



## COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, Elmhurst, and Newtown

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**Melinda Katz**  
Borough President

**Louis Walker**  
Chairperson

**Leroy Comrie**  
Deputy Borough President

**Christian Cassagnol**  
District Manager

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November 12, 2014

### COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2014

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

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

I. Chairperson Louis Walker opened the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

At this point, Chairperson Louis Walker called for a moment of silence on the passing of Board Member Priscilla Carrow's brother.

III. Executive Secretary Lucy Schilero took the roll call. A quorum was present.

#### IV. **Vote: Minutes of October 14 Meeting**

Board Member James Lisa made a motion, seconded by Board Member Alirio Orduna, to **approve** the minutes of October 14.

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

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

Board Chairperson Louis Walker turned the floor over to Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula who reported on Guru Nanak Sahib (the First Nanak, the founder of Sikhism) was born on April 15, 1469 at Rai-Bhoi-di Talwandi in the present district of Shekhupura (Pakistan) now Nanakana Sahib. The Birthday of Guru Nanak Sahib is celebrated on 15<sup>th</sup> Kartik Puranmashi i.e. full moon day of the month Kartik.

Guru Nanak Sahib established a network of preaching centres of Sikhism which were called “Manjis”. He appointed able and committed followers as its head (preacher of Sikhism). The basic tenets of Sikhism were willfully conceived by the people from all walks of life. The seeds of Sikhism were sown all over India and abroad in well-planned manner.

As a social reformer Guru Nanak Sahib upheld the cause of women, downtrodden and the poor. To celebrate Board Member Narula brought sweets for everyone to share in the celebration.

Subsequently, Board Chairperson announced Board Member John Peters is the Parliamentarian for the Board. Next, Chair Louis Walker reported the Bylaws Committee met and there is work to do on revising the Board’s Bylaws. Small changes will be made and the Board will have a month to review those changes before a vote is taken.

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

District Manager Christian Cassagnol reported a Public Hearing will be held tomorrow (November 13) on the former Pan American Hotel. Community members will be in attendance as well as representation from the Community Board to present testimony. At last month’s meeting, Board Members requested a letter be sent to the Dept. of Homeless Services. Copies of this letter were on hand at tonight’s meeting for distribution to the Board members. He also offered to read the letter to Dept. of Homeless Services. The Board was in agreement.

Gilbert Taylor, Commissioner  
Dept. of Homeless Services  
33 Beaver Street—17<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10004

Dear Commissioner Taylor:

At the October 14 meeting of Queens Community Board 4, with a quorum present, the members voted that the following concerns go on record with regards to Emergency Declarations and the Open Ended RFP.

The utter lack of open dialogue, explanation, and accountability when such decisions are made is not contingent with how our City should run. Note that we are not against housing the homeless, as we understand our citizens’ legal rights. What we are against is the process which condones negligence, and a “we will do it whether you like it or not” attitude that has been so blatantly expressed by the agency.

As you know, the former Pan American hotel was at the front line, and essentially set the precedent for just how little regard there is to the surrounding communities when Emergency Declarations are implemented. The frustration and difficulties before, during, and after the implementation of such shelters is an enormous burden on our residents and our Boards.

The very concept of the “7 day notification” is unacceptable. Notifying the local community should be a joint effort, and not the responsibility of the Boards. We are left with little/no time to properly inform our residents of what exactly is happening. Oftentimes, Boards must take the blame due to misinformation and lack of communication.

Infrastructural studies of the surrounding areas (local schools, transportation, commercial corridors, etc.) **must** be **thoroughly** conducted before our residents are subjected to the inconvenience and the unfortunate negative stigma associated with homeless shelters i.e. The Boulevard Home. These last minute Emergency Declarations essentially bypass all chances for any community input whatsoever, and for such studies to be effectively conducted.

Community Boards are essentially the front line of local government, and by blatantly disregarding us, you essentially remove the rights of our tax payers.  
Our constituency deserves a voice.

