



## 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, FEBRUARY 12, 2013

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

PLACE: ELMHURST HOSPITAL CENTER  
79-01 BROADWAY  
A122- AUDITORIUM  
ELMHURST, NY

- I. First Vice Chairperson Patricia Terranova opened the meeting at 7:34 p.m.
- II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.
- III. The District Manager took the attendance. 24 Board Members were in attendance. 24 Board Members were absent.  
A quorum was not *NOT* present. One Board Member was needed for a quorum.
- IV. **REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON**  
No Report. Chairperson Louis Walker was out of town.
- V. **REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER**  
District Manager Cassagnol urged the Board Members to return their appointment applications. The deadline was January 31. Extra copies were on hand, if needed.

Board Member Judy D' Andrea suggested to Catherine Moore that applications should be mailed out with stamped, self-addressed envelopes.

Mrs. Moore responded this same suggestion was made by many people. Unfortunately, due to budgetary constraints, it is not feasible.

Board Member Judy D’Andrea further inquired if a self-addressed envelope was possible.

Mrs. Moore said she would bring the suggestion back to the office.

District Manager Cassagnol read the names of those Board Members who have not yet submitted their applications:

Lucy Cerezo-Scully  
James Lisa  
Tom McKenzie  
Edgar Moya  
Pat Rosero  
Gigi Salvador  
Nancy King Wang  
Robert Rothschild  
Victoria Lee  
Alirio Orduna (In the Mail)

Next, from the Borough President’s Office, District Manager Cassagnol read the following Board Members who have had excessive absences. From the letter they received notifying them of those absences, at the bottom, is a section to *Please Explain Your Excessive Absences*.

The following names and the number of absences were read to the Board:

Ann Coyne	(4 absences)
Diego Freire	(9 absences)
Helen Landaverde	(5 absences)
Myrna Littlewort	(4 absences)
Tom McKenzie	(4 absences)
Gurdip Singh Narula	(4 absences)
A. Redd Sevilla	(4 absences)
Lucy Cerezo-Scully	(4 absences)
Peter Vekiarelis	(5 absences)

Next, District Manager Cassagnol announced correspondence was received from Maura McCarthy, DOT, Queens Borough Commissioner, that in the vicinity of PS 16Q a determination was made that 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue between 104<sup>th</sup> Street and 108<sup>th</sup> Street is feasible for the installation of a Speed Bump. The installation will take place when resources become available.

A correction was made to the agenda by the District Manager. Agenda item #8 B. Seth Taylor is the Director of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Street Partnership; however, DOT will make the presentation instead. Another change to the agenda was also announced. Council Member

Peter Vallone Jr. will not be in attendance; however, a member of his staff will make the presentation.

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

Ms. Ari Espinal, representing Assembly Member Francisco Moya's office, reported on February 23 coats will be given away. Free, new coats will be given away in conjunction with Health Plus. Please join them at St. Bart's Church, Ithaca Street, Elmhurst, NY, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. All welcome.

Next, Dominican Heritage Celebration will be held February 28, at P. S. 19, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Come and join them.

Next, Ms. Emely Paez, representing Senator Jose Peralta's office, reported on free tax preparation. Clients must meet a certain criteria. Flyers were on the front desk.

Senator Peralta will be hosting a celebration on Black History and Heritage. The keynote speaker is Mr. Carl McCall, Chairman of the State University of New York Board of Trustees. The event will be held Thursday, February 28, from 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., at Langston Hughes Library, 100-01 Northern Boulevard, Corona, NY. Flyers were available. The honorees are also noted on the flyer.

Celebrating Dominican Heritage & Culture on February 28, with Assembly Member Francisco Moya and Council Member Julissa Ferreras, all were invited to attend at P. S. 19 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Next, Mr. Don Capalbi, Community Liaison for Congress Woman Grace Meng gave the following contact information for the Congress Woman:

Go to [nymenggrace@mail.house.gov](mailto:nymenggrace@mail.house.gov) to send an e-mail. Temporarily, they are using Gary Ackerman's office in Bayside. Business cards were not yet available. Two district offices are planned—one in Flushing, the other in Forest Hills. The phone number for the District Office now is 718-423-2154, same as Gary Ackerman's office.

