



## COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, and Elmhurst

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

Corona, New York 11368-2882

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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, OCTOBER 5, 2010

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

PLACE: FLANDER'S FIELD VFW POST #150  
51-11 108 STREET  
CORONA, NY 11368

**I.** Chairperson Tony Moreno called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**II.** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

**III.** Director At Large Tom McKenzie took the attendance. A quorum was present.

**IV.** Vote: Minutes September 7, 2010 Meeting

Correction to the Minutes (Noted Corrections are in bold and italics). Mr. Tom McKenzie noted on page 6, second paragraph, Mr. McKenzie informed the Board Krystal's Bar is scheduled to re-open ***on Queens Blvd.*** It will be three stories high, 100' deep, and 100' wide ***on Albion Avenue***, where the Manor East, Hess Gas Station, and now Krystal's bar is.

Ms. Lucy Schilero made a motion, seconded by Ms. Priscilla Carrow, to accept the minutes with the noted correction.

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

### **V. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON**

Chairperson Anthony Moreno reported the District Manager is scheduled to return to work, on a part time basis, on Tuesday, October 12, and complimented the Board staff on a job well done.

### **VI. REPORT OF THE LEGISLATORS**

Mr. Joe Nocerino, representing Council Member Karen Koslowitz, reported the Council Member sends her regards. Additionally, Mr. Nocerino brought literature and a Newsletter from Council Member Koslowitz and also reminded everyone if you have any legal questions, call her office on Wednesday night and an attorney, free of charge, will provide guidance.

Next, Ms. Yoselin Genao, representing Council Member Julissa Ferreras, reported at the Council Member's District Office from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., on the first Monday of each month, free screening for benefits, public services, and/or legal services is provided. No appointment necessary.

Furthermore, a Customer Service Outreach Event will be held on Monday, October 25, 2010, at the Langston Hughes Queens Library, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., on DEP's Automated Meter Reading, which will transmit water consumption data and will end the use of estimated bills and give the customer a more accurate record of water used. Customers will be able to track water usage online. Ms. Genao urged all to attend.

As a reminder, Council Member Ferreras' office is opened every day and on Mondays until 8:00 p.m. At the next Community Board meeting, a legislative update will be provided as well as street re-namings.

Next, Mr. Sebastian MaGuire, representing Council Member Daniel Dromm, reported on economic development which is being explored and other initiatives. He is seeking the help of constituents for a Tasting Event for the Elmhurst area. In June, a very successful one was held in Jackson Heights. Participating restaurants both in and out of the district would be located in one area providing samples of their specialties for tasting. Your help is needed to volunteer or if you know of anyone who would like to participate, let him know.

Mr. MaGuire also mentioned the Clean Streets Initiative where organizations are brought in to help keep our streets clean, especially commercial areas in Elmhurst, Corona, and Lefrak City. He is an attorney who is based at the District Office every day. The Council Member's office is located at 37-32 75 Street. All were invited to stop by.

At this point, Mr. McKenzie pointed out Council Member Dromm was asked to look into P. S. 7 and the scandal to rebuild the school after 14 years and to give the Board an answer on how much it costs, what was done and who is paying the bill. Also mentioning he had called Council Member Dromm's office numerous times inquiring how much money the city is paying the Diocese of Brooklyn for the three Catholic schools they are leasing: two located in our district and one in Woodside. People want to know how much of that money is coming into the local parishes because all three have financial problems.

Mr. MaGuire apologized for the delay and promised to look into those concerns.

## **VII. PRESENTATION**

### **HRA Anne Montesano**

#### **Overview of HRA Programs**

Ms. Montesano, representing the Human Resources Administration, the city's Department of Social Services, is the Queens Borough Coordinator. This role entails being the liaison between HRA and Queens County. Meeting with different groups and talking about HRA's various programs and services, she tries to help those groups navigate the wide variety of services HRA has to offer. HRA employs 15,000 employees and serves over 3 million people in New York City.

