



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

Sharon Lee
Deputy Borough President

Christian Cassagnol
District Manager

November 13, 2018

PUBLIC HEARING ATTENDANCE

Board Members Attending:

Damian Vargas
Karin Abreu
Priscilla Carrow
Chaio Chung Chen
Lynda Coral
Marialena Giampino
Jennifer Gutierrez
Matthew McElroy
Rovenia McGowan
Ruby Muhammad
Georgina Oliver

Alexandra Owens
Alexa Ponce
Ashley Reed
Cristian Romero
Clara Salas
Lucy Schilero
A. Redd Sevilla
Malikah Shabazz
Alton Derick Smith
Gregory Spock
Dewan Tarek
Louis Walker

ATTENDING:

Christian Cassagnol, CB 4 District Manager
Christina Long, CB 4 Community Assistant
Council Member Francisco Moya
Lisette Barcia, Council Member Francisco Moya's Office
John Perricone, Queens Borough President Melinda Katz's Office
P. O. Dave Saponieri, 110 Precinct
NCO Officer Christian Martinez, 110 Precinct
William Giron, NYC Comptroller's Office
Kelly Wu, Council Member Daniel Dromm's Office
Christopher Espinoza, State Assembly Member Ari Espinal
Priscilla Carrow, State Senator Jose Peralta's Office
Cristian Romero, Congresswoman Grace Meng's Office
Virginia Pazmino
Maria Reyes
Mike Liquori, VFW Post #150 Commander
Jorge Rodriguez

Wei Loh, City Mission
David Chong, Elm Church
Yoselin Genao Estrala, Neighborhood Housing Services of Queens
David Russell, Queens Chronicle
Jimmy Apostolatoes
Mario Matos, Maspeth High School
Andy Collado

PUBLIC SPEAKERS

Patricia Chou, Queens Neighborhoods United
Kevin Montalvo, Queens Distance Runners
Nan Zang, COMET Civic Organization
Christopher Bennett, Family Member of Hakeem Griffin
Antoine Sherman, Family Member of Hakeem Griffin

This meeting was streamed live.

PUBLIC HEARING

DATE: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2018

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

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

Subject: FY2020 Capital and Expense Priorities for Consideration and Approval by the Board For The FY20 Budget Adoption Process

I. Chairperson Damian Vargas opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Chairperson Vargas explained the Capital & Expense priorities are the wish list for the district for FY2020. Copies of the FY'20 Capital & Expense priorities were distributed to Board members and members of the public for review.

Chair Vargas explained how the priorities were determined. The Board's Committees had met and identified those priorities for the district.

Any members of the public who wished to speak on the Capital & Expense items were encouraged to do so. Questions would be answered. Chair Vargas explained the vote on the FY20 Capital & Expense priorities will be taken at the regular Board Meeting immediately following the Public Hearing. Discussion on the budget priorities before the vote will be held.

District Manager Christian Cassagnol reviewed the documents handed out to the Board Members and the public. The first document was titled Capital Budget Requests, the second document Expense Budget Requests, and the last page listed Continuing Support items, which have already been funded. On the right most column, is the agency response explaining why those items have been moved to Continuing Support.

Since the first page is very vague if there are questions on the requests, full written descriptions are available.

Board Member A. Redd Sevilla asked for a further explanation of the Continuing Support priorities.

District Manager Christian Cassagnol explained those are items that have already been funded, but still remain. For example, a park that has been renovated but there is still some trees out of place and read the full description of a priority. He also suggested the Board put more emphasis on the Capital and Expense priorities rather than those listed under Continuing Support.

While the Board was reviewing the budget priorities for FY2020, District Manager Cassagnol said Zoning Handbooks were ordered and distributed to the Board Members for their use. Those books were purchased with the City Council stipend given to the Board.

At this point, Executive Secretary Marialena Giampino took the attendance. A quorum was present.

Subsequently, Chair Damian Vargas called on members of the public who wished to comment on the FY2020 Capital and Expense priorities for Community Board 4.

Patricia Chou, Queens Neighborhoods United, questioned Expense priorities #15 and #20.

Pursuing this further, District Manager Cassagnol read the full descriptions for those priorities. Expense #15 Support BID formation planning throughout the district - Corridor of Broadway from Queens Boulevard to Baxter Avenue. This priority requests the formation of another BID in the Elmhurst area.

#20 Support BID feasibility analysis or formation planning. Currently, the only BID is operated by one person, the Executive Director. This priority requests more staffing.

Next Board Member Marialena Giampino asked about Capital priority #2 – Renovate Precinct House, but under the caption, it states New Building.

District Manager Cassagnol explained it's a drop down box issue, which is either renovate or new precinct. The actual request is for a new precinct/building. The exact description was read.

Discussion ensued about renovation of the old building versus a new building. Board Member Lucy Schilero added there is no space for a new building. Consequently, District Manager Cassagnol noted the request in the system is to renovate the existing Precinct.

