was here last month. If you recall. The manager appeared at the meeting. He said he was trying to straighten the place out, but he couldn't guarantee that the owners would abide by that. So therefore, that being said, we are recommending that we do not approve of their outdoor dining application, because they're making enough noise and trouble just with the indoor.

**Richard Khuzami:** The prior proprietor there never actually got their sidewalk license approved. They tried for years to get it. That's the reason they actually left; they're the people that own Astoria Provisions now. So they've never had a sidewalk dining legally there.

**Marie Torniali:** It was a different process, with COVID people could put tables outside and they're not being good neighbors as it is, and that's the reason for the recommendation not to approve this application for outdoor dining.

**Motion to approve Ovelia and Ayy Chihuahua outdoor dining and disapprove Barrio outdoor dining - Doreen Mohammed Second - Dean Feratovic. Discussion on the motion.**

**Christopher Hanway:** To be clear, there is no outdoor dining now?

**Marie Torniali:** There is. This is a renewal under the new process. They have existing outdoor dining - it has to be removed by November 1st, but we're not going to approve it going forward. Just to be fair, they can fight it, but we don't feel comfortable approving it.

**Shahenaz Hamde:** I believe someone from the community was talking about the noise. They open the door in the summer but the door is supposed to be closed. I believe we need to take action regarding this because the person who was there from the community was talking about the noise. We need to be sure they close the door, because they said it is glass and they open it in the summer right.

**Chair Evie Hantzopoulos:** So there were lots of violations there. So the motion is to approve Ovelia and Ayy Chihuahua and disapprove Barrio.

**Motion carries            1 Abstention.**

**Amin Mehedi, Education, Libraries and Youth:** The first thing we did when we had the meeting was to send a letter to everyone in the district. We are living in many different areas - all of 50 of us. We can see what's going on nearby, so it's very easy to import that and note that to the board so issues are solved. 50 of us are working here to bring change to our community. We have to have a big impact and we do count on that. So that's the reason we sent the letter to everyone, because our committee members cannot visit all of our communities. Now we have one of the elected officials, also sitting there, in the community.

We are not teaching awareness in elementary schools of the drugs which are crushing our community. We are not educating our young ones, especially the public elementary school teachers and the parents. They don't even know that when the children are going to middle school. But we are not studying our process from the elementary school, so we do have the documentation, and we are going to write a letter and it's not only the education committee. We, the whole board, will prepare a letter and take a vote. That's what I've been talking with Madame chair about. So we're going to send that to the DOE and from there we'll go further.

**Chair Evie Hantzopoulos:** So you will have that letter for review next month.

**Antonello Di Saverio, Environmental and Sanitation Committee:** October 8th we had Rachana Shah from Beyond Plastic.org. She did a really amazing presentation on how dangerous to our health and environment plastics are. If you want to check her out at [beyondplastics.org](http://beyondplastics.org) for her presentation, I encourage that. We also went over capital and expense. Months ago we had the Fluoride Action Network speak at our committee meeting. The federal court actually ruled against the EPA that water fluoridation poses an unreasonable risk to children. Just a quick quote from the order: In all, there is substantial and scientifically credible evidence establishing that fluoride poses a risk to human health. It is associated with a reduction in the IQ of children and is hazardous at dosages that are far too close to fluoride levels in the drinking water of the United States. Reduced IQ poses serious harm. Studies have linked IQ decrements of even one or two points to reduced educational attainment, employment status, productivity and earned wages. In a future meeting we're going to try to see if we could draft a letter to see what the EPA is doing in our drinking water and we'll propose it to the board at that time.

**Shahenaz Hamde, Health and Human Services Committee:** We have Vanessa from the Department of Health. She came and talked about early intervention and I encourage everyone to watch it on the Community Board 1 YouTube channel - it is a really good benefit for some kids. The other thing we talked about during the meeting was about meeting every other month, and we said if there is an emergency we're going to meet - it depends on the request. We also discussed the capital and expense which was sent to Amy, Evie and Florence. Thank you for all the feedback, and it was a really good experience to learn about the capital and expense budget. We will have another meeting in October for the Bill Trust for disability and people can understand how he can get the benefit too.

