



COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, Elmhurst, and Newtown

46-11 104th Street

Corona, New York

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Melinda Katz
Borough President

Louis Walker
Chairperson

Melva Miller
Deputy Borough President

Christian Cassagnol
District Manager

December 13, 2016

BOARD MEMBER ATTENDANCE:

Board Members Attending:

Louis Walker
Priscilla Carrow
Giancarlo Castano
Chaio-Chung Chen
Debra Clayton
Ann Pfoser Darby
Marialena Giampino
Ingrid Gomez
Jennifer Gutierrez
Salvatore Lombardo
Peter Manganaro
Patricia Martin
Rovenia McGowan
Edgar Moya
Sandra Munoz

Gurdip Singh Narula
Georgina Oliver
Shwe Zin (Winny) Oo
Alirio Orduna
Albert Perna
Alexa Ponce
Ashley Reed
Cristian Romero
Clara Salas
A. Redd Sevilla
Lucy Schilero
Alton Derrick Smith
Damian Vargas
Rosa Wong
Minwen Yang

Board Members Absent:

Lucy Cerezo-Scully
Safat Chowdhury
Erica Cruz
Judith D'Andrea
Maria Damico
Joseph DiMartino

Hector Hernandez
James Lisa
Oscar Rios
Gigi Salvador
Patricia Terranova
Marcello Testa
Lester Youngblood

ATTENDING:

Pat Rosero, Queens Borough President's Office
Christian Cassagnol, CB4 District Manager
Margaret Silletti CB4 Community Coordinator
Christina Long, CB4 Community Assistant
Assembly Member Francisco Moya
Ari Espinal, Assembly Member Francisco Moya's Office
D. I. Christopher Manson, 110 Police Precinct
Emely Paez, Senator Jose Peralta's Office
Lillian Zepeda, Council Member Julissa Ferreras-Copeland's Office
QiBin Ye, Council Member Daniel Dromm's Office
Louise Emanuel, Assembly Member Jeffrion Aubry's Office
Aliya Latif, NYC Comptroller's Office
Stacy Eliuk, Public Advocate's Office
Ernestine McKayle, 97-28 57 Avenue, Corona, NY
Debra Hargrove, 96-02 57 Avenue, Corona, NY
Jim Galloway, PO Box 730666, Elmhurst, NY
Steven Mayer, 92-16 Whitney Avenue, Elmhurst, NY
Mike Liquori, VFW Post #150
Mario Matos, Maspeth High School, 54-40 74 Street
Elma Tulloch, 37-37 104 Street, Corona, NY
Norrea P. Ventura, Elmhurst Senior Center
Jimmy Apostolatos Jr., Elmhurst, NY
Andy Collado, 102-34 46 Avenue, Corona, NY
Jennifer Ochoa, NCA, 89-08 43 Avenue, Elmhurst, NY
Eduardo Ochoa, 89-08 43 Avenue, Elmhurst, NY
Gladys Ochoa, 89-08 43 Avenue, Elmhurst, NY
Sergio Abea, NCA, 89-08 43 Avenue, Elmhurst, NY
Juan Restrepo, 125-95 41 Street
Gerald Burroughs X, 103-20 53 Avenue, Corona, NY

COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2016

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.

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

IV. **VOTE:** Minutes November 15, 2016 Meeting

Board Member Priscilla Carrow made a motion, seconded by Board Member Alirio Orduna, to **accept** the minutes.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 30 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

At this point, Deputy Inspector Christopher Manson addressed the Board. He reported crime is on the increase. He related an account about a career burglary perp. that stole \$40,000 in cash and was apprehended by the police. He was arrested for nine burglaries.

Subsequently, he spoke about a homicide on Thanksgiving, which involved a drug sale with six persons involved in a murder.

All six were jailed and are under arrest for murder in the second degree because of the nature of the brutal crime. He explained this was not a gang crime. They had done business before and it was more for money in exchange for drugs. It was all recorded on video and D. I. Manson recounted some details of the crime.

Next, he reported there was a pickpocket in the Queens Center Mall. He cautioned all to be careful, especially the ladies. Pickpockets are watching potential targets. Moms with the strollers who are busy looking at merchandise and leave their pocketbooks in the stroller are easy targets. Perps. reach into their victim's pocketbook and take their wallet. A pickpocket was arrested in the Queens Center Mall and admitted to the Police he works for a crew and receives a certain percentage of the hits. This perp. was taking in \$200-\$300 per day. He is in jail and a \$50,000 bail was set.

