



## COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, Elmhurst and Newtown

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

Corona, New York 11368-2882

Telephone: 718-760-3141 Fax: 718-760-5971

e-mail: cb4q@nyc.rr.com

**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 11, 2011

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

PLACE: ELKS LODGE #878  
82-20 QUEENS BOULEVARD  
ELMHURST, NY 11373

I. Chairperson Anthony Moreno opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

At this point, Mr. Barry Grodenchik, Deputy Borough President/Director of Community Boards, gave a brief summary on Community Boards. He noted both Borough President Helen Marshall and former Borough President Claire Shulman started in the PTA movement and also served as Community Board members. Mr. Grodenchik stated the Boards in Queens are the best in the City of New York, and his job is to see they are operating well with a minimum of interference and a maximum of cordiality since all members serve as volunteers. He noted Queens Borough President Helen Marshall was a 15 year member of Community Board 3.

Community Boards meet ten times a year without including Committee, civic, co-op, and religious organization meetings. The service performed to the community is greatly appreciated. Moreover, the work done by the Board members helps not only to make the communities of Community Board 4 a better place but also improves quality of life for all communities in New York City to live, work, raise a family and do business.

Queens County is the most diverse in America, and people come from all over the world.

At this point, Mr. Grodenchik presented ten year service awards. Tonight's recipients were:

1. Honoree Gigi Salvador (not present)
2. Honoree James Lisa, who was personally presented with his award.

Additionally, on behalf of Queens Borough President Helen Marshall, Chairperson Anthony Moreno was presented with a 20-year service award. Photographs were taken to commemorate the presentation.

After the awards were given out, the Chairperson called for the next agenda item.

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

**III.** District Manager Richard Italiano took the attendance. A quorum was **not** present. Since a quorum was not attained, the September 13 CB minutes could not be voted on. Instead, the Chairperson moved to the Reports segment with the expectation a quorum made as the meeting progressed.

**IV. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON**

Chairperson Anthony Moreno reported activities in and around Community Board 4 are presented in the Board's Newsletters and Minutes. In particular, Chairperson Moreno paid a tribute to the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and its members who participated on September 24 at Target's Department Store, Queens Place. Thanks were given for representing CB 4 and the time spent.

At this point, a quorum was present and the vote on the minutes of September 13, 2011 was taken.

Ms. Lucy Schilero made a motion, seconded by Ms. Laraine Donohue, to **accept** the minutes.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 26 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

**V. REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER**

District Manager Richard Italiano reported on Saturday, November 5, at 12 Noon, a street renaming is planned for 104 Street and Corona Avenue (Alberti Way). Details will follow in the Board's Newsletter.

Next, at 103-52 52 Avenue a run-down house was inspected by the Dept. of Buildings. He expressed optimism the property would be improved.

Next, the ULURP & Zoning meeting scheduled for September 21 was rescheduled due to a prior commitment by the District Manager. The new meeting date is October 19.

**VI. REPORT OF THE LEGISLATORS**

Ms. Christina Long, representing Council Member Julissa Ferreras, presented upcoming events:

On October 30 a street re-naming will be held at 1:30 p.m. in honor of Francisco Munoz, who was a 9/11 victim, at 111 Street and Roosevelt Avenue.

On October 18, Council Member Ferreras will hold a press conference to install 14 new litter baskets along Roosevelt Avenue Corridor on both the CB 3 and CB 4 side. It will be held at the major train stations i.e. Junction Blvd., 82 Street, 103 and 111 Streets. Using some of her discretionary funding, garbage pickup along those areas will be increased during the week and every Sunday as well.

In conjunction with Citizenship Now, every Thursday in the Council Member's Office, a lawyer will be present to help with citizenship matters.

On October 15, a citizenship drive will be held at Elmcour Youth & Adult Services, 107-20 Northern Blvd.

Next, the four point plan to combat Domestic Violence was brought up and highlighted.

Ms. Lucy Schilero brought up the Dept. of Sanitation does not pick up the baskets enough creating garbage overflow, plus people use litter baskets for household garbage.

Ms. Long responded in addition to increased baskets, more pickups will be made. Pickups will be made throughout the day and every Sunday.

Ms. Rovenia McGowan requested more information on Domestic Violence. Ms. McGowan will contact Ms. Long for more specifics.

Next, Carolyn Tran, representing Council Member Daniel Dromm, announced a very successful tenants' rights forum was held, and another one is planned for the upcoming months.