Board Member Marialena Giampino commented on Capital priority #5-New Medical Facility for South Elmhurst.

District Manager Cassagnol read the full description of the priority.

Board Member Giampino brought up the possibility of being oversaturated with Urgent Care facilities and other medical facilities in Elmhurst. Is any facility planned for Corona, she inquired.

District Manager Cassagnol replied that is the request. The request is more to replace the loss of St. John's Hospital continued the District Manager.

Board Member Lynda Coral suggested on the Expense Budget Priorities to move Priority #2 DCP – Study the Current Zoning Regulations Within CB4Q- to the #1 slot and move Priority #1 DPR - Expand and Enhance Tree Pruning Contract - to the #2 slot.

Chair Damian Vargas said during the meeting of the Board a motion can be made to inverse the order of priorities #1 and #2.

However, Chair Damian Vargas made a motion seconded by Board Member Gregory Spock, to move Priority #2 (DCP) Study the Current Zoning Regulations Within CB4Q from the number two slot to the number one slot on the Expense Budget Priorities. And Priority #1 - DPR Expand and Enhance Tree Pruning Contract - to the #2 slot.

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

Board Member Jennifer Gutierrez brought up Expense Request #22 – HRA/DSS - Provide Metro Cards to Help Low-Income New Yorkers Get To Work – questioned that the City of New York is already funding and being paid for through the City's budget. If so, it would free up the slot for another priority. Under a new program called Fair Fares New Yorkers living below the poverty line will be able to pick up half priced Metro cards. However, exact details on how to obtain the reduced rate cards from the city were vague.

Discussion ensued. Since details were unclear, Board Member Lucy Schilero suggested hold the Priority since everything is a trial run with the MTA and Metro cards.

Interesting to note, District Manager Cassagnol reported on the rider ship for the Roosevelt Avenue station is 17 million riders per year, and the Woodhaven station is 6.8 million riders per year.

At this point, Chair Damian Vargas called for any questions or comments.

Subsequently, Board Members asked more questions on the remaining Capital/Expense priorities.

After the remaining comments and questions were answered, the Public Hearing was closed at 7:30 p.m.

The regularly scheduled Board Meeting immediately followed.

November 13, 2018

COMMUNITY BOARD ATTENDANCE

Board Members Attending:

Damian Vargas	Alexandra Owens
Karin Abreu	Alexa Ponce
Priscilla Carrow	Ashley Reed
Lucy Cerezo Scully	Cristian Romero
Chaio-Chung Chen	Clara Salas
Lynda Coral	Lucy Schilero
Marialena Giampino	A. Redd Sevilla
Jennifer Gutierrez	Malikah Shabazz
Matthew McElroy	Alton Derrick Smith
Rovenia McGowan	Gregory Spock
Ruby Muhammad	Dewan Tarek
Sandra Munoz	Louis Walker
Gurdip Singh Narula	Minwen Yang
Georgina Oliver	

Board Members Absent:

Giancarlo Castano	Edgar Moya
Erica Cruz	Albert Perna
Judith D'Andrea	Oscar Rios
Kristin Gonzalez	Neil Roman
James Lisa	Gigi Salvador
Salvador Lombardo	Marcello Testa
Peter Manganaro	Rosa Wong
Patricia Martin	Lester Youngblood

ATTENDING:

Christian Cassagnol, CB 4 District Manager
Christina Long, CB 4 Community Assistant
Council Member Francisco Moya
Lisette Barcia, Council Member Francisco Moya's Office
John Perricone, Queens Borough President Melinda Katz's Office
P. O. Dave Saponieri, 110 Precinct
NCO Officer Christian Martinez, 110 Precinct
William Giron, NYC Comptroller's Office
Kelly Wu, Council Member Daniel Dromm's Office
Christopher Espinoza, State Assembly Member Ari Espinal
Priscilla Carrow, State Senator Jose Peralta's Office
Cristian Romero, Congresswoman Grace Meng's Office
Virginia Pazmino
Maria Reyes
Mike Liquori, VFW Post #150 Commander

Jorge Rodriguez
Wei Loh, City Mission
David Chong, Elm Church
Yoselin Genao Estrala, Neighborhood Housing Services of Queens
David Russell, Queens Chronicle
Jimmy Apostolatos
Mario Matos, Maspeth High School
Andy Collado

PUBLIC SPEAKERS

Patricia Chou, Queens Neighborhoods United
Kevin Montalvo, Queens Distance Runners
Nan Zang, COMET Civic Organization
Christopher Bennett, Family Member of Hakeem Griffin
Antoine Sherman, Family Member of Hakeem Griffin

This meeting was streamed live.

COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2018

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

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

I. Chairperson Damian Vargas opened the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

III. Executive Secretary Marialena Giampino took the roll call. A quorum was present.

IV. **VOTE: Minutes October 9, 2018**

Correction: Malikah Shabazz was present at the October 9 Board meeting, however, her name was not listed on the attendance roster.

Subsequently, Board Member Priscilla Carrow made a motion, seconded by Board Member Clara Salas, to **approve** the minutes with the noted correction.

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

V. **REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON**

Chair Damian Vargas reported on the lack of quorums at the Board's Committee meetings. There are approximately five to six people serving on a committee, and maybe one committee had a quorum. Without a quorum, the Committee cannot vote and provide a function. He realized members have other commitments but urged all to notify the Committee Chairs if they cannot attend a meeting. He also spoke about members wishing to join a second committee as long as the member knows they are responsible for attending both committee meetings. He stressed the importance of attending committee meetings. Since the two months from summer recess (September and October), there have been problems with committee attendance. Reach out to your Committee Chairs and coordinate meeting dates.

Next, he congratulated our future Congresswoman, State Senator, State Assemblywoman, on their recent victory. District Manager Christian Cassagnol was also congratulated as he was honored by the 110th Precinct Community Council at its 2018 Annual Awards Gala for a Community Leader Award.

VI. **REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER**

District Manager Christian Cassagnol reported on the Capital and Expense process and thanked the Committee Chairs for their participation. Also, he noted some of the Chairs had attended the consultations with the agency heads.

Also, he congratulated the new elected officials.

Next, he reported on an issue brought up by former Board member Tom McKenzie about the McDonald's located on Queens Blvd. However, he had requested the Environmental Committee investigate the issue first.

A thank you card was given to the Board for the funeral flowers sent to Marie DeBenedittis (Mama's of Corona) who passed away in September.

As far as his report, he would rather report throughout the night on issues that arise.

Next, he reported CB4 polo shirts are still available for the Board members. If you have not received your polo shirt, please let us know. Also, please pick up your Zoning handbook if you have not yet received it.

VII. REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Board Treasurer Ashley Reed reported the Sunshine Fund is low on funds. Please contribute if you have not already done so.

At this point, P. O. Dave Saponieri, 110 Police Precinct, Community Affairs with the NCO officer Christian Martinez, Sector C, thanked those who attend the 110th Precinct Community Council's Gala. This event helps fund events for the community.

The holiday season brings an uptick in crime at crowded shopping malls/plazas. Do not leave valuables in your car. Thieves are out there. Be smart what you leave in your car and also on your person. Secure your homes. There is a rise in burglaries and grand larceny thefts in the winter. Be mindful of your property and self.

Board Member Georgina Olive brought up on October 1 she was involved in a hit and run car accident. She spoke to the Inspector who told her someone would look into it. The accident occurred by the Paris Hotel on the Horace Harding Expressway. A surveillance camera was in place and surveillance footage would be helpful. However, no one contacted her about the accident.

P. O. Saponieri responded that unfortunately they could not get a plate number.

Board Member Georgina Oliver stated she should have received a call stating the outcome. She requested P. O. Saponieri look into it. He said there are hundreds of reports, but he would follow up on it.

A Board Member brought up recent robberies in the area of Baxter Avenue, Elmhurst, 45th Avenue.

NCO Officer Martinez added reports of robberies occurred on 98 Street and Corona Avenue, Alstyne Avenue and 104 Street. There is a pattern. The perpetrator is a male Hispanic wearing a hoodie and white shoes. He has robbed a few people in a four-day span.

Flyers were distributed throughout the community to see if anyone could identify him. Officer Martinez has been investigating the case for two weeks and has been trying to get videos of the perp., but the face is not clear. Lately the perp. has not struck, but the police are still looking for him.

Board Member Chaio-Chung Chen inquired on three cases about a perp. attacking young girls on Elmhurst and Roosevelt Avenues and in this area. Is it the same perp. and has he been apprehended, he inquired.

NCO Officer Martinez said his sector includes the west side of 108 Street to the east side of Junction Boulevard from Horace Harding to Roosevelt Avenue and is knowledgeable about those crimes. The sector mentioned by Mr. Chen was another Sector. Mr. Chen can ask questions at their Build Block meetings. See NCO Officer Martinez after the meeting and he will provide more information to Mr. Chen.

For Sector C, the Build a Block meeting is scheduled for December 12 at P. S. 19. Permits are needed to meet at the school, which the Parents Association is working on. Please give him your e-mail address, and he will send an e-mail to you with more information on this upcoming meeting.

E-mail him at: Christian.Martinez3 @nypd.org.

A Board Member inquired can we get on a recurring mailing list for Sector C because in the past e-mails were given to the previous NCO officer. It doesn't make sense to keep adding your name to the list if the NCO officers keep changing. In order to keep continuity, it would be helpful to have an on-going list.

District Manager Cassagnol added if the Board office receives the information, we can pass it on to the Board members and the community.

