



COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, Elmhurst and Newtown

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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

COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE: TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2011

TIME: 8:20 P.M.

**PLACE: VFW Post #150
51-11 108 Street
Corona, New York**

I. Chairperson Anthony Moreno opened the meeting at 8:20 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 April 12, 2011 Meeting

Mr. Tom McKenzie made a motion, seconded by Mr. Alirio Orduna, to put a hold on the minutes until a complete set can be done.

Mr. McKenzie also said he would provide the Board office with the information needed to complete the minutes. See addendum to April 12 CB4Q minutes provided by Mr. McKenzie.

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

V. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

No report.

VI. REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

The District Manager reported a speed bump was requested on 41st Avenue from 104th Street to 108th Street within the proximity of P. S. 16. The Department of Transportation approved the request. Installation will take place when resources are available.

VII. REPORT OF THE LEGISLATORS

Ms. Yoselin Genao, representing Council Member Julissa Ferreras, spoke about the district's severe overcrowdings in schools, including the Mayor's budget cuts affecting our community. It was also

recommended by Chairperson Moreno Council Member Ferreras take a look at the SCA plans and coordinates with Board member James Lisa in reviewing all the sites mentioned.

Next, Mr. Tom McKenzie mentioned he will be contacting Council Member Daniel Dromm's office because this is the first time the City is charging a fee for an assembly permit (\$400)--\$935 for the Memorial League. If the veterans want to meet, they must have an assembly permit and now must also pay the City of New York. Mr. McKenzie reported on additional expenses incurred by the veterans' organization.

VIII. NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Vote: 2nd Vice Chairperson Replacement

Committee Chairperson Mrs. Patricia Terranova reported on April 19 the Committee met. Members of the Committee included Nick Pennachio, Laraine Donohue, Joseph DiMartino and Mrs. Terranova. Mr. Diego Freire was excused due to illness. Also present were Chairperson Moreno and District Manager Italiano who did not participate in the discussion.

First Nominee: Robert Rothschild. Nomination accepted by Mr. Rothschild.

Second Nominee: James Lisa. Nomination accepted by Mr. Lisa.

At this point, Mrs. Terranova asked for nominations from the floor.

Subsequently, Mr. Lisa said as a nominee for that position he would like to defer his nomination to Mrs. Terranova for Second Vice Chairperson. Mr. Louis Walker seconded the nomination.

At this time, Chairperson Moreno asked if there were any other nominations from the floor. Ms. Clara Salas nominated Mr. George Onuorah for Second Vice Chairperson. Mr. Onuorah declined the nomination.

Since there were no other nominations, Chairperson Moreno closed the floor.

Next, Nominations ballots were handed out to the Board members to cast their vote. Print and sign your name at the end of the ballot said Chairperson Moreno.

As a result of the Board vote, the new Second Vice Chairperson is Mrs. Patricia Terranova: total vote count: 18. Mr. James Lisa: 1 vote. Mr. Robert Rothschild: 13 votes. Mr. George Onuorah: 1 vote.

The District Manager brought up now the slot for Director At Large, formerly filled by Mrs. Patricia Terranova, is vacant and must be filled.

As a result a new nominating Committee must be formed. Chairperson Moreno asked for nominations from the floor for the new Nominating Committee. Mr. George Onuorah nominated Mr. Diego Friere, seconded by Mr. Alirio Orduno. Ms. Priscilla Carrow nominated Ms. Clara Salas, seconded by Mrs. Miriam Levenson. Ms. Roseann Geiger, nominated Mr. Joseph DiMartino, seconded by Mr. James Lisa.

As noted in the bylaws, Chairperson Moreno selected Mr. Al Perna and Ms. Beth Ann Moon Ray Ferguson to serve on the Nominating Committee.

IX. ULURP & ZONING COMMITTEE

VOTE: BSA CAL #118-95 BZ (White Castle Restaurant)

Committee Chair Miriam Levenson reported the Committee met on the above BSA application and had no objection to extending the variance. She cited that White Castle is a good neighbor and responsive to community concerns.