Since the heat season has begun, landlords are required to provide heat. The requirements were read to the Board. Flyers were on hand.

Next, Mr. Bruce Eiber, representing Council Member Karen Koslowitz, reported on the community's concerns regarding fees charged to veterans of foreign wars. It was brought back to Council Member Koslowitz and all are opposed to those surcharges. Research is being done but it looks like it is part of the entire budget, not just the veterans' halls. He will get a report to see if those charges can be eliminated in the next budget.

## **VII. PUBLIC SAFETY**

Committee Chair Lucy Schilero reported the Committee met on October 11. In attendance was Assembly Member Francisco Moya who listened in on the following locations:

### **NEW APPLICANTS**

#### **ESTABLISHMENT'S NAME ESTABLISHMENT'S ADDRESS COMMITTEE COMMENDATIONS**

LGL Internet Access, Inc. Restaurant Wine	83-02/83-02A Broadway Elmhurst, NY 11373	Applicant has to reapply. Upper & lower levels, but names are quite Different. Comm. to re-evaluate.
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### **RENEWAL APPLICANTS**

Byon & Kang, Inc. Eating Place Beer	40-09 77 <sup>th</sup> Street Elmhurst, NY	Approved.
Dom Music Box Dbaja Musical On Premises Liquor	40-08 74 <sup>th</sup> Street Elmhurst, NY	Denied. 6/16/11 Summons for disorderly conduct. 9/24/11 Assault 22 noise complaints.
El Sonador Café Rest. Inc. Restaurant Wine	93-14 Corona Avenue Elmhurst, NY	Denied. Sale to minor. After hours consumption Disorderly conduct. Poss. Of Marijuana 146 noise complaints.
Forest Hills Spa Restaurant Wine	59-21 Calloway Street Corona, NY	Approved.
Gato Verde Sports Bar Corp. On Premises Liquor	82-14 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Denied. 2 Felonious assaults patron. Removed to hospital 2 ABC violations.

**ESTABLISHMENT'S NAME ESTABLISHMENT'S ADDRESS COMMITTEECOMMENDATIONS**

**RENEWAL APPLICANTS (cont'd)**

La Troca Bar Rest. Corp. Restaurant Wine	43-24 91 Place Elmhurst, NY	Denied. 2 summons for agency violations. After hours consumption. 1/8/11 4 summonses for agency viol. 6 noise complaints. Unlic. Security Guard.
Mitad Del Mundo Bar Restaurant Corp. On Premises Liquor	104-10 Roosevelt Avenue Corona, NY	Denied. 4 assault arrests. Sale to minor.
Soneros Bar Rest. On Premises Liquor	92-02 Corona Ave. Elmhurst, NY	Approved.
Wa Wa San Inc. Db a Penang Restaurant Wine	82-84 Broadway Elmhurst, NY	Approved
WW 44 <sup>th</sup> Ave. Rest. Db a Divine Rest. Bar Restaurant On Premises Liquor	102-01 44 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Corona, NY	Denied 4 summonses for ABC viol. Unlic. Security Guard and sale of alcohol. Numerous noise comp.

Committee Chair Schilero also reported on the CERT team's appearance at Target's in recognition of its good work and the team was also at St. Leo's Fair on Friday, October 7.

Ms. Laraine Donohue made a motion, seconded by Mr. Alirio Orduna, to **accept** the Committee's report as presented.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 26 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

**VII. PRESENTATIONS**

**Make The Road NY**

**Overcrowding In Our Public Schools**

Ms. Cynthia Cortes, Community Organizer, was accompanied by several members of the campaign. Reports were distributed to the Board.

Ms. Cortes reported on overcrowded schools in Queens, which are the most overcrowded in NYC. According to the report, 63% of high schools are overcrowded. In CSD 24, 10 out of the 16 high schools are overcrowded. In CSD 30, 5 out of 8 high schools are overcrowded.

64% of elementary and middle schools are overcrowded. In CSD 24, 25 out of 35 elementary and middle schools are overcrowded. In CSD 30, 20 out of 35 elementary and middle schools are overcrowded. As of April 2010, over 800 children from Queens were on kindergarten waiting lists.

In the 2008/2009 school year there were over 26,000 students in CSD 24 alone that attended overcrowded schools.

The solution is to build more schools, a transparent capacity calculation, include parents & students in assessing utilization rates, address overcrowding in the Capital Plan.

Recommendations by Make the Road New York to the DOE (page 8) of the report were presented to the Board.