Next, he spoke about phone extortions. Scams involve people being called with messages their relatives have been in a car accident and money needs to be sent to a certain location. Many people do send money without checking out the situation first. He spoke about unsuspecting Hispanic males are being sent a video with someone being killed in the video and asked to send money. There is always a new scam to steal your money.

Board Member Pat Martin asked about the gang situation in Queens.

D. I. Manson responded in the 110 Precinct there are several gangs mentioning the various gangs in the area. There are approximately 500 documented gang members who live in this precinct. Along Roosevelt Avenue, arrests are made for robberies, prostitution, fake document and drug sales. Currently, there are active investigations in progress. He noted some gang members have been arrested 20 to 30 times. Also, there are gang issues along 57 Avenue and Lefrak City. There were three shootings in the area over a period of several

months. The perp. is in jail now and has been offered a ten year sentence by the judge. It was turned down and he will be in jail for a very long time.

Next, he mentioned the sky watches in the area. Sky watches are moved around frequently to different locations. With the assist of the sky watches, police can monitor areas. Mobile command centers are also moved to different locations. If left too long in one area, it loses impact. Resources are moved, sometimes as short as every eight hours, depending on the need. Manpower, cars, plain clothes and specialized units are moved accordingly wherever the need is.

A member of the audience brought up the transvestites along 82 and 83 Streets and Roosevelt Avenue.

D.I. Manson responded some are law abiding citizens, while others may be involved in criminal activity. Arrests have been made, although he could not provide more details pending the ongoing investigation.

Next, Chica Chica cards distributed along Roosevelt Avenue were brought up. Arrests are made on the charge of disorderly conduct instead of promoting prostitution, said D. I. Manson. Police do know about chica chica cards and do pursue them.

Board Member Giancarlo Castano brought up a recent mugging in front of his house, which was captured on video. Has there been an arrest?

D. I. Manson replied he did not know the individualized case, but video plays a major part in apprehending a criminal. Facial recognition technique is amazing.

A resident in the audience brought up quality of life in the area. She mentioned the following problems: illegal selling of metro cards at Corona Plaza and also ladies selling water and sweets with no permits on the 103 Street station platform, blocking the entrance to the subway.

Police fight quality of life issues 24 hours per day and are outnumbered. There are 170,000 people who live in the district with a staff of 200 officers assigned to the Precinct said D.I. Manson.

Board Member Chaio-Chung Chen Chen asked if there are Auxiliary Police and inquired why he did not see the officers.

D. I. Manson replied yes there are Auxiliary Police and reported for the last month they were assigned to the Queens Center Mall. After the assassination of NYPD Police Officers Ramos and Liu, the NYPD pulled them in, and after the shooting of another police officer, police policies were revamped for auxiliary police. Now, they are back on patrol for the past six to eight weeks.

Before concluding, D. I. Manson explained about the homeless crisis and how Police handle the situation and he differentiated between encampments and hot spots. Police visit those locations constantly and try to talk to the homeless and suggest a city homeless shelter but homeless people decline. The reason most homeless people do not go to shelters is because of their deplorable conditions and they say they are robbed and beaten there. Police cannot force a homeless person to go to a shelter. The NYPD is looking for different ways to get the homeless off the streets and out of the cold. The city issues a cold blue notice when the temperature drops to 32 degrees or below.

Next, Assembly Member Francisco Moya addressed the Board and thanked the 110 Precinct and the NYPD for the opportunity to visit needy families in Corona with them. Seeing those families meet Santa Claus knocking on their doors was a great experience with community and policing coming together to show Corona we care.

Next, Assembly Member Moya thanked Chair Lou Walker for his dedication, time, and effort in making our community and Community Board 4Q better. It has been an honor to serve alongside Mr. Walker with his many great accomplishments and battles won. Chair Walker has been a leading voice in our community. Chair Walker received a round of applause for his dedication and service and will be missed, said Assembly Member Moya.

Subsequently, Assembly Member Moya presented Chair Walker with a Proclamation for his service to the community, and read to the Board the message on the Proclamation.

