



COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, Elmhurst, and Newtown

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Melinda Katz
Borough President

Louis Walker
Chairperson

Sharon Lee
Deputy Borough President

Christian Cassagnol
District Manager

The meeting was streamed live.

April 9, 2019

COMMUNITY BOARD ATTENDANCE:

Board Members Attending:

Louis Walker
Chaio-Chung Chen
David Chong
Lynda Coral
Michelle Dunston
Marialena Giampino
Jennifer Gutierrez
Vincent Laucella
Matthew Mc Elroy
Rovenia McGowan
Edgar Moya
Ruby Muhammad
Sandra Munoz
Gurdip Singh Narula

Georgina Oliver
Alexandra Owens
Alexa Ponce
Rupinder Raj
Ashley Reed
Neil Roman
Cristian Romano
Fernando Ruiz
Clara Salas
Lucy Schilero
A. Redd Sevilla
Alton Derrick Smith
Gregory Spock
Rosa Wong
Minwen Yang

Board Members Absent:

Karin Abreu
Priscilla Carrow
Lucy Cerezo Scully
Erica Cruz
Judy D'Andrea
Aridia Espinal
Kristin Gonzalez

James Lisa
Salvatore Lombardo
Patricia Martin
Sylvia Martin
Oscar Rios
Dewan Tarek
Marcello Testa
Izaida Valcarcel
Damian Vargas

ATTENDING:

Christian Cassagnol, District Manager CB4
Christina Long, Community Assistant CB4
Kelly Wu, Council Member Daniel Dromm's Office
Michelle Hernandez, U. S. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's Office
Jennifer Diaz, Assembly Member Catalina Cruz's Office
Nisha Tabassum, Senator Jessica Ramos' Office
Maria Barlis, Senator Jessica Ramos' Office
William Giron, NYC Comptroller's Office
Phireline Solano, Council Member Francisco Moya's Office
Mark Papish, Assembly Member Brian Barnwell's Office
David Saponieri, 110 Police Precinct
Lt. Leoni, 110 Police Precinct
Clara Londono, UHP, Plaza Del Sol
David Burgoa, NHS of Queens
Kathleen Cassino, Community Relations & Events - USTA
Christopher Espinoza, Health Care Education Project/1199 SEIU
Marta Lebreton, Community Board 3 Queens
Karen Ortiz, PPNYC
Adam Wilkes, Police Athletic League, Democratic Socialist of America
Jorge Rodriguez
Ernestine McKayle
Jim Galloway, LCTA
David Russell, Queens Chronicle
Reyna Wong – Alliance for Flushing Meadows-Corona Park
Raphael O. Garcia
M. Wong, Elmhurst United
S. Wong, Elmhurst United
Adriana Cabrera, Queensboro Council for Social Welfare
Mario Matos, Maspeth High School
John Wang, Queens Night Market
Juttana Rimreartwate (Moo), Weekend Walk NYC

Public Speaker's List

Nathan Oliver, Bike New York
John Wang, Queens Night Market
Joseph Bellacicco
Reyna Wang, Alliance for Flushing Meadows-Corona Park
Chaio-Chung Chen
Juttana Rimreartwate (Moo), Weekend Walk NYC
Marialena Giampino

COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE: TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2019

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

PLACE: ITALIAN CHARITIES OF AMERICA
83-20 Queens Blvd.
Elmhurst, N.Y.

I. Chairperson Louis Walker opened the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

III. Executive Secretary Cristian Romero took the attendance. A quorum was present.

IV. VOTE: Minutes March 12, 2019

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

Before the vote was taken, the following two corrections were noted:

Correction: Board Member Alexandra Owens was present at the March 12, 2019 Community Board meeting. Joe Nocerino, Queens Borough President's Office, was not present at the March 12, 2019 Community Board meeting.

After the noted corrections, the Board voted on the minutes as presented.