Subsequently, Mrs. Levenson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Priscilla Carrow, to **approve** the variance.

Since there was no discussion, the Board took its vote.

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

Following the vote, ULURP Committee Chair Miriam Levenson gave a report on the St. John's Queens Hospital property. An architect for the property informed the Committee the first two floors will be parking and retail and also a supermarket is planned, including two floors of professional and a community facility. Mixed use building including 74 residential units and short term rentals with a penthouse. A bridge across from the main building to parking across Hoffman Drive is also planned.

The Committee brought up to the architect the poor upkeep of the property. No vote was taken as these plans are in the preliminary stages.

X. TRANSPORTATION

A. SAPO Permits

1. St. Mary's Fall Festival
2. One Way
3. Rath Yatra

Committee Chair Joseph DiMartino reported on the following requests for street permits:

1. St. Mary's Fall Festival

Date: Saturday, September 17, 2011

Location: 74th Street between Woodside Avenue and 43rd Avenue

Time: Setup: 8:00 a.m. Start: 11:00 a.m.

Breakdown 10:00 a.m. End: 8:00 p.m.

Estimated Attendance: 400

Chairperson DiMartino added the permit was granted to the church every year. The Committee checked with the Police Department and no problems were reported. The Committee approved the permit.

2. One Way

Date: Saturday, June 18, 2011

Location: Corona Plaza National Street and 104th Street

Time: Setup 10:00 a.m. Start: 1:00 p.m.

Breakdown 6:00 p.m. End: 4:00 p.m.

Estimated Attendance: 5,000+

The Committee Chair reported 5,000 people in that location was a great deal. The Committee opposed the permit.

3. Rath Yatra

Date: Saturday, July 10, 2011

Location: 44th Avenue between Junction Boulevard and 94th Street

Time: Start: 4:00 p.m. End 7:00 p.m.

Breakdown: 8:00 p.m. Setup: 12:00 a.m.

Estimated Attendance: 250

The Committee Chair reported this organization had requested a permit every year with the no problems. The Committee approved the permit.

4. NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission
Renewal: NY Saeta Car Service #B01738
102-54 43rd Avenue
Corona, NY 11368

The Committee Chair reported the Committee approved the base renewal.

5. DOT Department of Transportation
New Commuter Van Service

Applicant: QQ Van Service, Inc.
32-27 Leavitt Street
Flushing, NY 11354

Proposed Number of Vans: 15
Proposed Days/Hours of Operation: Mon-Sun/15 Hours Daily

The Committee Chair reported the Committee opposed the application for the following reasons:

1. The route is from Flushing to Chinatown. New York City has ample public transportation and urges commuters to utilize mass transit.
2. The streets in and around the To and From areas described in the application are overcrowded with vehicles, the traffic is constant and the vans will only worsen a severe traffic situation.
3. The 15 vans will have a negative impact on our environment, adding pollutants to the air as well as the extra use of fuel.
4. The vans, at times, stop in the middle of traffic to pick-up and drop-off passengers. This is a traffic safety issue which poses a threat to passengers, drivers, as well as pedestrians in the area.
5. Children are not accepted on the vans.

Mr. Tom McKenzie made a motion, seconded by Ms. Laraine Donohue, 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.

XI. YOUTH & EDUCATION

Vote: 1,100 Seat Primary School, 98-16 43rd Avenue

Committee Chair Clara Salas reported the Youth Committee met at Elmhurst Hospital Center on April 28. Because there was no quorum, a vote was not taken. Six members were absent. Ms. Monica Gutierrez, Queens Liaison, School Construction Authority/Project Support, presented the report.

