



## COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, Elmhurst, and Newtown

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**Helen Marshall**  
Borough President

**Louis Walker**  
Chairperson

**Barry Grodenchik**  
Director of Community Boards

**Christian Cassagnol**  
District Manager

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## COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2012

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

PLACE: VFW POST #150  
51-11 108 STREET  
CORONA, NY

- I. Chairperson Louis Walker opened the meeting at 7:10 p.m.
- II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.
- III. District Manager Christian Cassagnol took the roll call. At this point, Chairperson Walker announced there is one person short of a quorum. However, the meeting will proceed.

Clara Salas reported only one tape recorder was operational at this meeting, instead of two recorders normally recording.

While on the subject of attendance, Chairperson Walker announced there are members of the Board who have not attended meetings for several months. Attend the monthly meetings he cautioned, or the Chair will request the Borough President remove those members. Board members not attending present a problem to the functioning of the Board. If there are 50 members appointed, it is necessary that half of those members plus one attend meetings in order to attain a quorum and conduct Board business. The Borough President must decide whether or not the Board attains a quorum at its monthly meetings. Because of this on-going problem, the Board had requested some time ago that the Borough President review the attendance of Board 4 members so that the Board can fulfill its charter mandated duties. Subject matter cannot be voted on without a quorum.

At this point in the meeting, a quorum was still not attained.

### III. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson Louis Walker reported on the Board office's internal operating budget. For FY 2013, Community Boards are slated for a budget cut of \$11,172 and for FY 2014 the Boards are slated for a \$15,658 budget reduction. He expressed optimism that the Community Boards will be spared and the budget cuts will not occur. But if the cut is implemented, serious changes must be made.

This report given also included the Treasurer's Report.

Next, Chairperson Walker reported on the devastation caused by Hurricane Sandy to members of our community. 110 Police Precinct Commander D. I. Ronald Leyson lost his home. Yoselin Genaro, Chief of Staff to Council Member Julissa Ferreras suffered heavy damage, and Board Member Carmela George incurred property damage and losses in the Rockaways.

At this point, District Manager Cassagnol announced a quorum was present.

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

District Manager Christian Cassagnol reported on the hiring process for Community Assistant. This new hire was needed to take over his former duties. The final selection process, which Chairperson Walker is included in, will be tomorrow evening at the Board office. The first phase of the interviewing process was done solely by the District Manager. Come January, 2013 internships will be implemented at the Board office for the first time. Interns will be selected from quality schools, which come highly recommended and specializes in governmental agencies.

District Manager Cassagnol briefly updated the Board on recently purchased computers for the Board office. This was a badly needed purchase since past computers were a decade old.

District Manager Cassagnol reported on the devastation of Hurricane Sandy, especially in hard hit areas such as the Rockaways, which he had personally visited to help out with debris cleanup. He pointed out that seeing the devastation first hand is worse than seeing the photographs on television. He plans to start a drive whether it is for supplies or clothing etc. to help those displaced residents. Donations can be dropped off at the Board office and he will personally deliver supplies to the Rockaways. A flyer will be forthcoming with details.

It was also noted the Board's new e-mail address is qns4@cb.nyc.gov.

#### **V. VOTE: MINUTES OF OCTOBER 9, 2012**

Ms. Priscilla Carrow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Alirio Orduna, to accept the minutes of the October 9, 2012 meeting.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 28 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

Before proceeding to the next agenda item, Board Member Tony Moreno said he thought this month's meeting would be held at Elmhurst Hospital. Chairperson Walker responded the Board could not hold a meeting at the Hospital until February 2013 because of availability. The meeting site must meet certain criteria such as space, availability, and acoustics.

#### **VI. DISTRICT NEEDS FY 2014 CAPITAL AND EXPENSE REPORTS FY 2014**

For this agenda item, Chairperson Walker explained a motion is needed. Mr. Nick Pennachio made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Miriam Levenson to accept the 2014 District Needs Statement.

By a roll call vote, the Board voted to accept the 2014 District Needs Statement, and the 2014 Capital and Expense Budgets.

