



## COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, Elmhurst, and Newtown

46-11 104<sup>th</sup> Street

Corona, New York

11368-2882

Telephone: 718-760-3141

Fax: 718-760-5971

e-mail: [qn04@cb.nyc.gov](mailto:qn04@cb.nyc.gov)

**Melinda Katz**  
Borough President

**Damian Vargas**  
Chairperson

**Sharon Lee**  
Deputy Borough President

**Christian Cassagnol**  
District Manager

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*This meeting was streamed live.*

December 11, 2018

### COMMUNITY BOARD ATTENDANCE:

#### Board Members Attending:

Damian Vargas  
Karin Abreu  
Priscilla Carrow  
Giancarlo Castano  
Chaio-Chung Chen  
Lynda Coral  
Judith D'Andrea  
Marialena Giampino  
James Lisa  
Salvatore Lombardo  
Matthew McElroy  
Rovenia McGowan  
Ruby Muhammad  
Gurdip Singh Narula

Alexandra Owens  
Alexa Ponce  
Ashley Reed  
Oscar Rios  
Christian Romero  
Clara Salas  
Gigi Salvador  
Lucy Schilero  
A. Redd Sevilla  
Malikah Shabazz  
Alton Derrick Smith  
Dewan Tarek  
Marcello Testa  
Louis Walker  
Rosa Wong

#### Board Members Absent:

Lucy Cerezo-Scully  
Erica Cruz  
Kristin Gonzalez  
Jennifer Gutierrez  
Patricia Martin  
Edgar Moya  
Sandra Munoz  
Georgina Oliver

Albert Perna  
Neil Roman  
Gregory Spock  
Minwen Yang  
Lester Youngblood

**ATTENDING:**

Christian Cassagnol, CB4 District Manager  
Council Member Francisco Moya  
Dante Arnwine, Council Member Francisco Moya's Office  
Ari Espinal, Assembly Member  
Christopher Espinoza, Assembly Member Ari Espinal's Office  
Steven Tauri, Assembly Member Brian Barnwell's Office  
Anaury Curado, Assembly Member Brian Barnwell's Office  
Aniga Chowdhury, Assembly Member Brian Barnwell's Office  
Steven Raga, Assembly Member Brian Barnwell's Office  
Joe Nocerino, Queens Borough President's Office  
Roy Koche, NYC Conflicts of Interest Board  
William Giron, NYC Comptroller's Office  
Stacy Eliuk, NYC Public Advocate Letitia James' Office  
Captain Nicola Ventre, 110 Police Precinct  
David Russell, Queens Chronicle  
Vincent Laucella, Sabrett  
Adam Wikes, Democratic Socialists of America-Queens  
Jimmy Apostolatos  
Andrew Delgado  
Sally Nicodenus  
Ashley Diaz, High School of Fashion Industries  
Mike Liquori, VFW Post 150  
Dr. Philip Fairweather, Elmhurst Hospital  
Melissa Kinsella Central Queens Academy  
Adam Wilkes, Democratic Socialists of America-Queens  
Kevin Montalvo, Queens Distance Runners

**Public Speaker's**

Dr. Philip Fairweather, Elmhurst Hospital  
Melissa Kinsella Central Queens Academy  
Adam Wilkes, Democratic Socialists of America-Queens  
Kevin Montalvo, Queens Distance Runners

## COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 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.

Subsequently, Chair Damian Vargas called for a moment of silence for Senator Jose Peralta who passed away unexpectedly on November 21, 2018.

Following the moment of silence, Board Member Priscilla Carrow made a statement on behalf of Senator Jose Peralta's family and his staff where she has served for eight years. Everyone was thanked everyone for their kind words, calls, and attendance at the funeral services. A mass service will be held on Saturday, December 21, at 9:45 a.m., at St. Joan of Arc, 82-00 35 Avenue. The mass is given by Evelyn Peralta and the Peralta family. All acts of kindness were very much appreciated and he will be extremely missed. Pray for the family.

At this point, Chair Damian Vargas reminded all a sign in sheet is available if anyone wishes to address the Community Board. Speaking time is three minutes.

III. District Manager Christian Cassagnol took the roll call. A quorum was present.

### IV. VOTE: Minutes November 13, 2018

Board Member Clara Salas made the following corrections: Yoselin Genao Estrella's last name was misspelled on the attendance pages 2 and 7 and Board Member Georgina Oliver's last name was misspelled on page 9.

