



## COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona and Elmhurst

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**Helen Marshall**  
Borough President

**Anthony R. Moreno**  
Chairperson

**Barry Grodenchik**  
Deputy Borough President  
Director of Community Boards

**Richard Italiano**  
District Manager

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### COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE: TUESDAY, JUNE 01, 2010

TIME: 7:20 P.M.

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

- I. Chairperson Tony Moreno called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.
- II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.
- III. District Manager Richard Italiano took the attendance. A quorum was present.
- IV. Vote: Minutes of the May 4, 2010 Meeting  
Ms. Priscilla Carrow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Alirio Orduna, to accept the minutes. By a voice vote, the Board voted 34 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

#### V. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

Board Chairperson Anthony Moreno reported on the MTA's proposal introducing limited stop service on the Q58 bus route. Not all buses will make all stops, but designated buses will make alternate stops. The Chairperson explained limited stop service can reduce delays due to frequent stops on the route.

NYC Transit proposes to operate limited stop service on alternating trips of the Q58 during designated time periods. Manhattan has already implemented a successful limited stop service on the M1 and M2 bus routes. Chairperson Moreno reported this change would also benefit the Q60 bus route. The suggestion is under review by the Department of Transportation, however, some questions needed to be resolved. They will be reporting back later this year. The Q58 provides local bus service from the Ridgewood Intermodal Terminal at the Myrtle-Wyckoff Avenue subway station to Main Street and 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue in Downtown Flushing.

Mr. Stephen Castro asked were there any buses that have eliminated certain stops making existing stops a further distance? Hypothetically, the Chairperson provided an example. Regular Q58 buses will continue to operate on the route at all times, making all other stops at designated locations.

At this point, Mr. Tom McKenzie said for 37 years the Board served the communities of Corona and Elmhurst. In the last year, the Board became known as serving Elmhurst, Corona Heights, and Corona. All correspondence, including letters from the Borough President's office, which he receives lists the communities served as Corona and Elmhurst. Referring to the Board's letterhead that includes the Corona Heights neighborhood, he recommended the Corona Heights segment be eliminated out of respect to everyone who lives in Corona and no differential is made by neighborhood. He also noted the Board did not take a vote to add Corona Heights to the Board's letterhead.

The District Manager answered the Board covers south Corona; it does not cover the north side of Roosevelt Avenue.

Mr. McKenzie said there is one zip code for Corona and, legally, Corona Heights should be eliminated from the letterhead.

Secondly, the Queens Library had informed the Board for input on the new Elmhurst Library, and the Board was not informed about this request for its input. George Washington, the father of our country, camped where the Library is built and went to church across the street in a building that still stands. The \$80,000 funding for the new art exhibit does not mention George Washington. A vote had been taken by the Board on this matter.

Mr. McKenzie asked what the Board was going to do about the motion that was made last year calling for George Washington be recognized in the art work for the new Library.

Mr. McKenzie stated when a letter is written and a motion taken, the Chair has a responsibility to follow-up.

Chairperson Tony Moreno asked Mr. McKenzie if he had sent the Board a written request on the matter. Mr. McKenzie responded a vote was previously taken on the matter. Also, input by the Board was completely disregarded.

Ms. Roseann Geiger asked if Corona Heights had a separate zip code. Chairperson Moreno responded no. Corona is one zip code.

At this point, Chairperson Moreno asked if there were any other questions. Since there were none, the Board Chairperson read an invitation from Queens Borough President Helen Marshall to the swearing in ceremony of new and reappointed Board member Wednesday, June 9, 2010, at 6:00 p.m. at the New York Hall of Science. Please respond as soon as possible to 718-286-2900.

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

Before the District Manager began his report, he addressed the issue about the Board's letterhead. The Board covers all of the Elmhurst community, which is zip code 11373. For Corona the Board covers only half, the area south of Roosevelt Avenue which is an 11368 zip code. The letterhead should read Elmhurst and South Corona, according to the District Manager. The north side of Roosevelt Avenue is represented by Community Board 3. In actuality, Corona is divided between two Boards.

What does the Board wants to do, the District Manager asked. Discussion ensued about adding south Corona to the letterhead.

As a suggestion, Chairperson Moreno said a logo with the exact areas covered on the top of the letterhead may be a viable solution.

Mr. Stephen Castro pointed out has anyone ever asked where's Corona, south or north?