NCO Officer Martinez passed out his business card listing his e-mail, department & cell phone numbers and said to call him. He is available to assist you.

At this point, Board Member Chaio-Chung Chen brought up more complaints concerning the Department of Corrections.

Chair Vargas responded this is a different agency.

VIII. PUBLIC FORUM

Patricia Chou, Queens Neighborhoods United, reported on a campaign on 82 Street. The organization is working against the proposed Target Express for the site. The last time they had addressed the Board, it was reported they had obtained a Stop Work Order for the site. However, the Department of Buildings had reversed the order.

As a result, Queens Neighborhoods United filed an appeal with the Board of Standards & Appeals to make the Department of Buildings follow the law. Queens Neighborhoods United is asking community members to submit testimony if they feel they will be directly impacted by the project. They will be on 82 Street on Sunday, from 4:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m., please feel free to talk to members of Queens Neighborhoods United for more information. Also, they are on social media.

They have also been working with Hunter College students to do a survey of the community. It will be a community-driven survey of housing/affordable housing. For more information, please talk to her/members later.

Lastly, they are supporting a community space called Immigrant Movement International in Corona, which offers homework help to the community until mid-December at the Louis Armstrong School (PS143) Thursdays, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., which is mostly for elementary and middle school students, but all ages are welcome.

Subsequently, Board Member A. Redd Sevilla complimented Queens Neighborhoods United for their work in the community.

Next, Kevin Montalvo, founder of the Queens Distance Runners, a local not-for-profit group focusing on bringing runners to Queens and bringing Queens to runners. There have been three Queens's marathons. These are people with full time jobs who want to put together runs and make it accessible to the public. The group has donated several thousands of dollars to charities such as the Queens Community House.

Mr. Montalvo wanted to make people aware of the organization's runs at Flushing Meadows-Corona Park. He noted the Queens Marathon is scheduled for April 21. Anyone who wishes to join the group please let him know. The group also volunteers with the Alliance for Flushing Meadows-Corona Park. If anyone is aware of local not-for-profit agencies that need a few runners to volunteer, please let him know.

Mr. Montalvo endeavors to connect with the community and work together on matters that affect the neighborhoods.

Next, Nan Zang, Comet Civic organization, reported the organization focuses on Elmhurst and Maspeth's community affairs. He spoke about the commuter vans in Elmhurst and the southern side of Maspeth. There are many commuter vans circling in the Elmhurst area. Mostly Chinese commuter vans that pick up people. Although they are very convenient modes of transportation, they take up much space. And, there are many safety issues. Many of the vans are unregulated and unlicensed. There should be safety regulations implemented in Elmhurst as in Flushing. In this way, it would decrease the congestion in the street. Many of the neighborhood streets are one-way and if the van stops in the middle of the street waiting for people, it causes a great deal of community inconvenience.

He urged the Community Board to work with the local Council Member to install permanent stops in Elmhurst convenient for everyone.

IX. REPORT OF THE LEGISLATORS

Council Member Francisco Moya reported the Council has allocated money to the local schools for capital funding on the CB4 side. Over \$1.5 million went to the local schools addressing issues that were brought to the Council by the principals and PTA's. The funding has already been released to the local schools.

CASA (Cultural After School Program) initiative was implemented which deals with cultural events to local schools. This is a way for our school children to access the arts and cultural events.

Funding was provided to provide garbage cans from Roosevelt Avenue to 104 Street to Corona Avenue, 108 Street to P. S. 14; 111 Street starting from the LIRR to Roosevelt Avenue and Roosevelt Avenue from 111 Street to 103 Street.

Seven day garbage pick was also implemented in the community.

Funding for the ACE program was given to help the homeless men who are transitioning back. They get hired for jobs such as to clean up the Plaza and also to remove many of the flyers posted on the poles. Money was also allocated to the Department of Sanitation to remove those flyers as well district wide in Community Boards 3 and 4, which will beautify the community and improve quality of life issues.

Subsequently, he spoke about the homeless problem. These men are intoxicated, sleeping and urinating in the parks, and taking over the area. Many of the areas are next to schools. Council Member Moya convened a meeting with the Department of Homeless Services, NYPD, Department of Health, to name a few so that all the agencies can come together to help provide assistance to the homeless men. It was discovered those men are not homeless but have a substance abuse problem and do not want to go home. A balance had to be derived on how to help them without having to lock them up. The children in the community also had to be protected being exposed to what they see when those men congregate in our parks such as urinating in public and intoxication.

Agencies are being called upon for assistance such as Homeward Bound. Also, delis and liquor stores are under scrutiny that is selling those men alcohol because those stores facilitate the habit of those men. Locations have been identified and they have been notified and will be fined. The State Liquor Authority has been notified as well because the SLA can remove the store's liquor license.

