



COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, Elmhurst, and Newtown

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Melinda Katz
Borough President

Louis Walker
Chairperson

Christian Cassagnol
District Manager

January 13, 2015

COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE: TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2015

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

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

- I. First Vice Chairperson Al Perna opened the meeting at 7:40 p.m.
- II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

First Vice Chair Perna asked all to remain standing to observe a moment of silence for slain Police Officers Wenjian Liu and Rafael Ramos, with condolences extended on the loss of Board Member Peter Mangannaro's father, the loss of Board Member John Peters' father, Board Member Patricia Martin's step-granddaughter, and Board Member Clara Salas' brother-in-law. Deepest sympathy was also expressed to the families of those who lost their lives in the recent fire at the Lefrak City building and to those people who died in the worst terrorist act in Paris, France.

- III. Executive Secretary Lucy Schilero took the roll call. A quorum was *not* present.

IV. Vote: Minutes December 2, 2014 Meeting
Since a quorum was not present, a vote could not be taken on the minutes.

V. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

First Vice Chair Al Perna did not have a report but stated he was chairing the meeting on behalf of Chairperson Louis Walker who was out of town. The floor was turned over to the District Manager for his report.

VI. REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

District Manager Cassagnol reported:

- The Q88 bus re-routing has been put on an indefinite hold by the MTA.
- National Grid will be installing Shut-off Devices (service valves) outside designated building units to ensure these safety devices are accessible to first responders in the event of an emergency. The contractor will be installing a shut off valve outside your home, near the street or curb. To do this they also need access to the gas meter, service valve and all gas appliances.
- Work has started in Corona and will be moving to Elmhurst. This is a Borough-wide program.
- Invitation cards should have been received to the *Honorable Melinda Katz's First State of the Borough Address* on January 22, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at Colden Auditorium at Queens College. Reserved seating will be set aside for Community Board members so please RSVP if you plan to attend.
- At the December 2 CB meeting, the Board requested a letter to be sent to the Postmaster regarding unreliable mail delivery service. A letter was sent on December 9, 2014 and as a result within two weeks a phone call was received from the Postmaster who stated they are more than willing to work with the Board and will provide us with a community liaison and they do understand the issues we are faced with. Moving forward, the Postal Committee will arrange a meeting to discuss all concerns. Hard copies of the Board's letter were on hand at the meeting tonight.
- Another letter the Board had requested to be written was to Police Commissioner Bratton regarding Senator Peralta's proposal that Roosevelt Avenue be exclusively assigned to one Precinct. Soon after the letter was drafted and before it was sent out, Commissioner Bratton turned down the proposal that single precinct exclusivity is not in the best interest of the community. Our concerns were taken into consideration even before the letter was written, therefore, it was never sent. Hard copies of the draft letter were also available tonight.

Board Member Lucy Schilero stated the letter should be sent to the legislators so that they know how the Board felt about the proposal. Also, a thank you should be sent to Commissioner Bratton; and if there is any decision making, the Board should be included in the process.

District Manager Cassagnol explained currently Roosevelt Avenue is the dividing line between two precincts, the north side handled by the 115th Precinct, and the south side by the 110th Precinct. Commissioner Bratton chose to leave Roosevelt Avenue as is.

Discussion ensued.

District Manager Cassagnol reported on a gambling house at 83 Street and Broadway. Within a week, the NYPD sent Vice and confiscated \$20,000. Thank you and applause was extended to the 110 Police Precinct for their good work.

At this point, a quorum was present and a vote on the December 2, 2014 minutes was taken. Board Member Alirio Orduna made a motion, seconded by Board Member Georgina Oliver, to **approve** the minutes of December 2.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 25 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

VI. REPORT OF THE LEGISLATORS

Council Member Daniel Dromm reported:

As Chair of the City Council's Education Committee, a number of topics were discussed ranging from charter schools to the number of guidance counselors. Legislation was written to provide the count. A number of issues on special education also were addressed such as how services are delivered, how long it takes children to enter Special Education, and what is the cost.