Board Member Lucy Schilero made a correction to Page 11 she had asked Council Member Francisco Moya about the boundaries of the ACE program from Junction Boulevard /Roosevelt Avenue to 59 Avenue/Junction Blvd. He had responded he would look into it.

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

By a voice vote, the Board voted 29 in favor, 0 opposed with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

### V. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson Damian Vargas reported on the sudden death of Senator Jose Peralta. He and District Manager Christian Cassagnol had attended the wake and mass services. Many people were in attendance. The streets were closed to accommodate the large turnout. He acknowledged other members of the Board had also

attended and noted the importance of supporting not only Board Member Priscilla Carrow who served on his staff as well as the Senator's other staff members who had worked with Board 4.

Chair Vargas extended the Board's condolences to her as well as the Senator's family for such a tragic loss.

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

District Manager Christian Cassagnol reported on the tree lighting events. It has been a busy time for the Board that co-sponsored a very successful tree lighting at Dunningham Triangle, 83 Street and Baxter Avenue, with the 82 Street BID and Council Member Daniel Dromm. Also, the Board co-sponsored tree lighting at CC Moore Park with Board Member Marialena Giampino, Council Member Dromm and several community groups. Another tree lighting ceremony was held on 104 Street.

Notably, he displayed a commemorative plaque to long time Board member Alirio Orduna and Commander of the New York Military Youth Cadets who was honored by Senator Peralta posthumously.

Additionally, the Board had requested to re-name the extension at P. S. 19 in honor of Alirio Orduna. The request is in still progress.

Working on Hoffman Park bordering on CBs 4, 5, and 6, with Parks Committee Chair Gregory Spock, he reported, a request was submitted for general renovation such as sidewalk cracks, cracks around the basketball court etc. However, funding was withdrawn by the Parks Department. Soon after the last annual Youth Fair held in Hoffman Park, Parks Chair Gregory Spock had an idea to put a petition for the park renovation on the table which many attendees signed. A substantial number of signatures were acquired to help fund improvements for the Park. In addition, Council Member Daniel Dromm was very impressed with the Park. We have heard through the grapevine there is an opportunity for corporate sponsorship for the Park—through companies such as Nike and Modell's. We are looking to establish a conversation with Nike or another big name to help.

District Manager Cassagnol reported the idea surfaced to put a jogging track around the Park. Adding a track to the Park has been on Capital/Expense budget for many years. The softball field is underutilized. He noted residents jog around Newtown Field because it is not open to the public. Residents should be allowed to use Hoffman Park for walking and jogging. Talks are also taking place about putting in a potential dog run and interest is also shown by a local running organization Queens Distance Runners. Copy of the letter written to Council Member Daniel Dromm was on hand.

In addition, District Manager Cassagnol reported on the Board's Sunshine Fund, which is low on funds. The fund managed to pay for the Holiday Party but after that cost funding is depleted. Out of 44 Board Members, only 14 donated this year.

Although the donation requested is \$15, any contribution will help. Records are kept of donations and expenditures.

District Manager Cassagnol explained how the funding is used from the Sunshine Fund. He spoke about making a contribution from the Sunshine Fund to an organization Senator Peralta was a part of. He mentioned sending out an e-mail as a reminder a collection will be taken at the January, 2019 meeting.

Next, 110<sup>th</sup> Precinct Commanding Office Captain Nicola Ventre reported on mail box thefts and grand larcenies. Perps. are reaching into the mail box using different means to remove the mail. Perps. are taking checks and rewriting the dollar amounts, noting there have been in increase in this crime in our Precinct. This Postal service is working with the 110 Precinct changing the slots in the mailboxes. To protect yourself, he suggested using the gel 207 pen, which cannot be altered or erased.

At issue are car break-ins. Many cars have been broken into and property stolen. Criminals look for easy targets such as unlocked doors. Lock doors he urged and make sure no items are visible because criminals will break your car windows to get your property. Keep personal property in your trunk or glove box, he suggested.

Another issue is unattended property such as leaving your bag open. Perps. will pickpocket your property from your person. Please keep property tight to your body, in a closed pocket or bag, especially when traveling on the transit system and entering the Mall on Queens Blvd.