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

V. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson Louis Walker reported at the last Borough Board meeting the Chairpersons voted on the Capital budget. It was approved and now must be voted on by the City Council. However, there was some very interesting statistics in the budget regarding Queens. For example, regarding the Community Boards Expense budget, per Board in Queens, out of the five boroughs, Queens had the lowest funding. Similarly, the amount of money spent by the Department of Education per pupil, Queens had the lowest of the five boroughs and cited the funding for each borough. It is essential we ask our elected officials why Queens is on the bottom of several lists in terms of spending.

Next, Chair Walker made an announcement on Queens Place Mall. While there's no official announcement, it appears the site will be closing at the end of the year and after the closing, the question is will they reopen it or will they decide not to reopen it as a mall? That's a rather large parcel of land so we should be quite concerned to know what's going to end up in that space if it is doesn't remain a Mall.

He noted several stores had already gone. It seems the electrical grid in the complex is not in good shape and needs repair. Target will move to Middle Village where K-Mart was formerly located.

He expressed disappointment Target was not moving to the former Sears location on Queens Blvd., noting it's a price thing.

At the end of the year, employees at Queens Place will find themselves in a very awkward position. There's a chance workers at the Mall will be looking for work immediately after the Christmas season. Many of the brick and mortar stores are having problems surviving, he stated. Unfortunately, this closure will only add to the situation.

VI. REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

After welcoming the new Board Members, District Manager Christian Cassagnol reported on the following:

April 7 – Free Vaccines For Dogs and Cats event - 329 people were pre-registered and confirmed 250 people were in attendance. The Parks Committee was commended for their hard work in making the event such a huge success. District Manager Cassagnol also noted there was no participation by the Board Members.

April 20 - Community Gardens' event – Two community gardens are opened: Corona Taxpayers on 52 Avenue and 102 Street and Sparrows Nest - from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Arts and crafts for children and tours are arranged. Parents from I. S. 61 have volunteered to help children with arts and crafts. Come out and support the community gardens, he urged.

April 27 – Paint 4 Awareness Sip & Paint Event (non-alcoholic) – 12:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. – at Italian Charities of America, 83-20 Queens Blvd., Elmhurst, NY.

In Celebration of April as Autism Awareness Month.

100% of the proceeds will be given directly to “Autism Speaks”. A volunteer artist will be on board, and refreshments from a local restaurant will be served. Flyers were on hand with more information. Space is limited. All were urged to join us at the event.

Next, he reported on Clement C. Moore Park and Newtown Playground. Both sites have a rich cultural and historical history. A while ago, the Board had requested the Parks Dept. have an archaeologist at both sites. We also requested to be notified if any artifacts were found. April 18 a walk-thru is planned of both parks with the new Queens Parks Commissioner, Michael Dockett.

Subsequently, he updated the Board on the stipend that the Board had received. In addition to the other purchases, the Board had bought the e-mail software Constant Contact. If you would like to receive electronic copies of the Board's newsletter, text QueensCB4 to 22828.

At the next upcoming Transportation Committee meeting, the MTA will send a guest speaker. If you have any MTA issues or would like to attend, please let the Board office know. Equally important if you are not attending a meeting, please advise the Board office. It makes it very difficult if a guest speaker or members of the public are in attendance, and the meeting had to be cancelled because of lack of a quorum.

Specifically speaking to the Committee Chairs, he said to please manage your committees and ascertain there will be a quorum a day or two before the scheduled committee meeting. This has happened all too often in the past where the District Manager was the only one present.

At this point, Lt. Leoni of the 110 Precinct reported on the 28 day period:

	<u>Last Year</u>	<u>This Year</u>
Homicides	1	None 28 day
Rapes	2	6
Robberies	19	18
Felony Assaults	15	20
Burglaries	13	5
Grand Larcenies	40	45
GLA's	7	7

Next, he spoke about the Grand Larceny scams. He reported on the IRS phone calls where the caller states the IRS has a warrant against you for non-payment. It's a scam. If they tell you to pay in Apple or iTunes gift cards, it is a scam. IRS employees do not call anyone. They will contact you only through mail. This is the most common scam, especially during tax season. He urged all to spread the word to friends, family, and community members about this scam.