The vote was 27 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

Mr. Nick Pennachio brought up the Mayor's initiative to plant 1,000,000 new trees. These trees are not necessary. We need to take care of the old trees which are falling on us. \$3.2 million was spent on Elmhurst Park for a toilet, one urinal and two commodes. The entire borough of Queens could have trees pruned for that amount of money. It's ridiculous! He recounted the numerous problems he had with trees and tree branches over the past twenty years. He recounted personal situations he had with trees. More needs to be done about the tree situation.

## **VII. CONSUMER AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**Vote: Gaming Cafe (Ju Da Inc.)**

**83-31 Broadway**

**Elmhurst, NY 11373**

Committee Chairperson George Onuorah reported he met with An Lin, Manager, on November 7. He was shown the establishment. This location is on Broadway by Dongan Avenue. Patrons 18 years and older can use any of the 24 computer terminals already set up to surf the web, check e-mails, fax and visit You Tube.

Hours of Operation: 12 Noon to 9:00 p.m. Seven days a week. Patrons can also purchase soda or water.

Chairperson Onuorah had extended an invitation to their representative to attend tonight's Board meeting.

Mr. Nick Pennachio inquired why it is necessary for this type of business to come before the Board. District Manager Cassagnol replied the Board receives a form from the Dept. of Consumer Affairs asking for our recommendation for the Gaming Café. No liquor will be served. Since many gaming cafes operate after hours, many people in the community see them as a sore spot, added the District Manager. The District Manager said he would inquire as to why this is different from any other business opening up.

Ms. Nancy King Wang noted it is important children do not play games during school time.

Discussion ensued.

Ms. Laraine Donohue noted with all available through the internet, why is it necessary to have places such as internet cafes. District Manager Cassagnol replied not every student has internet available to them.

Ms. Laraine Donohue made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tony Moreno, to **accept** the application for a gaming café for Ju Da Inc.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 27 in favor, 1 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

## **VIII. REPORT OF THE LEGISLATORS**

Ms. Ari Espinal, representing Assembly Member Francisco Moya, reported the Assembly Member was re-elected to represent the district. She also reported on the devastation at the Rockaways. Board Member Patricia Terranova, the Corona Lions, and Board Member Al Perna were thanked for their help and support in aiding the people of the Rockaways after Super storm Sandy.

Congratulations were extended to Mr. Cassagnol on his appointment as District Manager.

Subsequently, Ms. Espinal reported on *Shred Your Files Day* on November 17, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., at 108 Street and 51 Avenue (In front of William F. Moore Park).

Next, Ms. Emely Paez, representing Senator Jose Peralta, reported the Senator, along with the Unity Team,

(which included Assembly Member Francisco Moya, Assembly Member Michael DenDekker, Council Member Julissa Ferreras, and Council Member Daniel Dromm were able to send two trucks filled with non-perishable goods, blankets and water to the Rockaways. Different sites throughout the district were designated as drop off centers to make it easy for people to donate items. For new collections, she highly recommended to call first to see if the items are truly needed because too much clothing had been sent and were being removed from the centers as opposed to gathering items which may not be needed at the specific time. FEMA information is also available at the Senator's office for those in need of assistance.

Congratulations were also extended to Mr. Cassagnol on his appointment as District Manager.

Next, Ms. Carolyn Tran, representing Council Member Daniel Dromm, reported our district was not hit hard by Super storm Sandy with the exception of some down trees.

Ms. Tran announced the Annual Open House Holiday Party on December 14, mentioning the Annual Coat Drive.

She urged all to attend.

Next, Ms. Christina Long, representing Council Member Julissa Ferreras' office, reported flyers from the New York Legal Assistance Group were available for help with finding shelter, food and other basic needs, and legal issues related to the storm. Mobile vans will be designated throughout the city and the legal staff of more than 100 professionals, assisted by over 800 volunteers, is setting up legal access points throughout the areas most affected by the storm. These include community based organizations, courts, hospitals and other agencies that have existing intake sites and long-standing partnerships. Visit [nylag.org/StormHelp](http://nylag.org/StormHelp) for updates on locations.

