



COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, and Elmhurst

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Helen Marshall
Borough President

Louis Walker
Chairperson

Karen Koslowitz
Director of Community Boards

Richard Italiano
District Manager

COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 06, 2009

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

PLACE: FLANDERS FIELD VFW POST 150
51-11 108 STREET
CORONA, NEW YORK

I. The Chairperson Louis Walker called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

II. The District Manager Richard Italiano took the roll call. A quorum was present.

III. Vote on the Minutes (September 01, 2009)

Mr. Tony Moreno made a motion, seconded by Ms. Laraine Donohue, to **accept** the minutes.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 29 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

IV. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

The Chair reported The 12th Annual Citywide Parent Conference is scheduled for Saturday, October 31, 8:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m., at the Hilton Hotel, 1335 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY (at 53rd Street and 6th Avenue).

V. REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

District Manager Richard Italiano reported on requests for bus shelters around the Queens Place Mall. The bus shelter located at the northwest corner of Queens Boulevard and 56th Avenue is scheduled for replacement Spring 2010. For the southeast corner of Queens Boulevard, a bus shelter cannot be installed because of the lack of space. However, all bus shelters will be replaced within the next two years.

The one-way street conversion of P. S. 28 to be implemented before Thanksgiving was noted.

The District Manager explained in order for buses to drop the children off at the school's entrance, 47th Avenue will be a one-way from 109th to 111th Street in the direction of 111th Street; and that 47th Avenue will be a one-way in the opposite direction, between 109th and 108th Streets in the direction of 108th Street. 109th Street, between 46th and 47th Avenues, will be a one-way in the direction of 47th Avenue.

Since 109th Street will be one way, it will be the only way to enter the block. School buses will come down 46th Avenue into 109th Street stopping in front of the school. This change will ease traffic flow around the school.

At this point, the District Manager announced although it is not on the agenda, the Department of Transportation's Queens Borough Commissioner Maura McCarthy will address the Board on a matter discussed two years ago.

Next, the District Manager announced Queens Borough President Helen Marshall & the Task Force on Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault Child Maltreatment & Elder Abuse annual fall conference to raise awareness. A series of four workshops will be held at Queens Borough Hall, 120-55 Queens Boulevard, Kew Gardens, New York every Friday during the month of October. For further details, see the flyer sent out in the Board's recent mailing.

At this point, Ms. Catherine Moore, the Borough President's designee, presented service awards to the following Board members:

Judy D'Andrea, 30 Years of Service
Ann Coyne, 15 Years of Service
Sal Lombardo and Nick Pennetti were not in attendance.

VI. GUEST SPEAKER: MR. AL HARRIS, QUEENS PUBLIC AFFAIRS, CON EDISON

PRESENTATION: OVERVIEW OF CONSOLIDATED EDISON'S ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM

Mr. Harris reported on energy conservation measures and Con Edison's efforts to Go Green. Over the years, Con Edison had made some very strong efforts to go green and to help customers conserve energy and save money at the same time. Brouchers entitled "*The Power of Green*" were on hand. In the brochure, there are a number of energy savings tips to help the environment, save money, and to help the system. Over the next decade, Con Edison anticipates peak load will increase by about 8%. To meet the demand, Con Edison plans to invest \$8 billion to operate its electric, gas, and steam systems. Log onto to Con Edison's website at www.poweryourway.com/greenpower.asp to find out even more. Additional energy savings tips were given.

Speaking about air conditioning and heating, Mr. Harris mentioned a new program being introduced by Con Edison. Homeowners in a 1-4 family home are eligible for a free thermostat installed. The homeowner would be able to control usage, even if not at home via the internet. Under this program, Con Edison can also control the homeowner's usage so that at a certain peak times, the Company may need to lower usage to its customers. The homeowner may opt out of the program and also override it. Certain financial incentives are given to join. Go to www.ConEd.com/energyefficiency for more details. Likewise, Mr. Harris explained the Small Business Direct Installation Program.

In addition, other energy efficient programs for 5-family homes and above were mentioned. With lights, close attention must be paid to lighting that is used. Incandescent light bulbs use too much energy. Switch to compact fluorescent light bulbs that are available at most major hardware stores. Those bulbs last much longer, save more energy and save the homeowner more on the bill.