Upcoming issues to be decided in Albany are: the charter school cap, which the Governor is proposing to lift. Council Member Dromm doesn't see the need to lift the cap on charter schools and also to mayoral control over schools. He raised the question, do we want to continue mayoral control over schools. In the past there were local community school boards including the Board of Education for the City, which was eliminated.

Council Member Dromm's focus is on funding the state owes New York City. In 1992, it was determined our schools were not receiving adequate funding. It took twenty years under Governor Pataki and subsequent governors to give, what we thought at that time, were adequate funding, about \$1.7 billion was allocated every year after the settlement for the City to receive. Under the previous administration leading up to Governor Cuomo, money was being given to the City in payments. However, when Governor Cuomo was elected, those payments stopped, citing the economic downturn in 2008.

Council Member Dromm stated we have never received our full share of those monies. We estimate we are owed \$2.2 billion in the City and approximately \$5 billion statewide for education. The possibilities are endless what we could do with that money for our schools. Two billion dollars would be a tremendous influx to our public school system.

Council Member Dromm's objective is to force the Governor to look at this and emphasized we desperately need those dollars to improve our public schools. Money is important to our public schools. If the necessary funding is not given, materials cannot be given to the teachers to do the job they are expected to do. As a result, the job cannot be done. Support is needed for our schools.

Next, he spoke about the charter school cap. School Districts 24 and 30 are the most overcrowded in the United States.

Those two districts fall within Council Member Dromm's district. Two and a half months ago, a hearing was held. Eva Moskowitz, who runs a network of charter schools, is head of the Success charter network. She pays herself \$575,000 per year and her husband is paid \$250,000 per year as the attorney for the network.

Council Member Dromm mentioned the Renaissance Charter School in Jackson Heights, which is in his district. Community involvement, parental involvement, and collaboration are all supported by the Council Member as long as it is truly community based. But when people make those types of salaries and have little accountability to our schools, it gives great cause for concern.

Therefore, Council Member Dromm has asked for a moratorium on the cap for charter schools. He cited an article in the *Daily News* reporting some of the charters that have been issued have not been used yet. Approximately 25 charters in New York City and 100+ around the state no one has claimed yet to open those schools. Why the cap would be lifted when no one has taken advantage of those slots. A charter school can get public funding but also can raise private dollars. He cited an example where Eva Moskowitz had a fundraiser and raised \$7 million in one night. There is very little accountability.

When Council Member Dromm held his hearing last May he pointed out he has very little oversight over charter schools. He reported on Coney Island Prep where PRIDE dollars were used and cited specific behavior examples. These are the types of policies where there is no oversight, and has led to creating two school systems—charter schools vs. public schools.

The City Council this year has allocated a \$5 million initiative for additional clean-up services. Council Member Dromm used his cleanup allocation to get an extra collection on Broadway to Queens Blvd. Two additional days of cleanup service will be provided per week for 20 weeks during the most heavily used parts of the year. He noted the overflowing garbage pails especially on Thursdays and Fridays. Additionally, he stationed the Doe Fund from Roosevelt Avenue to Elmhurst Hospital. He also would like to see service extended to Queens Blvd. Council Member Dromm explained the Doe Fund is an organization that hires the homeless and formerly incarcerated to clean the streets.

Next, he addressed the Pan American shelter. Council Member Dromm explained he was opposed to the method the City used to open the shelter. The Council Member said his office, the community and the Community Board were given no advance notice of its opening.

Notably, we need to look at the impact the Pan Am will have on existing services. By virtue of the Pan Am shelter, Council Member Dromm stated he has the most populated Council district in Queens, approximately 166,800 constituents. He continued he did not like what happened at some of the protests. He found it to be very ugly, explaining remarks were made against the Asian community and residents of the Pan Am shelter. More details were given. The Council Member also explained the residents of the Pan Am are his constituents and he must support them to the extent he can.

To show support, a toy drive was organized by the Council Member, noting this was not an argument about the validity of the people who live there, but it was more about the process whereby the shelter was placed into our community.

Council Member Dromm was pleased to announce he was able to secure a new after school program for 50 children in the Pan Am Shelter beginning in mid-February. Those children can now have a positive after-school experience when they return to the facility in the afternoon.