Next, Mr. Bruce Eiber, representing Council Member Karen Koslowitz, reported although the Council Member has a small portion of the Board, it is just as important as any other Council district, and Mr. Eiber is here to report community issues or agenda items back to the Council Member.

Next, Mr. Joel Trinidad Santos, representing Council Member Julissa Ferreras, reported the Council Member is also co-sponsoring with Food Bank of NY and City University of NY to offer free tax preparation. The information is the same as Ms. Emely Paez had previously stated.

A tax preparation day is scheduled for Saturday, February 23, at Transfiguration Church, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Flyers were on hand with more information.

Another event the Council Member Ferreras is working on with the office of Congressman Joseph Crowley is Black History Month. The event will take place Thursday, February 21,

from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Queens Theater in the Park, Flushing Meadows-Corona Park. RSVP's contact the Congressman's Office at 718-779-1400, with name, address, e-mail, and phone number to RSVP.

The Dominican Heritage Event was mentioned in collaboration with Senator Peralta, Assembly Member Moya, and Council Member Julissa Ferreras, 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m., at P. S. 19. For non-profits, applications are now being accepted for the Council Member's Discretionary Funding. The deadline is March 31. Applications are to be submitted before March 31.

Next, Mr. Sebastian Maguire, representing Council Member Daniel Dromm, announced the following:

The Lunar Celebration has been re-scheduled because of the snowstorm to: February 23, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. It will start at CC Moore Park and a community resource fair will be held at St. James Episcopal Church on Broadway. All were urged to attend. Bring your friends and family. It is a lot of fun!

Because of the recent outbreak of homicides, one had been reported in our district; the Council Member is speaking with community members and telling people to be very cautious. Exercise caution when meeting someone on line. Details about the homicide were given.

Regarding the budget for 2014, the Mayor is calling for 4.3% cuts across the board, which the Council Member opposes. There is really no revenue raising options on the table, therefore, to preserve services for our community; revenue raising options must be discussed i.e. raising taxes for those who can afford it.

Unfortunately, 20 firehouses across the city are on the chopping block, 700-800 teachers not replaced through attrition, 250 through layoffs.

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

Committee Chair Lucy Schilero reported the Committee met on Tuesday, February 5, 2013.

NYS LIQUOR AUTHORITY LICENSES

FEBRUARY 2013

NEW APPLICANTS

<u>ESTABLISHMENT NAME</u>	<u>ESTABLISHMENT ADDRESS</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
Yris Dela Cruz Wine and Beer Only	42-22 National Street Corona, NY	Denied. No show. Proof of address.

“Arcoyris Coffee Restaurant”		Address on door leads to an alley way, not a building.
Brisas Latinas Bar Rest. Inc. Wine and Beer Only	101-10 43 Avenue Corona, NY	Denied. No C of O Papers.
Boca Juniors Steakhouse,LLC Liquor, Wine & Beer	81-08 Queens Blvd. Elmhurst, NY	Approved
Sabor Latino Lounge, Inc. Liquor, Wine, and Beer	40-15 Warren Street Elmhurst, NY	Denied. 15 year history of problems and noise complaints. 3/11 2 SLA Summons Exit door Locked, obstructed view. Sabor Latino will rescind their Request for a Liquor License. They wish to prove to the Community they are changing their image to an upscale establishment.
P & N Pub Corp. Liquor, Wine & Beer	86-34 Broadway Elmhurst, NY	Approved

**RENEWAL APPLICANTS**

<u>ESTABLISHMENT NAME</u>	<u>ESTABLISHMENT ADDRESS</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
Emilio Heredia “Restaurant Emilio III” Liquor, Wine & Beer	42-18 Junction Blvd. Corona, NY	Approved
Don Francisco Rest. Inc. Wine and Beer Only	40-56 Junction Blvd. Corona, NY	Denied. No Show. No C of O Papers. 4/12/12 Compl. Of Assault
Baxter Fellows Corp. “El Tequilla” Liquor, Wine and Beer	82-16 Baxter Avenue Elmhurst, NY	Denied. No Show. No C of O. History of problems.
El Sardinero Inc. Liquor, Wine And Beer	75-18 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Approved
El Rincon Criollo Rest. Inc. Wine and Beer Only	40-09 Junction Blvd. Corona, NY	Approved

<u>ESTABLISHMENT NAME</u>	<u>ESTABLISHMENT ADDRESS</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
Cypriana Restaurant Inc. Liquor, Wine and Beer	79-00 Queens Blvd. Elmhurst, NY	Approved

**RECONSIDERATIONS**

<u>ESTABLISHMENT NAME</u>	<u>ESTABLISHMENT ADDRESS</u>	<u>COMM. RECOMMENDATION</u>
La Morenita Ecuatoriana Rest. Corp. Wine and Beer Only	109-06 Corona Avenue Corona, NY	Approved

CERT CB4Q gave out Emergency Prepared Guides (Ready New York) at St. Leo’s Church Blood Drive on Sunday, January 20, 2013.