Sincerely,

*Community Board 4Q*

Next, District Manager Cassagnol reported State Senator Jose Peralta sent a letter to Police Commissioner Bratton to place Roosevelt Avenue under one precinct command to improve conditions on Roosevelt Avenue. Presently, the 115 Precinct covers the north side of Roosevelt Avenue, and the 110 Precinct handles the south side.

The Public Safety Committee will be addressing this matter at the next Public Safety Committee meeting in a few weeks. The matter will be brought up to the full Board at the December meeting.

Next, he announced the Board has a Facebook page. Search for Queens Community Board 4 on Facebook. The page is not open for public comment, but rather for informational purposes only such as last minute meetings, updates, cancellations, public hearings etc. Visit the page and click Like.

## **VII. REPORT OF THE TREASURER**

Board Treasurer Giancarlo Castano reported collection for the Sunshine Fund will be take place at the end of the meeting. Also, he inquired whether or not a collection can be taken up for the Green Team.

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

Emely Paez, representing Senator Jose Peralta's office, reported Free Legal Clinics are available in Jackson Heights the second Wednesday of every month, 5-7 p.m., Chhaya CDC, 37-43 77<sup>th</sup> Street, Jackson Heights, NY. Flyers on the back table.

Types of legal service available include:

- Family Law (divorce, custody, etc.)
- Health Law
- Housing
- Employment Law
- Tax Law
- Public Assistance
- Disability Benefits
- Small Business
- And more

The next clinic is scheduled for December 10, 2014.

Next, Alexander Bennett, representing Congresswoman Grace Meng's office, reported the Congresswoman hosted the USSBA Administrator Maria Contreras-Sweet and toured small businesses in the district to discuss the importance that small businesses are supported by the Federal government.

Second, U. S. Representative Meng held her first U. S. Service Academy forum for area high school students interested in attending our nation's service academies.

Third, Congresswoman Meng will introduce legislation to create a postage stamp in honor of Chinese railroad workers who helped construct America's first transcontinental railroad.

In regard to the Board's letter to DHS, Congresswoman Meng also wrote a letter of concern supporting Community Board 4's position.

Next, Michael Mallon, representing Council Member Daniel Dromm's office, reported Club Hive nightclub in Elmhurst has been a major concern for the community. The Council Member's office had spoken to residents

living in the neighborhood to the nightclub and also has been in close contact with Senator Toby Stavinsky’s office and with the Board office. The 110<sup>th</sup> Precinct was commended on a job well done. Club Hive was operating as a cabaret, which is in violation of their license, and has been shuttered. The SLA has suspended their license and they are now in court. Since they are not operating, we are waiting to see what type of resolution happens in court. This business is a bad neighbor and should be closed down for good. Whether or not that happens, the Council Member is working with other elected officials and area residents towards keeping the neighborhood safe.

Next, Council Member Dromm was able to allocate more funds to the DOE Fund to clean North Elmhurst, specifically, the Broadway commercial corridor. Noticeable improvement has been seen. The Council Member’s office is also working with the 110 Precinct to address cleanliness and quality of life issues in Moore Homestead Park as well as O’Connor’s Tail.

In conclusion, Council Member Dromm invites you to his Annual Holiday Open House, Wednesday, December 17, 5 pm-7 pm, at District 25 Community Office, 37-32 75<sup>th</sup> Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Jackson Heights, NY. Flyers on the back table.

At this point, P. O. Dave Saponeri of the 110 Precinct reported on the shooting at Club Hive nightclub where three people were shot. As a result of the shooting, one person died and two others were wounded.

**IX. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Public Safety Committee Chair Lucy Schilero also gave details on the Club Hive shooting. Through the efforts of the 110 Precinct, the establishment was shut down because it was in violation of stipulations set forth by the NYPD. She commended the 110 Precinct on their efforts. Previous nightclubs at that location Exotics and Krystal’s were shut down over disturbing activity.

Public Safety Chair Lucy Schilero is asking the legislators to place on moratorium on nightclubs. The community is saturated with establishments of this type, which places a tremendous burden on our police precinct.