Next, Council Member Dromm reported he submitted legislation to the City Council putting term limits on community board members appointed in mid- 2016 or later. Those members currently serving would not be affected. He spoke about the lack of changes on community boards. The legislation hopes to make Community Boards more inclusive and more reflective of communities. It would limit anyone after April 2016 to a twelve year term. Members could leave for two years and then be re-appointed again. At least, it will begin the process of change on Community Boards.

Lastly, Council Member Dromm spoke about landmark legislation which passed in July, namely, the municipal ID Card.

Every person who lives in New York City can get a municipal ID. This is very important, especially for the undocumented persons. This card connects New Yorkers to services and programs regardless of immigration status, homeless status, or gender identity. For example, the ID card can be used to open bank or checking accounts and to enter a school to pick up your child.

Having photo identification for all New Yorkers is a tremendous benefit. Additionally, the Council Member was able to secure more incentives such as free membership to 33 cultural institutions. The card is free for one year. The benefit is estimated to be about \$2100 for membership to various cultural associations. Additionally, the municipal ID card can be used as a library card in all five boroughs. Moreover, a 20% discount will be given on Broadway tickets. Also, if you use the card in a gift shop at one of those cultural institutions, a 20% discount will also be given. Those added benefits were provided in the hope average New Yorkers would sign up for the card as well so that there is no way of determining who is and who is not documented.

This is about all of us as New Yorkers celebrating who we are, and having the must-have accessory of 2015.

Although the lines to sign up have been extremely long, call 311 and register for an appointment. All residents were urged to apply. New authenticators must be hired. Before concluding his presentation, he added the card

must be accepted by the NYPD. For the immigrant community this acceptance is very important. Identification for the Police Department will have a huge impact.

He thanked all for their service, support and involvement in the community. It is invaluable. And, all Community Board members were recognized and acknowledged for the good service they provide every single day.

At this point, Board Member Alirio Orduna asked where the municipal ID cards can be obtained.

Council Member Dromm responded Make the Road, located at 92nd Street and Roosevelt Avenue, the Flushing Library, at Kissena Blvd. and Main Street, and the Jamaica Library. Authenticators are needed to ensure the supplied documents are real and documents verified so fraud is non-existent.

Additionally, Council Member Dromm will have mobile pop-up centers to canvas the neighborhood to sign up and receive identification cards. If Community Board 4 wishes to sponsor one with the Council Member, contact him.

Regarding term limits for Board members, Board Member Lucy Schilero said Board members are not paid, work on their own time, and are evaluated every two years. Those options could easily be changed in other Boards. But, Board 4 is a mixed diversity and represents every age group. Long serving seasoned Board members are needed to help newer Board members ease into the role.

To put term limits on people who volunteer their time and do not get paid is a bit of an insult said Board Member Lucy Schilero. She has served as a Board member for many years and is very dedicated to the Board. She suggested the Board keep its quota of 50 members, but add another five members and test it. Determining factors could be race, age, or organization and introduce them to the process. Another major problem is keeping people on board. Members are appointed and before you know it, they are out.

To help with the process of the charter, you could have no votes.

Council Member Dromm responded this legislation addresses the problem that occurred tonight at the beginning of the meeting—no quorum was present. We need to move new people on and sometimes it is very difficult to do this. With automatic term limits, people would be moved on automatically.

Board Member Schilero replied the Board Members are evaluated every two years, and some members do not re-apply. By looking at the applications, you can determine if Board members should be reappointed.

Council Member Dromm answered the Borough President opposes community board term limits and will probably address the Board as well.

The decision is not solely Council Member Dromm's decision to make. Council Members nominate and the Borough President either appoints or does not appoint, which needs to be understood.

It is a complicated process that needs to be looked at.

Hearings will be held at the City Council. Ultimately if the City Council passes the legislation, it must seek a referendum for the public to decide, which will take time.

More discussion ensued.

At this point, Board Member Jennifer Chu asked about the Participatory Budgeting.

Council Member Dromm responded Council Member Ferreras hosted meetings in her district. But, Council Member Dromm has not done so for his district because attached to the Participatory Budgeting are some costs. Details were given on those costs. Funding was allocated by Council Member Dromm to groups who did not receive money in the past from the previous Council Member. This is where the thrust of his discretionary dollars were spent.

Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula did not agree with the term limits proposal, and said Board Member terms should not be limited. This is an honorary service and people should not be removed from the Board if they are doing a good job.

Before concluding, Council Member Dromm reported he and District Manager Cassagnol are working on the foot bridge on 55 Avenue. He has asked for an estimate from the Dept. of Transportation to see if the stairwell can be replaced. Also they are working very closely with COMET because of the poor conditions and to ensure it becomes a green street.

District Manager Cassagnol provided more details on this project and added one more item off the Board's Capital budget. This is a small section on the Elmhurst side between 85 Street between 56 and 57 Avenues. It is a pretty dark street flush against the Long Island Railroad. We have been trying to get the LIRR to either clean it up or get the NYPD to help out with the graffiti removal. It was not an easy task, so DEP was contacted in regard to making it a green street; As a result, DEP had contacted the Board office and already sent the engineers out to give the Board an estimate.

At this time, New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer addressed the Board. Mr. Stringer reported he has served as Comptroller for one year and it has been a very rewarding job. Essentially, the job of Comptroller is to perform two responsibilities well.

First, you work with the Mayor. The Charter states you work very closely with City Hall. Bonds are marketed by both the City Comptroller and the Mayor. Both must agree. They go to the rating agencies together and fight very hard to make sure they understand the financial plan of the City is sound. He praised the Mayor on the 152 labor contracts that were outstanding and 71% were settled.

While working hand in hand, the Charter also states Mr. Stringer is auditor in chief. Agencies are subject to audit and it is Mr. Stringer's responsibility to root out waste and fraud. It is constantly a work in progress. With all the success working together, we have done well. For example, Mr. Stringer spoke about arts in public schools were non-existent for some of the poorest communities. In particular, Brooklyn and the Bronx were looked at and it was found there were not certified art teachers at a time when arts education is not just culturally good but is necessary for the high tech economy, science and the arts. Once the report was issued, Council Member Daniel Dromm and Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito were able to appropriate \$23 million to help pay for more teachers and new programs.

Next, he spoke about the audit of the Department of Education. You cannot go to Albany and Washington for more education dollars unless you spend what you have. Reimbursement must be sought for programs already applied for. DOE has left close to \$600 million unspent because they have not understood this is part of the education our children need. This is part of the effort to try to be not only creative, strong, and cooperative, but also independent.

Likewise, Mr. Stringer spoke about the New York City Housing Authority. NYCHA cannot be whole unless they get money they are leaving on the table close to \$700 million NYCHA's finances are being audited for the first time from top to bottom.

Next, the Comptroller spoke about income inequality. Corporations should be held to a high standard of diversity. This is the strength of our city. Also, procurement policies in New York must be looked at. A letter grading system of every agency under Local 01, as it relates to women and minority owned businesses. The grade of the agency was based on how much it spends. It was discovered 3.9% spent. Those agencies were given a failing grade.

Similarly, the Comptroller's Office was also graded and yielded a letter grade of a C. Next year, they are striving for an A grade.

Part of thinking about the economy is thinking about what we will do for our children. Comptroller Stringer said we are not doing this for ourselves but for the next generation. Issues of housing, municipal identification, and quality education matter to this great city. The economy either brings us together or divides us.

Comptroller Stringer plans to revisit the Community Board in the future to give an update in terms of the audits, and protecting New Yorkers' pension funds, Last year, a 17% return was yielded on those funds. Retirement security for the people who built this city is a priority for Comptroller Stringer, and he is calling for more comprehensive assessment and diversification of pension investments.

Whatever issues are involved whether it is about Police or the community, it is all legitimate. Strong leadership in city government is needed. People in government who are problem solvers are essential and sometimes negotiation is needed. Not everything is a press conference. Comptroller Stringer will ensure city government, which he supports and respect, will meet those challenges.

At this point, City Comptroller Stringer took questions from the Board.

Board Member Georgina Oliver asked about HHC and legal claims against the city.