Capt. Ventre commented the 110 Precinct has a Twitter account. In the last few days, he has uploaded photos of Wanted individuals who committed crimes inside the precinct, either they assaulted individuals with bats or robbed victims with a gun.

This information is being presented so that you can educate yourself and to help the 110 Precinct capture those individuals and help solve a crime. Also, you can send photos of quality of life issues to be addressed by the Precinct. Look at the Twitter account. It is a great way to communicate he concluded.

## **VII. PUBLIC FORUM**

Dr. Philip Fairweather, who is the Adult Associate Director of Emergency Medicine at Elmhurst Hospital, extended condolences on behalf of the staff and his colleagues, to Senator Peralta's family and the community.

Dr. Fairweather reported at times the wait at Elmhurst Hospital can be quite lengthy. Using the urgent care/ExpressCare clinic will lessen overcrowding in hospital emergency rooms. Dr. Fairweather explained the new ExpressCare clinic will offer quick access to medical care for non-life threatening conditions. If a patient has a traumatic condition such as a stroke or heart attack, there is no better facility than using the Emergency Department at Elmhurst Hospital.

No appointments are necessary to use the ExpressCare clinic. Hours of operation are 3:30 p.m. to midnight. You will be seen by a board certified physician. If a patient is seen at the ExpressCare clinic and they need a higher level of care, they will be taken to the adult Emergency Department. No one is turned away because of inability to pay. Follow up primary care will also be available to any patient who does not have a primary care provider or no clinic access.

Some of the non-threatening issues treated at ExpressCare are sore throats, toothaches, ankle sprains or minor injuries, to name a few. X-rays will be taken if necessary and pain medication dispensed as appropriate. The goal is to treat the patient in under an hour. All were urged to take advantage of this immediate care facility for those with less severe conditions and receive the same high quality care they need.

Board Member Judy D'Andrea asked if someone believed they had the flu or pneumonia, would they best be served at ExpressCare or the Emergency Dept.

Dr. Fairweather responded you can visit Express/Care but if it is necessary, if the issue is more complicated you will be seen at the Emergency Dept. Flu vaccinations are also being offered.

Board Member Rovenia McGowan commended Elmhurst Hospital on her visit to the hospital's urgent care two/three years and added the equipment was state of the art.

Next, Melissa Kinsella, Central Queens Academy, reported Senator Peralta was very supportive of the Central Queens Academy and its mission is to serve recent immigration populations in the Elmhurst/Corona area. Senator Peralta was incredibly supportive of our communities, its families, and she extended condolences to the family.

The school was founded in 2012 to serve the recent immigration population and English learners in School District 24. Junction Blvd., Elmhurst, is the home base. The school is a middle school serving grades 5 – 8 with about 400 students. When the school opened its goal was always to expand. She noted for every open seat, there are five applications which reflect the need in the community.

The first step to meet that goal is to apply for an additional charter, which will serve more students. Ms. Kinsella was requesting to connect with the Board's Youth Committee to enlist feedback, opinions, thoughts, and/or concerns. She was optimistic they could meet with the Youth Committee before the application is due mid-January, 2019.

Next, Adam Wilkes, an Elmhurst resident, spoke about the Amazon deal which will affect Long Island City over the course of the next few years. Last night, he had attended a meeting hosted by many organizations. Those organizations are against any compromise with Amazon. New York State and New York City combined gave them approximately \$3 billion in pilot agreements which means they do have to pay property taxes even if the property value increases and also grants were given to one of the most powerful companies and the richest individual in the world. \$3 billion could have gone to many other causes. He is frustrated the system operates in this way. The deal will also affect rental prices across Queens, the entire corridors of Roosevelt Avenue, Queens Blvd., and Northern Blvd. all leading to Long Island City. Furthermore, he spoke about the Amazon operation in Seattle, and its effect mentioning Amazon owns all the property.

Mr. Wilkes had reached out to Council Member Moya who said he would support a version of the deal if they provided amenities. However, he questioned if Council Member Moya had been in contact with other opponents of the deal such as Senator Michael Gianaris, Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer, and Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. He expressed doubt if enough pressure was put on Mayor de Blasio and Governor Cuomo to resist Amazon.

Calling on the elected officials to break with Mayor de Blasio and to start attending meetings with the community organizations to end this deal, which is an immoral catastrophe.