Next, a parent described her experience with the overcrowded school system.

Speaking in Spanish, her statement was translated in English to the Board by Ms. Cortes. The following is her statement:

Living in Corona, she has a son attending IS 61 and a daughter at P. S. 16 and is concerned about conditions in PS 16 and other overcrowded schools in our area children are being sent to other parts of the district. In particular, at PS 16 there is no room for the fifth grade class.

At IS 61, it should be receiving the art and dance programs. However, those two additional resources do not exist now. The room is now regular classroom space. Individual classrooms as well as the hall are so overcrowded. This impacts learning because students cannot receive the individual attention needed from teachers.

More discussion ensued about the overcrowded schools.

At this point, Chairperson Moreno asked, besides support, what the organization expected from the Board. Furthermore, he explained Board 4 is well aware of the overcrowded schools because teachers do serve on the Board. Since the situation is understood already, what you ask of the Board next, he inquired.

Ms. Cortes stated the purpose is to endorse the Queens Schools campaign so that the organization can continue to exert pressure on the Dept. of Education, and for the School Construction Authority to move forward to alleviate the overcrowding in schools. An endorsement form was available at the meeting.

Next, Ms. Roseann Geiger stated New York State had received many budget cuts, including the loss of teachers. Having more space is important but losing good teachers and not funding programs is also a great concern.

Ms. Cortes responded the organization is reaching out to the teachers union and a meeting is planned within the next week. The union has also reached out to the group. Petitions to the Governor and the Mayor have been sent protesting those cuts.

Furthermore, a meeting was held with the Chancellor who stated there is money in the budget to build schools. Identifying locations to present is essential.

Next, Mrs. Judy D'Andrea gave a breakdown, citing specific schools, of conditions in overcrowded schools in the area and how suggestions are completely disregarded. Sites for schools were submitted and ignored. This is an urgent issue which needs to be brought to the attention of the local community. Mrs. D'Andrea urged the legislative representatives in attendance to bring back this concern to the elected officials. Where are the parent councils that the Chancellor and Mayor applaud? Why aren't they speaking out on these issues?

Ms. Cortes replied it is important to locate where these parent councils are held and what is their role. They do have some weight with the construction of schools. We need to identify the leaders in the Council for Districts 24 and 30.

Next, Mr. Lisa said our community has suffered for over 30 years with school overcrowdings. The School Construction Authority has turned deaf ears on our community. They have not accepted locations that we had

given them for schools. Locations selected by the SCA that are unsuitable for children. The people, children, elected officials, community leaders are not consulted about potential school sites. Moreover, Mr. Lisa had personally submitted to SCA a minimum of 30 suitable locations over the years, to no avail.

It was first proposed that each borough had its own Chancellor and each borough takes care of its own problems. Right now, complaints about the DOE are worse than ever. Our present Chancellor is uncaring. The Administration does not care about the children, the minority, or District 24. Mr. Lisa has been fighting this issue for many years. As a District Leader, he has championed the cause for years; The SCA still has not taken over the Verizon property.

Another problem is that our area has been overwhelmed with new buildings. As a direct result, a new population is brought to the community doubling schools enrollment. DOE has done nothing for this area. However, other areas are accommodated by the DOE.

Subsequently, Chairperson Moreno stated to Ms. Cortes after listening to the testimony by the Board members, we are well behind your cause. The Board is acutely aware of the need and Mr. Lisa has worked tirelessly on this matter with no results. We are here to support this vital and much needed cause.

## **VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### ***Parks***

Since the Committee Chair was not in attendance, Chairperson Anthony Moreno made a report on Elmhurst Park. He reported Elmhurst Park is a wonderful park and if you do not use it, you are missing an incredible experience, especially for younger children. The Park features playgrounds, sprinkler system, and children can roll down the hills. Everyone was urged to utilize and enjoy the Park.

### ***Health***

Committee Chair Priscilla Carrow reported the Committee did not meet. All were invited to attend the Breast Cancer Walk at Flushing Meadows-Corona Park on Sunday, October 15.

At this point, Assembly Member Francisco Moya addressed the Board. He represents districts Corona, Elmhurst and Jackson Heights.

Assembly Member provided the following update on events in the 39<sup>th</sup> Assembly district.

Since he took office in January, three Bills were passed, noting two were signed into law by the Governor. One Bill deals with prostitution. Senator Jose Peralta had carried the Bills in the Senate. Basically, lawmakers have expanded the way the law is written to deal with prostitution.

