



COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, Elmhurst, and Newtown

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Corona, New York

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Melinda Katz
Borough President

Damian Vargas
Chairperson

Melva Miller
Deputy Borough President

Christian Cassagnol
District Manager

January 9, 2018

COMMUNITY BOARD ATTENDANCE

Board Members Attending:

Damian Vargas
Giancarlo Castano
Chaio-Chung Chen
Debra Clayton
Lynda Coral
Erica Cruz
Judith D'Andrea
Maria Damico
Ingrid Gomez
Jennifer Gutierrez
James Lisa
Patricia Martin
Edgar Moya
Ruby Muhammad
Sandra Munoz

Gurdip Singh Narula
Georgina Oliver
Ashley Reed
Cristian Romero
Clara Salas
Gigi Salvador
A. Redd Sevilla
Lucy Schilero
Malikah Shabazz
Alton Derrick Smith
Gregory Spock
Marcello Testa
Vivian Tseng
Louis Walker
Minwen Yang

Board Members Absent:

Priscilla Carrow
Lucy Cerezo Scully
Safat Chowdbury
Marialena Giampino
Salvatore Lombardo
Peter Manganaro
Shwe Zin (Winnie) Oo

Albert Perna
Alexa Ponce
Oscar Rios
Neil Roman
Rosa Wong
Lester Youngblood

ATTENDING:

Christian Cassagnol, CB4 District Manager
Christian Long, CB4 Community Assistant
Joe Nocerino, Queens Borough President Melinda Katz's Office
QiBin Ye, Council Member Daniel Dromm's Office
Stephanie Olcesa, Senator Jose Peralta's Office
Ari Espinal, Council Member Francisco Moya's Office
Louise Emanuel, Assembly Member Jeffrion Aubry's Office
Stacey Eliuk, Public Advocate Letitia James' Office
Captain Nicola Ventre, 110 Precinct
Kathleen Cassino, Manager, Community Relations & Events – USTA
Daniel Zausner - USTA
Otis Williams, FDNY
Mario Matos, Maspeth High School
Debra Hargrove, 96-02 57 Avenue, Corona, NY
Robert Grant, 96-04 57 Avenue, Corona, NY
Mike Liquori, VFW Post 150
Jimmy Apostolatos, PO Box 337939, Elmhurst, NY
Ernestine McKayle, 97-28 57 Avenue, Corona, NY
Barbara Jackson, U. S. Rep. Joseph Crowley
Miriam Aragon, Queens Library
Jim Galloway
Mitch Flax, Valence College, 3533 83 Street, Jackson Heights, NY
Michelle Dunston, LCTA
Carmen Terero, 35-03 105 Street, Corona, NY
William Girchn, NYC Comptroller's Office
Denise Cunningham, I. S. 61
Orisavi Svarez, Elmhurst, NY
Maurice Crawford, Elmhurst, NY
Jorge Rodriguez, 98-03 Horace Harding Exp., Corona, NY
John Albert, 55-30 99th Street, Corona, NY
Jon Beltre
Juan Ginis
Veronica Ramirez, Museres en Movimiento

PUBLIC SPEAKER'S LIST

John Wang, Queens Night Market
Ernestine McKayle
Jim Galloway
Miriam Aragon, Queens Library
Denise Cunningham, IS 61

Meeting streamed live.

COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE; TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2018

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

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

I. Chairperson Damian Vargas opened the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

At this point, Chairperson Damian Vargas called for a moment of silence for Council Member Daniel Dromm's Mother, Mary Audrey Gallagher, who passed away last week.

II. District Manager Christian Cassagnol took the roll call.

Next, Chairperson Vargas announced to the public if you wish to speak during the Public Forum segment, please sign the sign in sheet. Allotted speaking time is two minutes.

III. VOTE: Minutes December 19, 2017

Board Member Clara Salas made a motion, seconded by Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula, to **approve** the minutes.

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

IV. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson Vargas reported he attended the Borough Board meeting January 8, 2018, which consists of the Chairs of the Queens Community Boards who meet with the Queens Borough President. The topic for this meeting was the select bus services. The discussion centered on the services that will be implemented in different parts of Queens. Most of the focus was on the Q52 and Q53 bus lines, which runs along Woodhaven Blvd. to Cross Bay Blvd.

Studies will be done to measure the speed of the buses along Roosevelt Avenue between 74 and 82 Streets. Other locations have been identified where the buses are not running on time or much slower.

For the Committee Chairs, Chairperson Vargas is planning a meeting this month to discuss agendas for this year

and for the Executive Committee, a meeting is also planned for February 2018.

V. REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

District Manager Christian Cassagnol reported community groups who wish to apply for funding from the City Council and Borough President's Office the date to do so is January 30. He explained this is another part of the City's budget process. If you are part of a not for profit or community group, reach out to the Borough President's office first. You have the opportunity to testify on behalf of your organization, the Community Board included, on any funding needed. He urged all community groups and not for profits to do so on January 30.

Next, he reported on 111 Street. A letter was sent out from the Board to the Queens Borough President last month, which also included a copy to the Mayor, NYC Department of Transportation, and all elected officials noting there was an increase in accidents on 111 Street since the plan was implemented. We are waiting on a meeting from NYC Department of Transportation with follow-up studies as part of the plan and conversations immediately initiated before there is an officially reported tragedy. A follow up is very much needed.

Next, he reported on the abundance of flyers ending up on our sidewalks and city streets. He said if you are a property owner and have a lot of unsolicited flyers there is legislation in effect. Post a sign saying don't leave unsolicited materials here. By law, solicitors are to honor it. On the other hand, he spoke about a co-op Board where not everyone would be in agreement. Recently, there was an issue with a local pizzeria that was dropping flyers all over the sidewalk. The Board office had reached out to the business, but there was no change. This must be handled by posting a sign to not place unsolicited material on the homeowner's property.

In conclusion, District Manager Cassagnol reported he would contribute to the discussions throughout the meeting.

VI. PUBLIC FORUM

Good And Welfare of the District

First, John Wang from the Queens Nigh Market gave an update on the 2018 season. Tentatively starting on April 21 through the end of October with a break for the USTA and the Maker Faire the first two nights will be tickets sold for \$5.00. Afterwards, open to the public. In a week or so vendor applications will be open. Local food vendor and/or merchandise vendors are welcome. He explained the bands and performers were pro bono and grants were received by the state. Now, the performers can be paid.

Partnering with the Governor's office, a small business seminar is planned for February. Contact Mr. Wang for more details.

Last year, the Queens Night Market had donated \$40,000 to different charities such as the FDNY and NYPD Survivor Fund, Immigration rights, Parks, Breast Cancer, and Disaster Relief in Puerto Rico and Mexico. This year providing food and amenities for the needy is the focus.

Mr. Wang serves as Chair of the Community Advisory Board for Flushing Meadows-Corona Park. About a month ago, an Open House was held for attendees to give feedback on the Park. Sixty people were in attendance and data is still being reviewed. Another Open House is planned in a few months. All were invited to attend.

Second, Miriam Aragon from the Queens Library, Elmhurst, NY, Elmhurst Adult Learning Center addressed the Board.

A flyer was distributed to the Board outlining their services, which include:

- Education

- Employment
- Government benefits
- Healthcare
- Housing
- Immigration/Citizenship
- And More!

Third, Denise Cunningham, a lifelong resident of East Elmhurst, came for help regarding parking for the I. S. 61 staff. Currently, there is no dedicated parking for staff. Thirty-five of the staff park at the Korean Church. They no longer have that parking because the Church was sold. After many phone calls back and forth, they were informed parking would be available at a price of \$328.00 per month, plus tax. As a result, three staff members have decided to retire. Because staff members were parking at the Church, at least 25 parking spaces of street parking were freed up. Staff only parking is requested at the areas that border the school. There is no school parking for I. S. 61 staff. Community Board assistance is urgently needed at the areas that border the school. Parking is a major issue.

Chairperson Damian Vargas informed Ms. Cunningham CB 4's Chair of the Transportation Committee will start a conversation on this issue.

Next, Captain Nicola Ventre, 110 Police Precinct, reported city wide overview for the year ending 5% down, decreases in every category. For the borough Queens North finished #7 out of the eight boroughs. Within Queens North out of the eight precincts, the 110 Precinct finished sixth. The 110 Precinct saw a decrease in every category except robberies. 60 crimes were decreased for year end. However, robberies were up.

Next, he gave some tips for preventing robberies. Know your surroundings and know where you are, always look around and note who is in front of you and behind you. Robberies occur 10:00 p.m. through 5:00 a.m. Currently there is a two person team attacking victims. One perp. attacks from the rear; the other from the front. The victim is assaulted and pushed to the floor their phone and wallet is robbed. Baxter to Junction Blvd. and Roosevelt Avenue to Broadway is the targeted areas. Extra resources have been assigned.

Burglaries have increased also. Rear window entries and front door entries have been sources of burglaries. Please lock windows and doors and check all locks. Be sure the door and moldings around it are secure.