Mrs. Patricia Terranova mentioned Corona Heights is centrally located within the Corona district and Corona Heights is widely known for the Lemon Ice King and William Moore Park. Corona Heights is also bordered by Flushing Meadows-Corona Park. Other Community Boards do list all the territories they represent on their letterheads. Mrs. Terranova provided more information about the Corona Heights area.

Mrs. Judy D'Andrea pointed out Corona is made up of Lefrak City, Corona Heights, Sherwood Village which are smaller communities within the larger community of Corona. As a resident of Corona, if she does not reside in Corona Heights, she will not be recognized as living in Corona. The Community Board represents Corona and Elmhurst. It does not represent Corona Heights and Elmhurst. A person living on Martense or Otis Avenues, Van Doren or Penrod Street is not Corona Heights. So where are you in Community Board 4, she questioned.

Mr. Tom McKenzie made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Judy D'Andrea, to have the Board's letterhead read (in alphabetical order) Corona and Elmhurst.

At this point, Chairperson Moreno called for discussion on the motion.

Ms. Roseann Geiger stated a very valid point was made about Lefrak City. She was not in agreement with the motion.

Ms. Ann Coyne said to look at the zip codes.

Mr. Nick Pennachio said although he lives in Elmhurst, he receives mail from the Flushing post office. It's all New York, New York.

The District Manager reported the Board also represents a small portion of Jackson Heights, which is zip code 11372.

Since the Board opted for a voice vote, the count was not clear since some members were in opposition. Therefore, the Chair called for a show of hands of those who opposed the motion. As a result, the Board voted 25 in favor, 9 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed,

The District Manager reported on the following:

From the Department of Transportation, Eastbound Long Island Expressway exit ramp to College Point Boulevard will begin repair of a damaged box beam from the Long Island Expressway to College Point Boulevard on Wednesday, June 9 and Wednesday, June 16. The ramp will be closed 12:01 a.m. to 5:00 a.m.

From the Department of Design and Construction, the agency has initiated the design of HWQ232H, the reconstruction of Dongan Avenue. Their construction commitment is scheduled for fiscal year 2011.

From the 110<sup>th</sup> Pct. Community Council, a meeting will be held on June 21, at 7:00 p.m., at the VFW Hall, 51-11 108 Street. Also, Tuesday, August 3 the 110<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council will hold its Night Out Against Crime, 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m., at Flushing Meadows-Corona Park. Flyers for both events were available on the table.

Before proceeding to the next agenda item, Mr. James Lisa called for a Point of Order. About the Corona Heights issue, Mr. Lisa reported a proposal had been submitted by Congressman Ackerman to put a new zip code in place for Corona Heights. The area covers Junction Boulevard to Willets Point to bring in a new zip code to the community because of the vast population. Corona consists of three parts: North Corona, Central Corona (the station), and Corona Heights. The Post Office is reviewing the proposal and is in favor of the new zip code. The U. S. Postal Service must make the final decision on whether or not to implement the change. At present, the Postal Service has a financial problem because another post office may have to be opened for a new zip code.

Chairperson Moreno stated when the Post Office makes its decision, the Board will re-evaluate the issue. A vote was taken tonight and passed. As it stands now, the Board's letterhead will read Corona and Elmhurst.

Discussion ensued. With this added information, a new vote should be taken because someone may change their vote suggested Mr. Lisa. He continued Corona Heights does exist, and Corona Heights is on the map. Corona Heights should not be removed from the Board's letterhead. Another Board represents North Corona reiterated Mr. Lisa.

Chairperson Tony Moreno remarked this subject matter will be referred to Mr. Stephen Castro, Postal Committee Chair, and committee for review who will examine it and report its findings back to the Board.

After a lengthy discussion, the Chairperson called for discussion on the next agenda item.

## **VII. REPORT OF THE LEGISLATORS**

Mr. Antwaun Gavins, representing Senator Jose Peralta, reported on an upcoming Town Hall meeting scheduled for June 25 at St. Paul's Church, Corona, NY. An open forum with Sherwood Village and Lefrak City is planned and all questions will be forwarded to Senator Peralta.. Call 718-205-3881 for further information.

Next, Mr. Joe Nouerino, representing Council Member Karen Koslowitz, introduced himself as her representative to the Board who will attend the Board's monthly meetings.

Next, Yoselin Genao, representing Council Member Julissa Ferreras, reported a meeting will be held on June 24 at the Langston Hughes Library geared to the small business owner.