Additionally, several volunteer and donation efforts for Hurricane Sandy were coordinated through the Queens Delegation and the Unity Team. A trip to the Rockaways to help with repairs and whatever else is needed is planned for Tuesday, November 20. A volunteer sign-up sheet was available after the meeting. See Christina to sign up.

Next, P. O. David Saponieri from the 110<sup>th</sup> Precinct reported D. I. Leyson lost his house in the Rockaways. Police have been deployed to the Rockaways to assist in recovery efforts.

**IX. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
VOTE: SLA APPLICATIONS**

Since Committee Chair Lucy Schilero was not in attendance, District Manager Cassagnol gave the Committee's report. The Public Safety Committee met on Monday, November 5, at the Board office. In attendance: Lucy Schilero, Ann Melchiorre, Alirio Orduna and District Manager Cassagnol.

**LIQUOR LICENSES**  
**November 2012**

**NEW APPLICANTS**

<b><u>ESTABLISH. NAME</u></b>	<b><u>ESTABLISH. ADDRESS</u></b>	<b><u>COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION</u></b>
80-12 51 Avenue Rest., Inc. "Arena Queens, NY" Liquor, Wine and Beer	80-12 51 Avenue Elmhurst, NY	Approve

**ESTABLISH. NAME                      ESTABLISH. ADDRESS                      COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**  
**(CONTINUED)**

Rancho Tipico Corp. Wine and Beer Only	98-53 Corona Avenue Corona, NY	Denied. History of problems. Unlicensed premise. Illegal Bottle Club. Submitted for Closure.
Pico De Gallo Wine and Beer Only.	82-12 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Denied. Asked to be dismissed. Do have all documents.
Las Dos Comadres Rest. Beer Only	40-42 Junction Blvd. Corona, NY	Approved
Cucino Amodo Mio Corp. Liquor, Wine and Beer	41-01 108 Street Corona, NY	Approved
Escorpion Catering, Inc. Liquor, Wine and Beer	108-45 Corona Avenue Corona, NY	Denied. Illegal Bottle Club. History of problems. Unlicensed Sale of Liquor. Failure to display C of O. Locked doors. Exit Doors do not lead to street.
Mamita's Restaurant, LLC. Liquor, Wine and Beer	40-43 Junction Blvd. Corona, NY	Approve

**RENEWAL APPLICANTS**

**ESTABLISH. NAME                      ESTABLISH. ADDRESS                      COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

II Triangolo Restaurant Wine and Beer Only	96-01 Corona Avenue Corona, NY	Approved
Sweet Yummy House, Inc. Wine and Beer Only	83-13 Broadway Elmhurst, NY	Approved
Coco south Malaysian Cuisine, Inc. Wine and Beer Only	82-69 Broadway Elmhurst, NY	Approved
Cositas Ricas Ecuatorianas Wine and Beer Only	86-10 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Denied. No Cert. of Occupancy Assaults. Numerous Noise Complaints.
America's Rest. Of Corona. Wine and Beer Only	103-10 Roosevelt Avenue Corona, NY	Approved
China Pearl Seafood Rest. Wine and Beer Only	82-22 45 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Elmhurst, NY	Approved

**RENEWAL APPLICANTS**

<u>ESTABLISH. NAME</u>	<u>ESTABLISH. ADDRESS</u>	<u>COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION</u>
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Ping's Gourmet, Inc. Wine and Beer Only	83-02 Queens Boulevard Elmhurst, NY	Approved
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The Hurricane Sandy Team was stationed at Newtown High School and PS 19 Shelters from Friday, October 26 to Friday, November 2, 2012. CERT CB4Q still on Stand By for logistics and other Shelter sites in the Rockaways.

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

By a voice vote, the Board voted 28 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

**X. PRESENTATIONS:**

**Maj. Stephen C. Lynch, Reserve Force Officer**  
**"Selective Service System"**

Mr. Lynch is an Army Reserve Officer with the Selective Service System. His job is to train and recruit eligible community members (Queens) to serve on local Selective Service Draft Boards in the event of a draft. These Boards would adjudicate claims for deferment or exemptions to military service. He is looking for a few volunteers to serve on the Local Draft Board. Those citizens would be making significant judgments about each registrant's claim for deferment or exemption from military service.