In response, City Comptroller Stringer spoke about his ClaimStat initiative-a data analysis of legal claims filed against the city each year-is designed to save tax payer dollars by identifying troubling trends across all city agencies before they lead to multi-million dollar settlements. Perhaps, a change of policy to reduce claims or creating a new protocol is needed.

Currently, the City pays out \$700 million in claims and rising.

For example, when HHC is reducing their claims because its motivation is when they are sued the settlement is taken directly out of its budget. Making sure more innocent cases are settled, the Comptrollers' Office has been able to bring justice more quickly, rather than have the case litigated, which balances out for the city. He spoke about a recent case brought by three individuals who collectively spent 60 years in prison for crimes they did not commit. In this way, people are made whole but also litigation is avoided which may result in huge judgments that can hurt the City.

Board Member Pasang Tsering inquired about the letter grade for women and minority-owned businesses. What type of follow up action is taken?

The City Comptroller's Office implements and monitors the letter grading program that hold City agencies accountable to existing supplier diversity laws (Local Law 1) and advocates for additional measures to increase the City's utilization of M/WBEs (Minority/Women-Owned Business Enterprises). There are 3800 certified M/WBE's, (700,000 women and minority owned business in New York City) and over 100,000 minority owned businesses in Queens. Only 3.9% of those businesses get those \$18 billion dollars which is spent every year. To name a few, law firms, accounting firms, and janitorial services, are hired. The reason for the letter grade is to tell the commissioners it is "wake up time". It's time to look at the way procurement as well as outreach to MWBE's is handled.

If we are able to reach those minority owned businesses we can help not only those located in Corona, but throughout the City, to hire locally creating an economy for the five boroughs using the purchasing power of the City of New York. \$18 billion a year is spent on goods and services but only 3.9% of those contracts go to minority and women-owned businesses. This figure is down from 2012. An aspiration of the administration is to those agencies with failing letter grades to move up to C or higher.

Board Member Eduardo F. Medrano-Salas inquired since the inception of the municipal identification card, can drivers licenses be issued to undocumented residents. In this way, they can purchase cars and buy insurance.

City Comptroller Scott Stringer replied it should be on the table and the municipal ID is critical to bringing people out of the shadows and into the mainstream. He explained the guiding force in our economy is the diversity of our workforce. In addition to the municipal ID card, NYC needs to expand opportunity whether it's driving in the city or helping more people open businesses is a top priority for Mr. Stringer.

Next, Joel Trinidad-Santos, representing Council Member Julissa Ferreras' office, apologized for not attending the last few Community Board meetings. The reason was because the Council Member's office had been in transition--remodeling and re-staffing. He thanked Community Board 4 for its help with the Participatory Budgeting. He explained residents were able to make decisions on how to spend \$1 million for community improvements such as parks, schools, libraries and streets and more. A number of workshops were held, and presently applications are being accepted for budget delegates who will work with the city agencies to put the ideas into effect. Community Board 4 helped to sponsor the Participatory Budgeting meeting at I. S. 61. Even though the initial orientation has passed, you can still reach out to the Council Member's office.

Community Board 4 was also thanked for its assistance with the Three Kings event. A Special Thank You was given to Board Member Al Perna and the Perna Foundation who did an excellent job providing entertainment.

Board Member Alirio Orduna, the Commanding Office of the New York Naval Military Youth Cadets, was also thanked for their participation. The event was a huge success. Over 1,000 toys were distributed to families in our community.

In collaboration with Senator Jose Peralta and Assembly Member Jeffrion Aubry and the FDNY, as a result of several fires in the district, fire safety workshops will be held. The first workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, January 14 and Wednesday, January 21 and Thursday, January 29. Meeting locations were throughout Lefrak. Flyers were in the back table.

Discretionary funding has opened up. Applications are submitted by not-for- profits and community based organizations for discretionary dollars from Council Member Ferreras
Training for discretionary funding will take place at Elmhurst Hospital; the first session on January 20 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Room E-8., 79-01 Broadway. Another session will be held Monday, January 29, 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. at Queens Borough Hall. More information is on the back table.