**Katie Ellman, Housing Committee:** Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday November 11th, and there are two "Know Your Housing Rights" trainings coming up with the Astoria Tenants Union at the Variety Boys and Girls Club Tuesday, October 22nd and Saturday October 26th. You can go to their website [www.AstoriaTenantsUnion@squarespace.com](http://www.AstoriaTenantsUnion@squarespace.com) or you can speak with Doreen after this meeting.

**Elizabeth Erion, Land Use and Zoning Committee:** We have two items that we need action from the board on or at least response. The first is the Vernon Boulevard rezoning, the extension of the special permit. There is no vote required per se, other than you can comment and we can forward that information. If you don't like the concept of approving the extension, it's open for discussion.

**Motion to support the special CPC permit for 3201 Vernon Boulevard - Elizabeth Erion Second - Amin Mehedi**  
**No discussion on the motion. Motion carries. 1 Nay 1 Abstention**

**Elizabeth Erion:** The second item - we do have a representative from Eric Palatnik's office who is the attorney for the applicant. This is Elise Foladare who is here to answer any questions. I wonder if you had gotten the chance to read the letter that was in the file that came to you?

**Elise Foladare:** Just to summarize it, you asked a bunch of questions. There are violations on this site. Unfortunately, because it was a hotel, so this is an application to vest the hotel that was permitted before they changed the law. So what happened was they ran out of funds. They can't get public funding anymore. It's supposed to be a hotel. They still want to build a hotel, but now they've had to raise private funds. They hope to have them by the end of the year. So that's what the letter says. There is a stop work order. There are 22 violations. They're not doing anything - not touching the site until they get this money and then they hope to fix all of those violations and continue. It'll take about 12 months to finish once they get enough money through private lenders. That is what the letter says. They want to finish this hotel. That is the dream.

**Elizabeth Erion:** Well, there were issues and what the letter to BSA says, there were so many things that there's nothing really that we can do at this point. We have explained in this letter the reason why the Community Board did not, couldn't, and didn't support the extension. I'm not going to say, disapproved but didn't support the extension and there were so many reasons because of the violations. At this point, the decision has to be made by the Board of Standards and Appeals. There's nothing more that we can input into this. So the letter explains what happened at the last meeting. The first request they made, we supported it. The second time they came around and they had all of these issues and we did not disapprove of it - we just could not vote on a motion to support it. It really is in their hands at this point. Basically, the decision we have to make tonight is whether or not we want to have another hearing to discuss before they go on with the Board of Standards and Appeals and I think there were some of us on the committee who believed that there was really no point in it. You all made your points and statements last month and so that's it. We could make a motion to waive our right to a public hearing at this point

based on the facts and the history that they've had here. So we already made our point so there's nothing more we can say.

**Motion to send a letter to the Board of Standards and Appeals - Gerald Caliendo Second - Richard Khuzami. Discussion on the motion.**

**Dominic Stiller:** I would just like to hear the paragraph that states that we are kind of neutral on the decision. Would it be possible to just read that? Well, we're you know saying we feel, there's no point for us to discuss it further in any past. I just like to hear how that's worded, if you don't mind,

**Elizabeth Erion:** On April 16th, the board heard the applicant's second request for extension. This time the board disapproved two motions to approve the extension. I think that has to be changed. A full description of CB1 discussion and reasons for denying approval of extending the permit were included in the letter dated April 24th. Those issues and concerns about safety, the building and site violations still stand. In addition, we followed up with the request for the number of violations that were cleared and received 28 pages from the DOB website concerning the violations and the statement that the owner is working on it and correcting them within the next few months. Well, we heard a little bit different explanation right now. We asked about the owner's success in securing financing. Traditional lenders are not funding hotel developments at this time, but the owner anticipates financing from private investors to be in place at the end of the year.