HRA provides programs such as:

- Food Stamps
- Medicaid or any one of the other public health insurance options, if not eligible for Medicaid
- Cash Assistance known as Temporary Aid For Needy Families  
A limit is placed on this assistance, which is 60 months or five years. Recipients must be engaged in work activities while receiving assistance.

When people apply for cash assistance, they will be referred to job training workshops, and referrals for resume writing and building, and there are a number of services within HRA that help people obtain jobs.

In addition to food stamps, public health assistance, and cash assistance, HRA provides help for domestic violence survivors, emergency housing and shelters. HIV and AIDS support services are available, which includes housing and case management, and assistance to apply for other benefits as well as referrals for other services.

Moreover, HRA administers Adult Protective Services for people 18 years or older who have a mental health issue or people with disabilities who cannot manage day to day activities. A neighbor, a family member, a city agency or organization may call APS on behalf of another person. If an individual is eligible, the unit will assess the situation to determine the individuals' needs, which could be alternative housing, heavy duty cleaning services etc.

"A Guide To Services" which lists important phone numbers within HRA was distributed to the Board.

Next, the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) program was outlined. This program helps low income homeowners and renters pay bills for heating fuel, equipment and repairs. A seasonal program it will begin November 1.

Next, the Child Support Enforcement Division was discussed. This division helps non-custodial parents pay the child support they are required to pay. Services include tracking the non-custodial parent if the custodial parent does not know the whereabouts of a non-custodial parent. It also involves helping the custodial parent obtain child support order and also does enforcement of those orders which could mean garnishing wages. There are a number of enforcement mechanisms which are utilized.

Next, Home Care was reviewed. This is a Medicaid funded long term care programs to help eligible elderly or disabled individuals remain in their home instead of going to a nursing home or institution.

Eligibility for these programs is based on income, household size, and immigration status. However, that is not the case for all programs. For example, the Child Enforcement program is not based on income. For the the Domestic Violence Program, immigration status is not assessed. And not all programs require citizenship. But, you cannot access food stamps, cash assistance, or Medicaid if you are undocumented. However if you are undocumented but you have a child who has legal status, benefits can be obtained on behalf of your child.

Ms. Montesano urged clients to visit an HRA Center to assess eligibility.

Human Resources Centers are located all over the city, four centers located in Queens. Job centers are also available where people can apply for cash assistance. Food stamps centers can be accessed to apply for food stamps and Medicaid. All units are located in the same building.

Facilitated enrollers are community based organizations that have partnered with HRA to help people fill out food stamp and Medicaid applications.

Clients can also call HRA's Info line, which is similar to 311, for assistance.

At this point, Ms. Montesano took questions. Ms. Ann Coyne asked for the locations of the Medicaid Offices in Queens.

Ms. Montesano cited 34-00 Northern Blvd. Long Island City, 165-08 88 Avenue, Jamaica, and 219 Beach 59 Street, Rockaway, New York. A Queens Medicaid Office is also based at Elmhurst Hospital.

At this point, Mr. Tom McKenzie reported on the Board's letterhead as serving Corona, Corona Heights and Elmhurst. This matter was previously discussed and voted on at the June 1, 2010 CB meeting.

The vote taken at that meeting resulted in Corona Heights being removed from the Board's letterhead. Mr. McKenzie explained if the Board wished to reconsider this matter, under parliamentary procedure, the person who voted positively for the motion to remove Corona Heights from the Board's letter head must make the motion to rescind it and allow it to be placed back on the Board's letterhead.

Since Mr. McKenzie was the moving party, he asked for a motion to reconsider. Subsequently, Mr. James Lisa made a motion, seconded by Mr. Alirio Orduna, to include Corona Heights in all CB4 headings with Corona and Elmhurst.

Chairperson Moreno called for discussion on the motion. Mr. Alirio Orduna asked what the reason to reconsider the motion is.