Next, he spoke about free tax preparation services at the Transfiguration Church in Corona in collaboration with the Food Bank of NY. Services are slated to start January 22. A tax preparation event in collaboration with the Food Bank of NY and CUNY is planned for Saturday, February 7 at Transfiguration Church in Corona, 38-05 98 Street, Saturday, February 7, between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Services are offered until April 14.

Lastly, Mr. Trinidad-Santos reminded all of the services provided at the Council Member's office and gave a rundown of those services.

Next, Ari Espinal, representing Assembly Member Francisco Moya's office, reported on a coat drive sponsored by Assembly Member Moya and Senator Jose Peralta. The coat drive was held this weekend and 1200 coats were distributed to those in need. About 26 organizations came. It was wonderful and everyone had a smile.

A Three Kings event was held and toys were given to those in need. The event was a huge success.

Upcoming events in March:

Assembly Member Moya will co-sponsor a Women's Awareness Day. Medical equipment will be brought out in a Scan Van in the district to do testing for those who cannot afford it. Testing includes mammography, scans, and other services for those who do not have insurance will be conducted free. More details will follow.

Next, Barbara Jackson, representing Congressman Joseph Crowley's office, reported a program is being planned for February 23 for Black History Month. Details are not yet finalized, but will be presented at the next CB meeting.

At this point, Lt. Patrick Shannon, FDNY Fire Safety Program, reported firefighters from the Department is visiting senior centers and seniors homes (anyone over 60 years of age) to give a free lecture on what do in case of a fire in your home. The Fire Department's purpose is to help out, not to enforce. Cards were distributed if interested to have a review of your home for fire safety, please sign and return it. If necessary, a 10 year Combination Smoke and CO Alarm will be installed. Or, you can call 718-281-3872 for an appointment and more information.

He spoke about the recent fire in recent Lefrak City. Many people do not realize what to do in case of fire. Do you stay in the apartment? Do you leave the apartment? Do you take the elevator out? Many people do not know the answers. Panic sets in. The firefighters try to calm people down and provide answers. It's a really good program. The FDNY is here to help. Appointments are set from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

VII. PRESENTATIONS

Zara Sheikh, Home Find Recruiter

--*Forestdale, Inc.*

--Discussion on Programs Offered

Ms. Sheikh reported Forestdale is a non-profit organization in Forest Hills primarily providing foster care services. As a home finding recruiter, she goes out in the community and does outreach to spread the need for children who are in foster care and need a safe and secure home on a temporary basis. If anyone has thought about becoming a foster parent or would like more information, please call Forestdale. Flyers were on the table.

She explained to become a foster parent, you do not need a lot of money. You do not need to be a homeowner. You can be a renter to quality.

Other requirements are:

You must be over age 21.

You must be in good health.

You must be able to show you are financially secure, independent of the foster care stipend.

Besides these requirements, other conditions must be met which are free. It is a voluntary opportunity, which you can opt out.

Booklets and contact cards were on hand as well. If anyone knows of someone who is interested, please refer them to Forestdale.

At this point, Board Member A. Redd Sevilla reported help is needed for the New Life building, which is in need of repair. An exterior conditions report was done on the former Elks building which determined serious thought and effort should be made to restore the major elements highlighted in the report to minimize the loss of historic fabric of this structure as it is one of the finest examples of Neo-Classical Architecture. The building was erected in the 1920's. Eight slides were presented to the Board in the report. Photos show missing bricks and Ballesteros from the building. An estimate was done by the architect on the amount needed for the repairs. The cost was put at \$2.5 to 2.8 million. Because it is a nationally historic building, there is funding available from New York State for rehabilitation. New Life Fellowship did apply for the funding. The most money they can receive for the project is \$500,000. Actually, it is a matching grant for \$500,000 (this is the highest amount). Out of 400 applications, New Life Fellowship was the only one awarded this funding.

Services provided at New Life Fellowship are:

- *Health Center*
- *Food Pantry*
- *English as a Second Language*
- *Mentoring*
- *Girl Scouts*
- *Booster Club*
- *Cub and Boy Scouts*
- *Storytime!*
- *Young Gavs*

New Life Fellowship has one year to raise the \$500,000.

The projection for them is \$250,000 because the families involved in the organization are not this most affluent.