Time commitment is minimal. It is a one day training event. Once a year there is annual update training. Update training is given at the Jamaica Armory or can be done online. Requirements are: 18 years of age, you cannot currently be employed in law enforcement, or cannot be retired military (20 years). It is a critical job. In the event of draft, people that are civic minded are needed to make decisions on deferment for young men.

Applications were on hand. He added it is a presidential appointment. If interested, see Mr. Lynch at the back of the room.

Before concluding, Mr. Lynch stated he is seeking four to five board members in zip codes: 11373, 11377, 11355, 11368, and 11369.

Young men between the ages of 18 to 26 must sign up for the selective service system no matter what the hardship Mr. Lynch reported. Some of those young men may not be able to serve and request s deferment from military duty. As active Board members, you must make the decision about serving.

**Al Harris, Public Affairs Specialist, Con Ed**  
**"Con Ed's Energy Efficiency Program"**

Guest Speaker not in attendance.

**Hilary Gietz, Borough Planner, DOT “PARKSmart”  
(Jackson Heights Transportation Study)**

Queens Borough DOT Commissioner Maura McCarthy reported on the devastation in the Rockaways and stated people there are very much in need and are very appreciative of the volunteer efforts by others to help them.

The Park Smart program is in both Community Boards 3 and Board 4. Changes were made in direction of streets and bus routes were considered. Commercial loading zones were considered. Last year both Boards voted unanimously for the study. The goal is to increase the number of available metered parking spaces by encouraging motorists to park no longer than necessary in the district, mentioning the area around Elmhurst Hospital.

With DOT’s phone system not operable because of Hurricane Sandy, the workload is somewhat backlogged. Since the agency’s headquarters in lower Manhattan were flooded, however, the backup system is operational. Many crews are working with other agencies such as DEP and Sanitation on tree removal.

With the aid of a power point presentation, Mr. David Stein, Director of Community Initiative, explained His group oversees the Jackson Heights Transportation Study, which was a 2 ½ year collaboration in Community Boards 3 and 4. DOT looked at communities in identifying issues with transportation, curb management, safety. Last fall, installation of treatments were implemented, which included safety improvements along Roosevelt Avenue—a public plaza was created. Intersections along Broadway, Roosevelt Avenue and 73—a whole range of improvements that were implemented. A large part of this study was to improve curb management in Jackson Heights, which is a very vibrant commercial area. Throughout the area, there are many people doing business and traveling. DOT looked at adjusting parking management such as improving turnover and managing the curb more effectively.

Mr. Nathan Gray reported the transportation study began in 2009 to look at a series of issues: mobility, bus accidents, and safety. For two years community outreach was done which ultimately culminated in 2011 with the present recommendations defined by the community. Those recommendations were presented to Community Board 3 and 4 and were voted unanimously by both Boards in favor of the neighborhood transportation study, including Parks Smart.

The same sentiment was heard throughout the outreach: It is difficult to find a place to park, or I have to circle for a long time, consistent double parking, and delivery trucks to and from the curb. When the project was implemented in 2009, data was collected on where motorists were parking, how long they were parked, instances of double parking, and the difficulty in finding places to park. As a result, data was analyzed and the draft plan was devised, which was presented to the Community Boards, business and community groups and finding out the plan was devised reflected the needs of the community.

Last month, the plan was presented to Community Board 3 who voted to support the Park Smart pilot. As a pilot plan, it would be in place for about year, evaluated again, and brought to the Board again for a final vote.

Briefly, the plan involves extending the meter duration at selected locations (allowing a motorist to park for longer), extending the meter turn off times in certain places, and introducing two separate rates: a progressive rate where motorists can park for a longer amount of time in certain places, but will have to pay more to park longer, the value rate where you may park longer now you park for an hour but under the plan you can park for two hours and pay the same rate/25 cents gives you 15 minutes.