Next, Mr. Alirio Orduna made a motion, seconded by Ms. Georgina Oliver, to **accept** the Committee’s report as presented.

No vote was taken due to lack of a quorum.

At this point, First Vice Chair Patricia Terranova announced the order of the agenda items would be changed to give Board members more time to arrive. This was necessary in order to reach a quorum to vote on agenda items scheduled for this meeting.

**VIII. PRESENTATIONS**

A. Will Sweeney, Speaker  
Fairness Coalition of Queens  
“Protecting Flushing Meadows Corona Park”

Mr. Sweeney is the co-founder of the Jackson Heights Green Alliance. A group was started, “The Fairness Coalition of Queens, a collective of community groups that include Make the Road New York. This Coalition was formed to address three proposals that the Bloomberg Administration is advocating. The Fairness Coalition of Queens opposes the expansion because it would deeply harm, if not destroy, Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

The three proposed plans were presented:

- The first plan is to construct a 1.4 million square ft. mall in the Mets Parking Lot.
- The second plan is to put two new tennis stadiums, two new parking garages, a diesel fuel power plant, and a new road, as part as the USTA expansion.
- The third plan is to build 35,000 seat soccer stadium and concert venue in the heart of the Park.

The goal of the Fairness Coalition of Queens is to save and protect the Park. With the aid of slides, he explained the proposals that are underway.

The Mets plan to build a shopping mall on top of their parking lot, and put two parking garages across the street on the south side of Roosevelt Avenue.

And, the other two plans include an expansion of the United States Tennis facilities within the park; and Major League Soccer's proposed 35,000 seat soccer stadium and concert venue in the heart of the Park.

The Fairness Coalition of Queens was formed with the following mission:

To protect and enhance park space

Ensure parkland is accessible to local residents

A fair share of balanced use of the Park

Community input to whatever happens with the Park

Support local workers

Sustain neighborhood, small businesses

Any development that is non-park-like is mitigated and the community burden those uses present are examined.

Members of the Fairness Coalition of Queens consist of community groups and residents from all across Queens. The flag ship organization of Queens it is growing every day. Representing tens of thousands of Queens's residents, all are deeply concerned about each one of those projects. Each proposal is flawed, but put together they are extremely detrimental to the Park.

Mr. Sweeney pointed out Flushing Meadows-Corona is a Park, not a developmental site. Major League Soccer has chosen a site that is fundamentally flawed for a soccer stadium. He mentioned the following key points:

A majority of the Park had already been lost to development. He showed an animation of the Park, explaining Flushing Meadows Corona Park is 980 acres. If the amenities in the Park are factored in such as the water, restricted areas, sports institutions, parking, cultural institutions, and roads it lessens the Park's usable space. If those projects are approved there would only be 258 acres of accessible green space in the Park. This is a massive strangling of green space to the Park. Western Queens and the surrounding areas near the Park have the least accessed open space in the entire city, and those proposals would devastate parkland.

As far as the parks' budgets are concerned, he cited the following statistics:

Flushing Meadows-Corona Park is not on equal resources as its peers—Central Park and Prospect Park. Central Park has a \$46 million budget for 843 acres and Prospect Park Alliance has a \$14 million budget for 585 acres. Flushing Meadows-Corona Park with 980 acres does not have its own separate fund and the City cannot produce a budget for it.

Last summer the Parks Administrator was arrested, and now deceased. He questioned who is held accountable for the fraud and the failure that happened to this Park. Mr. Sweeney brought

up who is held accountable for the Parks Department's failure to fund this Park properly and the fraud that was perpetrated against it.

Developments that are being proposed for this Park by the legislators and developers perceive the communities that use them as politically weak. People who use this Park and live around it are people of color and low income. You do not see any of these developments proposed for Central Park or Prospect Park.

