



## COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, and Elmhurst

46-11 104<sup>th</sup> Street

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**Helen Marshall**  
Borough President

**Louis Walker**  
Chairperson

**Karen Koslowitz**  
Director of Community Boards

**Richard Italiano**  
District Manager

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### COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 01, 2009

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

PLACE: FLANDERS FIELD VFW POST 150  
51-11 108 STREET  
CORONA, NEW YORK 11368

Before the meeting was called to order, Chairperson Louis Walker invited all to dine and enjoy the delicious holiday food.

**I.** The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:55 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 (November 10, 2009).

Ms. Laraine Donohue made a motion, seconded by Mr. Alirio Orduna, to **accept** the minutes. By a voice vote, the Board voted 33 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

#### **IV. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON**

Chair Louis Walker announced the NYC Campaign Finance Board will hold post-Election Hearings on December 1 and 2 to review the effectiveness of the Campaign Finance Program for the 2009 elections. Some of the issues expected to be discussed at the hearings include:

- The effect of independent expenditures on the Program;
- The impact of the new \$6-to-\$1 matching rate;
- The Program's ability to help candidates opposed by high-spending non-participants;
- The success of limits on contributions from individuals who are doing business with the City;
- The effect of the Program's administrative procedures on campaigns.

The first day of hearings, December 1, will run from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; the second day, December 2, will run from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Both days of hearing will be conducted at the offices of OATH, Conference Room E, 6<sup>th</sup> floor, 40 Rector Street, New York, NY.

Next, the Chair reported the NYC Department of Design and Construction had commenced preparing Final Design contract documents for Dongan Avenue from the existing dead end east of Broadway to 88<sup>th</sup> Street. The project consists of the opening of Dongan Avenue and included in the project will be the construction of new roadway pavement, new curbs and sidewalks, water mains and sewer work, upgrading traffic signals, street lighting and street signage. More information was provided about a house being torn down to implement the process.

Before the District Manager began his report, all were invited to enjoy the holiday cake after the meeting compliments of Mrs. Helen Landaverde.

#### **V. REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER**

District Manager Richard Italiano reported Mr. Rico Albacarys NYC Dept. of Parks Supervisor will start his second deployment on December 30 in Afghanistan, and will be on leave for one year. Rico covers parkland in Queens CB's 3, 4, and 5, and is a Parks Department employee for 25 years.

On a sad note, the District Manager announced the passing of Nancy DeBeneditti affectionately known as (Mama) from Mama's Backyard and Leo's Latticini on 104<sup>th</sup> Street in Corona, She was the mother of the sisters who run the establishment. Details of the funeral arrangements were given. An icon in Corona, she will be greatly missed.

Next, the District Manager reported the Boy Scouts of America is looking for community service projects needing to be done in the area. Any projects named can be funneled to the local Boy Scout troop. Contact the Board office with any suggestions.

Next, the District Manager reported on correspondence from Hon. Maura McCarthy, Queens Borough Commissioner, NYC Department of Transportation, notifying surrounding residents of changes that will be made in the vicinity of the school on 94<sup>th</sup> Street. The streets are being changed from a two-way into a one-way direction to improve school safety.

#### **VI. CONSUMER AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**Vote: DCA Cabaret Application: Cypriana Restaurant D/B/A Duke's Restaurant  
79-00 Queens Boulevard, Elmhurst, NY 11373  
At Pan American Hotel**

Committee Chair Helen Landaverde reported the above cabaret application from the Department of Consumer Affairs was received at the Board office for a recommendation and vote.

The Committee Chair reported the establishment reserves the room for parties since there is a banquet hall, and it had been on this site for many years and noted no complaints were received from area residents.

At this point, the District Manager added Cypriana Restaurant Inc. is doing business as Duke's Restaurant in the Pan Am Hotel.

Discussion ensued including the length of time the Restaurant had been operating at this location.

Subsequently, Mr. Tony Moreno made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Judy D'Andrea, to **accept** the application as presented. By a voice vote, the Board voted 33 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

**VII. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**Vote: SLA Applications**

Since the Committee Chair was not in attendance, the District Manager presented the Committee’s report.