**Elise Foladare:** Excuse me I hope, that's what I said right now. I said something different.

**Elizabeth Erion:** So, okay, we asked when the project will be completed. The owner estimated 12 plus months after financing is in place. There's no reason for Community Board 1 to hold a third hearing on this project. Board 1 believes that the outcome of this case is solely for BSA to determine. Your agency can access more information from the applicant about seeking financing and resolving the DOB violations on the site.

We therefore waive our public hearing on the BSA.

**Chair Evie Hantzopoulos:** Any other questions, discussion? No. So the motion on the floor is to send the letter that Liz has drafted regarding waving the public hearing, but expressing all the objections that we had to this process and the reasons for the waving was what Liz stated.

This really falls under the jurisdiction of BSA, so this is also a non ULURP item, so we can do a voice vote.

**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Legal, Legislative and Parliamentary:** No report.

**Chair Evie Hantzopoulos, Budget and Staff:** We did meet. We looked at the office budget and gave input into that. The budget is still not complete for the year. We're looking to possibly include some funding for a Land Use consultant to help us with some modeling of projects that are coming down the line.

**Richard Khuzami, Parks/Recreation/Cultural Committee:** I had a meeting on October 7th and we had a presentation from the Parks Department for the Halletts Point playground renovations. They made a great presentation. We recommended that they include, beyond what they're putting in there, additional sanitation receptacles, additional adult seating, if viable, a game table and a storage shed for Parks Friends Group. That was also included in the request. So we have a copy of the letter in your packet, so I'd like to see if somebody could give a motion to approve this letter.

**Motion to approve letter to Parks Department - Shahenaz Hamde. Second - Marie Torniali. No discussion on the motion. Motion carries unanimously.**

**Christopher Hanway, Public Safety:** We met on the 18th of September for the first time in quite a while. It was a productive meeting where we went over the budget priorities, both capital and expense. We also had a full sub discussion about policing, particularly as it relates to Muslim and Arab communities in the district in the area called Little Egypt. We'll continue those discussions, Frank and I are setting up meetings with the Detective Tovias from the precinct, the community relations officer there. They were unable to attend the last meeting and also with Councilmember Caban's office to talk about the priorities and their ideas. Also high on our list that a future meeting is to have representatives from one of the violence interruption groups working in the district. Finally, we hope to have another meeting in December or January. We'll start working on that.

**Dominic Stiller, Transportation Committee:** Three quick points of interest. We did not have a meeting this month. Sunday past 10:13 was a rally to demand the opening of the south out of the roadway to pedestrians as soon as possible. It was well attended by 75 members of the public, including New York State Senator Kristen Gonzalez, New York State Senator Jessica Ramos, New York State Assemblymember Zohan Mamdani and New York City Councilperson, Julie Juan. I personally witnessed a crash on the bike path a few days ago, and so this is a really important issue and I'm glad that it's getting the attention that it deserves. I hope that we see results. Tomorrow there is a town hall meeting regarding the Queens Waterway Greenway implementation plan and the

one last week was for our stretch of greenway. The one tomorrow is in Flushing, October 16th at the Glow Cultural Center in Flushing. The third one will be on October 24th in Eastern Queens at Apec. Lastly, just some stats that we're going to start boring you with: in September of 2024, there were 7,740 car or automobile crashes in New York City. There were three cycling fatalities. There were eight pedestrian fatalities. There were four motorist fatalities. This information is from the crash mapper and I just find that first number of 7,000 crashes in a month in New York City amazing.