Next, he reported the Postal Service is doing a great job retrofitting mailboxes, which makes it more difficult to phish mail. He urged all to use the 207 gel pen so that checks cannot be "white washed". If your mailbox is not retrofitted, the best course of action is to take your mail to the Post Office.

At this point, P. O. David Saponieri from the 110 Precinct explained later on tonight the Board will vote on a street co-naming for Sgt. Paul Michael Ferrera. His death was due to 911 related cancers contracted while working at Ground Zero. Sgt. Ferrera was a 20-year employee of the NYPD and was assigned to the elite Patrol Borough Queens North Counterterrorism Unit. Sgt. Ferrera left behind a teenage son Paul Jr. who has autism. The location for the proposed co-naming signage is 43 Avenue and 95 Street. P. O. Saponieri urged the Board to support the street co-naming.

At this point, District Manager Christian Cassagnol announced Community Board 4's 207 gel pens were available to everyone in the room. Canvas bags for the Board Members were also on hand.

VII. PUBLIC FORUM

Nathan Oliver, representing Bike New York, reported on Sunday, May 5, the Annual Five Borough Bike Tour, will be held. He noted there will be some street closures. The route is in western Queens and Brooklyn. Although it should not directly affect this area, part of it does and to plan accordingly. The reason why the Five Borough Bike Tour is held every year is that it is their main fund raiser. In this way, it allows them to put on their programming, which includes free classes on biking, learning how to ride a bike, being a commuter and learning how to fix your own bike. The classes are free and a lot of fun to both children and adults. Classes are held in the five boroughs. Flyers were in the back with more information.

Chair Louis Walker added the Five Borough Bike Tour is a great event, streets are closed to traffic, and you can ride your bike safely throughout the city.

Next, John Wang, Queens Night Market, reported the Queens Night Market will have sneak previews on April 20 and April 27. The only major changes are it will open at 5:00 p.m. instead of 6:00 p.m. in order to have the vendors make money. Instead of the beer gardens being enclosed with barricades, the barricades have been removed so that people can walk around the event.

Next, Joseph Bellacicco reported on 43 Avenue. 43 Avenue has a big problem and he does want to see it called the Avenue of Death. Police cars and residents double park on Junction Boulevard and 95th Street. And, angle park from 95th Street to 94 Street. He had submitted a proposal to the Highway Department, the Police

Department, and other agencies to extend angle parking on 94 Street west one block, which would alleviate the traffic on 43 Avenue. Cars, trucks, ambulances, and fire trucks cannot get through.

Right now, it is so bad that people must walk in the middle of the street. If the problem is not solved soon, people will be killed. He had submitted plans to the Highway Department, but the agency had not responded.

Next, Reyna Wong, Stewardship Coordinator at Flushing Meadows-Corona Park, reported more members of the local community are needed to join the organization. The Environmental Steward Team beautifies and improves the biodiversity of the parks natural areas at Meadow and Willow Lake. Although these areas allow New Yorkers a chance to see wild wetland habitat in the heart of Queens, volunteers are super important to keeping those areas healthy and beautiful. Even though it is the largest park in Queens and fourth largest in the city, there is only two gardeners. Therefore, most of the work done in these natural areas such as the weeding, planting and trail maintenance is done by volunteers. At their events, volunteers are able to meet other community members that are interested in protecting the environment and who love the outdoors. You can also get some gardening experience. Spring and Summer events are planned every few weeks/or month. The next event is planned for Earth Day, Monday, April 22, meeting at Meadow Lake.

If you have a community group organization that wants to do a private event, they will work with you. Flyers were in the back with more information. Log on to their website where you can register for events.

Next, David Burgoa, NHS of Queens, reported he continues to advocate for the workforce development program.

Also, a grand opening is planned sometime in April. All were invited. Regular business hours are Monday-Friday (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.).

But there is a temporary location on the building at Elmcors, 108 Street & Northern Blvd. Flyers were in the back. He attended meetings at a few organizations this month for recruitment and also gave presentations. For example, he was a speaker at the Newtown Civic Association and added if you have an organization that's interested in the workforce or the NHS programs, please contact him. Moreover, at the recruitment event there were 22 people looking for jobs and were placed at the airport.