She reminded all to check the batteries in the smoke detectors as well as carbon monoxide detectors. Predominately, fires are started in kitchens. People leave things cooking on top of the stove, fall asleep, and that when a fire starts. One solution is to put a timer on the stove.

If you take the battery out of your smoke detector when cooking, attach it on your refrigerator door so you will remember to put it back into the smoke detector. Some people put it in a drawer, where it is easily forgotten.

Do not keep oil heaters close to bedding or yourself she cautioned.

**NYS AUTHORITY LICENSES**

**NOVEMBER 2014**

**NEW APPLICANTS**

<b><u>Establishment’s Name</u></b>	<b><u>Establishment’s Address</u></b>	<b><u>Recommendation</u></b>
Teresa Bakery Inc. “Que Sabor Bakery and Coffee” Wine and Beer Only	84-60 Grand Avenue Elmhurst, NY	Approved

**NEW APPLICANTS (cont'd)**

<b><u>Establishment's Name</u></b>	<b><u>Establishment's Address</u></b>	<b><u>Recommendation</u></b>
Rue Yi Broadway Inc. Wine and Beer Only No Show, No paperwork submitted	83-84 Broadway Elmhurst, NY	Denied
Mama Catalina Corp. "Carmen's Lunch" Wine and Beer Only	111-20 Roosevelt Avenue, 1 Fl Corona, NY	Approved
Pico de Gallo Inc. Liquor, Wine and Beer 500 ft. rule: Los Tres Potrillos (82-11 Roosevelt Avenue), Gatos Verde (82-14 Roosevelt Avenue), Castillo Sports Bar (82-18 Roosevelt Avenue), Hornado Ecuatoriano (81-10 Roosevelt Avenue), El Picosito (81-03 Roosevelt Avenue), Hairos Place (81-09 Roosevelt Avenue), El Tucanazo (83-17 Roosevelt Avenue), La Pequena Colombia (83-27 Roosevelt Avenue), MGM Billiards (40-33 82 <sup>nd</sup> Street). Owner contacted and stated they were not ready to proceed at this time.	82-12 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Denied
El Aventurero Bar Restaurant Liquor Wine and Beer 500 ft. rule: Hornado Ecuatoriana (81-10 Roosevelt Avenue, El Picosito (81-03 Roosevelt Avenue), Hairos Place (81-09 Roosevelt Avenue), El Abuelo Gozan (79-03 Roosevelt Avenue) Cositas Ricas (79-19 Roosevelt Avenue), Melao (79-05 Roosevelt Avenue), Bar Los Recuerdos (79-15 Roosevelt Avenue), el Canelazo (80-04 Roosevelt Avenue), California Sports Bar (79-18 Roosevelt Avenue)	80-14 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Denied
Tacos Gloria Corp. Wine and Beer Only	103-07 Martense Avenue Corona, NY	Approved

**RENEWAL APPLICANTS**

<b><u>Establishment's Name</u></b>	<b><u>Establishment's Address</u></b>	<b><u>Recommendation</u></b>
Pata Pa Plean Liquor, Wine and Beer	76-21 Woodside Avenue Elmhurst, NY	Approved
Ying Yong Food Corp. Liquor, Wine and Beer	71-30 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Approved
Mario Gigliotti "Il Triangolo"	96-01 Corona Avenue Corona, NY	Approved

**NEW YEAR'S EVE ALL NIGHT PERMITS**

High Flying Birds, Inc Liquor, Wine and Beer No Show, No paperwork submitted, history of problems at this establishment (crimes, complaints, arrests etc.)	78-14 Roosevelt Avenue, Store #6 Jackson Heights, NY	Denied
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## NEW YEAR'S EVE ALL NIGHT PERMITS (cont'd)

Mangos Steakhouse and Bakery Liquor, Wine, and Beer No show. No paperwork submitted (crimes, complaints, arrests, etc.)	78-14 Roosevelt Avenue, Store #2 Jackson Heights, NY	Denied
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Following the report, Board member John Peters made a motion, seconded by Board Member Lucy Scully to **approve** the Committee's report as presented.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 23 in favor, 1 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

Before proceeding to the next agenda item, Board Chairperson Louis Walker informed the Board Miriam Levenson had fallen in the house and hurt herself about a month and a half ago. Presently, she is in Castle Senior Living. Board Member Audrey Galligen is also in the hospital. We do not know which one, but are making inquiries.