Next, he spoke about grand larceny of vehicles. In the last four weeks, ten cars were stolen. Five vehicles were from motorists leaving the keys in the ignition. This past Saturday, on Junction Blvd. two cars were stolen. Do not leave your vehicle unattended, he cautioned.

Next, he gave more information on Grand Larcenies. Pocketbooks are being stolen. Not only pocketbooks but wallets are left unattended. Professional pick pockets are canvassing Roosevelt Avenue. Please be aware. Keep items in your front pocket and book bags and bags secure.

Please follow the 110 Precinct on Twitter@nypdprecinct where crime videos are posted as well as crime tips and more. Also, the 110 Precinct is on Facebook@110pct. It's a good way for you to participate, he said.

At this point, District Manager brought up the illegally parked vehicles inside Flushing Meadow-Corona Park along 111 Street. He thanked the NCO's for their help. About a week ago, it was evident why those vehicles could not be moved. Through the efforts of the NYPD, the vehicles are now out of Flushing Meadows-Corona Park parking lot. Those vehicles did pose a security threat and there is no reason abandoned vehicles should be on Parks property. A Special Thank You was extended to the NYPD 110 Precinct.

Captain Ventre responded it is all about community policing and explained it is essential the community get involved.

VII. PUBLIC FORUM

Stephanie Olcesa, representing Senator Jose Peralta's office, reported the Senator's office has an in house immigration lawyer in the office to help with immigration issues. The service is free. Also if help is needed with housing issues, a lawyer on staff can assist. Please stop by Senator Peralta's office.

Next, Qi Bin Ye, representing Council Member Daniel Dromm's office, reported the Council Member's office offers a community legal clinic bi-weekly. All were urged to take advantage of this opportunity. If you need a free consultation with an attorney, feel free to call Council Member Dromm's office and an appointment will be scheduled.

Next, Ari Espinal representing Council Member Francisco Moya, reported the office is still located in Jackson Heights until March 31. They are actively looking for a new location for the office, which will be centrally located within the district.

Next, Stacey Eliuk, representing Public Advocate Letitia James' office, reported the Public Advocate's office had received numerous calls about no heat. A vast number of those complaints were from tenants in public housing.

In the past four years, the Public Advocate's Office had addressed 30,000 constituent cases. The Public Advocate's Office helps people one on one to address issues New Yorkers face together.

Next, Joe Nocerino, representing Queens Borough President Melinda Katz office, reported the new Winter Newsletter 2017-2018 was placed on the back table. On the back of the Newsletter is the State of the Borough invitation for Friday, January 26, 2018 at Frank Sinatra School of the Arts High School, 35-12 35th Avenue in Astoria. An RSVP is needed as soon as possible to be assured a seat.

Also, budget time is at the end of the month. Not-for-profit groups can apply for funding by visiting the Queens Borough President's website www.queensbp.org and click on the budget line, fill it out, and someone will call you. The Borough President will meet with you individually and you can apply for funding.

Additionally, Community Board applications are due on the 12th.

Subsequently, he spoke on the 111 Street project. The Borough President believes it is poorly set up and dangerous, noting she had written letters to the NYC Department of Transportation. When a meeting is scheduled, the Borough President will be a strong voice on this issue.

Next, Cristian Romero announced Alex Bennett is no longer on staff at Congresswoman Grace Meng's office. He is now working at her office and will be assuming part of Mr. Bennett's duties which include acting as the liaison between the Community Board and the Congresswoman's Office.

VIII. SPEAKER:

Kathleen Cassino, Manager, Community Relations & Events – USTA

Kathleen Cassino reported on the USTA commitments;

With the aid of a slide presentation, she presented the USTA's commitments.

- Presentations to the Community Boards

- Quarterly Newsletters - Winter 2017 Spring/Summer 2017 Fall 2017 editions (shown on the slides)
- Ballperson Tryouts June 26, 2017 – Become a Ballperson at the U. S. Open
- Job Fairs – Open to the Queens Committee (7,000 jobs filled annually)
- Anthem Singer Tryouts – An 11-year old from Forest Hills was chosen to sing America the Beautiful

Fun Facts – Four American women reached the singles semi-finals at the U. S. Open for the first time Since 1981. 85 men and women competed in the main draw, which was an increase of nearly 40%. The winners were announced.

A list of the hotels utilized in the Queens was shown

Opening Night hosted by Shania Twain

The Grandstand Stadium which accommodates 8,000 people was shown during the Open.

The Louis Armstrong Stadium (temporary) out in the parking lot was shown. The new Louis Armstrong Stadium will be ready in time for the 2018 U. S. Open

The Net Generation Coin Tossers came out to help with the matches prior to each match. A few youths from Queens participated

Queens Day - Open to the public and free during qualifications week.