Choose energy efficient appliances. Energy Star appliances use 10% to 50% less electricity than standard models. Look at the age of your appliances because older appliances may not operate as efficiently. Think about replacing your old refrigerator since some older models may cost up to 50% more on your monthly bill. Make sure the refrigerator door shuts tightly and has a good seal. More ways to save energy were cited by Mr. Harris.

At this point, Mr. Harris took questions from the Board members.

The District Manager asked can compact fluorescent light bulbs be used on dimmers. Mr. Harris replied no.

Mr. Nick Pennachio asked does Con Edison plan to put some of its power lines underground. Con Edison cuts the borough's trees into a v-shape to clear its lines. Queens has the ugliest trees in the city because of Con Edison.

Mr. Harris replied Con Edison is not planning to put power lines below ground if they are above ground. Trees are only cut when needed to provide reliable service for customers.

Mr. Pennachio pointed out a total waste of energy comes from the schools being lit up until midnight and Manhattan offices lit up for cleaning services. Mr. Pennachio said Con Edison would save more money on office buildings and schools turning out lights, instead of on one-family homes. Office buildings and schools are the problem.

Mr. Harris responded every one of us must play a part in this process. It's not just for those who are very visible using the most energy. Everyone must get involved, both on a large and small scale, which could be by using a surge protector to turnoff computers and other appliances or implementing other energy saving measures. Conserving energy is the goal for all.

Ms. Priscilla Carrow asked for more information on the free thermostat. Mr. Harris reiterated the thermostat is free, and Con Edison would help to obtain a contractor for installation. Rebates and financial incentives also are included with the program.

Mr. Harris spoke about the Smart Grid Program with the smart meters. A test project is being conducted in Long Island City whereby smart meters are being installed in certain customers' homes. Con Edison would be able to monitor its system more efficiently, and customers would be able to monitor their usage via computer/internet. In this way, customers can manage their bills and usage more efficiently.

Ms. Clara Salas inquired about disconnect notices sent to senior citizens, customers with children, and those on life sustaining equipment.

Mr. Harris responded if someone is having a problem paying bills, call Con Edison. Talk about a payment agreement with the Company, and call ahead of time when there are problems. Customers can also be referred to other agencies such as the Human Resources Administration for assistance. Regarding life sustaining equipment, notify the Company that this type of equipment is on the premises. Customer Service Representatives will add the customer to a program so that if there is a power outage or the account is delinquent, arrangements can be made to operate the equipment.

Ms. Lucy Schilero inquired about solicitors knocking on doors, who claim to be from Con Edison, offering lower rates by using recycled electricity, and is Con Edison using recycled electricity?

Mr. Harris responded if Con Edison representatives visit a home, correspondence will be sent notifying the customer of the particular day the representative is scheduled to visit. Con Edison does not send people to solicit anything. Since you are already a Con Edison customer, you will never be solicited.

When you give a solicitor your account number, you are giving permission to switch over to another company, said Mr. Harris.

Although a customer can look for other supply companies to purchase energy, Mr. Harris cautioned make certain those companies will give exactly what you need and understand what is being offered, and then determine if that particular company will save you money.

Moreover, if someone claims to be from Con Edison and produces an identification card but you are still skeptical, do not open the door. Call the Company at 1-800-752-6633 to verify their presence.

Mr. Stephen Castro asked if Con Edison is using any type of solar power energy. Mr. Harris replied the Company is looking into other alternatives including wind movement. Log onto the Company's website to see more about how Con Ed is going green. Purchasing wind power in certain areas is an option.

Ms. Beth Moon Ray Ferguson inquired about estimated bills and updating Company equipment. She stated if a homeowner is not home when the meter is read, the homeowner ends up paying more. She pointed out some newer homes have meters located outside.

Mr. Al Harris responded having meters located outside is not a Con Edison issue. When those homes were built, outside meters were planned. Speak to a licensed electrician if you want to place a meter outside. As far as meter reads, a homeowner can read his/her own meter and call it in. Not after five times, replied Ms. Beth Moon Ray Ferguson.

Another alternative is to have someone else can provide access, noting after five attempts equipment needs to be inspected, said Mr. Harris.

Mrs. Judy D'Andrea asked if Con Edison trucks and vehicles were switched over to hybrid and/or electric cars. What percentage of the Company's fleet is electric or hybrids?

Mr. Harris responded he did not know, however, some Company vehicles run on natural gas and electric.

Continuing with her questioning, Mrs. D'Andrea asked does Con Edison use turbines in the East River to generate electricity.