Following his report, Council Member Moya announced:

A Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway – Tuesday, November 20 at 7:00 p.m., 106-01 Corona Avenue.

Turkeys limited! RSVP required.

Working with the local churches to ensure needy families receive a turkey, please contact his office if you know of a needy family.

Tree Lighting – November 27 – 104 Street – 104 Street is decorated and there are many festivities for the children.

Annual Tree Lighting at William F. Moore Park – December 7

Choirs from the local schools are in attendance. Santa will be there and toys are given out to the needy children.

An event in Lefrak is also being planned; however, details are not finalized as yet.

At this point, Council Member Moya took questions from the Board members.

The conversation centered on the homeless problems causes and effect and funding allocated for services to help individuals living on the street and those that are in need and to help them get back on their feet.

Board Member Clara Salas asked about the number of affordable housing units.

Council Member Moya provided information projects on affordable housing and the City's progress for development and the remediation process.

Board Member Clara Salas brought up the need to educate people on programs to obtain affordable housing.

Council Member Moya responded his staff is available to provide data.

More discussion ensued about the homeless and the ever-growing population and possible alternative solutions.

Next, John Perricone, representing Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, said he was reporting on behalf of Joe Nocerino who was ill. Mr. Perricone announced the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) has a temporary office at Queens Borough Hall, which opened today, Tuesday and Thursdays, through the winter into spring. An appointment is necessary. Contact the Borough President's Office for more information. 718-286-3000. All were wished a Happy Thanksgiving!

Public Advocate

No Report

NYC Comptroller's Office

William Giron reported earlier this month in recognition of the second part of a 5-page report was released on the gender wage gap both in the city and state that many Latino women face. Latino women on an average make about \$36,000 less than men. In the city that equates to 54 cents for every dollar that men make.

Also three out of four Latino women in the city live in poverty. The report includes other statistics such as ways to remedy this inequity. Please view the report on the Comptroller's website: www.nyccomptroller.gov.

Contact Mr. Giron to request a hard copy.

Additionally on Monday, November 26, 6:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m., at the David N. Dinkins Municipal Building, 1 Centre Street North, Mezzanine Level, New York, NY, NYC Comptroller Scott M. Stringer, invites you to celebrate Diwali. Please RSVP.

Council Member Daniel Dromm

Kelly Wu reported Leaf Cleanup on Saturday, November 17, from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at CC Moore Park.

Also, Council Members Daniel Dromm & Carlos Menchaca invite you to a Queens Community Town Hall Public Charge: A New Threat To Immigrant Families

Tuesday, November 20, 2018

6 PM- 8 PM
PS69Q
77-02 37 Avenue

Next, a Tree Lighting event at CC Moore Park is planned for:
Friday, December 7, 2018
5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

The District Office provides a Legal Clinic which has an immigration attorney available from 3:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Call the office to make an appointment as an appointment is needed.

Also, she announced the Council Member's Office will be sending out letters to constituents about SCRIE and DRIE benefits expiring in June, 2019 to renew benefits.

Intro, #1143 - an upcoming hearing is scheduled on Tuesday, November 20, at 10:00 a.m. involving real property assessment and other charges.

At this point, other legislative updates were given.

State Assembly Member Ari Espinal
Christopher Espinoza reported on several events:

Mobile Mammography Program
November 27
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
82-11 37 Avenue
Jackson Heights, NY

Free Civil Legal Services

The Mobile Legal Help Center is a partnership between the New York Assistance Group (NYLAG) And the New York State Courts' Access to Justice Program that provides free civil Legal services to New Yorkers in need such as housing, public benefits, disability benefits, identity theft, Health care benefits, Immigration, domestic violence, divorce, custody, employment, Superstorm Sandy
82-11 37 Avenue
Jackson Heights, NY
Friday, November 30
10am – 3 pm

In addition, Assemblywoman Espinal is sponsoring A Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway with Council Member Francisco Moya on Tuesday, November 20, at 7:00 p.m. – 106-01 Corona Avenue, Corona, NY.

Details were also given on the tree lightings on 104 Street on November 27 and at William F. Moore Park on 108 Street, December 7 at 6:00 p.m.

State Assembly Member Michael Den Dekkar
No Report

State Assembly Member Brian Barnwell
No Report

State Assembly Member Jeffrion Aubry
No Report

State Senator Toby Ann Stavisky
No Report

State Senator Jose Peralta
Board Member Priscilla Carrow reported in Lefrak City for Lefrak City residents on Saturday, November 17, at 9:00 a.m., a free flu vaccine will be given to 300 constituents of Senator Peralta. Contact Senator Peralta's office to add your name to the list.

On behalf of Elmhurst Hospital, the Express Care clinic is open. The clinic will provide faster access to medical care for patients with non-life threatening issues. She urged all to use the Express Care.

At this point Board Members raised questions about Express Care insurances accepted. Board Member Priscilla Carrow said she would look into further.