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

State Assemblywoman Ari Espinal thanked the Board for its support and for being with her during her term in the Assembly. She is grateful and honored to have served. \$217,000 was brought back to the district, noting \$75,000 was brought to the Corona library. Her term in office is ending on December 31, and she expressed how proud she was to hear that she had our support. She also serves as District Leader. Furthermore, she is proud of her accomplishments in the community. A legal clinic is planned for December 17 across from the Council Member's office. She will always be accessible to the community—the community she grew up in. Council Member Moya was also thanked for his support as a mentor during her political career.

Next, Council Member Francisco Moya reported Air Espinal has done a tremendous job, working very hard and dedicated her entire adult life to this community. She is always here in the community. We are proud that she is homegrown and went on to accomplish very positive and genuine outcomes for the betterment of the community.

Council Member Moya thanked everyone for a good year. He spoke about the tragic loss of Senator Jose Peralta. Senator Peralta was a dedicated public servant who fought for this community whether it was to help fund our local schools or whether it was standing up for immigration. When Council Member Moya wrote the Dream Act in the State of New York, Senator Peralta carried the legislation in the Senate where he went on to champion the Bill. Regardless of the election results, he was a good man. Subsequently, Council Member Moya spoke about Senator Peralta's family life in the community noting we should honor his work by continuing to work hard for our community because that is what he would want us to do. He was a caring man and a man of integrity. We should never forget him. Political battles mean nothing

but it's more about how we can serve each other as neighbors, as friends and the community. All of us feel the tragic loss of Senator Peralta and will work toward honoring him and keeping his name alive for someone who worked very hard for us all.

Before concluding, he wished all a great holiday and added as a community, we should all support each other as the year is coming to an end and look to bigger and better things in the coming year. He spoke about the Three Kings Holiday Drive for people in need in the community. Many families are suffering and in need of help. Donate a toy to a needy family. It will be very much appreciated.

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

Speaking to Board Member Judy D'Andrea, he provided information the cost of the new library is \$36 million, Also, a site must be determined. Then, he spoke about the procurement process. Scoping must be done, it must be determined if it is feasible to buy the land, and the design. Realistically, the design could take up to six or seven years before a shovel is placed in the ground. For next year, however, he would acquire funding for a mobile library close by. Since there are three schools in close proximity and with the pre-K opening on 104 Street, it is important our children have access to library resources. In the meantime, the library mobile vans can serve a great purpose.

Discussion ensued on possible sites for the new library mentioning the possibility of the DEP building.

Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula asked about Council Member Moya's position on the Amazon deal.

Council Member Moya said he was opposed to the Amazon deal. Transparency in any type of a deal of this magnitude is critical. As the Chair of the Zoning and Franchising Committee, the proposal would have passed through committee where the proposal was reviewed. In response to the question is it a done deal, Council Member Moya replied call the Mayor, Governor, and other representatives, adding that the Governor doesn't think he had to go through the process. Council Member Moya said he has been against the deal, because transparency is an issue. When big corporations come in, it is not mentioned about the people who live in the area/borough would be getting access to the jobs. There are a number of processes that need to change on bringing businesses into our community. There is much corporate welfare and it has been seen throughout, but the change must come from the top. He explained states compete to get these companies to come in and will give away many incentives to create jobs although this does not translate to the number of jobs actually provided.

The Governor and the Mayor made the deal with Amazon. Call the Mayor and the Governor and your local representatives and noted there will be a rally tomorrow on the steps of City Hall. You are welcome to testify at the City Council hearings, he added. Some legislators signed a letter about Amazon coming in and now they are against it. We have to be consistent on things that we do, he commented.

More questions were asked and discussion ensued about the Amazon deal.

Council Member Moya reiterated the Governor and the Mayor made the deal with the Economic Corporation and the other partners. The hearings will bring to light how the deal was done and said negotiations were done in the dark. The Governor thinks he does not have to go through the process of public hearings or jurisdiction with the City of New York. The Mayor signed off on the deal and there is many things they need to be held accountable for which is why hearings are so important. It opens the floor for transparency and forces those companies to testify, and forces the agencies behind the deal to answer questions.

Board Member Judy D'Andrea inquired if the tax breaks Amazon will be receiving will the taxpayer be picking up the tax increases.

Council Member Moya responded transparency in this type of deal is critical. Deals like this cannot be made without a profound impact. Our communities and Queens is a booming place, a borough where people want to come. This deal makes it less affordable. Adding to the problems was that the city Administration wanted to bypass the City Council and make the deal with the Governor.