Mr. Harris answered no. Con Edison does not generate electricity, but purchases its electric supply on the open market. Its generating plant was sold.

This concluded Mr. Harris' presentation.

VII. GUEST SPEAKER: QUEENS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY RICHARD A. BROWN

District Attorney Richard Brown reported last year the District Attorney's office handled about 72,000 arrest cases.

For this year, the figure is probably closer to 80,000 arrest cases.

Three hundred Assistant District Attorneys work in the office, and about 50% of those ADA's have been on staff for more than ten years.

An NYPD Squad is assigned to the DA's office along with 50 detectives on staff who are NYPD retirees who are very knowledgeable about Queens County, including a State Police unit housed in the office.

1300 applications for Assistant District Attorney are received each year from law schools across the country, and applicants are hired within the fiscal constraints of the District Attorney's Office. Candidates must complete

a seven week orientation program. Ten law school graduates were appointed this year to serve as Assistant District Attorneys.

Also, District Attorney Brown is very involved in the training and teaching aspect and also chairs the New York Prosecutors Training Institute, which is comprised of ten attorneys in Albany who teach and train across the state. The District Attorney's Association interacts with the Legislature.

District Attorney Brown is very proud of the office and commended the men and women who do their work day in and day out in a professional manner.

District Attorney Brown shared the following statistics:

- ❖ 54% of the ADA's are women
- ❖ 25% of the ADA's are ethnic minorities.
- ❖ Minorities constitute 43% of the detectives, paralegals, secretaries, and support staff

The Investigation Division continues to make the big cases. A press conference is scheduled for tomorrow to announce the results of a nine month undercover operation to take guns off the street. He spoke of the 13 year old in St. Albans who lost his life in a shooting last week. Too many guns are on the street. The District Attorney's Office is working very hard to get those guns off the street.

The District Attorney's Office also investigates insurance fraud and airport crime. Since Queens County houses two airports, the office is involved in the investigation and prosecution of airport crime. The DA's Office has a very good relationship with the Port Authority Police. Virtually every arrest made is handled by the District Attorney's Office.

Moreover, a 24 hour/7 days a week hotline is maintained, which is manned by the DA's NYPD squad. The detective on the hotline is connected to the Police radios and breaking news networks. As soon as an incident occurs, an attorney or writing assistant is dispatched to the scene to keep prosecutors informed. They assist police officers with search warrants, subpoenas, participate in line up proceedings, and ensure the District Attorney's office is apprised of the case as early as possible to prosecute.

Cases prosecuted by the District Attorney's office include money laundering, mortgage/real estate fraud, financial exploitation of the elderly, and many other criminal activities.

The District Attorney's Office has a very active Appeals Bureau in the state appellate and federal courts on a daily basis.

District Attorney Brown has served in the position since June, 1991 and thereafter elected to a full four terms. Prior to his appointment as district attorney, Judge Brown served for almost ten years as an associate justice of the Appellate Division. Next year, District Attorney Richard Brown will be the longest serving district attorney.

More statistics cited for last year included:

- ❖ 72,000 arrest cases were handled
- ❖ Best arrests for arraignment time in the city
- ❖ Arrests to sworn complaint time is well below citywide average
- ❖ Highest percentage of cases arraigned within 24 hours.

Case processing is very important because it gets police officers back on the street more quickly than any other county, not waiting around in the court house for cases to be called. Police officers are back out on the street and not behind a desk doing paperwork.

The District Attorney's office has the lowest felony dismissal rate in the city; the highest felony rate conviction in the city.

91% of the felony arrests prosecuted result in conviction. 30% of the city's violent felons are convicted, even though the District Attorney's office handles only 21% of the violent felony arrests. Of all the city's violent convicted felons in state prison, 30% are from Queens County.

Queens County has the highest conviction rate for domestic violence cases in the city; and the lowest dismissal rate than the whole city combined. Last year, the District Attorney's office drafted 983 search warrants, supervised over 700 line ups, and responded 717 crime scenes in 2008.

In terms of wire-taps, the Queens District Attorney's office remains a national leader doing more court authorized wire tapping than any other jurisdiction in the entire country with the exception of Los Angeles, which is five times the size of the New York.

In 1991, there were 361 homicides in Queens County; last year less than 100. For 2009, with three months left in the year, the percentage is down 21% over last year. Violent crime is down by 85% over the last ten years. More needs to be done and the District Attorney's office is working hard to make a difference to improve the quality of life for all New Yorkers.