### X. PRESENTATIONS

**Daniel Zausner, Chief Operating Officer**

**USTA**

*Updates on USTA Programs and Initiatives*

With the aid of a slide presentation Mr. Chris Studley, USTA, presented USTA's commitments to Queens. A brief history of the summer was given, which included:

- Host Your Graduations At The Home Of The U. S. Open
- Fridays Under The 7 Train In Corona Plaza
- Open Job Fairs
- Casting Call At Queens Theatre
- Anthem Singers From Queens
- U. S. Open Trophies Tour
- Louis Armstrong House
- Returning the Love Clinic With ElmCor  
Some of the top tennis players in the world were present.
- Queens Tourism Kiosk At the U. S. Open
- Queens Day At The U. S. Open  
Ten and under tennis for children to come out and play. Free.
- Queens Day—Hall Of Science Exhibit

- Queens Day—Queens Museum Exhibit

- Queens Day

Aceing Autism

Arthur Ashe Kids Day

- U. S. Open 2014 Recap

Attendees topped over 700,000 participants for the seventh consecutive year. The economic impact to New York City was estimated at over \$800 million as of this year.

- Boardwalk

People arriving on the Flushing Meadows-Corona Park Boardwalk.

- Year Round Tennis Activities

Summer Camps. Over 500 children participated from the local community. Seven week program.

- Ten And Under Tennis And Project ACES

Local schools can bring their classes out. It is an Alternative Classroom Environment for Students.

- Family Play Days

Saturdays for the month of July for \$10. The whole family is entertained on the new deck zone.

**Upcoming events include:**

- Every Sunday, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Complimentary wheelchair lessons from October thru June in the indoor building.
- November thru March free early morning winter program for youth Saturday and Sunday mornings.
- The end of November, National B12 regionals will be held at the Tennis Center.
- December 26 to December 31 National Men's Open, Women's Open and Mixed Open indoors championship.
- Winter program coming up January 3.

**2014-2018 Projects And Expansion**

- Roof and view presented when it is completed. View from the inside looking up and view from the Unisphere.
- New Grandstand Stadium presently and after it is moved.
- Southfield Courts shifting slightly south (future projection).

Board Member James Lisa said when the events are announced can it be stated they will be held in Corona (11368). 80% of the fairgrounds are physically housed within the Corona boundaries.

Mr. Studely replied he would make the recommendation.

## **X. PRESENTATIONS (Cont'd)**

### **Dept. of Transportation**

#### *School Safety Team*

#### **--Safe Route to School Plan for PS 13**

With the aid of a slide presentation, Robert Fleegal of the RBA Group, representing the Department of Transportation presented the Safe Route to School project for PS 13 annex.

Mr. Fleegal reported the plan was presented to CB4's Transportation Committee two weeks ago. The School Safety Project started in 2001 and began with an analysis of 1400 public and private elementary schools with at least 250 students attending them. A 700' radius was inserted around each school. It was analyzed how many accidents occurred at the intersections within that radius. The schools were ranked by the number of accidents in a three year period and listed from top to bottom.

As part of the first phase, the top ten schools were designed and reports were written. Those reports included an analysis of the problems and solutions and were taken to final design and into construction. Those schools have either completed construction or are in construction currently.

Since the first phase was highly successful, it was decided to fund the second ten per cent of schools. Right now, it is at 11% to 20%. P. S. 13 falls within that percentage and reports were written. Reports can be found on line. The final design process is just beginning.

Since it is the beginning of the process, DOT is enlisting feedback from the community in the design process.