On June 28, a Town Hall meeting will be held at P. S. 19 for the Corona residents.

## **VII. SCA PUBLIC HEARING**

### **Vote: Site Selection For An 800 Seat Primary School**

Mr. Tom McKenzie made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Judy D'Andrea, to **approve** the proposed site selection for an approximately 800 seat primary school facility located on 98 Street between 50 Avenue and Christie Avenue.

The Chairperson called for discussion on the motion. No discussion.

Before the vote was taken, Mrs. Judy D'Andrea thanked I. S. 61 Principal, Mr. Joseph Lisa, for working so diligently on the project and for his untiring efforts in achieving a positive outcome in a short amount of time.

At this point, the Board took its vote. By a voice vote, the Board voted 34 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

### VIII. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

#### a. Vote: Street Activity Permits

1. Sponsor: Ecuadorian Civic Committee  
Name of Event: Ecuadorian Festival  
Location: Corona Plaza-National Street to 104<sup>th</sup> Street  
Date: Sunday, August 1, 2010  
Event Time: 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
2. Sponsor: Ecuadorian Civic Committee  
Name of Event: Ecuadorian Festival  
Location: Corona Plaza National Street to 104 Street  
Date: Sunday, August 22, 2010  
Event Time: 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Transportation Committee Chair Joseph DiMartino reported there were no problems with these events in the past.

3. Sponsor: St. Mary's Romanian Orthodox Church  
Name of Event: St. Mary's Fall Festival  
Location: 74<sup>th</sup> Street-43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue to Woodside Avenue  
Date: Saturday, September 18, 2010  
Event Time: 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
4. Sponsor: Jackson Heights Seventh Day Adventist Church  
Name of Event: Church and School Fair  
Location: Woodside Avenue - 72<sup>nd</sup> Street to 73<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Date: Sunday, August 22, 2010  
Event Time: 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
5. Sponsor: Casita Ayuda DeMaria  
Name of Event: Annual Block Party  
Location: Warren Street - 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue to 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
Date: Sunday, September 12, 2010  
Event Time: 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Transportation Committee Chair Joseph DiMartino reported there were no problems reported with this last organization.

Ms. Priscilla Carrow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tom McKenzie, to accept the Committee's report as presented.

Before the vote was taken, Mr. Castro asked about the events being held by The Ecuadorian Civic Committee, in particular, holding two events in one month. Do the area residents approve? Committee Chair DiMartino said they are two separate events on two different days.

Mr. Castro also questioned #4 the Jackson Heights Seventh Day Adventist Church event. Since the event is being held on a Sunday and will run 14 hours, he expressed concern for the area residents. People must go to work on Monday; Saturday would be no problem. The sponsoring organization would be advised, replied the District Manager.

At this point, Ms. Carrow amended her motion taking into account Mr. Castro's concerns.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 34 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions to accept the Committee's report with the noted objection to #4. Motion passed.

At this point, the District Manager submitted an additional street closing for the Jane Center of America to be included in the vote. The organization had overlooked applying for the permit to hold a religious event. According to the 110<sup>th</sup> Precinct, they have held this event for the past five years without incident. June 12 and June 20 is requested.

No objection raised by the Board.

#### B. Vote: TLC Base License Renewal

## **Dominicana Limousine Service**

The District Manager reported this base submitted a lease to park 15 cars at 86-10 Roosevelt Avenue, 86<sup>th</sup> Street Parking, Jackson Heights, NY.

Mr. Stephen Castro made a motion, seconded by Ms. Judy D'Andrea, to **accept** the application for the base license renewal.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 34 in favor, 0 opposed with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

## **New York Mexicana Car Service**

The District Manager reported the application for this Base was previously denied because the parking lot, where the Base parks its cars, next to the Queens Center Mall was closed by the Department of Consumer Affairs. The lot has now been reopened, reported the District Manager. The Base has a parking agreement in effect to use this lot.

Accordingly, Mr. Castro said the parking lot was closed and the application denied as stated in the minutes last month. The District Manager agreed and stated the lot is now open and he requested the Board's intent on the Base's renewal application. Is the lot open to park the Base's cars asked Mr. Castro. The District Manager replied yes.