**Elizabeth Erion:** I would like to add something to your report on the Bikeway. The segment of this proposed bike way that is going through our district is going to be discussed at the next meeting for the one that goes up to Flushing and that is in the bikeway path, they're proposing that goes through the Astoria Heights section. I attended the Astoria one last week and I pitched a proposal that they try to link Leister Creek from 20th Avenue to take them around and let them go down 19th Avenue and they're looking around 80th - 19th Avenue and then 81st, 80th Street or something like that. But if there's anyone who lives in the Astoria Heights area who is concerned about this. You know they should be told about this meeting. It is in College Point or someplace else, but there's going to be a zoom meeting, on October 29th from 6:00 to 8 p.m. virtual workshop, Tuesday. I spoke to the woman who was at our table and she said that they would take comments about this area via Zoom.

**Chair Evie Hantzopoulos:** Amy has reworked the capital and expense priorities list. She's going to review. I think what she's done is cleaned up the top 10, put in the top 10 for each category and then moved stuff up onto the list.

**Amy Hau:** I moved some of the older items from like the teens down a little put in the high priority items and kind of mix and match some of the medium high in that range. So the top 10 of capital I think we've already discussed. So number 11 through here - I will definitely need to come back to committee chairs to get some explanations and better wording for some of the requests. So here we have number 11 is IS141 and 126 renovations. Homeless shelters upgrade existing facilities, number 12. New and expanded healthcare facility, number 13. I think that comment about Public, Safety and wider district needs being a priority is very important, so I took that into consideration. Some other items that had been higher up on the list in the 7,8, 9,10 now got moved down to 18,19, 20, 21. In total we have 41 items in capital. Once I clean this up I can definitely send it all to you to look at. But again, some of the pre-existing items from the previous list are in a lower ranking and some of the new items that had low and really low priorities, I kind of put them at the bottom of the list. So do we want to take this capital list first and vote on that.

Corinne Wood-Hayes: Where did you move the housing lighting problem? I know it was number 22 before but now it's at 34. Can you move it back up? I think that's a safety issue for those people that live in that area. Could you move it to like, maybe before the homeless shelter?

**Amy Hau:** I must have missed that because I was doing things very quickly. I am happy to move that up.

**Chair Evie Hantzopoulos:** Can I have a motion?

**Motion to approve the capital list.** Amin Mehedi. **Second** - Frank Fredericks. **No discussion on the motion.**  
**Motion carries unanimously.**

**Amy Hau:** Okay, great, I want to go to the expense list. We have a total of 52 items on the expense list. I think you know the top 10. Again, I was just trying to move some of the new items into the teens and 20s and some of the lower ranking numbers. If anybody has any particular things that they want to move now is your chance. I moved that NYPD training up a bit. Chris, if you can help me with some language for that. I will put a note in there for myself. If you're looking at column B, these are previously ranked, and this is our new ranking. Is everyone good with this? Is there anything that you want to advocate for?

**Chair Evie Hantzopoulos:** So if there's no other changes. If everyone's okay with this, can we get a motion to approve the expense motion list?

**Motion to approve the expense list** - Marie Torniali. **Second** Katie Ellman. **No discussion on the motion.** **Motion carries unanimously.**

**Chair Evie Hantzopoulos:** I want to thank all the committees and thank you to Amy. This was a new process for many folks, so next year we will work backwards and be able to have the committee chairs kind of weigh in as we rank and then present that to the board so it'll go a little quicker. So thank you all.

**Richard Khuzami:** Could we start maybe next year in June

**Chair Evie Hantzopoulos:** Absolutely, we can actually start before June. Believe me, I've come up with a whole timetable.

**Shahenaz Hamde:** It's not only this - if also the members attending the meeting, because we try to do the meeting and we do a lot of discussion, but when people don't come to the meeting - I know sometimes people are excused, but if you can attend in the meeting we are still in Zoom. You can attend from anywhere right and this will help us

not to have to stay the whole night to do all of this work. We had our discussion in the meeting and we got the result and it's also his first time we did it. It was really good, thanks.