Mr. Fleegal explained each slide:

#### *NYC DOT Safe Routes to School*

#### P. S 13 Annex – Clement C. Moore School

- Project Timeline
- Construction of School Safety Recommendation
- Traffic Operation & Modes of Travel
- Accident Summary
- Typical Pedestrian Safety Concerns Identified At School
- Types of Safety Improvements
  - Neck downs
  - Sketch of full Neck downs Benefits
- Types of Safety Improvements
  - Refuge
  - Medians and Pedestrian Cut Thrus



- Proposed Improvements Included in the Schematic Geometric Design Plans
- Queens Blvd. & Van Loon Street
- Proposed Improvements
- Gold Smith, Van Horn Street & Grand Avenue
- Proposed Improvements
- Grand Avenue & Seabury Street
- Schedule
- Improvements are federally funded Mr. Fleegal added.

At this point, Board Member Lucy Schilero inquired whether the plan was presented to the local firehouses and police precinct. Mr. Fleegal replied no, but it will be presented to those agencies.

Board member Schilero expressed concern the fire trucks had enough width to make turns.

More questions were taken from the Board members.

Completion date: January 2018.

At this point, Board Member John Peters made a motion, seconded by Board Member Joseph DiMartino, to **approve** the Safe Route to School plan for P. S. 13.

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

## **XI. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

### **Vote: Safe Route to School Plan for PS 13**

The vote for this subject matter had already been taken. Transportation Chair Joseph DiMartino had nothing else to report.

## **XII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### ***Environmental***

Environmental Chair Giancarlo Castano reported a meeting was held in September. Issues were discussed and an agenda is planned to identify sites which need improvement. Some sites may need the assistance of two different agencies i.e. the Long Island Railroad. Sometimes the agency does not cooperate with the Committee.

District Manager Cassagnol added the Committee had planned to do a Green Team event on property adjacent to the Long Island Railroad, however, no cooperation was received from the LIRR. Basically, their response was they were not interested, but the Committee was free to clean the property, if they wanted to. The Committee chose not to go ahead with the cleanup because it lacked the means to do so. This was the planned event for November 22. For now, this cleanup has been put on hold.

### ***Youth***

Chairperson Lucy Cerezo-Scully reported a meeting is planned for November 19. A guest speaker was invited.

### ***Consumer Affairs***

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

### ***Postal***

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

### ***ULURP/Zoning***

Since ULURP/Zoning Committee Chair Miriam Levenson is out ill, Chairperson Louis Walker reported on the upcoming properties scheduled for Public Hearing on December 2:

50-11 & 50-15 103 Street  
103-10 and 103-16 Alstyn Avenue

This is unfinished construction that has been there about eight years. The property has had numerous problems with graffiti and garbage. The owner met with the ULURP Committee to request a variance to build an additional three units above what is allowed without meeting parking requirements. As yet, he has not received DOT's approval, but the applicant will be making a presentation at the December meeting. The Board should consider very strongly if a person who has been a bad neighbor is entitled to get more than what they should.

Next, he spoke about the proposed Corona Senior Residence. This property is located on 101 Street, between Lewis and Martense Avenue, Corona, Queens.

As a result for the December agenda, two public hearings are scheduled. The CB meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Additionally, the Board meeting will be held on December 2 since a recommendation is needed immediately for the Corona Senior Residence.

At this point, Board Member Lester Youngblood brought up a serious problem exists with mail delivery and the operation of the Post Office on Junction Blvd.

Discussion ensued.

Subsequently, Board Member John Peters reported on Workmen's Compensation regarding the filing deadline for the people involved in the 9/11 cleanup.

Chairperson Louis Walker believed this was a Federal program, but responded the Board would look into who we would speak with.

### ***Parks***

Parks Committee Chair Al Perna reported Flushing Meadows-Corona Park held many events over the summer and he hoped all enjoyed those activities.

December 1 is the Christmas Tree Lighting at William F. Moore Park (108 Street).

December 5 more Christmas tree lightings around the community, including Corona Plaza.