Working in partnership with the Police Department, Queens District Attorney Brown commended the 110th Police Precinct efforts, citing Commanding Officer D.I. Richard Napolitano and all its officers who are committed to keep crime at its lowest level and creating a safer place to live.

At this point, District Attorney Brown took questions from the Board members.

Ms. Georgina Oliver asked for more information about wire-tapping. District Attorney Brown responded in 18 years of doing wire-tapping, none has been controverted by the courts. Citing a case of interest, District Attorney spoke about the break up of a gun trafficking ring. Arrests of five individuals were made in a case about moving illegal hand guns across state lines. Without the use of wiretapping, this case would not have been successfully achieved.

Wiretaps also help to protect undercover police officers on the street with perpetrators making purchases of illegal weapons. Properly used, wiretapping is an important tool, and District Attorney Brown noted the process has never been challenged. Under the statute, the DA must personally sign the affidavit authorizing the use of wiretapping, which is presented to a judge; and the last thing the District Attorney would do would be to compromise anyone's civil rights.

Mr. Enrique Lugo asked about mortgage real estate fraud, giving details about a specific company in concert with its attorney sued by the New York State Attorney General's Office. Friends were victims who lost their home in foreclosure.

District Attorney Brown responded mortgage and real estate fraud is seen more frequently in the last five years, particularly with the downturn in the economy. Cases can also involve unscrupulous lawyers. With a very active Economic Crimes Unit, the DA's office has been successful in putting people in jail and obtaining restitution for victims. Moreover, this crime also shows up in elder fraud where unscrupulous home aides or siblings will take advantage of an elderly person, literally selling their house out from under them. Call the office at 718-286-6000 and ask for the Economic Crimes Bureau for assistance.

Next, Ms. Clara Salas asked about terrorists and the National Security Plan, surveillance, and the overhead helicopters. District Attorney Brown responded his office is not involved in surveillance except for some criminal cases, although the Police Department utilizes an Aviation Unit.

Moreover, the District Attorney's office is represented on the Joint Terrorist Task Force. A detective is assigned full time to the task force, which is comprised of the federal government, New York City and State Police, and other law enforcement agencies.

Next, Ms. Pricilla Carrow complimented the Police Department on the recent arrest of a robbery suspect. A hold up was committed at a gas station in East Elmhurst and the chase of the suspect resulted in the perpetrator apprehended in a Corona back yard.

Next, Mr. Alirio Orduna asked what is being done about street gang activity. District Attorney Brown responded gangs are a very serious problem, particularly in the 110th and 115th precincts. A Youth Gang Bureau, headed by a seasoned Assistant, and very active with the Gang Unit of the NYC Police Department, is dedicated to the prosecution of gang related crime. Three homicide cases from this area and more are under investigation.

Talking in terms of gangs, gangs breed violence. Particularly troublesome is that gangs are operating within the schools recruiting youngsters, and many gangs have guns. The Trial Division of the office has bureaus dedicated to the prosecution of career criminals, narcotics violations and gang related crime, continuing to clean up drug and violence problems.

Speaking about gangs, District Attorney Brown mentioned upcoming town meetings sponsored by Assemblyman Jose Peralta. Details will be forwarded to the Community Board. All were encouraged to attend.

This concluded District Attorney Brown's presentation.

At this point, the Chair introduced the Department of Transportation's Queens Commissioner Maura McCarthy. Commissioner McCarthy reported street lights in Queens were 250 watts. As an energy saving measure, they will now be reduced to 150 watts with a new reflective backing in the light bulb to produce the same level of lighting. Any dark streets in the community, call the DOT office and a survey will be done. If lighting levels are not bright enough, additional street lights will be installed. Call 718- 286-0886 for assistance.

Safety was discussed next with regard to DOT's new policy of installing speed humps around the city's schools. Traffic signals, stop signs and speed humps although requested are put in where traffic thresholds are met. One of the prime areas to improve safety is around schools. Speed humps are installed if there is speeding, and if there is a location for it from an engineering perspective, and if the Community Board approves it. Otherwise, it would not be installed without Community Board approval.

About a year ago, DOT changed its policy about speed humps around schools because children are the most vulnerable population. A case in point is The Art & Leather High School located on 94th Street, parallel to Junction Boulevard and just north of Corona Avenue.