Mr. Tom McKenzie re-opened the motion to **grant** the Base's application, seconded by Mr. Alirio Orduna, By a voice vote, the Board voted 34 in favor, 0 opposed with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

## **C. Vote: Street Co-Naming.**

### **1. Nancy DeBenedittis "Mama's Way"**

### **2. Staff Sgt. Luis Gonzalez**

#### **1. Nancy DeBenedittis "Mama's Way" (104 Street & 46<sup>th</sup> Avenue)**

The District Manager reported Council Member Julissa Ferreras had submitted the requests for both street re-namings. The floor was turned over to Ms. Yoselin Genao, the Council Member's representative, who made a report to the Board why these requests were submitted.

Mama's is an institution in Corona. When people were leaving Corona, Mama and her family stayed and contributed to the community. Through the years, the family owned business continued to grow and flourish. Council Member Ferreras in conjunction with Council Member Daniel Dromm spearheaded this effort to rename the s/w corner of 104 Street and 46 Avenue in honor of Mama, which is a token of the community's appreciation to Mama and her three daughters who have supported the Corona community in so many ways including helping out organizations in Corona during the last 80 years.

At this point, the floor was turned over to Ms. Irene DeBenedittis, one of Mama's daughters, who thanked the Board on behalf of Mama and her sisters. Mama sat in the store every day and kept a watchful eye on the store and greeting all of her customers. She was a part of Corona and Corona was a part of her life too. The family is happy to be in Corona and carry on the tradition Mama started. Many people come back to Corona to visit.

Following Ms. DeBenedittis, Mr. Sebastian Maguire, representing Council Member Daniel Dromm, reported the Council Member wholeheartedly supports the renaming of this corner. In a climate when small businesses are leaving the community or shutting down and others are facing many challenges, this business has become a fabric in the community. He pointed out Council Member Dromm is the Chair of the Immigration Committee of the NYC Council. Mama DeBenedittis is a child of immigrants who had achieved the American Dream. Mama's long-time accomplishments are well recognized, and Council Member Dromm is very proud to be a part of this effort.

Mr. Tom McKenzie asked about the wording on the sign. Ms. Genao responded Nancy DeBenedittis and under it Mama's Way.

Mr. Nick Pennachio made a motion, seconded by Ms. Lucy Schilero, to **approve** the street re-naming. By a voice vote, the Board voted 34 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

### **2. Staff Sgt. Luis Gonzalez**

### **108<sup>th</sup> Street And 49<sup>th</sup> Avenue**

Ms Yoselin Genao reported Council member Ferreras introduced legislation for Sgt. Gonzalez. Not only was he born and raised in Corona but after he married his family resided in Corona. He met his wife at the Laundromat located on that corner and he grew up on 49<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Ever since he was a child, he always wanted to be in the Army. He was killed

while on duty in Afghanistan at age 27. For his contributions not only to Queens but for proudly serving our country with dignity, this legislation was introduced to honor Staff Sgt. Luis Gonzalez and his family.

Mrs. Judy D’Andrea made a motion, seconded by Ms. Priscilla Carrow, to **approve** the street renaming.

Before the vote was taken, Committee Chair Joseph DiMartino added he had met the Gonzalez family. Staff Sgt. Gonzalez leaves a wife and a baby son. The Corona Lions had honored the family at Russo’s on the Bay. Over 400 guests had attended.

Before concluding, Ms. Genao said the street sign will be placed on the southeast corner because at the Laundromat there is no street sign said Ms. Genao.

At the point, the Board voted 34 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

At this point, Mr. Tom McKenzie asked a letter be written to Council Member Daniel Dromm to consider co-naming Ketcham Street between Baxter Avenue and Britton Avenue in Elmhurst in honor of Steven R. Trimboli. It had been voted on some time ago by the Board; however, the then Council Member did not approve it.

**IX. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**Vote: SLA Applications**

Committee Chair Lucy Schilero presented the Committee’s report. The Committee held a meeting May 24 to review the following applications.

**NEW APPLICANTS**

<b><u>Establishment’s Name</u></b>	<b><u>Establishment’s Address</u></b>	<b><u>Committee Recommendation</u></b>
KYC Restaurant Inc. Restaurant Wine	40-06 74 <sup>th</sup> Street Elmhurst, NY 11373	Approved
LaCueva Deli Grocery Corp. Beer Only	47-18 Junction Blvd. Corona, NY 11368	Approved
Picanteria La Gualacenia Corp. Restaurant Wine	40-08 Hampton St. Elmhurst, NY 11373	Denied. Sub-lease/No house on form DOB looking into C/O.
Royal Pacific Restaurant Group Corp. d/b/a East Manor Restaurant Wine	79-17 Albion Avenue Elmhurst, NY 11373	Denied. No SLA papers filled out. No C of O/Public Assembly; Disorderly Premises 5/13/10