**Senator Gonzalez:** I think some of you know this, but I served on Queens Community Board 4 on the executive committee about like five years ago at this point. So this has been fun - like I miss it. We would go a little bit later than this. Like 9:30 is not so bad. So I think to the credit of you all keeping the schedule going quickly. So thank you for letting me sit in. It's been also really exciting to hear the committee report back. Like definitely reach out to our office. Housing - I heard the EPA letter, we're constantly working with them, transportation, we're at the Queensboro Bridge rally, but you know, please, we're here to be a resource. But hi. It's good to be here. How's everyone doing? I know it's a long night, but you know it's nice to be here in person. January to June, it's a little hard or just when we're back in session, but I just wanted to come and say hello - check in to see where we could be helpful.

Give you some updates, but before I get into that, I also wanted to introduce our newest office member, who is right over here, Kaylyn, who is our scheduler and will be attending these board meetings. So you'll see her face Kaylyn. If you want to wave Kaylyn and I was going to just give you a little background. She is a Baruch graduate studied, political science and Spanish. Also born and raised in Elmhurst, so right here in Queens, so we can give her a little love and welcome her to the board, but also give love to of course, all the other incredible staffers that have been here patiently all night, so just transitioning quickly into some updates.

I wanted to remind everyone that our office does monthly office hours. Our next one is on October 28th. We'll be holding our office hours at Astoria Houses Community Center from 11:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. along with Councilmember Caban, Assemblymember Mamdani and Rep AOC. Since the last time I saw you all, we've had a lot of really good updates. Just in the district we gave out 1,200 backpacks. We've had shredding events, e-waist events we'll keep you posted on the next ones, but we've also done some very great community events around big tracks with HTH Reality House, Variety, Boys and Girls Club. On that note, I also wanted to say we are taking our request for 2025. So if you have an organization and I know, I see some in the room that have already applied in previous years. But if you have an organization that is looking for capital funding or discretionary funding, please send that over to our office- early. We're happy to sit down. Now is the time to like talk through what you need and help us get a sense of what this neck of the woods will need in terms of funding for 2025. So you know, reach out to myself, Kaylyn and hopefully, a year from now, we'll update you on some more big check events that we do at hopefully, with a successful end of that process.

As Thanksgiving approaches, we're also coordinating with Community Partners for upcoming food drives. We'll be doing our turkey giveaways as well and starting our toy collection, so please, as a board, if that's something that interests you, we would love to partner with you all.

A few district issues between now and then -we are working on some letters. I heard Greenway. We sent a letter to NYPA to make sure that we have a Greenway along the Queens side, and so we get from the New York Power Authority, some of their land following up with them. We have also sent some letters regarding street safety in the neighborhood and Department of Transportation projects.

I did want to call out that McGuinness Boulevard, which is in Brooklyn, recently was a major win in our district, because it was a Department of Transportation project that was stalled and we were able to actually push on this Administration and successfully get that project approved. So if we did it in Brooklyn, we know we can do it here. So we're going to continue fighting and prioritizing street safety in the neighborhood and then finally, on ongoing issues, Midtown Tunnel flooding. So I represent the Midtown Tunnel on both sides.as you all know. I think a lot of our neighbors actually often use the Midtown Tunnel. There was a leak recently. We're following up, especially based on last week's confirmed reports that the way that they confirmed that it was a leak coming from the river was as a result of a worker drinking the water to taste for salinity. So, yes, not the standard we want moving forward. We laugh because it's so absurd, but also, of course, a serious concern. So we'll be following up with the MTA and with the administration and EDC around that - sending a letter as well.

One more thing - a collaboration with Assemblymember Mamdani's office, we've sent a letter to the Governor to allow all students to receive unrestricted student Omni cards. I myself had a student Metro card when I was going to school, but as we roll out the Omni program, we want to expand it. I think a lot of students in our district will really benefit from that. So I wanted to put it on your radar.