Mr. James Lisa responded with the help from materials he brought documenting why Corona was divided into different areas. Corona Heights was formerly known as Corona Heights 11368 Long Island before it became New York City. Therefore, Corona Heights was designated before New York City took Queens as a borough. Corona is part of a borough that when it went into the city as one of the boroughs, had five postmasters because they were to be their own municipalities, which is why when talking about communities in Corona, you are talking about the names of the communities, not the borough—such as Corona Heights, Jackson Heights, Elmhurst, Jamaica, etc. because of the way the area was developed before it became part of New York City.

The rest of the boroughs had one postmaster and one major zip code which are the three numbers in front of the rest of zip codes.

Also presenting a history book and other documents depicting Corona Heights as Corona Heights, Mr. Lisa referenced "The Plaza" and "The Station" while emphasizing Corona Heights had always been known as Corona Heights.

Moreover, William F. Moore Park, before it was named after a World War I veteran, was called the Corona Heights Triangle Memorial. In the middle of the Park was a fountain called the Corona Heights War Memorial. Mr. Lisa noted Corona Heights is the highest portion of Corona. When it was farmland, you could see Manhattan. Corona Heights had always been designated as the Heights.

Pointing out Community Board 3 lists North Corona on its letterhead; Corona Heights should remain on the Board's letterhead because the Post Office, according to a letter presented by Mr. Lisa, also recognizes it as Corona Heights and is looking into a separate zip for Corona Heights when postal funds become available. In summation, Mr. Lisa said people born and raised in the area since 1900 know it as the Corona Heights area and it should remain on all Board correspondence.

At this point, Chairperson Moreno called for a vote. The Board voted 29 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Unanimous. Motion passed.

### **VIII. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

Although the agenda lists one item for discussion, Committee Chair Joe DiMartino reported there are two items on for discussion.

Committee Chair DiMartino presented the first item for discussion:

1. *Vote: Street Co-Naming Corner of 104th Street & Corona Avenue to "Pietro Cesare Alberti Way"*

Committee Chair DiMartino introduced Ms. Frances Bologna, President, American Italian Cultural Roundtable to lead the discussion.

Mrs. Bologna reported American is listed first on the organization's name because we are all Americans of Italian heritage. Because they are interested in the Italian culture, free programs are presented annually. The Roundtable pursued a similar project during 2008-2009 with Community Board 1 in Manhattan. The Manhattan Board passed a resolution to honor Lorenzo Da Ponte, librettist to Mozart and the first professor of Italiano language and literature at Columbia University, for his role in building the first opera house in the United States. The resolution provided for co-naming the corner of Church and Leonard Streets, once the site of this structure.

Reporting Pietro Cesare Alberti was the first Italian to settle in America, he had sailed from his native Venice, Italy, and landed in New Amsterdam on June 2, 1635. He jumped ship and swam ashore. Later, he became a prosperous plantation owner in Brooklyn and owned property in Manhattan as well. A street in Queens County once bore the name *Alburtis Avenue*, the Dutch version of his name. Around 1927, many Queens County streets were changed to numbers, including *Alburtis Avenue* which is now 104<sup>th</sup> Street.

It is not only because of the Italian heritage, but also for the reason that everyone should know their heritage and who their heroes are, she stated.

Mrs. Bologna, a former Corona Heights resident, urged the Board to grant this request.

Mr. Tom McKenzie made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Judy D'Andrea, to **accept** renaming 104<sup>th</sup> Street at the corner of Corona Avenue in honor of Pietro Cesare Alberti. Mr. McKenzie said a new street sign will be placed under the existing one.

Additionally, Mr. James Lisa reported 104<sup>th</sup> Street was called *Alburtis Avenue* in the past; therefore, the Board is memorializing it.

Moreover, by the 103<sup>rd</sup> Street-Corona Plaza subway station, there is still a sign with the name *Alburtis Avenue*. It was later renamed to 104<sup>th</sup> Street.

Also, Mr. James Lisa requested the Board to send a letter to the MTA to remove the existing plate and have *Alburtis Avenue* be brought back to the station to be consistent with the Board's action with the co-naming of 104<sup>th</sup> Street and Corona Avenue.