Next, Board Member Chaio-Chung Chen inquired about the #7 train on Roosevelt Avenue, in need of painting. Council Member Moya replied a press conference will be held next week and explained the funding he acquired is for painting up to 111 Street. More importantly, lights will be installed on Roosevelt Avenue. Although it has taken years to acquire, funding requested in the Assembly years ago and now at the City Council level, who fought for lighting at 82 Street to 111 Street. Another Council Member had lighting implemented in the Woodside area.

Discussion ensued about how the boundaries for the new lighting areas were determined.

At this point, Chair Damian Vargas called for continuation of the Legislators reports:

Congresswoman Grace Meng

Board Member Cristian Romero reported 2019 calendars were on hand. There were no major announcements, however, next month he planned on addressing some of the legislative and political announcements. He added he had attended Senator Jose Peralta's wake with Congresswoman Meng. It was a tragic loss to the community and on behalf of Congresswoman Meng, condolences are sent to Senator Peralta's family and staff.

Queens Borough President Melinda Katz

On behalf of the Borough President, Joe Nocerino wished all Happy Holidays.

State Senator Michael Gianaris

No Report

State Senator Tony Ann Stavisky

No Report

State Assembly Member Jeffrion Aubry

No Report

State Assembly Member Brian Barnwell

Steven Raga reported on three drives currently in progress at the Assembly Member's office—which are a coat, toy and blanket drive. Drop off donations at Assembly Member Barnwell's office, 55-19 69 Street, Maspeth, N.Y.

Also, if you have any concerns about the community, call the district office at 718-651-3185.

State Assembly Member Michael Den Dekkar

No Report

Council Member Daniel Dromm

Kelly Wu announced the December 7 tree lighting at CC Moore Park was highly successful and enjoyable. Regarding the African-American burial ground, she mentioned Council Member Daniel Dromm wrote a letter in support to the Landmarks Preservation Commission requesting to preserve the area.

A Holiday Toy Drive is planned at Council Member Dromm's office. Donations are being collected for families in homeless shelters. Deadline for the toy drive is December 20.



Next, the Council Member is having a Holiday Open House Party, Tuesday, December 18 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., at the District Office.

An upcoming hearing on electric school buses to amend the local law is scheduled for December 17 at 10:00 a.m. Call the District Office for more information.

NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer

William Giron wished all Happy Holidays. More will be reported at the next meeting.

Board Member Rovenia McGowan complimented the Comptroller's office on the assistance she had received when she had called regarding her pension. Everyone was very courteous and she did receive a follow up call.

NYC Public Advocate Letitia James

No Report

At this point, Chair Vargas announced a public speaker was overlooked at the Public Forum segment.

Kevin Montalvo, Executive Director Queens Distance Runners, reported it is the largest running club in Queens and represents Queens NY all walks of life and announced the following events:

Toy Drive 5 Miler– Sunday, December 16, at Flushing Meadows-Corona Park.

The Kids of Queens program which is comprised of 45 families. The children are trained and instructed how to properly warm up.

Subsequently, he announced the Queens Marathon on April 21 at Flushing Meadows-Corona Park. It will not be on the street. It is for everyone to enjoy and the goal is get people to come out and run.

All were invited to come out for a group run on Friday, December 14, meet at the 7-11 to run out to the Unisphere (about 2 ½ miles). It's the CB4 Corona Community Run. Bring your children.

Next, he reported they volunteer at Flushing Meadows-Corona Park. He cited an example of the help his organization provided at Flushing Meadow-Corona Park cutting down the overgrown shrubbery.

Before concluding, \$10 Modell's gift cards were given out.

#### **IX. Presentation: NYC Conflicts of Interest Board**

##### ***Mandatory Conflicts of Interest Training for Members of Community Boards***

Roy Koche from the NYC Conflicts of Interest Board noted the previous guest speaker had given out \$10 gift cards to the Community Board members. He advised the Board Members to call the NYC Conflicts of Interest Board and ask if the gift card can be accepted. If not, it must be returned to the gift giver. There is a \$50 gift rule, pointing out Board members may not accept anything valued at \$50 or more from any person or firm they know or should know is doing business or seeking to do business with the City.