**RENEWAL APPLICANTS**

<b><u>Establishment’s Name</u></b>	<b><u>Establishment’s Address</u></b>	<b><u>Committee Recommendation</u></b>
82 <sup>ND</sup> Coatzingo Restaurant Corp. Restaurant Wine	40-18 82 <sup>nd</sup> Street Elmhurst, NY 11373	Denied. Late sending in notice. SLA will hold license back for number of days late/or pay a Fine.
Amanecer Latino Restaurant Corp. Restaurant Wine	96-38 Corona Avenue Corona, NY 11368	Approved
Diskal Inc. d/b/a Georgia Diner Restaurant Liquor	86-55 Queens Blvd. Elmhurst, NY 11373	Approved
81-22 Baxter Ave. Lounge d/b/a Ilda’s Place II On Premises Liquor	81-22 Baxter Avenue Elmhurst, NY 11373	Approved

**RENEWAL APPLICANTS (cont'd)**

<b><u>Establishment's Name</u></b>	<b><u>Establishment's Address</u></b>	<b><u>Committee Recommendation</u></b>
JNT Foods Inc. d/b/a/ Pop Diner On Premises Liquor	80-26 Queens Blvd. Elmhurst, NY 11383	Approved
Remote Inc. Tavern Wine	83-21 Broadway Elmhurst, NY 11373	Approved
Tacueria Tulcingo Inc. Eating Place Beer	40-10 83 St. Elmhurst, NY 11373	Approved

Mr. Tom McKenzie made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stephen Castro, to **accept** the Committee's report as presented. By a voice vote, the Board voted 34 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

**X. PRESENTATION**

**A. NYC Dept. of Transportation**

**Jackson Heights Transportation Study**

Mr. Felix Okolo, Liaison from the New York City Department of Transportation, introduced his colleagues, Ms. Willa Ng and Mr. David Stein to present data on the Jackson Heights Transportation Study.

The floor was turned over to Mr. Stein, Director of Community Initiatives, Division of Planning And Sustainability, and Ms. Willia Ng, the DOT Project Manager.

Mr. Stein reported DOT is looking for solutions to improve all facets of transportation including transit, personal vehicle, and pedestrian traffic to improve the quality of life for Jackson Heights residents. Log on to NYCDOT's website for more information on the study. Handouts entitled, "Jackson Heights Neighborhood Transportation Study, Data Findings and Results of Community Workshops", were distributed to aid with tonight's presentation.

Much outreach had already been done such as open houses and walk-thrus. At this point, Mr. Stein turned the floor over to Ms. Ng.

Ms. Ng reported the area situated in Board 4 constitutes a 1/3 of the study and will impact the Board. The project is funded by an earmark from U. S. Representative Joseph Crowley, who allocated \$800,000 for the study. Since the funding was not quite enough, another \$600,000 was added by DOT, making it \$1.4 million study.

Beginning in May, 2009, identifications were issued. Ms. Ng thanked District Manager Italiano who provided a walk thru of Roosevelt Avenue, Broadway, 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue, and the area around Elmhurst Hospital, targeting its needs and calling attention to emergency response.

Ms. Ng said on April 17 a community open house was held where data collected was presented. On April 27 and April 29, the community was called together into small groups and discussed what the problems are and what is needed to address them. This summer, specific short term improvement packages are being developed. According to Ms. Ng the definition of short term will be solutions done within the year. The agency will implement and monitor those improvements. If improvements are not viable, they will be removed and another one tried. Those improvement packages will be ready in the Fall, 2010.

Turning to Page 1 of the handout, the issue of Parking was brought up. Parking is very difficult in the areas of Roosevelt Avenue, Broadway, 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue, and around Elmhurst Hospital. Delivery trucks that double park add to the congestion.

Transit - Buses find it difficult getting through the area. Buses are often slowed down by double parkers.

Congestion - Congestion is choking Jackson Heights. A solution is urgently needed. Especially around the Victor Moore Arcade where there is an issue with buses, cars, and livery vehicles. Vehicles are trying to compete for a small amount of space.

Much data such as pedestrian volume, and vehicle speeds were collected. Also, people on the street were interviewed to gather their suggestions and data collected.