Six requests were received for a traffic signal at the intersection of Corona Avenue, 94th Street and Alstyn Avenue. DOT has not been able to reach the appropriate traffic thresholds to approve the traffic signal. At the same, the school has requested DOT to change the direction of 94th Street to a one-way southbound, towards Corona Avenue.

On three separate occasions, Commissioner McCarthy had visited the school. At this particular school, students cannot be dropped off in front of the school because 45th Avenue is a one-way heading towards Corona Avenue. Students must be dropped off across the street and must walk across the street to the school, at the same time parents are double parking. When traffic and safety problems around schools become an issue, DOT must redesign streets to create safer conditions.

At this point, Commissioner McCarthy informed the Board 94th Street will be changed to a southbound direction.

Commissioner McCarthy is aware while some Community Boards members approve of the change, other area residents do not.

A mailing will be sent to all residents on 45th Avenue and 94th Street notifying them of the street conversion. Commissioner McCarthy explained the lay out of the immediate streets. Both 45th and 46th Avenues are one way going toward Junction Boulevard. Usually, directions for the one-way streets are alternated to go in opposite directions, but for whatever reason, two streets in a row are going toward Junction Boulevard. Alstyn Avenue goes toward 94th Street. 45th Avenue will go towards 94th Street southbound into 94th Street because it is a needed safety improvement around the school.

Once the change is implemented, Commissioner McCarthy is optimistic the threshold for a traffic signal will be met and another signal study will be done for the requested traffic light at Corona Avenue, Alstyn Avenue, and 94th Street.

Commissioner McCarthy said her presentation was informational only and not to be voted upon. More community outreach will be done before implementation on the project. Projected timeframe for implementation is two/three months.

The District Manager pointed out currently 45th Avenue is a one way from 94th Street to 111th Street. After the conversion, 45th Avenue will be one way from Junction to 94th Street, the only block going in the opposite direction.

Similarly, the District Manager presented details on another one-way traffic conversion for P. S. 28, which is located on 47th Avenue and is at a Board request, expected to be implemented later this month. 47th Avenue will be one-way from 109th Street to 111th Street (one block /going toward Flushing Meadow-Corona Park) and from 109th Street to 108th Street will be one way towards 108th Street, and 109th will be one-way from 46th Avenue to 47th Avenue. The only way to come in front of the school will be to travel on 109th Street and make a left turn in front of the school. This change will immensely cut down on the traffic flow.

Commissioner McCarthy reported on the recent resurfacing of Junction Boulevard from 57th Avenue south to the Long Island Expressway, formerly one lane existed, now it is two lanes and reported on off centering the double yellow line, eliminating bottle neck traffic.

At this time, Ms. Georgina Oliver brought up the need for a traffic signal at 57th Avenue and Junction Boulevard.

P.S. 13, the Montessori School, and a daycare center are all located there. Moreover, pedestrians have been killed on that corner because cars turn left on 57th Avenue. Petitions and requests were submitted to DOT. Commissioner McCarthy reported her office had received the petitions for the traffic signal and explained the criteria needed. It does not matter how many people ask for the traffic signal or how many people sign a petition. A study must be opened for a stop sign or signal. The study is done regardless of how many people initiate the request.

Decisive factors include:

- Accidents
- Pedestrians Crossing the Street
- Composition of the Street:
 - Near A School
 - Near A Retiring Community
 - Lower threshold associated with seniors or children.

Preventable accidents are looked at, not a drunk driver, not a rear end collision, or a motorist damaging another car's side view mirror. It means an accident that could have been prevented if a traffic signal was installed, basically right angle accidents. Typically, the timeframe for an intersection to be studied is eighteen months, however, if a new supermarket or department store or apartment building has entered the neighborhood, the study will be conducted sooner.

Coordinating with the Police Department, traffic statistics are studied; and the Police Department highlights high accident locations. On site meetings are held with police precincts, Transportation Committees, plus the Department responds to letters, all leading to a proactive stance by the Department.

At this point, Mrs. D'Andrea brought up the new Rego Park Mall located at the Long Island Expressway and Junction Blvd. citing the extra traffic it will generate, creating more problems. Literally, residents will be trapped in their homes.