Since Kevin, the gift giver, gave the gift cards to all in the room, it may dissipate the problem. Nonetheless, he urged all to call the attorneys at the Conflict of Interest Board who will give you advice on your questions. The problem arises because Kevin was giving out something of value, and more clarification is needed.

If a gift is being given to you because of your position as Community Board members, there may be a conflict of interest. He cited the example if the Board had approved a matter Kevin had before the Community Board, and he wanted to thank you by giving you a \$10 gift card, now it is considered a tip. Tips cannot be accepted for doing your city jobs. All were encouraged to call the Conflicts of Interest Board for a ruling on this matter.

The Conflict of Interest Board is an independent non-mayoral agency responsible for the conflicts of interest law. The law applies to every person who works for the city, which includes Community Board members.

Members serve on the Community Board because they have interests within their community. Board members provide expertise, which benefits the community and the City of New York.

The conflicts of interest law addresses the interaction between public service and private interests. Private interests may not conflict with the ability to serve the community and our city.

Next, he spoke about voting which is an essential duty of Community Board members. The law prohibits Community Board members from voting on any matter that may result in a direct financial benefit to a community board member. An example was cited if a Board Member was opening a restaurant in the community, should he vote to approve his own liquor license. The answer is no because it is a conflict of interest. By voting, it would directly benefit the Board Member financially.

Are you allowed to discuss matters of private interest at the Community Board. You are allowed to discuss matters involving your own interest, however, before entering into discussion, you must disclose your interest.

The three steps are:

- Disclose any interest you have pending before your Community Board
- Discuss matters involving your interest
- You cannot vote on the matter

Next, he spoke about Community Board members employed by City agencies. A Board member is not allowed to vote on matters involving his/her city agency because the city agency is using the Board member as an agent to push through the matter at the Community Board. This would compromise the trust of the other city agency as well as the trust in the Community Board.

Next, he spoke about not-for-profit organizations. If a non-profit organization has a matter before the Community Board and the Board member is employed by the not-for-profit organization, the matter cannot be voted on by the Board member. Even though the Board member is not being paid, he/she has a fiduciary duty by law to the non-profit.

Subsequently, he spoke about quorums. A quorum is required to pass any matters before the Community Board.

For example, a Board has 50 members and 26 members are present. That is a quorum. If two members of the quorum have conflict of interest, they cannot vote but the quorum is still maintained. Since 24 members would be eligible to vote, 13 votes are needed to pass the matter.

Sharing and serving on committees at Community Boards was brought up. A Board Member can serve on any Board committee, but if the committee involves the member's employer, business, or agency, non-profit, the Board member cannot vote on the matter. A Board Member cannot Chair a committee where he/she may have a conflict of interest matters that are constantly before your Committee.

As Chairperson of the Community Board, he/she can have private interests that come before the Board, however, the Chair cannot vote on the matter and must step down for that particular meeting.

Sharing an example on gifts, he cited a restaurant opens in the community and they want to get their liquor license approved and invites the Community Board member to a free meal. The Community Board member cannot accept the offer.

Another example given was if you have a long standing friendship with someone who owns a bar and every year they buy you a drink for your birthday at the bar, this would not be seen as a conflict of interest because it

is a long standing friendship and the motivation is your birthday. But if something is being offered to you because you are a Community Board Member, call the Conflicts of Interest Board if you are unsure about accepting the offer.

As far as the gift cards, he said since they were offered to everyone in the room instead of being offered to Community Board members, it would seem to solve the problem. When you call, ask to speak to the attorney of the day. At the Conflicts of Interest Board it is their missions to not only carry out enforcement when a violation of the law occurs, but also to provide guidance for all city employees including Community Board members to avoid conflicts of interest.

Next, he spoke about representing private clients. Community Board members are not allowed to represent private clients at their Community Board. An example was given of this conflict.

Next, he spoke about staffing. Family members of Community Board members are not allowed to serve on the Community Board staff.

Following, he spoke about the post-employment rule. Whenever a Board Member leaves Community Board service, they are not allowed to appear back at their former Community Board to do business for one year. An example was given.

In conclusion, he urged all to call the Conflicts of Interest Board if there are any additional questions. They are there to help.

## **X. REPORT AND VOTE: By-Law Committee**

### ***CB4 Bylaws***

Copies of the proposed change were passed out to the Board members. Committee Chair Louis Walker called out having received the Bylaw changes, please read what currently exists and what is new. He asked if anyone had any questions.