The last thing I just wanted to flag - and the reason I wanted to come here before November - is to remind everyone that, as we have an election coming up, not telling anyone how to vote, we do have propositions on the back and I really need the help of all of you who are already civically engaged. You probably know what I'm talking about - to remind as many of our neighbors as possible to turn the ballot over and read the propositions. So the first one - and this is the really important one that's been on our radar, is Proposition One. It's to amend the state constitution - the Equal Rights Amendment. We haven't amended the state constitution since 1938. I don't think any of us in this room were even around last time, so I think that says a lot about how long overdue it is to have this amendment. But what it does is add additional protected classes. You know - age and race and then significantly,

and this is, I think very urgent for us given what we're seeing across the country - it codifies our right to an abortion in the State Constitution. So I think we've really enjoyed New York being a progressive state, but you know, having it actually codified in our constitution I think sets a really important standard moving forward, and so we want people to know about this. We want to know that we can remind our neighbors to at least review and understand better what that is.

There will also be other propositions 2 through 6 - again, not telling anyone how to vote. I think the thing that we've been doing in terms of research, seeing a lot of feedback on, is whether or not you believe the mayor should have expanded power. I think folks, who do want to see the mayor have expanded power, seem supportive of it. Folks who are not so convinced the mayor should have expanded power, do not seem as supportive of Props 2 through 6, so I think that is the most I can say there. I am happy to talk offline with anyone who has questions about the upcoming, you know, ballot, but with that I'm happy to take questions and just want to thank you all for the time we're going to keep working and chat afterwards. But again, thanks for having me.

**Chair Evie Hantzopoulos:** Thank you. That was really important about the propositions, though you know, people turn the ballots over and there are some pretty serious things on there.

**Senator Gonzalez:** How many of you knew about the propositions? Okay, that makes me feel good. We got to get our neighbors knowing about it, but yeah I think that's been the big thing for us too. So thank you for calling it out and again I'll be here for a little while longer.

**Dominic Stiller:** Is there a result regarding the timeline on the south outer roadway or a projection or any more info?

**Senator Gonzalez:** That's a great question. So you know I called out McGuinness, because that was a road that was promised years ago, and it took a lot of organizing over the last few years to just like recently get it approved and green lit. I think we're in the same situation with the roadway but, like we didn't know far ahead of time how they were going to approve it right, so I think we're optimistic within the next month of getting a response. But again it's really been hit like with the Department of Transportation. I can't speak to what their timeline is, because with McGuinness we didn't have a lot of heads up that they were going to come to a decision on it before they did so. Yeah, we're going to re-up with the Adams admin, but hopeful, based on, like the ongoing organizing that we can get at least a timeline.

**Kian Betancourt:** So there are no plans to potentially revisit phase one of the McGuinness is there? Because they split it up into north and south of Calyer Street. They left two lanes open, but they put a lane there, the latter half toward Meagher. They narrow it from two lanes down to one.

**Senator Gonzalez:** So that was a hybrid proposal. This will be to have a road throughout McGuinness. I think they're approving the original plan. We went back to the original. It's been a lot of back and forth.

**Chair Evie Hantzopoulos:** Senator Gonzalez is going to stick around for a bit so if people have questions. I know that there's some other reps. Is there anything urgent that you have to say? Are you good? The other reps?

Thank you to Senator Gonzalez. Please, let's give a hand to Senator Gonzalez.

**Tessa Blum, CM Caban:** I'm our budget director, so if you have questions about how the budget process works at the council level with our capital expense powers, you can ask me after. We have participatory budgeting starting. Come to our event tomorrow, October 16th, to learn more and share your ideas, it'll be at 700 p.m. at the PS 85 annex. We also have our Citizenship Now at Astoria Houses events as always, and several new bills, including a new bill that requires big buildings to install bird friendly treatments for their glass windows. We also have co-prime sponsored a bill to include people of Muslim and North African descent in the City's Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprises program that people were talking about earlier, which will make it easier for these businesses to get government contracts from the city. We had a hearing for our bill to strengthen and extend the City's task force to study the treatment of transgender, non-conforming, non-binary and intersect people on Riker's Island, as well as another bill to change the language of the official City documents that deal with people who are incarcerated, first language and we're hoping to bring both of those bills to a vote soon. Any question you can ask me after thanks.