Ms. Clara Salas made a motion that a motion come from the floor either in favor or against the proposed site for the construction of PS 315. The Committee Chair clarified this is for the site only, not the school building. Ms. Salas continued this is based on the fact of the safety concerns of the students, parents, and the Police and

FDNY employees. In addition the Fire and Police Departments constantly use 43 Avenue and the streets of this neighborhood are extremely congested already and nearby Junction Blvd. and Roosevelt Avenue.

Ms. Beth Anna Moon Ray Ferguson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ann Darby, to deny the site selection of the location of PS 315Q based on the concerns of safety to the children, parents, Police and FDNY employees.

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

XII. PUBLIC SAFETY

VOTE: SLA APPLICATIONS

Committee Chair Lucy Schilero reported the Committee met on May 9 to review the following applications:

NEW APPLICANTS

<u>ESTABLISHMENT'S NAME</u>	<u>ESTABLISHMENT'S ADDRESS</u>	<u>COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION</u>
Elmhurst Grocery, Inc. Restaurant Wine	86-16 Queens Blvd. Elmhurst, NY 11373	Approved
International Playground Inc. On Premises Liquor	71-30 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY 11372	Approved
Los Dos Potrillos Rest. Bar Corp. Dbas Los Potrillos Rest. Restaurant Wine	40-20 Junction Blvd. Corona, NY 11368	Denied. Two arrests. Sale to minors. Drugs. Judgment on establishment.
Tacos Y Jugos Genesis, Corp. Beer Only	78-04 Woodside Ave. Elmhurst, NY 11373	Approved
Taiwanese Gourmet Corp. Restaurant Wine	84-02 Broadway Elmhurst, NY 11373	Approved

RENEWAL APPLICANTS

<u>ESTABLISHMENT'S NAME</u>	<u>ESTABLISHMENT'S ADDRESS</u>	<u>COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION</u>
El Caramelo Coffee Shop Restaurant Wine	99-27 43 Avenue Corona, NY 11368	Denied. History of complaints Misdemeanors, Disorderly conduct. Numerous noise complaints.
El Cisne Restaurant Corp. On Premises Liquor	40-21 108 Street Corona, NY 11368	Denied. Current/past history of complaints. Felony assault. Weapon arrest. Disorderly conduct. Sale after hours. Misdemeanors. Warehousing alcohol In 2010. Unlicensed security guards.
Mexport International Corp. Dbas El Tenampa Rest. Restaurant Wine	96-14 Roosevelt Avenue Corona, NY 11368	Approved
Midang Corp.	75-14 Broadway	Approved

Restaurant Wine

Elmhurst, NY 11373

ESTABLISHMENT'S NAME ESTABLISHMENT'S ADDRESS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Nuevo Tacos Al Suadero	97-22 Roosevelt Avenue	Denied. 2/2011 Disorderly conduct.
Eating Place Beer	Corona, NY 11368	2010 Aggravated harassment
Tacos Mexico, Corp.	41-10 102 Street	Approved
Restaurant Wine	Corona, NY 11368	
Thai Son Queens, Inc.	40-10 74 Street	Approved
Restaurant Wine	Elmhurst, NY 11373	

ALTERATION

ESTABLISHMENT'S NAME ESTABLISHMENT'S ADDRESS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

WB 44 th Ave. Rest. Corp.	102-01 44 th Avenue	Waiting for C of O alterations to be Cleared by the Dept. of Buildings before issuing decision On establishment's liquor license.
On Premises Liquor	Corona, NY 11368	

RECONSIDERATION

ESTABLISHMENT'S NAME ESTABLISHMENT'S ADDRESS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Heroico Paysandu, Inc.	89-08 Queens Blvd.	Approved
Restaurant/Wine	Elmhurst, NY 11373	

Ms. Lucy Schilero made a motion, seconded by Mr. Alirio Orduna, 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.

At this point, Chairperson Moreno stressed the importance of the work done by the Public Safety Committee because it is important to carefully weigh decisions which affect the livelihood of owners of bars and restaurants since many times an altercation in the establishment is not the responsibility of the owner.