Board Member Matt McElroy asked why the changes were made.

Committee Chair Louis Walker explained the current rules do not indicate, as the new ones do, how the whole procedure will proceed.

Committee Chair Louis Walker explained the reasoning the Bylaws Committee needs to look at the Bylaws first is that the request may conflict with something else already in the bylaws.

Another Board Member asked the reasoning for changing from the 2/3 majority to a simple majority.

Committee Chair Louis Walker responded because the 2/3 which has been in the bylaws for quite some time was an attempt to prevent the bylaws from being changed. It should not happen in the future. If a majority rules on all matters of the Board, which it does, it should also include the bylaws. There is no 2/3 vote on any other matters.

Chair Damian Vargas explained all votes taken by vote is by a majority vote except for changes to the bylaws. Since the Board follows Robert's Rules Of Order, that dictates a simple majority for any change not 2/3. This change is to make the voting by the Board consistent with everything else in the City Charter and every other Community Board. A 2/3 vote is too high of a vote to get any change done.

Discussion ensued.

Board Member Judy D'Andrea made a motion, seconded by Board Member Clara Salas, to **approve** the Amendments To The Bylaws.

Committee Chair Louis Walker called out if there was any discussion.

Since there was none, Chair Damian Vargas called out all in favor to amend the bylaws with the proposed change.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 26 in favor, 1 opposed, with 2 abstentions. Motion passed.

Furthermore, Bylaws Committee Chair Louis Walker stated between now and next month Board members will receive the entire Bylaws changes, which are many, with the existing bylaws. He urged all to compare both copies to see the changes. The vote will be taken at the January 8, 2019 meeting.

## **XI. Report and Vote: Public Safety Committee**

### ***SLA Applications***

Public Safety Committee Chair Lucy Schilero reported a quorum was present at the December 4 committee meeting.

Before presenting the liquor license applications, from the Fire Department do not overload power strips because it is one of the major causes of fires. Do not overload with heaters or microwaves. Do not block entrances and exits from your home, especially balconies. Please report broken fire hydrants, she urged.

She explained the difference between 311 and 911 calls and gave example of each.

Next, she spoke about burglaries in the home. Lock doors.

At this point, she spoke about graffiti. There are only two graffiti officers for Community Board 4. Forms were available for graffiti cleanup. Do not sign the form for someone else. The home owner needs to sign.

She suggested a request for surveillance cameras for graffiti to be placed in the Board's Expense budget.

At this point, District Manager Christian Cassagnol announced a sheet certifying the Board members had completed the COIB training was passed around. Please sign and date where indicated by your name.

Subsequently, Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula spoke about a new scam. Do not give out pin numbers, he cautioned. Victims are being robbed.

Additionally, he spoke about a new immigration proposal under the Trump administration. If a person is receiving benefits or public assistance, the person's green card can be cancelled and they can be deported. The reasoning is the individual becomes a public charge.

Chair Damian Vargas explained the public charge proposal has not taken effect yet and it is unknown if it will take effect. However, the distinction is it will only apply to people who are applying to come to the United States or who are applying to become residents or applying for a visa. If you already have a green card and you are applying to become a United States citizen, it will not affect you. He reiterated at this point it is only a proposal and can change. It does not affect anyone applying within the United States.

Discussion ensued.

At this point, Public Safety Committee Chair Lucy Schilero continued with the Committee's liquor license report:

**NYS LIQUOR AUTHORITY LICENSES – December 2018**

**NEW APPLICANTS**

<b><u>Establishment's Name</u></b>	<b><u>Establishment's Address</u></b>	<b><u>Committee Recommendation</u></b>
La Exquista Wine, Beer & Cider	40-08 Hampton Street Elmhurst, NY	Denied
Applicant failed to respond to our request to meet to discuss their application.		
Islanders Seafood Inc. Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider	79-21 Queens Blvd. Elmhurst, NY	Denied
3/20/18- Assault Arrest, minor injuries 3/20/18 – Arson Arrest, minor injuries 4/15/18 – Harassment – perp. pushed victim to ground repeatedly, no injuries 4/15/18 – Assault 3 arrests – physical fight with injuries Asked applicant to return in six months for application review.		
Chiflez Pisco House Corp. – Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider	95-02 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Denied
Asked establishment to bring in proof of transfer of ownership		
Tasty Chaulafan Corp. Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider	86-10 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Denied
Asked establishment to bring in proof of transfer of ownership		