**Michael Carlier, BP Richards Office:** Just introducing myself formally to the board in my new capacity at the BP's office. I've been recently promoted to be his new director of Community Boards, so I'm looking forward to working with everybody in this new capacity.

As we enter the final quarter of the year, we are entering the new CB appointment cycle for 2025, so our office just wants to remind the board to be diligent on attendance and applying for reappointment and as well to any folks who may be interested, watching online, about applying. Definitely keep an eye out for updates, as that process does start up in January, February.

I just want to acknowledge the Community Board and our local civics for their assistance and support in helping us ID overgrown medians in need of maintenance and sanitation services. The Borough President did hold a press conference back in August, urging the Parks Department and DSNY to get together and address these overgrown and trashed medians across Queens. With the assistance of the CBs and local civics, our office submitted 205 locations across the borough for additional services. Since then, the city has stepped up its efforts in addressing a couple dozen sites. My understanding is they're working northeast in the borough, so CB7 & 11 working their way southwest. So it's definitely going to be a process, but we're working on that.

So I did leave a couple of my cards at the table there, but the Chair and DM also have my contact information. So happy to take questions on the side, but in regard to our office's day-to-day updates, we'll leave it to my colleague Shubhra who's here in place of our regular rep Claire Collins.

**Shubhra Datta, BP Office:** On October 21st we're hosting the college fair in the Queens Borough Hall, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. We have the flyers there. I'm not going to take any more time.

**Benjamin Lotto, AM Mamdani's Office:** The MTA released its 2025 - 2029 capital plan last month, and the biggest update for our neighborhood is that it's putting \$5.4 billion toward modernizing signals which will impact the N, R and W subway lines. When this happened with the S train, it led to a 23% increase in on time performance and we were so super thrilled to see that come to our neighborhood hopefully soon. We do want to inform everyone that free federally funded Covid-19 tests are now available online. Four tests per household. Free shipping, free tests. If you go to [covid.gov/tests](https://www.covid.gov/tests), you can order them now. Lastly, our office is giving away free leaf bags. You have leaves, we can give you leaf bags. You could drop by either Monday or Thursday from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and we could give you from our district office a leaf bag.

Please feel free if you have any questions, comments or concerns to reach out to me or the office and thank you so much.

**Kazi Miriam, AM Raga's Office:** On November 2nd we will be having community cleanup in Maspeth in partnership with Maspeth high school. On November 3rd we will be having community cleanup in Woodside. On November 7th we will be having an intake session at our district office with the Department of Buildings. On November 23rd we will be having a nonprofit training session in partnership with Astoria Worker Project and Queens Economic Development Corporation at Elmhurst hospital. Lastly, we will be having mobile office hours on October 17th at Maspeth in front of Starbucks on Grand Avenue and on October 23rd we will be having mobile office hours at Elmhurst on Grand Avenue South between 45th Avenue and Whitney.

We look forward to working with you all this fall. Please reach out to us if you have any questions, our number is 718-651-3185.

**Jango Mahmud, AM Gonzalez-Rojas Office:** Hyper local event for any issues that you would like us to resolve, we have our mobile office hours and offer constituent services at the good old Steinway Library, next Thursday October 24th from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. As for a legislative update, I believe the Councilmember had mentioned this before, last week the Assemblymember joined the New York MENA Coalition at City Hall for the launch of the legislation for inclusion of MENA (Middle Eastern and North African) communities in the MWBE (Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprise) program. This bill would fortify the bill that the assembly member herself introduced at the state level that would ensure MENA communities are counted, and the data is disaggregated across all state agencies. All we need now is for the Governor to sign into a law, hopefully soon. Inshallah.