Next, Board Member Chaio-Chung Chen reported on the homeless problem in Elmhurst and a situation he had encountered.

Second, he spoke on the vendor situation such as barbequing on the street and the stands are hazardous to themselves, the pedestrians and the surrounding neighborhood.

Next, Jotiang Rtmreartwa TEC (Moo) spoke about Weekend Walk NYC, which is supported by the NYC Department of Transportation, which sponsors eighteen events. Local businesses walk three blocks. You buy the food from inside the restaurant and eat on the street. Tables and chairs are provided to sit and eat. This year, there are about 35 organizations participating. Weekend Walks are multi-block, multi-day events on commercial corridors that promote the use of streets as public space. Community based organizations apply to close business streets and provide programming for local businesses and the neighborhoods.

Two events coming up were:

April 20 and April 27 and this year an award will be presented to the first Thai-Asian woman of the FDNY.

Next, Board Member Marialena Giampino, a member of the non-profit group for the preservation of Elmhurst which is The Elmhurst History and Cemeteries Preservations Society announced they are the 2019 winners of the grassroots preservation award from the Historic District Council. The group is being recognized by a dedication ceremony not only to preserve Elmhurst but also to protect the threatened African American Civil War burial ground in Elmhurst on April 30 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Please let her know if you are interested in attending.

Besides that, the group is also endorsing a Bill to be introduced to Congress which will help the cause of African American burial grounds and Congresswoman Grace Meng was thanked for signing the legislation. This Bill is called the African American Burial Grounds Act which will coordinate national, state, and local efforts to preserve and restore our nation's African-American burial grounds. She was optimistic the Bill would be passed as quickly as possible.

Lastly, she mentioned a giveaway which is done every year. Kelly Wu, from Council Member Dromm's Office, will provide more information.

At this point, Chair Louis Walker requested the new Board members to stand up and introduce themselves and tell the Board a little bit about themselves.

Those new Board members in attendance were: David Chong
Michelle Dunston
Vincent Laucella
Rupinder Raj
Fernando Ruiz

VIII. REPORT OF THE LEGISLATORS

Chair Louis Walker called on representative's from:

Senate

Charles Schumer

No Report. No representatives present.

Kristen Gillibrand

No Report. No representatives present.

House of Representatives

Grace Meng

Board Member Cristian Romero is the liaison to Congresswoman Meng and is here to serve you in with any concerns you may have. Flyers were in the back of Federal agencies that the Congresswoman's office helps with. It's not always easy as a constituent or individual to contact the agencies such as USPS, Social Security.

Also, the Veterans Affairs office hours for Thursday, April 25, 2019, 10:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. – Appointment Required- 40-13 159 Street, Flushing, NY. To make an appointment, please call 718-358-6364.

Lastly, he reported on legislation the Congresswoman had introduced. The Menstrual Equity For All Act ensures access and affordability of menstrual hygiene products is publicly available. A conference was held at the U. S. Capitol on the day of the introduction with leading national and local activists as well as students. Also, Congresswoman Meng introduced the bipartisan Restoring Access To Medication Act which will improve access to care and help families afford the medications and other health products they need.

This Bill enables you to use individual health savings accounts, flexible savings accounts to purchase over the counter medicines and as well as menstrual products.

Alexandria Ocasio Cortez

Michelle Hernandez reported on the opening of the district office at 74-09 37 Avenue, Jackson Heights, NY, Suite 305. Office Hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. All were invited to the office. Constituent Services are similar to Congresswoman Meng. Services include help with Social Security, Medicare and assistance with passport services, immigration and military academy nominations. Field representatives and caseworkers are on staff to assist you. On Facebook, you can see their district activities. Telephone number is 718-662-5970. Please follow them on Facebook. Facebook log on is office ofAOC.

NYS Assembly

Brian Barnwell

Mark Papish reported Assembly Member Barnwell covers four square blocks of Community Board 4 -- Grand Avenue from 79th Street to 84th Street. Please call the district office at 718-651-3185, even if you are not in their district, if you have any issues, for example, major capital improvements.