### ***Health***

Committee Chair Clara Salas presented the following report:

1. Joint Project – CB4 Health Committee, Newtown High School, and Elmhurst Hospital Center

Wednesday, October 15, 2014 – Attending Clara Salas, Health Committee Chair/CB4, Nancy Wang, Assistant Vice Principal/Newtown High School, Karen Lockworth, Director of Nursing of Elmhurst Hospital.

At this point, Board Chairperson Louis Walker said he had a question regarding her meeting.

“Where was the meeting held at?” Chairperson Louis Walker asked.

“Elmhurst Hospital Center, October 15,” responded Committee Chair Clara Salas.

“Who put out the notices for that,” Chairperson Walker asked.

“No one,” replied Committee Chair Clara Salas.

“How did they know where to meet?” Chairperson Walker inquired.

“No, I did not notify anyone,” said Committee Chair Salas.

“So, nobody was there,” questioned Board Chair Walker.

“Just myself,” responded Committee Chair Salas.

“Just you,” repeated Board Chair Walker.

“I know no one would show up, so why should I notify anyone—no one has been showing up all along, so why should I notify anybody,” said Health Committee Chair Salas.

“Ok, so you’ve decided your Committee is ineffective, but you put their names down. I asked Myrna earlier if she had been there. She told me she was. Now, I am hearing.....She was not there,” said Board Chair Walker.

“No. She was not at that meeting.” said Committee Chair Salas.

“OK. Thank you,” said Board Chair Walker.

“May I continue please,” asked Committee Chair Salas.

Committee Chair Salas continued with her report.

At the October 15 meeting, Nancy Wang reported as follows:

--Newtown High School Principal has approved the activity.

--Nancy and Karen will write up the structure of the program.

--Topic is HIV Prevention.

--Health Committee members of CB4Q will participate in classroom workshops as per the structure of the program.

--Nancy Wang will notify Clara Salas as to when Ms. Lockworth has the structure of the classroom workshops set up, so that the Health Committee members can schedule their participation.

--Health Committee Meeting scheduled for Monday, 10/27/2014 was cancelled because the October 15, 2014 meeting took its place.

Next Health Committee Meeting will be Monday, February 23, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. Location will be announced.

2. Ebola Virus Disease Update: Dr. Craig Spencer (discharged from Bellevue Hospital (11/11/14) is now clear of the virus. About 30 people throughout the United States continue to be monitored “out of an abundance of caution”.

3. Save the Date! – Thursday, November 20, 2014-Room: A1-22  
(Auditorium/Elmhurst Hospital) 12:00 pm—Elder Law-What is it?

At this point, Board Member Giancarlo Castano brought up the problems with the public toilet at Corona Plaza (103 Street). There are people urinating inside, sleeping, and throwing garbage. Door is open all the time. It’s filthy.

Also, at the Devine Nightclub people are using the stairs to sleep at night.

Board Member Lucy Schilero brought up spraying for the West Nile virus particularly for Board 4. She requested the Board write a letter to the Health Department when the spray operation for Flushing Meadows-Corona Park is set, we are sprayed as well. The mosquitos and gnats grew, and being that we have more trees, the problem has grown. The last time the Board area was sprayed was two years ago.

At this point, Board Chairperson Louis Walker reported on an accident this past week at the 7-Eleven on the Horace Harding Expressway. Four people were injured who were standing in the store. Details were given. An investigation needs to be done about the Horace Harding traffic at that intersection.

At this point, Board Member Erica Cruz announced The Rock Church will host a free Thanksgiving dinner. Dinner will be served at 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Also a Christmas Tree Lighting will be held on December 7. Music and food will be on hand.

### **XIII. PUBLIC FORUM**

A representative from the Citizens Committee for NYC announced this organization is awarding \$1,000 grants for resident-driven block beautification projects citywide. Applications are due November 7.

Also, two neighborhood grants are coming up. One is for \$3,000. Applications due January 27.

A representative from the Central Queens Charter School provided an update on the school, and thanked the Board for its help in the past.

There being no further business, Board Member John Peters made a motion, seconded by Board Member Lucy Cerezo-Scully to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.