**RENEWAL APPLICATIONS**

<b><u>Establishment's Name</u></b>	<b><u>Establishment's Address</u></b>	<b><u>Committee Recommendation</u></b>
Yingyong Food Corp. <i>Playground Bar &amp; Thai Restaurant</i> Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider	71-30 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Approved
Soneros Bar Restaurant Inc. Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider	92-02 Corona Avenue Elmhurst, NY	Denied
4/17/18 – Assault complaint and arrest 4/18/18 – Assault complaint and arrest 5/12/18 – Assault Complaint, victim was slashed injury to abdomen 5/12/18 - Arrest during SLA check. Manager was arrested for serving minors. 5/26/18 – Felony assault complaint with two men arrested, minor injuries 5/26/18 – Disorderly premises summons in relation to assault 5/30/18 – SLA summons for sale to minors 5/30/18 – 110 Precinct submitted nuisance abatement to the SLA to close the establishment		

6/8/18 – SLA Inspection. Summons was issued regarding security guard records. Ten other minor violations were found and summonses were issued such as lack of displaying license and fire sign and exit issues. Public Safety Chair explained the owner paid a \$7,000 initial fine to stop the business from closing. However, it is unclear what the fine covered. A receipt was presented, but there were no details. Clarification is needed.

**ALTERATION/METHOD OF OPERATION CHANGE**

<b><u>Establishment’s Name</u></b>	<b><u>Establishment’s Address</u></b>	<b><u>Committee Recommendation</u></b>
Soneros Bar Restaurant Inc. Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider	92-02 Corona Avenue Elmhurst, NY	Denied

Nothing was presented to the Committee regarding the operation change.

Subsequently, discussion ensued on Applicant #2 – Islanders Seafood Inc.

Following the discussion, Board Member A. Redd Sevilla made a motion, seconded by Board Member Judy D’Andrea, to **approve** the Committee’s recommendation except for Applicant #2 – Islanders Seafood Inc.

In other words, vote on Applicant #2 (Islanders Seafood Inc.) separately; and vote on the other applications as one slate explained Chair Vargas.

More discussion ensued about this location.

Since Board Member A. Redd Sevilla lives in close proximity to the location, he explained there has been a tainted history with this location. In his opinion, this establishment has been the best occupant. He understood the complaints lodged against the establishment, but explained if arrests were made and the establishment had been “clean” for eight months, he was willing to give the owner another opportunity.

Pursuing this further, District Manager Cassagnol explained the SLA process for liquor applications.

At this point, Board Member A. Redd Sevilla made a motion, seconded by Board Member Judy D’Andrea, to **approve the Committee’s report except for Applicant #2 - Islanders Seafood Inc.—to be voted on separately.**

In light of the discussion, Chair Damian Vargas explained the motion on the floor is to **approve** the liquor license application for Islanders Seafood Inc.

Before the vote was taken, Chair Vargas explained if you vote yes, it is to approve the liquor license of Applicant #2 – Islanders Seafood Inc. Voting no on the motion, means you deny the application for Islanders Seafood Inc.

By a roll call vote, the Board voted 17 in favor, 8 opposed, with 0 abstentions to **approve** the liquor license for Islanders Seafood Inc. Motion passed.

At this point, Board Member A. Redd Sevilla made a motion, seconded by Board Member Judy D’Andrea, to **approve** the Committee’s report as presented on the remaining liquor license applications.

More discussion ensued before the vote was taken.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 17 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

At this point, Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula, as a Member of the Public Safety Committee, explained the Committee's reasoning on the denial recommendation for this applicant.

## **XII. Committee Reports**

### ***Consumer Affairs***

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

### ***Environmental***

No report said Committee Chair Oscar Rios. A meeting is planned.

### ***Health***

No report said Committee Chair Ashley Reed. A meeting is planned.

### ***Parks***

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

### ***Transportation***

Committee Chair Louis Walker said a meeting is planned for January, 2019.

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

Committee Chair Alton Derrick Smith reported the Committee did not meet.

### ***Youth***

No Report. Committee Chair left.

As there was no further business, Board Member Judy D'Andrea made a motion, seconded by Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

The Holiday Party followed the Board meeting, and a good time was had by all!