**Chair Evie Hantzopoulos:** Thank you so much. Any old business? New business?

**Motion to adjourn - Marie Torniali Second - Amin Mehedi. Motion carries.**

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

DATE October 15,  
2024

Community Board Member	Yes	No	Abs.	Community Board Member	Yes	No	Abs.
George Alexiou	✓			Huge Ma			E
Daniel Aliberti	✓			Raga Maddela	✓		
Cristian Batres	✓			Athanasios Magoutas	✓		
Kian Betancourt	✓			Patricia Mahecha	✓		
Ann Bruno			E	Jeffrey Martin		✓	
Gerald Caliendo	✓			Brian Martinez	✓		
Jean Marie D'Alleva			E	Amin Mehedi	✓		
Antonella Di Saverio	✓			Andreas Migias			E
Katie Ellman	✓			Doreen Mohammed	✓		
Elizabeth Erion	✓			Stella Nicolaou	✓		
Dean Feratovic	✓			Dino Panagoulas	✓		E
Adam Fisher-Cox	✓			Juliet Payabyab	✓		
Frank Fredericks	✓			RoseMarie Poveromo			E
Tyrone Gardner	✓			Thomas Ryan			E
Shahenaz Hamde	✓			Marisela Santos	✓		
Evie Hantzopoulos	✓			Dominic Stiller	✓		
Christopher Hanway	✓			Marie Torniali	✓		
Amy Hau	✓			Rod Townsend			E
Brian Hunt	✓			Judy Trilivas			E
Jacqueline Ibarra		✓		Mario Vergara	✓		
Vanessa Jones-Hall	✓		E	Kathleen Warnock	✓	✓	
Richard Khuzami	✓	✓		Quinella Williams	✓		
Cristina Lastres		✓		Corinne Wood-Haynes			E
				Thomas Wright	✓		
				Rosemary Yelton	✓		
<b>Number Board Members Present</b> <u>33</u>							
<b>Present</b> <u>33</u>	<b>Absent</b> <u>4</u>	<b>Excused</b> <u>11</u>					



VERNON BOULEVARD/BROADWAY  
SPECIAL PERMIT RENEWAL

QUEENS COMMUNITY DISTRICT I

N240126CMQ

APPLICANT:

CIPICO CONSTRUCTION INC

REPRESENTATIVE:

AKERMAN LLP

## SPECIAL PERMIT RENEWAL

June 12, 2019

Queens Community Board I recommended approval

July 15, 2019

Queens Borough President recommended approval  
with conditions

September 11, 2019

City Planning Commission adopted a favorable report

October 17, 2019

City Council approved

October 17, 2023

Special permit lapsed, renewal application filed

## SPECIAL PERMIT RENEWAL

### ZR § 11-43 Renewal of Authorization or Special Permit

Any authorization or special permit granted by the City Planning Commission, except one granted with a 10 year lapse period, that would automatically lapse as set forth in Section 11-42 (Lapse of Authorization or Special Permit Granted by the City Planning Commission Pursuant to the 1961 Zoning Resolution) may be renewed without public hearing, for two additional three-year terms, provided that the Commission finds that the facts upon which the authorization or special permit was granted have not substantially changed. However, all special permits or authorizations granted by the Commission shall lapse after a total of 10 years from the date of their original granting if substantial construction has not taken place at such time. An application for a renewal of authorization or special permit shall be filed with the Commission before it lapses.



The project remains the same as approved in the original application and the facts upon which the special permit was originally granted have not substantially changed.

VERNON BOULEVARD/BROADWAY  
SPECIAL PERMIT RENEWAL

QUEENS COMMUNITY DISTRICT I

N240126CMQ

APPLICANT:

CIPICO CONSTRUCTION INC

REPRESENTATIVE:

AKERMAN LLP