At this point, the Board cast its vote. By a voice vote, the Board voted 29 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions. Unanimous. Motion passed.

## 2. Street Festival/Block Party Application (Not on the agenda)

Date of Event: Dec. 3, 4, and 5, 2010, from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Place: Corona Plaza – Roosevelt Avenue

Sponsor Name: Council Member Julissa Ferreras

Committee Chair Joseph DiMartino read the details of the application. The Committee Chair called for suggestions or comments on this application.

Board Chair Anthony Moreno said this is the first time an application seeking a street closing for more than a day or two was brought to the Board. Discussion is needed.

The Board Chair explained an application must be submitted to the Street Activity Permit Office at least 60 days prior to the event.

The Board Chairperson suggested a Committee be formed to review these multi-day street closing applications, which would probably increase. Ms. Lucy Schilero expressed concern about the area merchants, and provided information on an event at Junction Blvd., which the merchants were not too keen on, and had greatly affected those merchants.

Mr. James Lisa clarified the closing would affect the Mall area only (in front of the old Plaza theater).

Ms. Yoselin Genao, representing Council Member Julissa Ferreras said no streets would be closed. This would be more of an informational event. Everyone in the community can be involved. This is going to be a street lighting for the holidays. Participants would include business associations as well as community residents and organizations that would partner with each other.

Ms. Beth Moon Ray Ferguson brought up the hours. From 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. is the entire day. She questioned what type of events would be held over a day three day period.

Committee Chair Joe DiMartino reiterated it is called a Family Holiday Celebration.

Ms. Genao reported it will be informational and different organizations would participate. Informational materials will be distributed. Children from the community would be doing performances and it would be entertainment for the whole family.

The Committee Chair had a discussion with P. O. Richard Garland from the 110 Precinct on granting the permit. P.O. Garland said as long as there is no loud music.

Next, Mrs. Judy D'Andrea expressed concern about the Post Office on the corner. How will the postal trucks maneuver in and out of the street, pointing out the post office is open on Saturdays. The Holiday Celebration is scheduled for all day Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, December 3, 4, and 5. She also pointed out if this is more of an informational event, organizations will have tables out in December, which could get cold and snowy to staff those tables from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Next, Ann Pfoser Darby asked if items would be sold such as at a Christmas market. Ms. Genao replied food vendors will be there.

Another Board member asked if the event could be taken indoors. Not really, replied Ms. Genao. Maybe at a place close to the site to hold events, she said.

Mr. George Onuorah suggested a committee be set up to review this application. Discussion followed.

At this point, Mr. Tom McKenzie made a motion, seconded by Ms. Audrey Galligen, to **table** the application on the basis more information is needed.

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

At this point, NYS Assembly Member Jeffrion Aubry addressed the Board. Assembly Member Aubry thanked the Board for providing a valuable community service in protecting and preserving our neighborhoods. And also for being civic minded individuals. Without dedicated volunteers, the city and state would be in jeopardy.

The city and state are in difficult economic times and service reduction proposals are on all fronts and also projected into the future as well. Issues of huge budget deficits must be resolved that impact many across the

board and for a lot of people, it has been disastrous. However, the city and state will continue to survive. New Yorkers have managed through difficult and disruptive elections because that is what New Yorkers do.

Approaching January 1, issues will need to be resolved. In Albany, Assembly Member Aubry seeks answers to issues that confront the State. It's always good to know good people are taking care of the community at the time Legislators are in Albany

Keeping in mind the basic principles constituents adhere to and follow, mainly, that neighborhoods work together. It takes a lot of work to live in a multi-cultural community—it takes understanding and putting yourself secondary to understand another person's point of view, language, or culture.

More thanks were extended to the Board for committing itself to such a multi-cultural neighborhood and fighting and staying because we choose to stay here and make it the beautiful neighborhoods that it is.

Assembly Member Aubry introduced his designee to the Board Ms. Louise Emanuel.