Commissioner McCarthy responded a traffic study and mitigation analysis must be done to project trips that would be generated by people going to the shopping center. If it will decline traffic circulation, mitigations must be offered, for example, additional traffic signals or widening lanes to alleviate traffic congestion. As a matter of fact, at the Horace Harding Expressway before the Mall opens, there will be wider lanes west of Junction Boulevard (south side)—(where the parking lot is now). Major mitigations must occur before major development takes place, said Commissioner McCarthy.

Next Mr. Stephen Castro brought up illegal parking on the Horace Harding Expressway/Junction Blvd./ 99th and 94th Streets. City employees park indiscriminately. No Parking Anytime and No Standing Anytime signs are clearly posted, but ignored. This has been an ongoing problem reported to city agencies with no results.

Commissioner McCarthy responded this complaint had been reported to the Police Department many times, but her agency is not in charge of enforcement and encouraged Mr. Castro to relay complaints to the Police Department.

Next, Mr. Nick Pennachio inquired about a Stop sign at Van Horn Street and 56th Avenue because it is a one-way street traveled daily by mostly 40 school buses. Although his request had been repeatedly denied, it is a very dangerous intersection and needs to be addressed because P. S. 102 has more than tripled in size.

Based on the increased student enrollment, Commissioner McCarthy responded the traffic study would be reopened.

VIII. HEALTH COMMITTEE

Discussion & Vote: Resolution regarding the maintaining of adequate hospital beds and services required for the residents of Queens.

Committee Chair Priscilla Carrow read the following Resolution calling on city, state, and federal governments to reopen Parkway, St. John's and Mary Immaculate Hospitals to provide services to all residents of Queens County.

**Resolution adopted Community Board #4Q,
the Health Committees of Queens Community Boards #4 and #5,
Queens Borough Board and Queens Borough Cabinet**

Whereas, the Borough of Queens has been underserved with the shortage of hospital beds and related resources for some time; and

Whereas, this has been further exacerbated by the closing of three hospitals: St. Johns Queens, Mary Immaculate and Parkway Hospitals, creating a further reduction of approximately 600 beds, emergency rooms, and other hospital services; and

Whereas, the residents of Queens who are in need of Emergency Room services are experiencing long waits that can create a health danger; and

Whereas, the resources and staff of many existing hospitals are straining under the increased work load; and

Whereas, the county of Queens is the epicenter of the novel H1N1 (Swine) Flu epidemic, and the future severity of the existing pandemic is unpredictable; and

Whereas, Queens houses two major airports and is the portal of the entire City; and

Whereas, the taxpayers of this community deserve a hospital infrastructure adequate to service the two and one-quarter million residents of Queens.

Therefore, be it resolved:

- That in the short term, the City should plan to reactivate the three closed hospitals in the event of an influenza crisis;
- That the City, State and Federal governments should recognize that Queens is a borough in need, and find a way to keep its hospitals open, solvent and able to provide the services that the people of the county require.

The District Manager recapped Community Boards 4 and 5 held a joint Health Committee meeting at Borough Hall. The item was added to the Borough Board's agenda (comprised of Community Board Chairs) and was passed by the Chairs. The Resolution was also presented to the Borough Cabinet, which is comprised of all the Queens District Managers who supported it. A Board vote is now needed to support the Resolution.

Mr. Stephen Castro made a motion, seconded by Mr. Enrique Lugo, to **accept** the Resolution as presented. Is there any discussion on the motion, asked the Chair? No discussion.
By a voice vote, the Board voted 29 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

At this point, the Chair informed the Board about Bill #A8461, which had passed the Assembly, called the Hospital Closing Act and hopefully it will pass the Senate. This Bill sets up a review process for public hearings to be held in the event of hospitals closure.

The Chair informed the Board of growing problems at both Queens and Elmhurst Hospitals, which are currently operating at a deficit.

IX. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Vote: SLA Applications

Before presenting the Committee’s report, Committee Chair Lucy Schilero thanked Georgina Oliver and Ann Melchiorre for their hard work over the summer reviewing license applications with the Committee Chair.