**New Applicants**

<u>Establishment’s Name</u>	<u>Establishment’s Address</u>	<u>Committee Recommendation</u>
Sonero’s Bar Restaurant Inc. On-Premises Liquor	92-02 Corona Avenue Elmhurst, NY 11373	Denied. 6/09 & 8/09 Noise complaints. 10/2/09 Felony assault arrest.

**Renewal Applicants**

La Esquina Criolla Rest. Inc. Restaurant Wine	94-67 Corona Avenue Elmhurst, NY 11373	Approved.
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Ms. Georgina Oliver made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stephen Castro, to **accept** the Committee’s report as presented.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 33 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

**VIII. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

Committee Chair Joseph DiMartino reported on correspondence received from Mr. Charles Kennedy, residing on 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Elmhurst, requesting to rename 76<sup>th</sup> Street and 47<sup>th</sup> Avenue for his wife, Regina Kennedy, who died August 30, 2009. Residing in Elmhurst for three years, the family lived in Sunnyside previously to moving to Elmhurst. Before moving to Queens, the family had lived in the Bronx.

After careful review, the Committee’s recommendation was to **deny** the request on the basis street renamings are named in honor of people who have made significant positive contributions to the community. Mrs. Kennedy had no community affiliation or participation in the Elmhurst community. As an alternative, however, the Committee recommended a tree be planted in honor of Mrs. Kennedy.

Discussion ensued. The District Manager added the area in question is Department of Transportation property, and is a small, unnamed triangular parcel on 76<sup>th</sup> Street/off Queens Blvd.

Mrs. Judy D’Andrea made a motion, seconded by Mr. Enrique Lugo, to **accept** the Committee’s report as presented.

By a voice vote, the Board voted, 33 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

Committee Chair DiMartino mentioned three applications were received for graffiti removal. All work was completed to the satisfaction of the property owners. Thanks were extended to the Police Department for a job well done.

**IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

***A. ULURP & Zoning***

Committee Chair Miriam Levenson reported the Department of City Planning is proposing a citywide text amendment to the zoning Resolution to preserve and enhance the streetscape character of residential

neighborhoods. The proposed amendment will strengthen design standards for front yard planting and create stricter rules for parking in the front yards of buildings in low density one and two family districts. In R6 and R8 districts and commercial equivalents where there are no existing rules for curb cuts, the text will introduce new rules to prevent excessive curb cuts to preserve on-street parking spaces and encourage multiple space off-street parking facilities.

The Committee supported the proposed text amendment. The amendment applies to new construction not existing housing. Discussion ensued.

The District Manager read more details on the text change to the Board.

Mr. Tony Moreno made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Miriam Levenson, to **accept** the proposed text amendment as written.

Is there any discussion, called the Chair. Mr. Nick Pennachio brought up problems arise in Mall areas such as Queens Place and Queens Center where there used to be municipal parking lots that were eliminated. In those areas, one and two family homes are inundated with shoppers who refuse to park in the Malls' parking lots opting for street parking instead. Moreover, schools are located in this vicinity where teachers also park on the street. Those rules do not apply to these areas.

The District Manager responded the proposed rules apply to new homes and he provided more details. Mr. Nick Pennachio suggested using residential parking permits.

Mr. Tony Moreno brought up the new rules will prevent people from paving over their front yards and using them for parking.

At this point, the Board's vote was taken. By a voice vote, the Board voted 33 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

Before moving on to the next Committee report, the District Manager reported on immense signage advertising a real estate agent at 55<sup>th</sup> Road/Queens Blvd.. The same sign is also posted at Corona Avenue and 103<sup>rd</sup> Street, which takes up the whole side of the building. The Department of Buildings will follow up.

Mrs. Judy D'Andrea brought up huge signs which are hammered to trees on the service road of the Horace Harding Expressway.

#### *Health*

Committee Chair Priscilla Carrow reported the Committee did not meet. A January, 2010, meeting is planned.

#### *Postal*

Committee Chair Stephen Castro reported a Committee meeting was held November 18 at the Junction Boulevard Post Office. The subject of discussion was the current Post Office window hours at 59-01 Junction Blvd., which are from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. It was discussed and agreed upon by the Committee that Community Board 4Q write a letter to the Flushing Postmaster William Rogers requesting the current hours of operation be changed to 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., which will better serve the needs of the community and those of the US Postal Service.