Questions asked were how they got there, what they were doing there, what they thought of the area, and what they would like to see for the study area. Parking surveys were conducted too. Representatives from DOT walked around and documented both the vehicle and pedestrian obstructions such as: double parking, truck deliveries blocking roadways, and street vendors blocking sidewalks. Data confirmed what the Community Board had already reported.

The reasons streets are not performing well is that there are many competing uses. Those same streets are carrying buses, pedestrians, and trying to accommodate commercial as well as residential uses. A failure rippling through the network.

Ms. Clara Salas asked if data was collected from NYPD and Traffic Enforcement. Ms. Ng replied yes. Mr. Stein further commented DOT has an active rapport with almost every city agency: Police, Consumer Affairs, MTA, and TLC and during the walk-thru representatives were present. In terms of enforcement, DOT curb regulations are being looked at. DOT is aware ticketing is going on, however, decisions are not based on where tickets are being issued. Curb management strategy is essential.

Ms. Salas continued around Elmhurst Hospital and 37 Avenue is heavily ticketed. Ms. Salas provided more details.

Mr. Stein presented the new strategies to address the problem of curb management and reported the main focus is on potential short term improvements, for example, changes to curb side regulations, traffic signals and temporary markings. One of the problems in Jackson Heights is streets handle too many functions.

Transit is a big focus in that DOT is looking to make operate much better in this area. Buses to operate more efficiently are one of the goals and better curb management and curb extensions are being explored.

Street improvement and public space are being examined, along with bicycle parks improvements and relocating bus stops is also under review.

Mr. Stein discussed the time line and improvements to be implemented.

At this point, questions were asked. Mr. Nick Pennachio noted the high concentration of the countless number of school buses that pass through Jackson Heights taking up parking spaces. Those buses cause a great deal of congestion. Mr. Stein responded different streets have different uses at different times of the day. On a particular street during a walk-thru, it went from no activity to much activity in a 20 minute span.

Ms. Roseann Geiger asked how this study ties into the budget cuts. By the data presented, it would seem more money is needed in the budget at a time when budget cuts are prevalent. Mr. Stein responded DOT is looking at low cost, easy to implement solutions. Low cost options that would be used were explained, emphasizing curb management and parking regulations options. Sidewalks can be expanded and streets can be closed with paint.

The Department of Transportation's goal is to come up with improvements that are easily implementable. Based on the community's input, monitoring and assessing improvements, and looking at the data that had been collected, more future funding would be sought, if needed.

Ms. Ann Coyne said the Q53 should stay as it is now. Ms. Ng responded they did not control the buses. However, they do control the locations of the bus stops. They would work with the MTA to ensure the bus stop was located in the best possible locations for the area residents.

Mr. Castro commented the largest parking offenders are city employees and livery cabs. Ms. Ng responded through a collaboration of city agencies, thousands of placards were issued and the focus should be on consolidating the issuance of those placards and trying to re-standardize what constitutes a legal placard. Mr. Castro provided more details on a prevalent and on going problem.

Ms. Ng stated data was collected on who was parking on the street, whether parkers were legal or illegal, and whether the vehicle had a placard or not. This data is scheduled for publication and a profile given of how widespread the problem is.

Mr. James Lisa spoke about a gentleman collecting money for a change of traffic light in Lefrak City (57<sup>th</sup> Avenue & Junction Blvd.). The District Manager replied this agency has nothing to do with that.

Mr. Stein responded the agency does not collect money.



Other strategies Mr. Stein discussed were Park Smart and the installation of Muni- meters.

More discussion on rationalizing the north-south connections and east-west priorities.

Mr. James Lisa asked about one hour parking meters vs. two hour meters. Ms. Ng responded no data was collected on this issue but added it depends on the land use where the meter is located and provided examples. Matching the curb site to the land use is being looked at. Also, consideration must be given to what the requests are of those business owners.

Ms. Lucy Schilero commented on transit. 74<sup>th</sup> Street formerly was an express stop and was discontinued. Bring back the express, and she noted escalators do not always work. If the express was brought back, transit would move better. Discussion ensued on her request. This stop is extremely overcrowded.

Mr. Stein said it will be brought up at upcoming meetings.

At this point, Chairperson Moreno asked if there were any other questions. Since there were none, the Chair moved to the next scheduled presentation.