Returning the Love - On Queens Day – Free Clinic

Queens Kiosk at the U.S. Open

Queens Senior Day – 300 seniors from different senior centers participated and treated to a day of tennis and lunch

Arthur Ashe Kids Day - The organizations in Community Board 4 that received free tickets were noted

Aceing Autism – A successful event

Out & About in the Community – Tennis pros are sent out for free clinics

Aces-Paces Program – Field trip program with local schools

USTA Business Resource Groups (BRGs) – Gathers for essential unifying purpose

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Employees throughout the year help out the local Queens community. In April, USTA assisted with Earth Day at Flushing Meadows-Corona Park
- Cystic Fibrosis Stair Climb – October 1, 2017 - Did their stair climb in the new Grandstand Stadium

- Rally for Relief – October 7, 2017 – to help the natural disasters in Puerto Rico and Mexico and \$10,000 was raised.
- Light the Nigh Walk – October 14, 2017
- Over the course of two years, over \$100,000 was raised for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society
- NYC 2017 Holiday Initiatives
- In November. Elmcot Senior Services was visited by USTA staff who helped with Thanksgiving Day luncheon.
- Holiday Wishes 2017 - A local third class came out, and USTA employees became Santa's and brought gifts.
- City Harvest Food Drive
- New York Cares Coat Drive – Over 100 coats were collected
- Work for US! - Jobs – Go to USTA.com for more information on employment

Lastly, a Louis Armstrong update was given. Pictures were shown what the stadium looks like now. The stadium will be ready for the Open in August. Photos of what it will look like were also presented accommodating 14,000 people.

Follow USTA on Social Media

At the point, Board Member James Lisa questioned why USTA cannot set aside funds to fix the islands on 111 Street.

Mr. Daniel Zausner, CEO of USTA, commented on the projects mentioned. Although CB 4 was not a big fan of what was committed, USTA did commit to coming back to the Board. USTA is the only entity in the Park who invested millions of dollars into the Alliance at Flushing Meadows-Corona Park. USTA's focus is parks improvements.

Discussion ensued.

Board Member Judy D'Andrea agreed with Board Member James Lisa the Alliance never reached out to Community Board 4 to join. No invitation was ever forthcoming. She stated we are an afterthought.

Discussion ensued. As a result, an open invitation was given to the Board to attend the next meeting.

At this point, more conversation between USTA representatives and CB 4 Board members.

Board Member A. Redd Sevilla asked that USTA show the Board its budget and how much of it goes to Corona businesses and the local neighborhood. He also pointed out USTA does not show shots of Corona, and the improvement brought into the local neighborhood. Show the richness of Corona and how USTA in investing in the local neighborhood, he stated.

IX. REPORT & VOTE - PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

SLA Applications

Public Safety Committee chair Lucy Schilero reported the New York City Council approved the “The Right to Know Act” which required NYPD officers to identify themselves during non-emergency encounters. An officer must provide his/her name, rank and command. The officer must hand out business cards when there is no arrest or summons.

2017 was the most costly in U. S. history for disasters, she reported. From fires to hurricanes, the most costly and has affected our budget. 2017 domestic fires in New York City were the most deadly. More deadly than the 1990 Happy Land fire.

Also, CERT was asked to help clear the fire hydrants due to snowstorms. People are still shoveling snow on top of hydrants. When people could not find parking, they were parking in front of the hydrant. She asked all to try to keep the hydrant closest to you free to snow and ice. It is essential.

Engine Company 289 Ladder Co. 138 which is one of the busiest in New York City with over 4,000 emergencies in 2017---not only for electrical fire or space heaters or stuck elevators but for water leaks, carbon monoxide and gas odors. Please tell youth not to throw shoes over electrical lines. The shoes get wet or full of snow and pull down the lines, she reported. This is a very serious matter.

Subsequently, the liquor license applications were presented for review.

NEW APPLICANTS

ESTABLISH MENT’S NAME ESTABLISHMENT’S ADDRESS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

BBQ Chicken Don Alex II. Inc. Wine, Beer & Cider	106-26 Corona Avenue Corona, NY	Denied
Representative that appeared failed to show that they were authorized to speak on the owner’s behalf.		

Q Town Asian Cuisine Inc. Wine, Beer & Cider	82-87 Broadway Elmhurst, NY	Denied
Applicant requested to postpone their application until next month.		

El Patron Enterprises Inc. Wine, Beer & Cider	53-09 106 Street Corona, NY	Denied
Applicant requested to postpone their application until next month.		

El Nuevo Caramelo Coffee Shop Beer & Cider	99-27 43 Avenue, 1 st Fl. Corona, NY	Denied
Applicant requested to postpone their application until next month.		