Next, Mr. Castro reported the mobile stamp van will return after Christmas, and possible sites were being sought. Several suggestions were given by the Board members.

Mr. Castro added if the location given does not produce enough revenue to justify the van, it will not be returning to that location. The next Postal Committee meeting is scheduled for January 20, 2010, at 12 Noon. Post Office closings were also mentioned.

The Board unanimously agreed a letter be written to Postmaster William Rogers to implement the change of windows hours at the postal branch located at 59-01 Junction Blvd.

#### *Youth*

Committee Chair Clara Salas reported a Youth Committee will be held January 27, 2010, at 7:00 p.m., at Elmhurst Hospital, Conference Rm. A1-15. A subsequent meeting is planned for April 20.

Committee Chair Salas asked the committee members for suggestions on speakers and agenda items. Call the District Manager with your ideas.

#### *Environmental*

Committee Chair not present.

#### *Parks*

Committee Chair Tony Caminiti reported the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony was held at William F. Moore on November 30. Master of Ceremonies James Lisa did a wonderful job. Thank yous were extended to Mr. Al Perna for setting up the lights and Mrs. Ann Melchiorre who hosted the hot chocolate given out. Refreshments were served in the Corona VFW Post #150. A special Thank You was extended to Mrs. Patty Terranova and all the others who volunteered to make it a successful event.

Wednesday, December 2, at 6:30 p.m. another tree lighting will be held at the William F. Moore Park (in the far corner) sponsored by the Corona Lions Leo's. A choir and the cadets are scheduled guests. Refreshments will also be served.

At this point, the District Manager reported at the end of October a Community Dialogue Forum was held. After compiling all the information, a letter was sent to the participants asking them if they wished to continue with the dialogue forum. Depending on interests, participants might be assigned to the Board's committees. For example, if an interest is expressed in health issues, a participant can be assigned to the Health Committee, etc. In this way, it provides a way for the community to get involved with the Board while likewise adding members to the existing committees. Before presenting this concept at the next upcoming meeting of the Community Dialogue Forum, let the District Manger know your thoughts and share your ideas.

### **X. REPORT OF THE LEGISLATORS**

Minister Terry Lewis, Special Assistant to Senator Hiram Monserrate, reported the Senator is establishing a new office on 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue to accommodate area constituents. The office is still under construction and will be operational the first of the month. Details to follow. Community service is the focus of the new office, bringing it closer to area constituents and providing more services.

The annual Three Kings Day Celebration is scheduled for January 6, 2010, at ELMCOR Community Center.

Next, Mr. George Onuorah, representing Council Member Helen Sears, thanked the Board for its help and support through the years and expressed his appreciation for being a part of the Community Board process as a representative for Council Member Sears. Meeting many people through his affiliation with the Board, he hoped to continue the relationship in the future.

Mr. Onuorah reported through the Lefrak City Tenants Association, during the Thanksgiving holiday, food was served to needy families. Being a part of this worthwhile cause, Mr. Onuorah extended thanks to Ms. Ernestine McKayle as well as Ms. Barbara Jackson and all the others who participated to help those less fortunate.

Mr. Onuorah thanked Board Member Pricilla Carrow for her untiring efforts and dedication as well as mentioning other Board Members for their help and support in the community.

Next, Ms. Martha Ayon, representing NYC Comptroller William Thompson, thanked the Board for its help and support during the last eight years and expressed optimism to working with the Board in the future.

#### **XI. PUBLIC FORUM**

Board Member Joseph DiMartino reported the Annual Children's Holiday Party will be held at 7:00 p.m. on December 14, hosted by the 110<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council and sponsored by the Queens County Saving Bank. Toys and food will be available at the VFW Post #150, 51-11 108 Street, Corona, NY. All were invited to come and join the festivities.

There being no further business, Ms. Laraine Donohue made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Judy D'Andrea, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Chair and District Manager wished all a safe holiday season and a Happy New Year. Everyone was invited to enjoy the holiday cake and coffee. A good time was had by all!