Also, Corona and its surrounding areas have one of the highest rates of childhood obesity in the entire city. Open space and a recreation area will be lost as well as the ability for people to exercise.

Mr. Sweeney concluded these three private, powerful corporations want to come into our Park, and transform it away from being a public Park and community green space into being a corporate development.

The Mets make about \$265 million annually and received \$513 million in public subsidies; the USTA makes \$205 million annually and got about \$500 million in public subsidies; the Major League Soccer franchises make about \$200 million and under the proposal they would pay \$1 per year, no property taxes would be paid, and there is no sales taxes or revenue sharing with the City.

Since the Park is heavily used and a beautiful place, it needs to be protected said Mr. Sweeney.

Walking through each of the proposals and explaining why they are so flawed, Mr. Sweeney presented each one individually:

The first proposal is for the Mall. In 1961, the Mets signed a deal to bring a major league baseball franchise, which became the Mets, and received 80 acres of parkland. With the aid of slides, he presented a visual picture.

Under the Mets proposal, the largest mall in New York City would be built. Two massive parking garages would also be constructed to make up the parking that would be lost by the Mall construction. Currently, the largest Mall in New York City is the Queens Center Mall, which is 900,000 square feet. This proposed Mall is 150% larger than the Queens Center Mall. He described the problems incurred by the Queens Center Mall and further questioned the impact this mega mall would bring to the community such as:

- No infrastructure improvements to Roosevelt Avenue
- The #7 train is packed already. How packed will it be with more people riding it?
- Legal questions also arise whether it is possible to use parkland for a Mall.
- The Mets receive millions of dollars in public subsidies and do not pay rent or property taxes or
- Mortgage taxes.
- Impact of the Mall would mean more air pollution, more traffic congestion, more parking on neighborhood streets, and more overcrowding on our subways.



Moreover, Malls usually pay low wages for jobs that do not provide health care, and Malls are a direct threat to small businesses. Why build another mall while there are so many small businesses already contributing to the community that are struggling?

More details were provided about available retail space for big box retailers and mall spaces in a three mile radius and the vacancy problems incurred at other area Malls. Why are we bringing in another Mall, he questioned. There is no social value to another Mall, said Mr. Sweeney.

He further stated those proposals were presented as done deals. There was no community input and a failure to do community outreach. There will be no environmental impact statement on the Mall. The Fairness Coalition of Queens is pushing the Bloomberg administration to do one.

Next, he discussed the United States Tennis Association's (USTA) proposal, which consists of building two new tennis stadiums, two new parking garages, and new roads on parkland, more parking on grass, and a diesel fuel power plant. A further explanation and details were given to the Board.

The USTA has cars that park on grass, they have blocked for the last few years community soccer leagues from playing, although the soccer fields are over a mile away from the USTA site. When the USTA is in session, it dominates the Park that you cannot get in. There are significant traffic impacts on neighborhood streets. The USTA refuses to replace the Parkland. The Bloomberg Administration is also refusing to make them replace the parkland, saying the site is open to the public. More details were given.

Another problem is the tennis courts and the fees charged. Details were given.

Mr. Sweeney also stated although the USTA does philanthropy work, they do not give money anywhere near this community. The closest place is in Westchester. NYC issued \$300 million in city bonds to finance the USTA stadiums in 1993. In 2008, the USTA CEO received \$9 million in compensation and eight other executives made between \$700,000 to \$1 million in financial compensation. 85% of the revenue the USTA makes comes from Queens, but their headquarters is located in Westchester, which means the City of New York loses millions of dollars in tax revenues.

There is a Federal class action lawsuit against USTA for labor violations. USTA was sued because it had violated federal and state laws, according to an article in the *New York Times*.

USTA proposes to put a diesel fuel power plant in the middle of the Park. It would be eight mega-watts and 20 feet high. It would also have the impact of 100 diesel trucks in terms of pollution, according to USTA's proposal. Air quality in New York City is at its worst end of August, beginning September, which is when the USTA is in session. Taking into account people who suffer from asthma, this would only add to health problems.

Mr. Sweeney concluded this is a massive transformation of USTA's property and provided more information on the negative impacts of this development to the community, which included building stadiums, expanding retail spaces, constructing parking garages, relocate a road, increase 10,000 more people per day, destroying 400 trees, more parking of cars on grass (4600

cars parking on grass), removing a bike and jogging lane where people enter the Park, more flooding, and the USTA not paying for park space without any return benefit. Why we are giving away parkland with no information, he asked.