## **B. Corona Youth Music Project Corona Children's Chorus Camp**

Mr. Alvaro Rodas, Project Director, gave an overview of the program. Handouts were distributed on The Corona Youth Music Project. The Corona Youth Music Project will support at least one children's symphony orchestra and one choir, along with its educational program, and serve the neighborhood by providing a safe, fun space for children and to excel artistically and help them become valuable members of the community.

A program will be started in Corona for the Corona community. Eventually, there will be a Corona Youth Orchestra or children's orchestra. This project will start with a choir camp in the summer from August 9 - 20. The seminar will be conducted by a fabulous children's choir conductor from Finland.

This project is supported by El Sistema USA, which is based in the New York Conservatory in Boston and is a global movement of social action through music that started in Venezuela in 1975 and during the 1990's continued growing through Latin America.

Mrs. Judy D'Andrea asked where the program will be based. Mr. Rodas this detail still needs to be worked out. He has not found a proper place for the camp. The summer camp is for two weeks and will be tuition free. The goal is to help 300 children, ages 9-15 from the Corona neighborhood and surrounding areas. Mrs. D'Andrea suggested P. S. 19 as a possible site because during the summer, a Beacon Program is there. Mr. Rodas said he did explore that possibility, but another event was scheduled.

Ms. Salas commented on the excellence of the program.

Ms. Myrna Littlewort asked about requirements and application forms. Mr. Rodas responded the only limitation is age since it is geared for children.

Mr. Rodas besides looking at P. S. 19, he had investigated P. S. 16 which will be closed in the summer for renovation.

Ms. Ann Pfoser Darby spoke about a contact for the children's choir and suggested Mr. Rodas speak to her.

## **XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### *ULURP and Zoning*

No Report. Committee Chair Miriam Levenson reported the Committee did not meet.

### *Consumer Affairs*

No Report. Committee Chair Helen Landaverde reported the Committee did not meet.

### *Health*

No Report. Committee Chair Priscilla Carrow reported the Committee did not meet.

### *Postal*

Since the Committee Chair had exited, the District Manager informed the Board the mobile Postal van which was located

on 108 Street three days a week—(Monday, Wednesday, and Friday) was not deemed profitable by the Post Office and will be at 108 Street on Wednesdays only from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. The other two days, it will be at the Queens Center Mall. Exact location to be determined.

Mrs. Judy D'Andrea pointed out the van was not profitable because it was not there long enough for sufficient proof. Secondly, people were not aware of the van's existence and people did not use it. Third, the people in this neighborhood need the van because they cannot get to their Post Office. By putting it at the Queens Center Mall, it is not helping our community.

Mrs. Levenson pointed out the Rego Park Post Office is not far from the Queens Center Mall. Another reason not to put the van by the Mall.

Ms. Beth Moon Ray Ferguson, a Corona resident, stated she never saw the postal van. Discussion ensued.

Mr. James Lisa said the Post Office did not issue a flyer to the community announcing the van or its hours. If he were informed, a photo and news article would have been published in the *Queens Times*.

Chairperson Anthony Moreno said information about the postal van, including dates and times, was carried in the Board's Newsletter. Discussion ensued.

Since this is an important issue for all, Chairperson Anthony Moreno said it will be referred to Postal Committee Chair Stephen Chair and committee for review. More discussion ensued about having only one postal employee to drive the van.

#### *Environmental*

Committee Chair Tom McKenzie reported on the For Sale, cars with no plates, parked for days on city streets. Although cars were tagged, Mr. McKenzie suggested putting everything on the VIN number. Maybe the seller would move somewhere else. Perhaps, this suggestion can be taken up at the Board's next District Cabinet meeting.

Next, trucks parked overnight on city streets, drivers take garbage out of the truck and leave it on the streets. Because this is a Police problem; Mr. McKenzie said the Police are not fully informed about traffic rules and mentioned the 3-hour rule.

After much pursuit with the Police Department and the Borough Command, Mr. McKenzie made headway with the Police Commissioner's Office.

4.08K5 states No Commercial vehicle can park on any New York City street for more than three hours at any time.

A police officer will go out at night. Trucks must be reported the precinct. Subsequently, a police officer will write up the truck and return three hours later.

More details were provided.

Next, he reported on the trailer trucks parked leaving compressors on all night. EPA will come during the night and ticket.

Lastly, he reported McDonald's Restaurant on Queens Blvd. has only three litter baskets for the whole store.

At one time, there were 11 baskets. Where did the other baskets go? If McDonald's provided more baskets, there would be less debris on the surrounding streets and less irate neighbors. The condition is deplorable.