RENEWAL APPLICANTS

ESTABLISH MENT’S NAME ESTABLISHMENT’S ADDRESS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Editas Bar & Restaurant Inc. Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider	85-10/12 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Approved
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Coatzingo Enterprises Inc. 82-18 Roosevelt Avenue Denied
California Sports Bar Jackson Heights, NY
Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider
Long history of problems at this establishment. They have consistently been a bad neighbor, causing issues in the community.

104th Street Restaurant Inc. 45-18 104 Street Approved
DBA Tony's Pizzeria Corona, NY

A motion was made by Board Member James Lisa, seconded by Board Member Edgar Moya, to **approve** the report of the Public Safety Committee.

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

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Consumer Affairs

Committee Chair Erica Cruz did not have a report, but brought up changing the location for the Community Board meetings to help the Elmhurst people. She stated she spent 45 minutes looking for parking and is illegally parked now. It is difficult for her to get here. She also noted the meeting room is too small for meetings. The Board has expanded and grown and it is time to look at other places to meet. For the people of Elmhurst, there is no bus or train to transport them here. It is inconvenient and not comfortable, she stated. When will the people from Elmhurst get some help, she questioned.

Board Member Lucy Schilero brought up meeting at Elmhurst Hospital where there is parking. She suggested contacting the Borough President to make arrangements to talk to the parking lot people so that Board members can park at Elmhurst Hospital parking lot.

Board Member Clara Salas agreed about Elmhurst Hospital as a meeting place and arrangements had to be worked out.

District Manager Christian Cassagnol responded we have been looking and two or three local churches do not meet the requirements of what we want. When the Board met at Elmhurst Hospital some time ago, 1/3 less people had attended that meeting than anywhere else. It was one of our lowest attended meetings, he stated. In the past, we had obtained parking in the hospital's lot and were given discounted, not free rates. He had suggested establishing a Search Committee for this purpose.

Board Member Georgina Oliver reported at night people rent out the spaces and leave in the morning. This may create a problem. She suggested contacting the COO of Elmhurst Hospital.

Board Member Judy D'Andrea suggested meeting at the Queens Center Mall.

District Manager Cassagnol responded that is out of the question because the community room does not fit the capacity of the Community Board meeting.

Discussion ensued.

He also brought up the Queens Center Mall would be church-style seating. No tables would be available. The Mall is out of the question.

At this point, Board Member Judy D'Andrea requested a guest speaker from the FCC to address the Board on cable TV because current pricing of cable services is astronomical. Consumers are paying outrageous fees for what, she questioned. Cable company fees need to be explained.

More discussion ensued on an alternative meeting location for the Board meeting.

Board Member Gregory Spock brought up vendors along Broadway or Roosevelt Avenue south. Do those vendors have permits to sell their goods, he questioned. A Target is planned for that area also and is those businesses legal?

Some do, some don't responded Consumer Affairs Chair Erica Cruz.

District Manager Cassagnol explained the issue is Enforcement. It is already illegal for vendors to do much of what they are doing, he stated. Enforcement by the NYPD is done, but the backing of the Community Board and elected officials is needed. Support is needed from elected officials and the Community Board.

Vendors are allowed four feet out, reported Public Safety Committee Chair Lucy Schilero. Some areas are not zoned for that. Stores have also moved out. What was once one store is divided into four or five stores.

Environmental

Committee Chair Giancarlo Castano did not present a report.

At this point, District Manager Cassagnol reported a group had approached him about installing a community garden. They are in the process of creating a proposal and will present it to the Environmental Committee within the month and will be on the Board's agenda for a February vote.

Parks

No report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

Transportation

Transportation Committee Chair Louis Walker announced the next committee meeting is scheduled for January 24. A joint Transportation meeting is planned for January 17 with CB 3 regarding the restricted zone planned for both districts, which involves truck deliveries at off peak hours etc. The meeting will be held at CB 3's district office. The Bylaws Committee meeting scheduled for January 18 had been cancelled.

ULURP/Zoning

Committee Chair Alton Derrick Smith did not present a report.

Youth

Committee Chair Ingrid Gomez reported on January 18 a committee meeting is planned, 7:30 p.m., at the Board office to discuss the budget proposal for this year's Youth Fair. All were urged to attend and submit ideas.

Before adjourning, Board Member Ashley Reed announced an NCO Roll out meeting is scheduled at the Eternal Love Baptist Church, January 18, 7:30 p.m., at 54-07 99th Street.

There being no further business, Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula made a motion, seconded by Board Member Ruby Muhammad, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.