These three developments are in direct conflict with each other. For example, the USTA plans to improve the soccer fields but Major League Soccer plans to put a soccer stadium on top of. There are massive cumulative effects which have not been acknowledged and a reckless rush to approve those projects before the Mayor leaves office.

Next, he discussed the proposal for a 35,000 seat stadium and concert venue in the heart of the Park.

One of the biggest problems is it's the wrong location. The Park already has an existing sports area, where the Mets are, where tennis is and there is already a community family wing. USTA plans to construct a soccer stadium in the heart of the community wing of the Park, which will produce all kinds of conflicts.

The biggest problem with the site is parking. It would require building more parking lots and more roads on park land. Think of the conflict of use between people trying to use it as a Park and sports fans that have access to alcohol looking to have a good time.

In early versions of the Major League Soccer plan, it was openly discussed building a bus shuttle network and more roads inside the Park. This plan has been put on hold due to community opposition.

There already is an imbalance between sports institutions and community usage in the Park. How much land is needed to build there? Major League Soccer over the summer said they needed 6.5 acres. Then, it grew to 13 acres. When a plan was obtained, the stadium size is 9 acres, but the footprint is 29 acres.

The reason the footprint is 29 acres is because they are building on wetland. To build on wetland, an entire steel structure must be built and then put the stadium on top of it. The steel structure will be covered. There will be additional impact by replacing the soccer fields. An aerial photo of the Red Bull Soccer Stadium in New Jersey was presented as a composite. Major League Soccer will have to build up in the air. It could be how many stories high, but must be high enough because the wet table is so high.

Mr. Sweeney explained the environmental destruction that would be created by building here. Serious real questions arise when building on wetland, and gave details including flooding issues.

Mr. Sweeney brought up the construction timeline. Major League Soccer will take 15-18 months—nothing in New York City has been built that fast. Where is the replacement parkland? Where will they find 13 acres of open space in Queens?

Also unknown who is the owner, the team, and the players? If it is economically viable, why have the Red Bulls struggled in New Jersey?

Why can't Major League soccer find an alternative location? Why they must be in the Park, said Mr. Sweeney. Plenty of other sites have been identified to them.

He spoke about the public process needed for approval and commented there is plenty of time to stop these proposals.

In conclusion, Mr. Sweeney urged the Board members to vote no on the USTA application. Log on to the Coalition's website, [www.protectthepark.org](http://www.protectthepark.org) for further information.

Mr. A. Redd Sevilla asked for background information on his position. Mr. Sweeney responded he resides in Jackson Heights and is a filmmaker.

With two young children, he got involved in politics because there was not enough park space in Jackson Heights. Also, the park on 78<sup>th</sup> Street was woefully mismanaged. He became a key member of Council Member Daniel Dromm's campaign and became his Chief of Staff. Further background information was provided.

Before concluding Mr. Sweeney said since this is an election year, let's make this an issue. The more we make this an issue, the more we can change things.

Board Member Judy D'Andrea brought up USTA gave a presentation at a joint meeting of the Board's ULURP & Parks Committees on their expansion and none of this information was included in their discussion.

Mr. Bruce Eiber stated the following statement is strictly a fact finding one since he represents a public official. The USTA's contract allows the United States Tennis Association to operate the facility 30 days per year immediately prior to qualifying on the United States Open. They do need to lock the facility during the main rounds because people have to pay admission. They do have the right to exercise special events there, which was done once in 1986. Other than that, the remaining 11 months of the year USTA is strictly for the people of New York City to use as recreation. . Also mentioned were the indoor courts.

He mentioned the economic value for Queens, adding his office is making significant efforts to get the local community involved, and pointed out the tennis fans that come in to watch the U. S. Open would have to stay in hotels in Corona and the surrounding area.

As the discussion ensued, it was brought up this is not a public hearing.

However, Board Member Judy D'Andrea said as Board Members they have a right to know and questions should be answered.

More discussion ensued about parking and people taking mass transit instead of constructing parking lots.

The USTA presenter blamed it on the Police Department by reporting the Police Department tells people, once the overflow is filled up, to go into the Park, but that is not the case, said Board Member Judy D'Andrea.