At this point, Mr. Melvin Morgan reported the sidewalks, curbs, and ramps on 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue (from 98<sup>th</sup> Place to 96<sup>th</sup> Place) by C-Town are completely demolished and very dangerous and need to be repaired. The District Manager asked Mr. Morgan to e-mail or call the office with exact locations.

#### *Parks*

Committee Chair Anthony Tony Caminiti reported Saturday, August 7, the Annual Senior Day will be held at William F. Moore Park located on 108 Street. Free food and refreshments will be served to seniors from 12:00 Noon to 3:00 p.m. He invited all seniors to come out and enjoy the festivities.

#### *Youth*

Committee Chair Clara Salas reported a committee meeting will be held in September AT Elmhurst Hospital. Meeting date to be finalized. She reported at this point it is unknown how many teachers in District 24 are targeted for layoffs. She questioned schools are being built so how can teachers be laid off when they are very much needed. Attrition and the retirement of teachers would prevent layoffs.

## **XII. PUBLIC FORUM**

### **Good & Welfare of the District**

Mr. Joseph Mugiven, a former teacher at P. S. 7 addressed the Board spoke about air quality in the schools. For the safety and health of the children, school sites should be investigated because schools are being built on toxic sites. He reported there is a web site called Toxics Targeting to check for spill sites at any location in New York City. He mentioned a newspaper article an elementary school girl collapsing at P. S. 16. Formerly, he taught in that building and his whole class had also collapsed. Pepper spray was blamed, but that was not the case.

Mr. Mugiven explained Vapor Intrusion (VI) which is the migration of volatile chemicals from the subsurface into overlying buildings. Copies were distributed to the Board for review. The report states if there are toxins underneath the ground, changes in weather (such as sudden warm or cool weather) can release the vapor from these toxins. If a mixture of the toxins are present, a lethal cocktail is produced which can rise to the surface.

Investigating further, he had discovered P. S. 16 was built on a spill site. Subsequently, he surmised it was not pesticides but the vapors coming up from the ground sickening the children.

Mr. Mugiven concluded the community should set up regulations whereby abnormal health situations in the schools should be reported and clear accurate records kept.

He also mentioned a pending lawsuit against the city and P. S. 7. A Vapor Intrusion system was put underneath the school and never turned on. Because of his concerns, he offered to assist with schools in this district.

Discussion ensued on the many uses of P. S. 16 in the past and where spill sites are located noting a toxic generator site a block away from the school.

Next, Ms. Vincenza Guillen, a resident of 108 Street and 49<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and asked about an update about converting a residence to a church. She had reported this problem at the May 4, 2010, Board meeting. Also, she had reported commercial parking of vehicles more than three hours. She had reported this problem plus the For Sale vehicles to the 110 Precinct, but there was no response.

Also, she reported on 111<sup>th</sup> Street, between 55<sup>th</sup> and 54<sup>th</sup> Avenues, there is an RV with a boat on a trailer attached to it and across the street is the Colombian Party Van.

The District Manager reported the Police and Sanitation Departments are aware of the situation, but the owner is clever.

Next, Mr. Alirio Orduna extended an invitation to the Board to join the New York Military Cadets Annual Picnic on June 26, 2010 at 11:30 a.m. at the Department of Veterans Affairs St Albans Community Living Center (179-00 Linden Blvd. & 179 Street, Jamaica, NY. Activities planned for the St. Albans Community Living Center:

Artistic Expression - Individual projects such as dog tags where each resident will receive a dog tag that will represent their branch of service (M-O-S Military Occupational Specialty. In Process.

Cultural Diversity - Residents will be able to share and interact with one another's cultures.

Intergenerational - Each cadet/parents will be assigned to a Veteran and must visit with such Veteran at least once a month.

Personalization - Each room will be decorated according to the different branches of service.

Transformation - Home away from home Christmas, Memorial Day, Veterans Day and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parties in honor of our Veterans.

We must let our Veterans know they are heroes and will never be forgotten. Your support is needed.

Secondly, in recognition of their dedication and accomplishments, the United States Army, the United States Marine Corp. and the United States Navy presently support a trip of the New York Military Youth Cadets Inc to visit Washington, D.C. on August 20-23. Details were provided.

More upcoming events were announced by Mr. Orduna.

There being no further business, Mrs. Judy D'Andrea made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tom McKenzie, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m