Next, Ms. Rovenia McGowan thanked Assembly Member Aubry for sending a letter thanking constituents for their support. One request she made of the Assembly Member was to continuing sending those notes. It's always nice to hear from him.

Assembly Member Aubry replied newsletters are sent out about community affairs; unfortunately, economics reduces the amount of money needed to send out those mailings. However, community leaders do keep the Assembly Member informed of all community issues and events.

## **IX. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

### **Vote: SLA Applications**

Committee Chair Lucy Schilero presented the Committee's report.

#### **NEW APPLICANTS**

<u>Establishment's Name</u>	<u>Establishment's Address</u>	<u>Committee Recommendation</u>
Mamita's Restaurant LLC Restaurant Wine	40-43A Junction Blvd. Corona, NY 11368	Approved
Shangri La Express, Inc. On Premises Liquor	72-24 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY 11372	Approved

#### **RENEWAL APPLICANTS**

Eustaqio Cortez Cabanas Restaurant Wine	102-53 43 Avenue Corona, NY 11368	Denied Criminal Court Summonses Sale to Intox Sale Out of Class 2 Crim. Court Summonses – Sale to minor, Failure to check ID.
Jeab & Joy Inc. Dbasura Thai Kitchen Restaurant Wine	82-80 A Broadway Elmhurst, NY 11373	Approved

Mini Picanteria  
El Guayaquileno, Inc.  
Eating Place Beer

94-52A & 94-54 Corona Ave.  
Elmhurst, NY 11373

Approved

**RENEWAL APPLICANTS (cont'd)**

<u>Establishment's Name</u>	<u>Establishment's Address</u>	<u>Committee Recommendation</u>
Queens Center Apple, LLC Dba Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar On Premises Liquor	90-15 Queens Blvd., Space #1001 (Queens Center Mall) Corona, NY 11368	Approved
Stareast Glory, Inc. dba Sushi Island Restaurant Wine	87-18 Queens Blvd. Elmhurst, NY	Approved

Next, Committee Chair Lucy Schilero also complimented the CERT team for their efforts during the storm of 9/16/10.

Stand by volunteers were on hand to assist with traffic and take an evaluation of Community Board 4. Those efforts were also recognized by OEM.

Mr. Tom McKenzie made a motion, seconded by Mr. James Lisa, to **accept** the Committee's report as presented. By a voice vote, the Board voted 29 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Unanimous. Motion passed.

**X. CONSUMER AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**Vote:** Gaming Café Blue Sky Inc. d/b/a Broadway Computer  
40-34 75<sup>th</sup> Street  
Elmhurst, NY 11373

Committee Chair Helen Landaverde met with the owner of Broadway Computer, who was in the audience, and reported it is a very nice, organized, and clean establishment. It is an internet café where computer or video games are played on the computer. For patrons under the age of 18, a supervisor is on hand to keep order and manage the establishment. Controls are in place for using the web to ensure nothing gets too violent. The Committee Chair asked for Board approval on the permit.

Ms. Lucy Schilero made a motion, seconded by Ms. Priscilla Carrow, to **approve** the application. By a voice vote, the Board voted 29 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Unanimous. Motion passed.

**XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

***ULURP & Zoning***

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

***Environmental***

Committee Chair Tom McKenzie reported the recent rain storm was not too serious, unlike the previous one; the ground was able to absorb the water. He checked a few sewers on Queens Boulevard in low lying areas and although they did overflow, within half an hour the water receded. In his own cellar, he did not get any water. The last bad storm, he did get water in his basement. He checked with other people in the area, who reported no water buildup, which could be attributed to sewer/catch basin cleaning.

Secondly, if you live in Elmhurst, south of Broadway and north of Grand Avenue, the recycling day will change from Saturday to Wednesday. The section by the old Kollsman Plant will stay the same. Mr. McKenzie



reviewed the changes and locations in the Elmhurst area. Mr. McKenzie noted the day change goes into effect October 18, 2010. Affected residents will receive notification.