Another concern Board Member Judy D’Andrea brought up is sometimes the Mets and the USTA games coincide, which brings on mass congestion. With the soccer stadium, representatives said would try not to schedule events at the same time, but that will not happen.

Board Member D’Andrea also brought up the fact that although jobs would be created for the three weeks, they are minimum wage geared for high school and college students—there are no high paying jobs for people in the community.

At this point, First Vice Chair Patricia Terranova introduced former Council Member and Assembly Member Melinda Katz who complimented Mr. Sweeney on his presentation. Melinda Katz said she had been in public service for 20 years and spoke about her accomplishments in the past such as serving as Chair of the City Council’s Land Use Committee for the last eight years which was responsible for approving rezoning measures in the city. During her tenure as Assembly Member she signed bills that became laws including crucial health care initiatives and mentioned the fight for hospitals to ensure they were not privatized throughout the city. Also, she served three years as Director of Community Boards at Borough Hall and commented on the vital role the Boards play in the decision making process. Community Boards are the first line of defense and she thanked the Board Members for their hard work.

Melinda Katz also announced her plans to run for Queens Borough President this year.

### **VIII. Presentations (cont’d)**

B. Melissa Cole, Operations Manager  
Central Queens Academy

Revote of street parking around vicinity of the school  
to include two parking spaces on Junction Boulevard.

Before the presentation was given, First Vice Chair Terranova explained at the last meeting a vote was taken about two parking spaces for their use on Junction Boulevard. However, the number of spaces they were requesting to use was four—two spaces on 56<sup>th</sup> Avenue and two spaces on Junction Boulevard.

Ms. Cole reported the Central Queens Charter School is a new school located on Junction Boulevard and 56<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Serving English language learners and their families with educational opportunities, the school is looking to recruit and enroll 100 new students next year.

Last month, she presented a request to the Board to extend the No Standing regulations on Junction Boulevard in order to accommodate key dismissal times, which are 4:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Currently, 100 students are enrolled. 30% ride buses, 50% attend after school programming. Junction Boulevard is a very busy and congested roadway with buses and parents picking up their children at dismissal times. She cited an accident where one child was struck by a car at a neighboring school a few months ago.

The Central Queens Academy is seeking to extend the parking regulations on 56<sup>th</sup> Avenue as well as Junction Boulevard asking for a total of four parking spaces, instead of two, which was reported at the January 8, 2013 CB meeting.

Since it is a middle school, they are seeking to enroll 100 students every single year until they are at full capacity, which is about 400 students. With 30% of the students currently riding buses, the school anticipates the projection will be the same next year and every single year until full capacity is reached. 400 students with 30% of that total riding buses, and about 50% dismissing after school. The projection is approximately 150 students in after school programs dismissing at 5:30 p.m.

Board Member Lucy Schilero inquired since the school is located on the corner and situated near two family homes, will the extra parking spaces requested affect their area and parking?

Ms. Cole responded the request is to extend the parking around the school. The school is located on the corner of Junction Boulevard and 56<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The request is to extend the current regulation. Presently, the regulation is No Standing 7 AM to 4 PM. The school is looking to extend the time from 7 AM to 6 PM, just for the four spaces where No Standing is currently in effect.

Secondly, Ms. Cole mentioned she has a list of community signatures as well as a letter with signatures from the neighbors supporting the request.

Board Member Priscilla Carrow asked if the request is for two parking spaces on Junction Blvd. and two spaces on 56<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Ms. Cole responded last month the Board voted to approve the school's request to extend the parking regulation on Junction Boulevard for two spaces. Ms. Cole is here tonight to ask to extend the parking regulation for two spaces on 56<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Board Member Georgina Oliver asked when the school was formerly the Montessori School there was no problem with parking or buses coming in to pick up students. Why are the spaces needed on Junction Blvd., she inquired.

Ms. Cole responded the Montessori School dismissed at an earlier time, probably 2 p.m. or 3 p.m. She was unclear about the dismissal time at the former school.

Ms. Cole continued the spaces are needed since their 400 students, school buses, and automatically at 4:00 p.m. many cars park in those four spaces. With two school buses, it is a dangerous zone. Students often have to walk between cars to board the bus, which is a safety hazard. To clarify, Ms. Cole reported the request is not for Junction Blvd. right now, but for 56<sup>th</sup> Avenue because the spaces that surround the school would be enough for four school buses. Currently, there are two school buses. By next year, she anticipated at least three if not four buses. In order for those buses to park and for students to dismiss safely, the two additional spaces are needed.