State Senator Michael Gianaris
No Report

Congresswoman Grace Meng
Board Member Cristian Romero reported on Congresswoman Grace Meng's:
Veteran's Office Hours
Thursday, November 29, 2018
10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Appointment Required
40-13 159 Street
Flushing, NY

Any veteran can come to the Congresswoman's office for assistance. Veterans do not need to live in the Rep. Meng's district. If a veteran has questions about VA benefits, services, a pending claim they can help.

Congressman Joseph Crowley
No Report

**X. REPORT AND VOTE:
Election of New Executive Committee
(January 2019 – December 2020)**

*Board may need to enter Executive Session to discuss candidates' personal information.
If so, members of the public will be asked to leave and allowed to return prior to elections taking place.*

Chair Damian Vargas explained elections will be held tonight for a new slate of officers for CB4, which includes the Chair of the Board, 1st Vice Chair, 2nd Vice Chair, Executive Secretary, Treasurer, and At Large Directors (4).

The new Board officers will take effect January 1, 2019 serving a two year term.

Nominating Committee Chair Ashley Reed reported the Nominating Committee met on Monday, October 15, and put forth the slate of offices for the Executive Committee:

Nominations must be from the floor.

For the office of **Chairperson of the Board**, the Nominating Committee nominated:

Damian Vargas

Chair Damian Vargas declined the nomination and said he would not run for a second term.

Board Member Priscilla Carrow nominated **Louis Walker**, seconded by Board Member Alexa Ponce.

At this point, the vote taken is for candidates only said Chair Vargas.

By a voice vote, the Board voted to accept Lou Walker as a candidate for Chairperson of the Board. The vote was 26 in favor, 0 opposed, with 1 abstention.

Board Member Clara Salas nominated Board Member Lucy Schilero.

Board Member Lucy Schilero declined the nomination and thanked the Board for the nomination explaining she enjoyed her work on the Public Safety Committee.

At this point, Chair Damian Vargas called out if any Board Member would like to run for Board Chair.

Since there were no responses, Nominating Committee Chair Ashley Reed reiterated the nomination for Board Chair is Louis Walker.

Ballots were distributed to vote for the Office of Board Chairperson.

Subsequently, Nominating Committee Chair Ashley Reed explained the next Board position open is **First Vice Chairperson**. The Nominating Committee's nominated Board Member **Marialena Giampino**.

Board Member Marialena Giampino accepted the nomination.

Chair Damian Vargas called out if there were any other nominations from the floor for First Vice Chairperson.

Since there were none, ballots were distributed to vote for this office.

District Manager Cassagnol reminded all Board Members to write and sign your name on the ballot.

Next, Nominating Committee Chair Ashley Reed announced for the office of **Second Vice Chairperson**, the Nominating Committee has selected herself, **Ashley Reed**. Nomination was seconded from the floor.

Chair Damian Vargas called out for any other nominations from the floor for this position.

Since there were none, voting ballots were distributed to vote for this office.

Next, for the office of Board **Treasurer**, the Nominating Committee nominated Board Member **Lucy Schilero** and seconded.

Board Member Lucy Schilero accepted the nomination.

Chair Damian Vargas called out for any other nominations from the floor.

Since there were none, voting ballots were distributed to vote for this office.

District Manager Cassagnol clarified that initially Louis Walker was running for the office of Board **Treasurer**, this is why his name appears on the ballot. Ignore this and write in Board Member Lucy Schilero's name.

Next, for the office of **Executive Secretary**, the Nominating Committee nominated Board Member **Cristian Romero**.

Board Member Cristian Romero accepted the nomination.

Chair Damian Vargas called out for any nominations from the floor.

Since there were none, voting ballots were distributed to vote for this office.

Next, for the office of **At Large Directors** which there are four (4), on the ballot please select four names. The Nominating Committee had selected:

Lynda Coral
Chaio-Chung Chen
Alexa Ponce
Gregory Spock

Chair Damian Vargas called out for other nominations from the floor.

Voting ballots were distributed for the vote. Please hand write Lynda Coral's name on the ballot since Board Member Lucy Schilero's name is on the ballot. She has been nominated for Board Treasurer and cannot hold two offices.

Since Board Member Al Perna's name is on the ballot it cannot be considered as per the Board's bylaws the nominee must be present during the elections.

At this point, the votes were counted. While the votes were being tallied, Chair Vargas moved on to the next agenda item.

XI. VOTE: CB4Q CAPITAL AND EXPENSE REQUESTS FY 2020

Board Member Priscilla made a motion to accept the FY 20 Capital and Expense priorities with the noted correction to move the #2 Priority to #1 on the Expense budget and #1 to the #2 position. In other words, inverse the order of budget Priorities #1 and #2. Motion seconded by Board Member Ruby Muhammad. Chair Damian Vargas called for any discussion. Since there were none, by a voice vote the Board voted to **approve** the FY20 Capital & Expense priorities with the noted change.