In particular, on the Corona side, along Roosevelt Avenue, establishments were distributing cards with pictures of naked men and women listing a phone number. A patron calls the number listed on the card, and those men and women are delivered to a particular location. As a result of the legislation, more than ten cards distributed at any given location is now considered a misdemeanor,

Together with legislation, prevention is essential at street level. These issues are equally important to our community and we will fight not only at the local but also at the legislative levels as well.

Assembly Member Moya also serves on the Energy Committee, which passed a Bill to move New York State into using cleaner energy. Signed by the Governor two weeks ago, it is the first of its kind. Details on this Bill were provided.

Locally, Assembly Member Moya spoke to quality of life issues which affect our community. Mainly, illegal cabarets and the bars that open for business throughout our community are the problem. Assembly Member Moya had met with Mr. Michael Jones, State Liquor Authority, and the Chair of the State Liquor Authority and invited them to visit the district. The crux of the problem is there a cluster of these bars opening in one block radius. The 500' rule not applies because only certain establishments have a full liquor license. The other businesses are operating with a beer and wine license. Tinted windows and operating at night are the norm. More details followed.

Assembly Member Moya also reported his to opposition to a certain nightclub looking to operate in Corona. More details were provided. The community cannot be taken advantage of by those individuals. We must stand united and send a clear message to those establishments.

Assembly Member Moya has a zero tolerance for business owners who operate their businesses illegally and do not care for the community. He applauds the work of the Community Board because it is the last line of defense. Simultaneously, he commended Public Safety Committee Chair Lucy Schilero for the outstanding work she and the committee perform.

Assembly Member Moya had requested the State Liquor join him in conducting a study investigating why those bars are opening in certain clusters. Questions need to be answered and a moratorium placed on the issuance of new liquor licenses for those establishments.

Before concluding, Assembly Member Moya commented on the letters he had written to the district's State Senator and Council Members requesting the rejection of Club Divine's renewal. Those letters were sent to the Chairman of the State Liquor Authority, the Chair of the Dept. of Consumer Affairs, and Mayor Bloomberg. This is a serious matter for all concerned.

At this point, the Board members asked questions about various topics.

Following the question and answer session, Chairperson Moreno resumed Committee Reports.

***Transportation***

Committee Chair Joseph DiMartino did not present a report.

***ULURP & Zoning***

Committee Chair Miriam Levenson reported the Committee did not meet; however, a meeting is planned for October 19. One of the items on the agenda is an update of the Pi Building at 85-15 Queens Boulevard.

***Environmental***

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

***Consumer Affairs***

Consumer Affairs Committee Chair George Onuorah reported the Committee met on Wednesday, October 5, at the Silver Spoon Diner. Invited guest speaker was Mr. Jim Galloway, President of LeFrak City Merchant Association. He provided the genesis of the association which dated back to 1989. According to Mr. Galloway, LMA advocates for merchants rights within the LeFrak City vicinity.

A survey was conducted on consumer issues residents consider more pressing around the Board district. Main concerns indicated: Insufficient sale price information, consumer overcharge at checkouts counter, stacking in stores affecting egress, food expiration checks, senior discounts of 10% not posted (discounts apply on Mondays and Wednesdays), poor lighting around the parking lot across from JC Penny, and out of town trucks

parking at the parking lot opposite JC Penny. Some concerns were raised about a group of youths being nuisances at the stores.

This month a forum will be held on October 31, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. Community Board 4 is invited to the Library for a panel discussion to bridge the information gap and bring government closer to the people.

Discussion ensued on Western Beef moving to 99<sup>th</sup> Street, citing recent changes to that area.

### ***Youth***

Committee Chair Clara Salas reported:

- The UFT will hold the Annual Queens Parent Education Conference on Saturday, November 5, 2011
- At the Sheraton LaGuardia East Hotel, 135-20 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Flushing, NY
- 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- To register, call Rose Walker-Yates, UFT, 718-275-4400
  
- Committee Chair Salas had attended the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Law Day of the Latino Justice PRLDEF on October 8, 2011
- At the New York Law School, NYC
- To find out about LSAT and other information related to Law School entrance and student loan scholarship and grants, please go to the Latino Justice PRLDEF website.

Flyers were distributed on both events.

### ***Postal***

It was announced the communities of Flushing and Elmhurst had hired two new Postmasters.

## **IX. PUBLIC FORUM**

No Speakers.

There being no further business, Ms. Laraine Donohue made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Judy D'Andrea, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.