Areas studies in Community Board 4 are south Roosevelt Avenue on Broadway and 82 Street, Broadway between Roosevelt and Baxter Avenue, on 82 Street for approximately one block.

The proposed meter duration on Roosevelt Avenue is to extend the time from one hour to two hours between 74<sup>th</sup> Street and 82 Street. The portion on 74<sup>th</sup> Street is in Community Board 3. Presently, that area is one hour parking as it is a low occupancy. The proposal is to extend the parking time to two hours on Roosevelt Avenue. Since there are restaurants in the neighborhood, it would give patrons more time for dining and eating. At 74<sup>th</sup> Street, the time would be extended to 10:00 p.m. to enable more people to use the spots. As it is now, the parking ends at 7:00 p.m. Currently, people are coming in at 6:30 p.m., parking and not turning over. This plan would promote turnover and increase parking spaces.

The progressive rate would be implemented on 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue between and 74<sup>th</sup> Street and 82 Street, 74<sup>th</sup> Street for one block between Roosevelt Avenue and 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue and the length of 82 Street between 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Baxter Avenue, and Broadway, which is the portion in Community Board 4. In those areas, motorists can park longer but must pay more. More specifics were given on the progressive rate.

Also more spaces for the value rate would be provided. Meters on value rate streets will charge 50 cents for each additional 30 minutes after the first hours—the same rate as the first hour. If someone wanted to park for two hours, a progressive rate meter would cost \$4, while a value rate meter would cost half that. Unlike the progressive rate, the cost of 25 cents per 15 minute would be extended for the whole time period. A two-hour stay would cost \$2. More details on the rate structure were provided. Currently, drivers cannot park legally for more than one hour on Roosevelt Avenue or 74<sup>th</sup> Street. The Progressive rate allows longer parking for those who need it, but also encourages quick turnover. Value rate provides low cost two-hour parking options in lower demand areas.

During the course of the study, DOT found these techniques do work and they are successful in other parts of the city. However, support is needed from the Community Board to move forward with the project.

At this point, questions were taken from the Board. Mr. Pennachio brought up motorists would seek to park in streets without using the paid parking meters, citing parking around the Queens Center Mall area. In fact, it was found parking volume was down with this pilot program, replied Mr. Stein.

Discussion ensued.

DOT Queens Borough Commissioner McCarthy differentiated between a residential parking program and the Park Smart program. This particular program has been tried in three areas of the city: Park Slope, Brooklyn, Greenwich Village, and upper Manhattan. In Park Slope the program reduced double parking—an ongoing issue in Jackson Heights. More details were given on each area's success or failure. After one year if the Board does not like the Park Smart program, it would be removed, she added.

To save the city money, Ann Pfoser-Darby suggested underground and above ground parking instead.

DOT Borough Commissioner McCarthy asked for locations.

More questions were asked about parking fees and time limits on the new plan. Mr. Gurdip Narula commented the proposed parking fee was very expensive.

More discussion ensued about the duration, turnover, and the fees for the pilot program. The rates and the effects in Manhattan were mentioned. Board member asked about the similarities between the areas proposed in Board 4 and Manhattan.

For this neighborhood, it would be more price-conscious and motorists would move their cars. Based upon the land use, retail, and the data collected, most of the durations were under an hour, said Mr. Stein. More



explanations on the value rate along Roosevelt Avenue were given. He added as far as the study, it has improved traffic.

Evaluation measures include:

- Parking turnover
- Space availability
- Merchant feedback
- Resident feedback
- Motorist feedback

Mr. George Onuorah asked about the impact of taxis and private cabs. Mr. Stein replied it is a problem throughout the city and DOT is working with the Police on enforcement for illegal activity.

Mr. Alirio Orduna said Mayor Bloomberg wants to increase parking meter fees and school lunch fees, and now this plan is proposed. It is a rip-off for our community, said Mr. Orduna.

As far as the effectiveness of the program, Mr. Stein reported they had spoken to about 80 business owners, and elected officials for issues and concerns on this pilot plan and were willing to answer any questions. If there are issues, adjustments can be made.