He spoke about the contacts needed:

1. Individual donations
2. Contacts at Foundations
3. High net worth individuals
4. Concerned business owners

If you have any of these contacts available, please e-mail or contact A. Redd Sevilla at rsevilla@newlifecdc.us
Or at 646-208-2933.

A Board Member inquired when is the year up. Mr. Sevilla responded the calendar year of 2015.

VIII. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Vote: SLA Applications

Public Safety Committee Chair Lucy Schilero reported twice in two years the CERT team won the John D. Solomon Award. The Queens version was won last year and the citywide version was won this December, 2014.

Also, on November 21 the Corona Ambulance and the CERT team was in Lefrak City. The Lefrak Tenants Association asked for information on safety. There were only 35 people in attendance, and the next month was the horrific fire at Lefrak that killed three people. She noted people do not take things seriously until it happens. She urged all to attend meetings given by the Fire Department and Council Members regarding fire safety.

Also, Council Member Paul Vallone will be enacting legislation regulating drones. For example, the drone cannot go any higher than 400 feet. Safety concerns will also be addressed.

NYS LIQUOR AUTHORITY LICENSES

JANAURY 2015

NEW APPLICANTS

<u>Establishment's Name</u>	<u>Establishment's Address</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
Juquila Mexican Cuisine Corp. Liquor, Wine and Beer	40-12 83 rd Street Jackson Heights, NY 11372	Approved
Hua Rong Inc. Wine and Beer Only Owner contacted, was unable to attend due to a conflict with another CB meeting. Will reapply next month.	83-23 Broadway Elmhurst, NY	Denied
Cositas Ricas Ecuatorianas Corp. "El Pequeno Coffee Shop" No show. No paperwork submitted.	86-10 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Denied
J&L Products Corp. d/b/a "Spicy Shallot"	77-01/05 Woodside Avenue Elmhurst, NY	Approved
Taiwanese Rest. Inc. Wine and Beer Only	84-02 Broadway Elmhurst, NY	Approved
Horno Fratelli Corp. Liquor, Wine and Beer	89-08 Queens Blvd. Elmhurst, NY	Approved

RENEWAL APPLICANTS

<u>Establishment's Name</u>	<u>Establishment's Address</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
Sabor Latino Corp. Liquor, Wine and Beer Representative contacted Board office and stated they were not ready at this time and would reapply next month.	95-35 40 th Road Corona, NY	Denied
8012 51 st Avenue Rest. Inc. Liquor, Wine and Beer "Blackthorn 51"	80-12 51 Avenue Elmhurst, NY	Approved

RENEWAL APPLICANTS (cont'd)

<u>Establishment's Name</u>	<u>Establishment's Address</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
Mangos Steakhouse and Bakery Liquor, Wine and Beer Owner is out of the country. Will reapply once he returns.	78-14 Roosevelt Avenue, Store 2 Jackson Heights, NY	Denied
Tropicoso Bar-Grill No. II Corp. Liquor, Wine and Beer 13 Criminal complaints from 1/31/12 to present (including 11 arrests) 54 SLA C Summonses from 5/12/11 to Present. Establishment's license was revoked by the SLA on 12/20/14	111-10 Roosevelt Avenue Corona, NY	Denied
Los Tres Hermanos Potrillos Inc. "Los Tres Potrillos Restaurant" 10 Criminal complaints from 5/1/12 to present (including 6 arrests) 2 SLA Summonses on 10/12/14 for failure to check ID and sale to visibly intoxicated person.	111-16 Roosevelt Avenue Corona, NY	Denied

At this point, Board Member Georgina Oliver made a motion, seconded by Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula, to **approve** the Committee's report as presented.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 25 in favor, 0 opposed with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Consumer Affairs

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

Environmental

Committee Chair Giancarlo Castano reported a joint Committee meeting with Parks will be held on January 20. At 6:30 p.m. A representative from the Parks Department will address both Committees on the Louis Simeone Park. All were invited to attend.

Health

No Report.