Board Member Judy D'Andrea asked about the school's population. Ms. Cole responded the students are from Elmhurst, Corona, and surrounding areas, but predominately School District #24. Mrs. D'Andrea continued the school would be comprised of fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth graders. If students are from the local community, why can't they walk to school so that four buses would not be needed?

Ms. Cole answered most of the students are from Corona, which is a mile away. 30% of the students ride the school bus and 70% requested transportation because they live more than a mile away, but not all received transportation because of regulations set by the Office of Pupil Transportation with the NYC Department of Education. Therefore, about 50% of the students did not receive transportation and live about a mile away. They must use the Metro Card and their parents are not comfortable with their children walking.

At this point, First Vice Chair Patricia Terranova clarified at the last Board meeting the two spaces the school requested on Junction Boulevard had been approved. Now, the school is seeking approval for two spaces on 56<sup>th</sup> Avenue, not all four spaces are on Junction Blvd.

First Vice Chairperson Terranova called for a motion.

Board Member Lucy Schilero pointed out no one from 56<sup>th</sup> Ave was present tonight. The school is located right up against two family homes. Board Member Judy D'Andrea reviewed the community petition submitted by the Central Queens Academy. The signatures gathered were not of people living around the school.

Board Member Schilero said the residents living on 56<sup>th</sup> Avenue, including the neighbors next to the school, should have been included in the petition. The signatures of those residents living on Junction Blvd. should also be included.

District Manager Cassagnol added a letter was submitted last month with signatures.

At this point, Board Member Lucy Schilero moved to **table** the motion, seconded by Board Member Priscilla Carrow, so that letters from the residents in the surrounding area and the parents can be submitted to the Board for review.

Ms. Cole pointed out the parking spaces they are seeking are not in front of any houses. The parking spaces are right next door to the school, basically, the length of the school. Roughly the space can fit one bus, may be two.

More discussion ensued.

Board Member James Lisa pointed out the matter could not be voted on because a quorum was not present. Also, he was uncertain if the extended hours requested would affect the traffic, because at that time it is very hectic there however, he did suggest DOT be consulted on the effect those two extra hours would have on traffic. We do not want any child to be hurt, but we also do not want to create a further problem for residents who utilize those streets. A survey should be done first.

First Vice Chair Patricia Terranova explained the subject matter must be tabled and cannot be voted on because of the lack of a quorum, but the presentation had been noted. The matter will be brought up again at the March 12, 2013 meeting for a vote.

At this point, First Vice Chair Patricia Terranova asked the Board should the 82<sup>nd</sup> Street Partnership request for a Bike Corral be given since no vote can be taken. The Board agreed to hear the presentation.

### **VIII. Presentations (cont'd)**

#### **C. 82<sup>nd</sup> Street Partnership**

##### **--Request for a Bike Corral along 82<sup>nd</sup> Street on the South Side of Roosevelt Avenue**

Representatives from the NYC Department of Transportation and Seth Taylor from the 82<sup>nd</sup> Street Partnership explained the proposal. A bike corral is a row of bike racks that are installed on the curb side lane of the street. Placements are done where there is not enough room on the sidewalk to accommodate all the bicycles in a certain area. Five bicycle racks have been installed in the last three years in New York City, including one in Queens.

82<sup>nd</sup> Street has very congested sidewalks and there is not enough room between the pedestrians and trees to put enough bike parking on the sidewalk. To solve this problem, the 82<sup>nd</sup> Street Partnership requested the Department of Transportation the bike corral last year.

The 82<sup>nd</sup> Street Partnership would maintain the bike corral. A maintenance partner is needed to sweep the debris and shovel the snow that the Sanitation Department would not be able to clear out because it would be placed curbside.

At this point, Mr. Seth Taylor reported they are a non-profit entity that manages business improvement district along 82<sup>nd</sup> Street. The district covers from 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue across Roosevelt Avenue up to Baxter Avenue. This organization has been working closely with city agencies in the past year to improve conditions along 82<sup>nd</sup> Street.

He noted the group had worked with the Parks Department to [plant new trees, with the Landmarks Preservation Commission to help businesses improve storefronts, and also the Department of Transportation to make improvements along 82<sup>nd</sup> Streets such as the placement of city benches and lighting.