The vote was 27 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

XII. REPORT AND VOTE: Transportation Committee

Co-naming of 97th Street and 57th Avenue in honor of Hakeem Griffin who was killed on that corner in 2018.

Transportation Committee Chair Louis Walker reported the Committee approved the street co-naming.

Christopher Bennett, Hakeem Griffin's step-father, addressed the Board. Hakeem lived in Lefrak City who was murdered February 28 on the corner of 97th Street and 57th Avenue.

Mr. Bennett relayed to the Board the tragedy and heartbreak of losing his son. Hakeem's killer was a resident of Lefrak City who was known to the family. The reasoning is not clear, not even to this day. The killer grew up with Hakeem and was a visitor in his home. Everyone loved Hakeem and was all devastated by the loss. Over 300 people had attended the funeral. Hakeem's older brother came up with the idea to co-name the corner where Hakeem was killed. Family member Antoine Sherman explained the family hopes people understand and approves the street co-naming. Hakeem was 22 years old when he died. The family wishes to memorialize the place where the tragedy happened and turn it into something meaningful. Hakeem was a role model to many young people attracted to him because of his smile, aura, and his natural ability as a leader.

District Manager Christian Cassagnol added a petition is needed for the street co-naming and the petition submitted had a couple of hundred signatures. Also included was a small paragraph as to why the street should be co-named for Hakeem Griffin.

Transportation Committee Chair Louis Walker made a motion, seconded by Board Member Priscilla Carrow, to co-name 97th Street and 57th Avenue in honor of Hakeem Griffin.

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

The Board extended its condolences to the family of Hakeem Griffin.

XII. REPORT AND VOTE: Public Safety Committee

SLA Applications

Public Safety Committee Chair Lucy Schilero reported the committee met November 7 and a quorum was not present.

Before the liquor license report, she informed the Board the Fire Department said to check smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors. Don't take for granted batteries are working. Check them twice per year.

More from the Fire Department:

Entrances and exits of your home should be cleared of boots, bikes, shoes, especially on balconies.

Power surges are being used for microwaves, hair dryers which are a cause for many of the fires in our community.

911 complaints that are non-criminal have been received, which were predominately accidents that were near the SLA business locations. Heart attacks, lost senior citizens, and autistic children were also reported.

Next, she reported two years ago Xanax was a big drug problem. Now heroin is the problem, not only in this community but throughout the City of New York. Police are working on trying to curtail the problem in our community.

Next, she spoke about the arrests for transvestites and prostitutes along Roosevelt Avenue.

She noted more social services are needed for the area.

More quality of life issues in the community were reported, including meetings public Safety Chair Lucy Schilero had attended.

Public Safety Chair Lucy Schilero thanked staff member Christina Long for staying late at the November 7 Public Safety Committee meeting. She also thanked the committee members who were present as well as the Police officers in attendance.

The consensus of the Public Safety Committee was that all applicants have a yes vote. If there are any questions, please let her know as there is a police report available. The Public Safety Committee had met with all the applicants. She said the applicants can be looked at on an individual basis or as a whole.

Chair Damian Vargas explained since there was no official quorum at the meeting, the Committee cannot issue a recommendation. Of the four members present reviewing the applications, all had voted to approve those applications. It is not an official recommendation since it is up to the Board to decide. Unless a Board Member has a specific questions about a location or problem with any of the applications, it was Chair Damian Vargas' recommendation to move forward as a slate.

Subsequently, he called out to the Board if anyone had questions regarding the slate of SLA businesses.

The vote tonight is to **approve** all the applicants.

At this point, Public Safety Chair Schilero provided an explanation of how the consensus was arrived at to approve all the locations.

NYS LIQUOR AUTHORITY LICENSES – November 2018

NEW APPLICANTS

<u>Establishment Name</u>	<u>Establishment Address</u>	<u>Committee Recommendation</u>
Tia Julia Food Corp. Wine, Beer & Cider	40-08 Cast Street Elmhurst, NY	Approved
Wangio Inc. Wine, Beer & Cider <i>Awang Kitchen</i>	84-05 Queens Blvd., Suite 1C Elmhurst, NY	Approved
Chef Guo Inc. Wine, Beer & Cider	83-29 Broadway Elmhurst, NY	Approved
El Arepazo Col. Food Inc. Wine, Beer & Cider	86-28 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Approved

RENEWAL APPLICANTS

<u>Establishment Name</u>	<u>Establishment Address</u>	<u>Committee Recommendation</u>
Oasis KD Bar Wine, Beer & Cider	102-30 43 Avenue Corona, NY	Approved
La Esquina Criolla Rest. Inc. Wine, Beer & Cider	94-67 Corona Avenue Elmhurst, NY	Approved