Next, the Committee Chair reported on the following liquor licenses:

New Applicants

<u>Establishment’s Name</u>	<u>Establishment’s Address</u>	<u>Committee Recommendation</u>
Oyon Nostra Café Grill Restaurant/Wine	94-59 Corona Avenue Corona, NY 11368	Approved

Renewal Applicants

Chimborazo Corp. Restaurant Wine	87-37 Britton Avenue Elmhurst, NY 11373	Denied. Assault Inside Bar. Long history.
Cositas Ricas Ecuatorianas, Corp. Restaurant Wine	86-10 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY 11372	Approved
Mini Picanteria El Guayaquileno, Inc. Eating Place Beer	94-52A, 94-54 Corona Ave. Elmhurst, NY 11373	Approved
Mitad Del Mundo Rest. Corp. On-Premises Liquor	104-10 Roosevelt Avenue Corona, NY 11368	Approved
Pizzeria Y Parrillada Boca Junior On Premises Liquor	81-08 Queens Blvd. Elmhurst, NY 11373	Approved
Queens High Pearl Seaford Rest. Inc. Restaurant Wine	82-22 45 th Avenue Elmhurst, NY 11373	Approved
Wa Wa San, Inc. D/B/A Penang Asian Cuisine Restaurant Wine	82-84 Broadway Elmhurst, NY 11373	Denied. Grand Larceny Inside Bar.

Mr. Alirio Orduna made a motion, seconded by Ms. Georgina Oliver, to **accept** the Committee’s report as presented.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 29 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Consumer Affairs

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

Environmental

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

Parks

Committee Chair Tony Caminiti reported on September 30, CB 4's District Manager, Richard Italiano, and the Committee Chair attended the Parks budget consultation at the Parks Department building in Kew Gardens. To review the priorities and update in Community Board 4 area.

Some of the center islands on 111th Street adjacent to Flushing Meadow-Corona Park have been renovated. There are five center islands on 111th Street between Corona Avenue and 46th Avenue that were never completed. Renovations of the five center islands are scheduled for FY 2013 and will be funded by the Borough President at a projected cost of \$300,000.

Elmhurst Playground is currently under construction and is now 10% complete. Work will include new playground, fencing, benches, water spray and upgrade to Plaza. Cost of \$11,180,000 is being funded by the City Council. Tentative completion: Late summer of 2010.

Elmhurst Park: Construction of Comfort Station

Status: In design – Tentative Construction: Spring of 2010 at a cost of \$2,000,000.

Veterans Grove Playground Design Awaiting Design

Presently on hold.

Postal Committee

Committee Chair Stephen Castro reported a Committee meeting was held on September 23. The subject of the meeting was the modification of the hours the Post Office is open. Residents would prefer earlier hours than the current hours of operation, which are from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

A tentative agreement was reached with Post Master William Rogers who will request business hours to be from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., beginning with the Post Office located at Junction Boulevard/59th Avenue. A letter from the Board is needed to support this request modifying the hours.

Committee Chair Castro also explained employees at the Post Office window remain idle at the window when there are no customers. Hence, a middle ground was reached, and the Post Office plans to try out these earlier hours.

Transportation

Committee Chair Joe DiMartino reported Transportation Commissioner Maura McCarthy had presented the Committee's report regarding traffic changes on 45th Avenue and 94th Street.

ULURP & Zoning

Committee Chair Miriam Levenson said since no meeting was held, there is no report. However, a meeting is scheduled for October 20.

Youth

Committee Chair Clara Salas reported a meeting is planned for January, 2010 to address school overcrowding and student busing. Because of the overbuilding in the community, school seats do not keep up with the

increased student enrollment, even though over eight new schools have opened in Queens. A moratorium should be imposed.

Regarding a library, the owners of the Georgia Diner plan to retire and would be happy to sell the property in the near future for use as a children's library/performing arts center, instead of more residential housing, and they are amenable to talk to any group regarding this proposal.

REPORT OF THE LEGISLATORS

Mr. George Onuorah, representing Council Member Helen Sears, reported on the Woodhaven train station. Lighting is inadequate as some areas are very dark. Replacement of the lighting or another alternative needs to be implemented. He also noted mothers carrying heavy strollers on the subway staircase. Another means such as an elevator or ramp should be installed to help these mothers. It warrants further review. However, the general consensus of the Board was that this suggestion would not be implemented.

PUBLIC FORUM

No speakers.

At this point, the District Manager said all Board members were mailed an invitation to a dialogue forum. He urged all to respond as soon as possible because a count is needed. Invitees included: Board members, civic groups, religious institutions and schools.

Next, Mr. Enrique Lugo reported on the H1N1 Swine Flu. Education and prevention and public awareness is the key to saving lives. More information was provided by Mr. Lugo.

There being no further business, Mrs. Judy D'Andrea made a motion, seconded by Ms. Audrey Galligen, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.