All were wished Happy Holidays by Assembly Member Moya. Furthermore, he stated it is an honor to represent Community Board 4Q. From January to June, he will be in session in Albany. To keep in touch, perhaps, a video can be sent to the Board for an update on current matters.

V. REPORT OF THE LEGISLATORS

Emely Paez, representing NYS Senator Jose Peralta's office reported after completing her education, she is now serving as Chief of Staff at the Senator's office. Please call her if she can assist you, and announced the following event focusing on Mental Health including Self-Care, Self-Love, Healthy Eating, and Reducing Stress:

Thursday, December 15, 2016
7:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.
Jewish Center of Jackson Heights
37-06 77th Street
Jackson Heights, NY

Featuring Motivational Speaker Kenia Nunez

Next, Qibin Ye, representing Council Member Daniel Dromm's office, reported the Elmhurst Holiday Tree Lighting held on December 1 was very successful and several Community Board Members had attended. She complimented Board Member Al Perna for his DJ work at the event.

She pointed out the Welcome to Elmhurst sign was put up on Broadway next to CC Moore Park.

Also, in the past few weeks Council Member Dromm has held several rallies partnering with advocacy groups as well as Know Your Rights workshops. Since there is much uncertainty and fear in our community after the Presidential election, many undocumented immigrants have been forced to seek legal advice. However sometimes legal providers take advantage of immigrants by offering fraudulent services. Those providers often try to capitalize on immigrants' fear or language barriers and offer pricey services the providers may not be able to legally provide. Therefore, to stop those providers Council Members Daniel Dromm, the prime sponsor, and Rory Lancman, co-sponsor, introduced City Council Bill Int. 746 last year. This Bill would prevent providers from offering services that only attorneys should offer.

In addition, Council Member Dromm contributed \$1.5 million to the reconstruction of Veteran's Grove Park in Elmhurst. Work has been moving along very well.

Also, Council Member Daniel Dromm is working together with Council Member Julissa Ferreras-Copeland to get additional money for school seats. Last year both Council Members were able to secure \$868 million into new school seats. More money is still being sought for schools.

The Elmhurst Library is opening Tuesday, December 20. All were invited to go to the Library and utilize the Library as often as possible. It is a great local resource in our community.

Lastly, Thursday, December 15, Council Member Dromm is hosting his annual Open House, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend and visit the district office.

Next, Jacqueline Sanchez, Constituent Services, representing Council Member Julissa Ferreras-Copeland's office, extended an invitation to attend a Holiday Tree Lighting on Thursday, December 15, 7:00 P.M., at Elmhurst Care Center, 100-17 Ditmars Blvd., East Elmhurst, NY. Choirs from local churches will also be present.

Flyers were on the back table.

Legislative updates on the Tax Lien sale and the Veteran's Tax Bill will be presented at the Board's January, 2017 meeting.

Next, Stacy Eliuk, representing the office of Public Advocate Letitia James, reported on the two young girls who died as a result of a radiator explosion, they were housed at a cluster site. Cluster sites are places rented out independently by landlords that the City uses to house the homeless. This site was on the 100 worst landlords watch list. Last year, they were listed as #4; this year #10. Some improvements were made, but not nearly enough.

This was the latest tragedy in two high profile deaths involving children. Although the ACS Commissioner had an extensive record of public service, the Public Advocate had called for the agency's Commissioner to step down, and she did. Our children's welfare depends on the reform of ACS stated the Public Advocate.

The Public Advocate has called for several reforms of ACS. Specifically, those reforms include the urgent need for reforms and for substantive changes that include splitting the responsibilities of ACS into different agencies, rigorous oversight over contract agencies, adequately training and supervising caseworkers, and deeper ongoing supports to children in foster care or child preventative services.

Next, Alex Bennett, on behalf of Congresswoman Grace Meng, officially congratulated Chair Louis Walker on his amazing service to the district. A nation is only as strong as the communities that compose it and he thanked Mr. Walker for his leadership and wished the Chairperson-elect Damian Vargas much success in the coming year.