He Lin Restaurant Inc. Wine, Beer & Cider	83-11 Broadway Elmhurst, NY	Approved
96-01 Corona Avenue Rest. Corp. Wine, Beer & Cider <i>Il Triangolo</i>	96-01 Corona Avenue Corona, NY	Approved
El Cuencanito Deli & Pizza Rest. Beer & Cider	99-12 Alstyne Avenue Corona, NY	Approved
12 Corazones Rest. Bar Corp. Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider	86-22 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Approved

CORPORATE CHANGE

<u>Establishment Name</u>	<u>Establishment Address</u>	<u>Committee Recommendation</u>
El Diamante Boulevard Bar Corp. Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider	42-18 Junction Blvd. Corona, NY	Approved
Gato Verde Sports Bar Corp. Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider	82-14 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Approved

Since there were no questions or concerns on the applicants, Board Member Matthew McElroy made a motion, seconded by Board Member Sandra Munoz, to **approve** all the SLA applicants before the Public Safety Committee on November 7.

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

At this point, District Manager Christian Cassagnol announced the final tally of the votes for the slate of CB4 officers.

Chairperson	Louis Walker	23 votes
	Marialena Giampino	2 votes (Invalid)
		1 vote (No)
1 st Vice Chairperson	Marialena Giampino	25 votes
2 nd Vice Chairperson	Ashley Reed	25 votes
Treasurer	Lucy Schilero	26 votes
Executive Secretary	Cristian Romero	26 votes
At Large Directors (4)	Lynda Coral	25 votes
	Chaio-Chung Chen	
	Alexa Ponce	
	Gregory Spock	

Regarding the uneven vote count, it was explained some Board members did not vote and others did not sign their name on the ballot.

In any event, Chair Damian Vargas noted it was a landslide victory for all candidates and congratulated the Board Members on their new positions. Positions commencing January 1, 2019.

XIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Consumer Affairs

Committee Chair Georgina Oliver reported she held her first meeting, however, a quorum was not present -- only she and Mr. Chen were in attendance.

She reported Jim Galloway, Lefrak City Merchants Association, had obtained tickets for the children on December 2 at Radio City Music Hall.

Next, the Committee had discussed the closure of neighborhood businesses such as the Sterling Bank formerly Astoria Bank on Junction Blvd., the McDonald's on 57th Avenue and the possibility of J. C. Penny closing as well as the status of the restaurants across from Macy's at the Queens Center Mall. There was also some concern about area merchants not cleaning up and residue from the cleaning product used by Food Bazaar (there is an odor and some people are allergic to it).

In addition, Food Bazaar offers discounts to seniors Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., however, the discount only applies to regular items not sale items. The discount should be on sale items as well.

Furthermore, Lefrak City had hosted a Veteran's Day Breakfast to honor the veterans.

Also, Michelle Dunston, Lefrak City Tenants Association, is hosting a Thanksgiving Dinner in the Continental Room, from 12 Noon to 3 p.m. Volunteers are needed.

Regarding recruiting committee members, individuals did not wish to fill out the form to become a committee member as yet stating they would get back to Ms. Oliver.

In conclusion, the next Consumer Affairs Committee meeting is planned for January 18, at 7:30 p.m. and noted the Committee meets Bi-monthly.

Environmental

No report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

Health

Committee Chair Ashley Reed reported the Committee did not meet for lack of a quorum. However, she emphasized since this is HEAP season, encourage those home owners/renters to apply for assistance if heating costs are a burden.

In addition, November 25 – December 10 is known as Sixteen Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence.

As a Community Board the focus is to raise awareness and a meeting is planned for the end of November. All were invited to attend.

Transportation

Committee Chair Louis Walker stated the Committee's report was given earlier in the meeting.

ULURP/Zoning

No Report stated the Committee Chair Alton Derrick Smith.

Parks

Chair Gregory Spock reported the Committee did not meet, however, a meeting is planned for the coming months. Since a quorum was not present at the last meeting, it is vital members attend to conduct business. If you have an interest in parks, please see him or Christian. He reported on a meeting he and Christian had with the new Director of Cultural Affairs.

Next, he commented on a tour he had with high school students from Elmhurst and noted the Elmhurst Park is now locked because construction has started on the veteran's wall. He noted the Parks Dept. did not notify the Board of the construction which was unfortunate because people use the Park.

At this point, District Manager Cassagnol urged all to attend Elmhurst tree lighting on December 7 at 4:30 p.m. at CC Moore Park, Community Board 4 is co-sponsoring the event.

The LinkNYC kiosks on Roosevelt Avenue and Queens Blvd. as well as other areas is starting to promote both our Community Board meetings as well as its committee meeting. Any time a committee is holding a meeting, please let us know and it will be publicized.

Since there was no further business, Board Member Priscilla Carrow made a motion, seconded by Board Member Lucy Cerezo Scully, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.