At this point, Chairperson Louis Walker called for a motion on the Park Smart pilot program.

Mr. Tony Moreno made a motion, seconded Mr. Al Perna, to accept the program.

Chairperson Walker explained if the vote is yes, your vote to approve it. If your vote no, it is denied. He also added the plan is for a one year time period.

By a roll call vote, the Board voted 19 in favor, 9 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

Mr. Stein also reported when monitoring studies are done, information will be shared with the Community Board. Log on to DOT's website, [nyc.gov/dot](http://nyc.gov/dot) and type in Park Smart in the search engine for more extensive information on the entire project.

At this point, Chairperson Walker introduced Assembly Member Jeffrion Aubry. Assembly Member Aubry reported on the recent election and how we fulfilled our commitment as citizens. We continue to be the diverse community that we are and the diverse country we are. It is clear by the elections, different people are taking part in our democracy changing and shaping the way we rule ourselves and accepting the basic principles of democracy that were laid down so long ago.

He talked about going back to Albany and facing some very difficult challenges. None of which are more difficult than how to manage the costs of rebuilding in New York City, Queens, Brooklyn, and lower Manhattan, which will be an enormous task. It will be a monumental consideration as next year is approached. The issue of hydrofracking must be explored with all its issues involved. What are the safe parameters? Chemicals are used in this method of natural gas extraction and some of those chemicals are harmful and if any of these chemicals were to mingle with the water table, it is possible that people's drinking water could be affected.

Discussions on gambling in New York City will have to be resumed, whether to bring in the legitimate gambling, not the gambling we have in the casinos, but actual table games and where that gambling can take

place. This will be on the ballot after it passes the legislature two years in a row and will ultimately end up with the citizens making the decision, which will come on the ballot as a referendum to be voted on.

As we face another year of deficits, taxes will have to be determined and what that will be. Also, the fate of the New York Senate must be determined—whether it is Republican or Democrat. There are some elections still outstanding and absentee ballots must be counted. After that, individual members of the Senate must determine their position. Do they conference with the Republicans or Democrats? However that issue is resolved, it will determine what kind of programs will be pursued in the ensuing year.

We look to the Governor to continue to provide the leadership that he has in the ensuing years and accomplish a number of things and break the logjam in Albany.

Most of all, to see how we can provide relief to the city when major parts of the battle is to drive resources to the city to see that it is successful, which is still the economic engine of the state and provides major revenue to make the state run. This will be a priority. However the engine must be kept running. Many issues must be addressed, but it is because of the strength of the people and state and that we are New Yorkers to make it through the worst of times.

The devastation in the Rockaways and in the boroughs of Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island, Long Island and New Jersey was mentioned. A thank you was extended to all the volunteers who assisted. Those heroic efforts are what make our city and state so great. We do what is needed to help others.

Lastly, Assembly Member Aubry spoke about his time spent as a Community Board Member and stated Community Boards are the heart of what holds the city together. A centralized government took away power from the Community Boards. However, the trend should be now to restore more power to Community Boards. No one knows the communities better than Community Board members. It's your voice that makes it real. There should be a process in place to re-empower and reinvest in Community Boards. Community Boards know how the neighborhoods should be run.

Next, Ms. Sabine Bernards, Citizens Committee NYC "Love Your Block" Neighborhood Grants addressed the Board. Ms. Bernards reported it is a non-profit organization operating for about 40 years. Grants are awarded to neighborhood groups for community projects to improve, clean up, beautify, and improve their blocks. Their philosophy is neighborhoods and communities know their needs and communities best. Neighborhoods have the best ideas to work in their own communities, which they support.

The following three block grants were explained.

Love Your Block Grant award is a block beautification grant. Groups will be awarded grants of \$1,000 for beautification projects. In addition to funding, groups will receive support from city agencies as well as assistance from Citizens Committee for New York City. Examples were given as to what projects will be considered. A grant application workshop will be held on November 27 in Manhattan.

The second grant is a community grant which is a \$500 to \$3,000 for any kind of community organizing project such as community gardens, tenant organizing, tenant rights or working with youth, seniors and public safety issues. This includes any organization that is led by a group of volunteers or neighborhood residents.