XIII. CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Vote: Global Entertainment Group

Vote: Bluebird Restaurant Lounge/Exotic's

Committee Chair George Onuorah reported on the Global Entertainment Group. Mr. Onuorah reported he did not visit the site because he was out of town when the notice was mailed. It was too short notice.

Subsequently, Mr. Tom McKenzie reported on an observation he made whereby ropes were up and everyone sits at a table then before you know it the table is out on the sidewalk and everyone is sitting on cars with a glass in hand.

Regarding Bluebird Restaurant/Exotic's the application should be approved said Mr. Onuorah. He had visited this site and said they are a good neighbor and should be given a chance.

Next, Mr. Robert Rothschild said the Board cannot approve granting a liquor license to this establishment until everything is done correctly by the owner.

“You can’t OK a liquor license, if he does not have the C of O and the proper documents,” said Mr. Rothschild.

Discussion ensued about the hours of operation and the absence of a C of O.

As a result, it was noted this establishment also needs more information and will be discussed again at the next Consumer Affairs Committee meeting before it is presented to the Board

More discussion ensued.

Committee Chair Onuorah said the decision should be based on merit. This individual had been here before. How long should this be postponed said Mr. Onuorah.

Mr. James Lisa made a motion, seconded by Ms. Priscilla Carrow, to **table** the application until the owner presents the Board with all proper documentation.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 32 in favor, 0 opposed, with 1 abstention. Motion passed.

At this point, Mr. Diego Freire requested a roll call vote then immediately withdrew his request.

Subsequently, Chairperson Moreno reported much work went into the Town Hall meeting Community Board 4 hosted at the Queens Center Mall. Council Members Julissa Ferreras, Daniel Dromm, and Francisco Moya were present. The Chairperson of the Consumer Affairs Committee of the NYC Council Daniel Garodnick was also in attendance. He expressed disappointment that only four members of Community Board 4 had attended. One night a month is not the full obligation of a Board member in terms of servicing the community added Chairperson Moreno.

XIII. PRESENTATION

1. Con Edison - Smart Grid and Energy Efficiency -- Al Harris

Mr. Harris reported on improvements and upgrades to the system. The Department of Energy had set aside \$4.1 billion for Smart Grid stimulus funding. Con Edison was awarded \$185 million for Smart Grid projects in its service area and was the largest recipient of those awards.

Those upgrades will improve reliability, increase systems efficiency, reduce power systems costs, and reduce peak demand also accommodating clean power. Presently in Flushing, 409 megawatts is used during peak demand which services 120,000 customers. Smart Grid equipment installation will allow splitting this large network into three sections, including reducing the demand on one part of the system and avoid network shutdown and improving reliability.

Also, Smart Grid equipment will allow Con Edison to monitor its equipment better. If there is an outage, when the call comes in Con Edison will know service is out. Smart Grid equipment helps to monitor feeder cables allowing Con Edison to know right away of a situation and sometimes be able to fix remotely whatever the situation is rather than spending longer times to correct the problem.

Smart Grid will also allow customers to monitor their own equipment via internet. There is also a test project in Long Island City of Smart Grid equipment. Feeder cables going through Flushing Meadows-Corona Park will be installed. Con Edison had already spoken to the Parks Commissioner plus organizations located in the Park (such as Queens Zoo, Queens Museum etc.) to notify them of the planned work. The work needs to be completed by December, 2012, which is a requirement to get the stimulus funding. Elected officials and other

Community Boards in the area were also contacted. This work will be done late fall and end in the winter to avoid interference with traffic or any activities during the warmer months when people utilize the Park.

Mr. Harris also reported work is being done to upgrade or maintain to meet the demand.

Next, Mr. Harris spoke about the Con Edison's Energy Efficiency Program. The Company has a Green Team, which is a department to help administer the Energy Efficiency Program.