VI. REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

District Manager Christian Cassagnol reported on a recent meeting regarding Fountain of the Fairs, which is adjacent to the Flushing Meadows-Corona Park Unisphere. There was a scoping meeting a few months ago where community input was given and the Parks Department did listen to community concerns. The plan presented was preliminary with the final plan presented later on. It was a really nice job, stated District Manager Cassagnol. One of the Board's Capital priorities was to help with the funding of the Fountain of the Fairs, he noted.

Sometime in the near future, Board meetings will be broadcast on WNET. Since it is extremely early in the process, District Manager Cassagnol has not yet attended any meetings. It is being fully funded by Council Member Julissa Ferreras-Copeland. For some time, the conversation regarding televising meetings has been brought up but, we as a Board, have no means to fund the undertaking. The Council is giving its full support on this endeavor.

He mentioned the Elmhurst Library is having its grand opening on December 20 at 12:00 Noon. To follow this project from the planning stages to fruition is amazing. An adult learning center is included in the facility, which was one of the Board's Capital priorities.

Next, he reported Community Board 4 is going digital. Call the Board office and we will e-mail you the link.

Next, he spoke about two buildings requesting landmark status. The first is the old St. James Church, established in 1735 and located directly across from the Elmhurst Library. He read some facts regarding the St. James Church explaining why it should be landmarked. Support from the Community Board is needed.

Subsequently, Board Member Lucy Schilero made a motion, seconded by Board Member Alirio Orduna, to grant landmark status to St. James Church, 84-07 Broadway, Elmhurst, NY.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 30 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions to **approve** the motion. Motion passed.

The second structure requesting landmark status is the façade of the Jackson Theatre established in 1924. It is located at 40-31 82 Street, Jackson Heights, NY. The 1500 seat theater designed by Herbert J. Krapp, opened in the 1920's with movies only.

Subsequently, Board Member Jennifer Gutierrez made a motion, seconded by Board Member Giancarlo Castano, to grant landmark status to the Jackson Theatre.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 30 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions to **approve** the motion. Motion passed.

At this point, District Manager Christian Cassagnol thanked Chairperson Louis Walker for his support and dedication to the Board during his many years of service. "I could not have gotten where I am today without you. You not only hit the ground running, you've never actually stopped," said District Manager Cassagnol.

On behalf of the full Board, a gift was presented to Chairperson Walker.

After opening the gift at the urging of the Board, Chairperson Louis Walker thanked the Board.

VII. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson Louis Walker reported the Board's election for its executive officers was held last month. Based on the Open Meeting Law, the Board should not have convened into Executive Session to question the candidates. However the Open Meeting Law does state the idea is to protect people's personal information. In fact, some personal information was discussed which was not for the general public. However, Queens Borough Hall has requested the Board hold the election for the office of Chairperson over again. Chair Walker stated if it is up to him, he would say no. The Board can either vote for Board Chairperson again or leave the vote as is. This request applies to the Office of Chairperson only, not for the other Executive Officer positions of the Board.

Board Member Sandra Munoz made a motion, seconded by Board Member Priscilla Carrow, to leave the election as is for the Office of Chairperson--Leave vote as is.

A roll call vote will be taken said Chair Louis Walker.

Board Member Marialena Giampino asked was something wrong with the process?

Board Chair Louis Walker replied there was a technical error. The Board should not have convened into Executive Session. He was told it was for employees only, however, the Chairperson is in charge of the office, although he is not paid, and is as much an employee as anyone.

Furthermore said Chair Walker of the three candidates who ran for the office of Chair, noting one candidate is not present tonight, the second biggest vote getter is already the Board's First Vice Chair and cannot hold two positions. It does make the situation extremely awkward.

A Board Member asked what would happen if the Board does not vote again.

Chairperson Louis Walker responded they will keep asking the Board to do so. The next Chair will probably be asked in January to hold his own election over again. But that will be his option as it is now.

Board Member Ann Pfoser Darby brought up there was not proper notification of the election.

Chairperson Louis Walker responded there was proper notification and that is not the issue. He further explained the issue was convening into Executive Session, and not allowing the public to be present. In no way, did that change the outcome of the election. Ballots were signed and Board members voted the way they chose.

At this point, Pat Rosero, representing the Queens Borough President's Office, reported someone did question Queens Borough Hall about the election process for Board Chair. Borough Hall staff found out from the City, although not stated in our bylaws, the City Charter does state the election should have been open, which is the reasoning behind why Queens Borough Hall is making the request.