The third grant is the hurricane relief grant. Those grants are up to \$5,000, which supports whatever the community needs after the storm. This grant supports communities going forward for the long term.

Decisions are made pretty quickly after receiving the applications. All grants are available to all groups. A group does not have to be a 513c or a non-profit. Just be part of a group who want to get together to do a project. The applications are fairly easy to fill out. You do not have to be a professional grant writer to complete one. Just tell them about the group and the project, and what you want to do.

Flyers were on the back table with more information.

Log on to the website [www.citizensnyc.org](http://www.citizensnyc.org) for more information.

Ms. Sabine reported funds cannot be given to an individual; it must be for a group effort.

Next, Mr. Claudio Zamparini, representing Corona Community Ambulance Corp., reported on the devastation Hurricane Sandy left on Queens, Brooklyn, and the Jersey shore. Corona Community Ambulance had given 1,000 hours of volunteer services. Tours went out Sunday night before the storm. Corona Community was out during the storm as well as after the storm, and assisted with the 911 mutual aid systems and helped evacuate NYU Langone Medical Center and Bellevue Hospital. Their Disaster relief efforts were explained, and they also assisted Peter Vallone with the distribution of much needed supplies to hurricane victims, overcoming obstacles caused by the gas shortage. Goods were distributed through the main distribution center. Five distribution centers were set up.

Help was also given through translation services to refugees of the storm. The difficulties encountered with deliveries were explained. An event was organized with local leaders to get groups of people who could not get out there to help clean up the area. A medical standby was also organized. Coordination efforts with other groups were also explained, representing not just the Corona Community Ambulance but the community of Corona.

Call the Corona Community Ambulance for assistance. A fund raiser is planned for January and all were urged to visit.

The Commander of the VFW Post 150 reported he received a call from Alaska where the Alaskan VFW Post was ready to send supplies to our hurricane victims.

Next, Assembly Member Francisco Moya thanked the first responders and community organizations for their assistance with relief efforts to the Rockaways.

He spoke about a piece of legislation in Albany that passed last year. Assembly Member Moya submitted legislation to hold utility companies accountable to present their emergency relief plans and make it public. In case of a natural disaster, utilities would have to show what their capabilities are. It passed overwhelming in the Assembly, but did not pass the Senate. Now, we are seeing how relevant this really is. What we need to do is, we as a public who are paying for services, have a clear understanding what they are prepared to do. Any time there would be an outage of 48 hours; they would have it report it. Utilities would have to train their staff on how to address these issues during natural disasters—which is currently not done.

Next, he urged everyone to attend the Shredding Event on Saturday, November 17, in front of William F. Moore Park (108 Street and 51 Avenue).

The For Sale cars parked all over the district was brought up. Assembly Member Moya reported a commitment was given by the NYPD to have NYPD flatbeds come twice a month to tow those cars. Call the Assembly Member's office with locations to help curb this problem.

## **XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### *Parks*

Committee Chair Al Perna reported to report any down trees. The Parks Department is working very hard to remove fallen trees. Mr. Nick Pennachio reported on the problems he had with 311 and the Parks Dept.

Mr. Al Perna replied he had visited complainants' homes inspecting the fallen trees and limbs and tried to get the Parks Dept. to remove the tree and debris and correct the problem, to no avail. We have not had any success with tree removal, he said. Mr. Perna suggested District Manager Cassagnol contact the Parks Department for help. It is an ongoing issue without success, and spoke about getting the runaround and no response to phone calls. Mr. Perna even visited the Parks Dept. office, but did not find anyone.

### *Health*

Committee Chair Priscilla Carrow reported the Health Committees of both Community Boards 4 and 5 held a joint meeting on the shortage of hospitals. Also, Elmhurst Hospital is having a hurricane relief campaign starting Thursday, November 14. Donations will be collected in order to address the pressing needs of hurricane victims. For more information on how to donate for Elmhurst Hospital Center's Hurricane relief Campaign, call 718-334-1259.