Presently, there are rebates for a refrigerator. Details were given. Rebates up to \$1,000 are also given for installing eligible energy efficient heating and air-conditioning equipment. Furthermore, rebates for Energy Star window air conditioners are given. Log on to Con Edison's website www.conEd.com/greenteam for more details.

For homeowners low cost energy surveys are available. Free programmable thermostats to central air conditioning systems can also be obtained.

Free recycling of old, inefficient refrigerators and air conditioners and rebates up to \$3,000 for converting from oil to natural gas heating systems are given by Con Edison.

For small businesses, free upgrades such as CFLs and water heater thermostats will help make businesses more efficient. Mr. Harris gave an example of a business customer who received a total value of \$3,600 in upgrades. The Green Team covered \$2,524 of the cost. The cost to the customer was \$1,076. Her estimated monthly savings is \$215 over five months.

For more information, call 1-877-870-6118. or see the flyer on hand or log on to Con Edison's website.

2. Project Speak Out – Jerin Arifa

Ms. Arifa reported Project Speak Out is a new initiative in which four Asian-American domestic violence agencies in NYC are working on a project to reduce and prevent domestic violence in NY's Asian American communities. 40% to 60% of human trafficking victims are Asian.

The staff collectively speaks over 12 languages and dialects. Comprehensive services for crime victims throughout New York are also given. Neighborhood offices are based in Queens such as Elmhurst as well as Brooklyn and Manhattan.

A range of culturally appropriate and language accessible services is offered for victims of domestic violence and human trafficking including shelters, counseling, advocacy and translation and interpretation and entitlement assistance and more. She mentioned the organization's children's program. Outreach education programs are also a part of the organization.

Ms. Arifa reported domestic violence is an epidemic and provided statistics that in less than two months twelve women were murdered in New York City and those were just the ones reported.

Project Speak Out is important not only for the services it offers, but also its main focus is to prevent domestic violence from happening at all. Project Speak Out is also about volunteers. Instead of going out into the community to try to talk to community members to reduce and prevent domestic violence, volunteers will be recruited. Each agency will recruit at least 50 volunteers who will go out into their own communities and try to change community attitudes. Examples of how to achieve this were given.

Volunteers are needed and you do not need to speak an Asian language to volunteer.

XV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parks

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

However, the District Manager reported he had toured Elmhurst Park with the Parks Manager and the Park is beautiful. While he was there, children were playing in the playground and having a good time. Unfortunately, the Mayor was scheduled to be in attendance but had to cancel at the last minute. No word on when he will be back.

Postal

No Report.

Environmental

Committee Chair Tom McKenzie reported on the Long Island Railroad. More trees were cut, but what about the water under the bridge that freezes in the winter?

Mr. McKenzie also reported on the cable wires left all over the street by the cable companies. Anything hanging down they clipped and left it in the street. Seeing this looks like we live in a second grade neighborhood and demeans the neighborhood, said Mr. McKenzie. Since three cable companies service this area, they should hire private companies and go down the streets and clean up the mess they are making. Cable companies do make money here.

Health

Committee Chair Priscilla Carrow reported the Committee did not meet.

XVI. PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Eric Howard of the Queens Library Lefrak City branch extended an invitation to come to the library's Community Unity Book Club on Thursday, May 12, to talk about Roger Sanjek's book, "The Future Of Us All". Mr. Howard also mentioned the severe cutbacks the Library is facing. The Library is an engine for recovery in this tough economy because it teaches people job search skills, resume writing, and other career changes. He urged all to support the Library system.

At this point, the District Manager announced the next Community Board 4 meeting will be on the first Tuesday, June 7, at the VFW Post #150 because the swearing in ceremony for new and reappointed members is on June 14, the second Tuesday.

Before adjourning, the owner of BlueBird Restaurant Lounge/Exotic's said a letter from the Board is needed to get his license because he has a meeting with the SLA on May 25.

There being no further business, Ms. Priscilla Carrow made a motion, seconded by Mr. James Lisa, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.