Chairperson Louis Walker said he had informed Queens Borough Hall it would be a very good idea, for this issue to be avoided in the future, that all Community Boards in the City include the Open Meeting Law in its bylaws. Right now, he did not think any Community Board has it included in its bylaws.

More discussion ensued.

Conversely, Chair Walker said there may be other inclusions in the Charter that should be in Community Boards' bylaws. Queens Borough Hall has a big job ahead of them regarding all the Community Boards, which may include more than one set of bylaws. Specifically, some Community Boards do not have term limits; while others Community Boards do.

At this point, the Board took its vote on the motion on the floor.

Before the vote, Board Secretary Lucy Schilero reiterated the motion, *"To Leave The Election As It was Last Month For Only the Chairperson's Position"*.

By a roll call vote, the Board voted 24 in favor, 3 opposed, with 1 abstention. Motion passed.

VIII. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Renewal of TLC License

Red Apple Car & Limo—102-54 43 Avenue

Report: 111th Street Traffic Safety Plan

Since Transportation Committee Chair James Lisa was not in attendance, District Manager Christian Cassagnol presented the report.

Red Apple Car & Limo – The Transportation Committee met on November 29 and approved the application. The base license was approved based on the fact there were no negative impacts to the community. The vote by the Committee was unanimous to approve.

Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula made a motion, seconded by Board Member Georgina Oliver, to **approve** the Base license renewal.

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

111 Street Traffic Safety Plan

District Manager Cassagnol reported NYC Department of Transportation did bring the plan back to the Community Board. Several edits were made because of some issues brought up by the Board. However there were more questions that DOT needed to take back and look into before the plan is presented again sometime in the future. Two out of three Transportation Committee members decided that DOT should return at a later time.

IX. REPORT AND VOTE: ULURP & ZONING COMMITTEE

85-10/12 Roosevelt Avenue-To extend term of Special Permit 189-96 BZ which expired on May 19, 2016 for the first floor as an eating and drinking establishment of 200 capacity with dancing.

ULURP & Zoning Committee Chair Alton Derrick Smith reported this is a renewal application for a cabaret. The Club is known as Flamingo at 85-10/12 Roosevelt Avenue. The renewal application is received every three years. Although there were problems in the past, no current problems are on record. The Committee met on November 9 and approved the extension of term of Special Permit of existing Eating and Drinking Establishment.

Board Member Clara Salas made a motion, seconded by Board Member Alton Derrick Smith, to **approve** the extension of term of Special Permit of existing Eating and Drinking Establishment “Cabaret” for 85-10/12 Roosevelt Avenue.

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

X. REPORT AND VOTE: Public Safety Committee SLA Applications

Public Safety Committee Chair reported at the last Public Safety Committee meeting held on November 6, the problem of gangs was discussed. The Committee is trying to get the NYPD to report more on gangs in the community.

Scams to steal your money are widespread. One of the scams is to promise jobs with a large upfront fee paid by the jobseeker. She advised check with the agency itself to see if the offer is legitimate. Some scams involve Con Edison, and Social Security, to name a few. Do not take it upon yourself.

Security cameras are an asset to deter and solve crimes in our community. The NYPD encourages them in our community.

Mail theft is on the rise. Do not leave your name on your mailbox, put a number on it, and always lock your mailbox. Thieves are stealing mail to create another identity in your name.

Next, she spoke about various domestic violence cases: those involving young children, the elderly, and between husband and wife. Refer victims to the Family Justice Center, 718-575-4545 which is located in every borough, if someone needs assistance.

Following, she reported a representative from the NYC Fire Department will attend Community Board meetings. He had attended the Public Safety Committee meeting. A Holiday Safety Workshop is planned. A hotline has been set up, hiring is set for April 2017, and the Fire Department is looking to expand its CPR training for young people. They will not be certified, but training will be provided.

Subsequently, she spoke about the retrofitting of the fire alarm boxes. Those new boxes do not have the orange/gold sign to remind you where to set off the alarm. FDNY will look into the complaint the Committee raised on those new boxes. Next month, there will be more information. Ms. Lettice Williams presented the report to the Committee. Call her at 718-999-1508 to set up a meeting or plan a report for a school.