At this point, Board Member Lucy Schilero brought up effective 2015, certain electronics such as computers and televisions will be banned from disposal. She asked if a letter can be written to the Commissioner of the Department of Sanitation inquiring if a day could be set aside, or even the same day when the bottles/paper recycling is picked up, for a truck to pick up the discarded electronics as an added route. Many people cannot carry heavy electronic equipment to drop-off sites.

Parks

Committee Chair Al Perna reported many events are planned in the parks for spring. During the winter time, the parks are quiet. He also spoke about the recent allocation of \$70,000 for street clean-up in Corona. He saw DOE Fund workers along Corona Avenue doing a clean-up, which is good to see.

Youth

Committee Chair Lucy Cerezo-Scully reported there was no meeting, but she did attend the Town Hall meeting hosted by Council Member Daniel Dromm. It is important for NYC schools to receive adequate funding. It is not a charter vs. public schools problem. It is an education problem. A whole campaign is in progress signing documents, talking to legislators to thoroughly understand the problem. Unfortunately, not enough is being done for our public schools. When children are taught in closets, it is a problematic. A Committee meeting is planned on this issue to discuss how we can be more proactive and getting the word out.

The state owes the public education system \$2.2 billion. We must show the money is spent and then show more money is needed. The money has been spent and programs have been cut.

Next, she reported on upcoming meeting regarding drones. A public hearing, hosted by the Port Authority, for Queens is set for January 29, at Queens Borough Hall, 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. Our transportation systems are impacted, and will break. The meeting will also hold discussions on our freight systems and how the trucking industry is impacting our community already.

Before the ULURP and Transportation Committee reports were presented, District Manager Cassagnol reported the Board Office was able to contact ULURP Committee Chair Miriam Levenson who is now at Castle Senior Living and will not be chairing the committee for some time. She is doing well.

Regarding Transportation Committee Chair Joseph DiMartino who had fallen and was in a coma, we have received word recently he had recovered and was fine. However, yesterday we received word he was back in the hospital. Today, however, we spoke to him and he was well yet again. Joe sent his regards to the Board.

Postal

No report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

Transportation

No report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

ULURP & Zoning

No report. Committee Chair not in attendance

X. PUBLIC FORUM

A community resident asked about the stairwell on 55th Avenue. Will the stairwell be replaced to the bridge? District Manager Christian Cassagnol provided details. The community resident also asked about the Greenstreet. More details were given by the District Manager.

Next, a community resident spoke about the declining property values as a result of the Pan American shelter. What will the city do to enhance the local streets, lighting, roadways, and signage to make it a more aesthetically pleasing neighborhood? If there is an erosion of property value, the city should be able to recognize it. Enhancements should be done to make it a more cosmetically appealing neighborhood, which will stem the erosion of the property values.

Next, Board Member Psang Tsering, Housing Counselor at Chhaya provides direct assistance with housing issues. A Home Buyer Fair is being organized on Saturday, January 31, 12:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m. at P.S. 69 Cafeteria, 77-02 37th Avenue, Jackson Heights, NY. Flyers were available with more information.

At the event, a panel discussion from experts in the housing field will provide information about the home buying process, down payment assistance programs, mortgage products, and much more.

Next, Ms. Tehmina Brohi, from the non-profit organization Citizens Committee for NYC, reported its mission is to support grassroots groups throughout the city working on projects to improve their neighborhoods. She explained the neighborhood grants given by the organization. Deadline to apply is January 26. Flyers were on the back table.

These are grants for resident-led volunteer groups coming together to work on projects identified affecting their communities. Groups funded are community organizations, tenant associations, block associations, community gardens, beautifications projects, art programming for the youth –whatever issue is identified for your community and funding is needed, Log on to their website www.citizens.nyc.org for more information. Workshops are also given, and there is also a loan library for groups wishing to borrow some equipment. There are other ways to support groups. Do reach out to this organization for assistance.

Next, Bin Feng Zheng, Outreach Coordinator, Partnership for Parks and a member of the Parks Department. reported he works with community groups on volunteer events. The organization provides grants, workshops, and training for groups and helps to put on volunteer events in the parks. If you have a concern about any park in the area, or to improve green spaces, he is here to help.

There being no further business, Board Member Lucy Cerezo-Scully made a motion, seconded by Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.