This is a wonderful opportunity to enhance the streetscape and provide an important amenity for businesses and the residents of the neighborhood who use bicycles. Outreach was done to the commercial tenants along the strip and it was met with overwhelmingly support.

The DOT representative added this will be an amenity for the block to provide bike parking to their customers and workers and also to clear the sidewalk for safe passage by pedestrians.

With the aid of slides, more detailed examples were provided to the Board, including the proposed location, number of bike racks, placement of a parking lane line, and the bike corral. The bike corral would provide space for 14 bicycles. It would remove one car parking space.

The site plan was also shown.

At this point, questions were taken from the Board Members.

Board Member Lucy Schilero inquired about safety. The DOT representative responded typically these corrals are placed in commercial corridors and the maintenance partner will monitor the bicycle corral.

Board Member Judy D'Andrea asked about bike being chained and left for weeks at a time. The bike may have no seat or wheel. Will this happen at a bike corral, she asked.

The DOT responded there is a regular maintenance partner monitoring it and there is a criterion that is used with the Department of Sanitation to remove the bike.

Board Member Alirio Orduna said 82<sup>nd</sup> Street spoke about parking problems in that vicinity and inquired about the removal of the parking space.

Another Board Member asked because parking is a concern, in terms of the flower pot, how many more bikes can be placed there if the flower pot was removed.

The DOT representative responded the flower pot is decorative, and something must be placed there that cars can bump into, if they do. The flower pots are there to protect bicycles. If the flower pots are not used something else must be used. Without the flower pots, there is no more space for bikes.

Next, Board Member A. Redd Sevilla inquired about complaints about bike corrals.

The only complaint is for car parking, however, 14 spaces for bicycles will be provided.

**D. Council Member Peter Vallone Jr.**

--General discussion on public safety within the district.  
No Report.

**IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

***Parks***

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance. However, First Vice Chair Terranova reported a joint meeting was held with the ULURP & Parks Committees regarding the Tennis Expansion. The key point was USTA is asking for 0.68 acres from the Park.

***Youth***



Committee Chair Clara Salas reported a Youth Committee meeting will be held on February 20 at the Board office at 7:00 p.m. A new charter school is requesting to be established in the area.

Also, the Department of Education has plans to open two additional schools in Flushing and Newtown High Schools. Articles were on hand presenting the pros and cons of the plan.

***Transportation***

Committee Chairperson Joseph DiMartino reported a meeting will be held next month.

***ULURP***

Committee Chairperson Miriam Levenson reported a ULURP meeting was held on January 15. An update was give on the Roosevelt Avenue rezoning. Details were given on the proposal. More information was given on the USTA expansion and the timeframe. A public hearing and vote must be taken at the next meeting.

***Consumer Affairs***

Committee Chairperson George Onuorah reported the Committee did not meet.

**X. PUBLIC FORUM**

Chaplin Oliverio A. Brand Pino-Brand of the Great I Am Food Pantry, located at 55-13 Van Cleef Street, Corona, New York, his food pantry feeds over 180 families each week every Wednesday from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., including every Christmas. Also, family counseling services are given. Assistance was also given to Hurricane Sandy victims by the ministry. The ministry has been located on Van Cleef Street for seven years. If anyone is interested in volunteering, please contact him. The food pantry does not need food donations, but rather monetary donations to help pay the rent.

Next, a Forest Hills resident reported on an incident that occurred to his parents at a parking lot at 82-66 Broadway located by near a supermarket and Asian restaurants. On the weekend of January 26, his parents parked in this particular parking lot and they were planning to eat in a restaurant in the plaza where the parking is allowed in the lot, but they made a local stop first. When they returned, their car was in the process of being towed. His parents offered to pay the fine immediately, but were refused.

Details were provided. The tow company demanded to be paid in cash. On the parking receipt, it was clearly visible Visa and MasterCard were accepted as options to pay. More details were given about this harrowing incident.

First Vice Chair Terranova recommended he speak to the Board's Consumer Affairs Chairperson.

The District Manager added the Board did look into this matter through the 110 Precinct's standpoint. It is a common problem and is recognized.

Discussion ensued.

There being no further business, Board Member Judy D'Andrea made a motion, seconded by Board member Joseph DiMartino to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:42 p.m.