At this point, the liquor license applications were presented:

NYS LIQUOR AUTHORITY LICENSES

NEW APPLICANTS

ESTABLISHMENT'S NAME ESTABLISHMENT'S ADDRESS RECOMMENDATION

A New Sunrise Inc. <i>La Pollera Colorada</i> Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider	40-15 Junction Blvd. Corona, NY	Approve
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Prontito Corp. Beer & Cider	40-25 Forley Street Elmhurst, NY	Denied
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Applicant failed to provide proof that DOB cleared the construction work that was done in the establishment. We've also asked the applicant to be cognizant of the noise emanating from the establishment, as there have been several noise complaints against this location.

Jaew Hon Inc. Wine, Beer, & Cider	71-30 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Denied
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Applicant contacted the office, not ready to proceed, will reapply next month.

NYS LIQUOR AUTHORITY LICENSES

NEW APPLICANTS (cont'd)

ESTABLISHMENT'S NAME ESTABLISHMENT'S ADDRESS RECOMMENDATION

Chimy Express Restaurant Inc. Wine, Beer & Cider	101-17 43 Avenue Corona, NY	Denied
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Applicant failed to respond to our request to meet

RENEWAL APPLICANTS

ESTABLISHMENT'S NAME ESTABLISHMENT'S ADDRESS RECOMMENDATION

Mangos Steakhouse & Bakery Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider	78-14 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Denied
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Applicant failed to respond to our request to meet. Long history of criminal complaints. SLA violations and being a bad neighbor.

High Flying Birds, Inc. <i>NY Chevilotte</i>	78-14 Roosevelt Avenue	Denied
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Liquor, Wine Beer & Cider Jackson Heights, NY
Applicant failed to respond to our request to meet. Applicant has a long history of criminal complaints, SLA violations and being a bad neighbor.

Yingyong Food. Corp. 71-30 Roosevelt Avenue Approved
Playground Bar & Thai Restaurant Jackson Heights, NY

Tacos Y Jugos Genesis Corp. 78-04 Woodside Avenue Approved
Wine Beer & Cider Elmhurst, NY

8012 51 Avenue Rest. Inc. 80-12 51 Avenue Approved
Blackhorn 51 Elmhurst, NY

Los Tres Hermanos Potrillos 111-16 Roosevelt Avenue Denied
Los Trees Potrillos Corona, NY
Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider
Applicant failed to respond to our request to meet. Applicant has a long history of criminal complaints, SLA violations and being a bad neighbor.

Cositas Ricas Ecuatorianas Corp. 86-10 Roosevelt Avenue, Unit 4 Approved
El Pequeno Coffee Shop Jackson Heights, NY

Sabor Latino Corp. 95-35 40th Road Denied
Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider Corona, NY
Long history of complaints, SLA violations.

Board Member Georgina Oliver made a motion, seconded by Board Member Giancarlo Castano, to **approve** the Public Safety Committee's report as presented.

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

XI. REPORT AND VOTE: Parks Committee
Newtown Playground Design Project

District Manager Christian Cassagnol reported the design for Newtown Playground was brought to the Parks Committee. Although the Committee did not have a quorum, those that were present approved the idea. All community concerns were met.

At this point, First Vice Chair & Parks Committee Chair Al Perna spoke on how important it is for members to attend Committee meetings especially so when a guest is invited. It is very frustrating to have a guest and no members come in. Without a quorum, a vote cannot be taken and it is extremely frustrating. Everyone must come together, he stated. If there is a meeting, please attend. Otherwise, people waste their valuable time. Sometimes, he is the only one in attendance at a meeting. Other times, it is he and one committee member present. Hopefully in the coming year, our committees will become stronger.

District Manager Christian Cassagnol confirmed those sentiments. Attendance at meetings is vital and crucial to the working relationship of the Board.

Subsequently, Board Member Sandra Munoz suggested recruiting from the community.

District Manager Cassagnol said ten applications were handed out to each Board Member during the closed session on November 15. Not a one has been returned.

Board Member Sandra Munoz recommended constant reminders. Everyone has schedules and is very busy. If there is a committee meeting, she needs to know. Personally speaking, the meeting cannot be sprung on her, i.e. this is the date of the meeting.

District Manager Cassagnol replied the office staff cannot call every Board member to remind them of meetings. We cannot take requests.