### *Youth*

Committee Chair Clara Salas reported 18 schools were closed in Far Rockaway, Broad Channel, and Arverne areas. Those school closures affect us because we are absorbing children from those areas. This also affects our housing stock, since more displaced people are moving into our area. We desperately need affordable housing to accommodate the influx of people. She stated she had not heard of any elected officials advocating for affordable housing in this area. She spoke about the shortage of schools in District 24. More details were provided about re-locating victims during past super storms, mentioning the reality of more storms to come because of the changes in the climate. Affordable housing is desperately needed, with the support of elected officials. Because of the unfortunate aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, the Queens UFT Parent Conference scheduled for Saturday, November 10, had been postponed until further notice.

### *Transportation*

Committee Chairperson reported about three traffic lights out and the Police Department was called for assistance.

### *Environmental*

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

### *ULURP & Zoning*

Committee Chair Miriam Levenson reported the Committee did not meet as there were no issues to discuss.

### *Postal*

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

## **XII. PUBLIC FORUM**

Ms. Marci Rosa, representing Public Health Solutions, reported the organization has been working for more than 50 years to prevent disease and improve community health. A neighborhood WIC Program located in Corona provides nutritious foods, nutrition education, and referrals to health and other social services to participants at no charge. WIC serves low income pregnant, postpartum and breastfeeding women, and infants and children up to age 5 who are at nutrition risk. WIC also offers:

Food vouchers  
Nutrition counseling  
Breastfeeding counseling  
Food preparation and recipes  
Physical fitness activities

Very needed resources will be brought to the community by Public Health Solutions (PHS). PHS is planning to apply to be a lead agency on an initiative to support community based programs to improve key maternal and infant health outcomes for the most vulnerable women and families in New York State. PHS will be hosting an initial meeting of community stakeholders and potential partners Friday, November 16, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m., at 103-24 Roosevelt Avenue, Corona, NY. There will be an ongoing needs assessment that will happen next year for the next five years. Please attend the meeting and help bring this much needed initiative to our community. More meetings will be held before the proposal is submitted on December 18. If funding is approved, the process will be continued for a long time.

It is also planned to reinstate a program in Far Rockaway, which was cut, to bring those services back. Applications and brochures on this initiative were on the back table.

Next, Board Member Patricia Terranova reported on the dedicated efforts and hard work given by many of our Community groups such as the Corona Lions who helped the residents of Far Rockaway, adding the families of our community needs help too. As much as we are helping the storm victims in Far Rockaway, we must remember there is need here too. Food pantries are here too, and they need help also. Members of the Board are not only CB 4 members and Lions members, but they are also humanitarians. A Special Thank You was extended to Al Perna and his crew who worked very hard to help hurricane victims in whatever way possible to salvage their belongings and do whatever was necessary to assist.

When Al alerted Pat Terranova supplies were needed in the Rockaways and the other areas hit hard by Hurricane Sandy, phone calls were made to enlist donations. As a result when the numerous donations came in, the Corona Lions sifted through them, sorted them, labeled them, and had them picked up. So many people helped out, such as the 110 Precinct Council that picked up another 20 to 30 boxes. There were over 100 bags of supplies delivered to the Rockaways.

Next Thursday morning members will cook 25 turkeys, which will be donated to Broad Channel, and delivered to those families in need so they can have a Thanksgiving dinner.

We thank all and applaud all who worked through the many challenges encountered, but it is equally important to remember our home community too. There are many residents living in Corona and Elmhurst who are encountering difficult times and are in desperate need of our help.

Coats are being collected for distribution to our fellow neighbors who urgently need them in our communities. Donations, which include canned foods, are appreciated and can be dropped at the Queens County Saving Bank.

Next, Mr. Alirio Orduna reported on the cadets and the help they gave in serving meals and collecting clothing in the Rockaways. He reported on the events he attended. Turkeys are needed to help out the community. More details were provided. Before concluding, Mr. Orduna stated, the cadets are here ready to help but also are in need of assistance.

There being no further business, Ms. Laraine Donohue made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tony Moreno, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.