Third, Committee Chair McKenzie reported when buildings are demolished, the Health Department should bait it. However, this is not being done and rats and mice are at large in the community. More details were provided. He urged everyone if they see a rat to call 311 immediately. He cited the demolitions listed in the Board's Newsletter and to watch out for rats in those areas. If you see a demolished building, you can assume the rats came from that building.

Ms. Claudia Filomena, from the Mayor's Office, added on rat locations give them to the Board office who will forward them to the Mayor's Office. They will follow up with the Health Department. Specific locations are always welcomed as well as lot clean ups.

### *Parks*

Committee Chair Tony Caminiti gave a construction update on the progress of Elmhurst Park. The park is under construction and the playground has been partially installed; sprinkler shower and construction of park house continues. As of the now, the construction project is approximately three months behind schedule. Expected completion date is before the end of the year.

Second, **Corona Heights Italian Day** will be celebrated at William F. Moore Park on Sunday, October 17, 2010 between 12:00 Noon to 10:00 p.m. Enjoy the sounds of DJ Bella, Anthony Pariano, Johnny Avino and much more. Food – Raffle Prizes – Clown – Face Painting. Fun for the whole family! All were invited to attend.

### *Youth*

Committee Chair Clara Salas reported the Youth Committee met Tuesday, September 21 at Elmhurst Hospital Center. A representative from Transform America gave a presentation on its NYC Initiative to Start New Youth Councils in All NYC Community Boards. Minutes of this Committee meeting are on file at the Board office if you wish further information.

Next, Committee Chair Clara Salas reported on a NYC Department of Education, Division of Portfolio Planning, meeting scheduled for tonight (October 5) at 7:30 p.m. at P. S 58 to discuss the creation of a new Queens High School.

Subsequently, Committee Chair Salas reported on the UFT's Parent Education Conference scheduled for Saturday, November 20, 2010, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Sheraton LaGuardia East Hotel. A variety of parent workshops will be provided. Call 718-275-4400 for more information. Continental breakfast and lunch will be served.

Mrs. Judy D'Andrea added a progress report can be accessed online where each school is rated from an A to D, which also gives you all the statistics about schools. Log on to schools @nyc.gov. P. S. 28 received an A and also received the highest score out of all the early childhood centers in the City.

### *Health*

Committee Chair Priscilla Carrow reported the Committee did not meet. She reminded all October 17 kicks off *Making Strides Against Breast Cancer* at Borough Hall. Please support the cause.

### *Postal*

No report. Committee Chair not present.

Before adjournment, the Board discussed possibly holding its Community Board monthly meetings at the Elks Lodge, 82-20 Queens Blvd. Chairperson Moreno explained the room at the Elks Lodge is not available on the

first Tuesday of the month because the Lodge holds its meetings on the first Tuesday of month. Moving the meeting day was brought up.

Moreover, Chairperson Anthony Moreno said the Board would like to hold its meetings at various locations throughout the Community Board so other people can be invited.

Discussion ensued. Chairperson Moreno explained parking is available, is more convenient and equipment for power point presentations is also on hand at the Elks Lodge.

Mr. Tom McKenzie made a motion, seconded by Ms. Lucy Schilero that the Executive Committee meet to discuss the possible moving of the day and location of Board meetings. More discussion followed about transportation issues to the Elks Lodge.

Both Ms Lucy Schilero and Mr. Gurdip Narula suggested alternating locations.

A member of the Rock Church located on Queens Blvd. also offered the Church to the Board to hold its meetings.

At this point, the Board voted on the motion on the floor. By a voice vote, the Board voted 29 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Unanimous. Motion passed.

## **XII. PUBLIC FORUM**

Mr. Alirio Orduna informed the Board that the United States Army posted a beautiful article and photos on its website. Log on to [www.mdw.army.mil](http://www.mdw.army.mil). to see it.

There being no further business, Mrs. Judy D'Andrea made a motion, seconded by Ms. Priscilla Carrow, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.