Board members receive notices of all committee meetings, not just for their respective committee meeting. Many times follow up phone calls are also made.

Board Member Sandra Munoz stressed this is not criticism; it is for more participation for the committees.

More discussion continued.

Board Member Clara Salas recommended using high school seniors to help. Newtown High School has a community participation program.

District Manager Cassagnol replied he would not recruit high school seniors when adults cannot do it. "Lead by example," said the District Manager.

Applications are at the Board office. If anyone would like to recruit, please pass on the application, said District Manager Cassagnol.

This has to change in 2017 and further explained agencies will not take us seriously if we don't take it seriously, said District Manager Cassagnol.

XII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Consumer Affairs

Since Committee Chair Erica Cruz was not in attendance, District Manager Cassagnol presented the report. Consumer Affairs met to determine what meeting date works best for her members. Only one member attended the meeting out of six assigned committee members.

Committee Chair Erica Cruz was extremely upset by the turnout, however, she is looking to meeting the third Wednesday of the month. Also, she is proposing a walk-thru of a certain section of Queens Blvd. to look at businesses and see the changes, including the gentlemen's clubs. Unfortunately, not enough members attended to do the walk-thru. Next month, the Committee will meet on the third Wednesday, and she is planning to do the walk-thru of the certain section of Queens Blvd. on a Saturday sometime in January.

Environmental

No report at this time said Environmental Chair Giancarlo Castano, but he announced the Committee's upcoming projects for 2017. Currently, there are only two community gardens in our district. They are underserved and they need money. Also they are inaccessible to many people. Therefore, the Committee's focus for next year will be upgrading and improving those community gardens. There are also unofficial sites the Environmental Committee can visit and acquire funding.

Health

Committee Chair Sal Lombardo reported a meeting was held on November 17, but only he and the District Manager were in attendance. Many topics were reviewed. For 2017, scheduling guest speakers is planned.

Youth

Committee Chair Cristian Romero reported on the coat drive. The Committee's goal is 100 goals; Twenty coats have been collected to date. There is a box at the Queens Center Mall for donations as well as a box in the Community Board 4 office. Flyers were distributed on the coat drive. He offered to pick up coats if you could not go to the drop off sites.

XIII. PUBLIC FORUM

Gerald Burroughs X thanked the Board for its help in resolving an ongoing problem in his neighborhood. The residents are requesting the No Parking signage at 103 Street and 53 Avenue be changed from one corner to the opposite corner. The way the signage is now trucks cannot make the turn. Signed petitions were presented to the Board to implement this request.

Board Member Rovenia McGowan said the bus stops for the Q38 and Q88 on the Horace Harding Expressway between Calloway and 99 Street is dangerous. There have accidents as a result. Buses stop on the Horace Harding and Calloway, there is a blind spot on Calloway, which is very dangerous. These problems should be brought to the attention of the MTA she stated.

She also mentioned the young lady who was killed at the intersection of Junction Blvd. and the Horace Harding Expressway.

Next, Board Member Alirio Orduna reported the NY Military Youth Cadets have had a very successful year. One cadet joined West Point, six Marines, sailors, and two joined the army. A female cadet is in her third year at the U. S. Naval Academy. Registration on January 7 will be held at P. S. 19. Support from the Board is needed.

Next, Board Member Marialena Giampino reported there are many initiatives that can be implemented for our community. Friends of CB 4 could be formed as a non-profit group to provide funding for community projects that the Board can do itself without relying on outside funding sources. Also, she reported Elmhurst has a new Newsletter, *Elmhurst Express*, which is published quarterly.

Next, Gerald Burroughs X reported last winter corner of 103 Street & 53 Avenue where a sanitation plow (stuck for 24 hours) two weeks after that two city buses stuck during the snowstorms for nine hours. This is a dangerous. The next week a truck was stuck there. Plows could not get down the street, or emergency vehicles. Impassable streets were from Martense Avenue to 52 Avenue, 103 Street & 53 Avenue from 108 Street to 103 Street.

Since there was no further business, Board Member Priscilla Carrow made a motion, seconded by Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

The Board's Annual Holiday Party followed and a good time was had by all!

Afterwards, Chairperson Louis Walker said it's been a pleasure and announced Assembly Member Francisco Moya covered the cost of the Holiday Party.