Furthermore, the Assembly announced today the strongest housing package in the history of the State of New York since rent control and rent stabilization was first introduced in the late '60s and '70s. Proposals are being put forth on major capital improvements. You should not be able to incentivize displacement of tenants for monetary gain.

Michael DenDekker

No Report. Representative not in attendance.

Jeffrion Aubry

No report. Representative not in attendance.

Catalina Cruz

Jennifer Diaz announced a Know Your Rights presentation to learn how to protect yourself and your family if you encounter ICE. The presentation is planned for Wednesday, April 17, from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Flyers were in the back.

NYS Senate

Michael Gianaris

No Report. Representative not in attendance.

Jessica Ramos

Nisha Tabassum reported on the following events:

Fire Safety 101 Workshop Roundtable at 7:00 p.m., 32-37 Junction Blvd., East Elmhurst, NY.

Earlier this year, there were some recent fires and it is important for FDNY and the Red Cross to talk about fire safety.

Secondly, free civic classes will be held for green card holders in their District office. Call the office to sign up.

Moreover, free English and citizenship classes will be held. Call the office to sign up.

In the next couple of weeks, an after-school youth program will be initiated offering tutoring, homework help as well as arts and crafts for young people.

Lastly, housing lawyers are on staff on Fridays to help with housing needs as well as immigration lawyers on Thursdays. Call the office for more information.

Toby Ann Stavisky

No Report. Representative not in attendance.

NYC Council

Francisco Moya

Phoebe Solano, District Director, congratulated the new Board members. She announced the following

The Council Member had allocated over \$700,000 to over forty groups such as:

\$20,000 – Community Board 4Q

\$50,000 – Lefrak City Youth and all activities

\$15,000 – Chess In Schools

Officers meeting with local schools to gather requests for funding

Council Member Moya recently voted to approve an increase in funding for organizations such as Legal Aid to get massive increases in funding to keep up with informational service work. The Council Member had fought for this initiative in the state level and is very proud to continue doing so.

Also, the Council Member recently introduced legislation to study secondary placement as a result of neighborhood wide re-zonings. This legislation will force the administration to answer residents' concerns those re-zonings are forcing them out of their communities.

Upcoming events:

Easter Egg Hunt – at William F. Moore Park – Saturday, April 13, 12:00 Noon to 3:00 P.M.

Egg Hunt, Crafts, Food, Music, Much More – All Free.

Community Town Hall In Partnership with P. S. 19 Marino Jeantet Parents Association

Monday, April 29 – at P. S. 19 – 48-10 99th Street – 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. - Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Daniel Dromm

Kelly Wu reported on event - April 20 and April 27 on 75th Street to 77th Street on Woodside Avenue, from 12:00 Noon to 6:00 p.m.

Free Rain Barrel Giveaway – Saturday, May 4 – 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Elmhurst Baptist Church

83-37 Whitney Avenue

Elmhurst, NY

Annual LGBT Pride Celebration

Monday, May 13

Queens Center Mall

5:30 p.m.

Another record event is being planned at St. James Church. More information will follow.

Queens Borough President Melinda Katz

Joe Nocerino reported newsletters are in the back and reported on the following:

2020 Census – to help ensure Queens is counted in the 2020 census Borough President Katz and the US Census Bureau will hold a job fair at Borough Hall, May 1, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The U. S. Census Bureau is hiring for a variety of temporary jobs including census takers, recruiting assistants, office staff and supervisory staff.

The jobs in New York City pay a minimum of \$25/hour and applicants must be at least 18 years of age.

The same day Borough Hall will host a 2020 census public hearing at 6:00 p.m. at Borough Hall.

Congratulations to the new Community Board appointees.

A swearing-in and orientation will be held at Borough Hall in the Helen Marshall Cultural Center, April 30, at 5:00 p.m.

Every year the Borough President has a parks cleanup where they go into communities and take a park that is underserved and organize a cleanup. He asked CB4 to come up with ideas for parks/playgrounds.

NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer

William Giron reported on a Town Hall meeting, Wednesday, April 17, Elmhurst Hospital Auditorium, 6:30 p.m. Although the flyer mentions Jackson Heights, anyone can attend the meeting. The Comptroller holds town hall meetings approximately once every six months to share some of the resources the agency provides.

It's also an opportunity to share other initiatives the Comptroller's Office does aside from contracts. For example, the Constituent Action Center will be present to take cases in the event anyone has constituent cases they would like to open up and if they need help with other city agencies. The Comptroller's Office monitors other city agencies, so please come with your concerns. More importantly, NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer will be in attendance.

The Comptroller is the third highest elected official in the city. This is also a great opportunity to find out about other policy initiatives that the Comptroller is proposing and supporting. If you have policy ideas or concerns that you would like to share, this is an opportunity to hold the Comptroller accountable and have your voice heard. Furthermore, he explained Community Board 4 is partnering with the Comptroller's office in this event as well as other amazing organizations.

NYC Public Advocate Jumaane Williams

No Report. Representative not in attendance.

**IX. Speaker: Kathleen Cassino, Manager
Community Relations & Events USTA
*Update on USTA Program And Initiatives***

Kathleen Cassino reported on the USTA commitments. With the aid of slides, the community events meetings that the USTA had attended in Queens was given. Quarterly Newsletters are issued and if you do not receive it, please let her know and you will be added to the mailing list. Quarterly Newsletters are issued in the summer and spring and contains all USTA events. Over the years, the ACES program have been averaging over 7,000 students who were at the site and have the opportunity to play tennis, have a tour of the site, watch a video about tennis and the U.S. Open, and get a free tennis lesson. A few of the schools in CB 4 that take advantage of the program were noted.

Next, she explained Community Board PACES. This will be the third year USTA has hosted this annual community PACES event and presented a recap from last year. This year, the event will take place on Friday, April 26. It was requested a representative from each Community Board attend, nothing the Chair and District Manager cannot attend. Please RSVP to her by Friday, April 19. It is a fun event starting at 10:00 a.m. Seasonal positions with the U. S. Open and a quick presentation video, Q&A, tour the site and have lunch is planned. A special event this year is a free tennis lesson in the new Louis Armstrong Stadium court. Ball person tryouts in 2018 - 100 out of the 288 ball persons resided In Queens. The date for this year's tryouts has not yet been determined. All were encouraged to come out and try out, must be over 14 years old.

Next, Ms. Cassino spoke about the U. S. Open Job Fairs. Last year, they were held in the beginning of July. For this year,, the date is still unclear.

Also, USTA is working with the community and Queens Borough President Melinda Katz's office on holding different job fairs. For the very first time this year, USTA will hold a job fair specifically for veterans. If you know of any organizations that would like to participate or have US Open Job Fairs come out to your organization, please let her know.

At this point, Ms. Cassino spoke about the 2018 Anthem Singer Tryouts. A 13 year old from Middle Village from last year was one of the winners. For this year, which is done online starting on April 17, you can submit an anthem audition and must be under the age of 14 years old.

Subsequently, the 2018 US Open depicted some of the demographics of the fan base from last year. Social media presence was also shown. Hotels utilized last year are all in Queens. The opening night ceremony and the US Open finals, the new grandstand stadium, the new Louis Armstrong Stadium, were shown.

Last year, Queens Day was held on August 22; this year it will be held on August 21. It is held the Wednesday during qualifications which is fan week and with different programs every day of the week starting on Tuesday, August 20. More information to follow for participation.

Next, the photo showing Flushing Meadows-Corona Park partners that came out for Queens Day last year between the zoo, the theater Conservancy and Louis Armstrong Museum. Louis Armstrong dedication and mentioned last year was the first year of the brand new Armstrong Stadium which seats over 14,000 and has a roof like Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Besides that, Returning the Love is an event held on Queens Day works with local youth and our champions come out and get free tennis lessons at the Queens Kiosk at the US Open and she provided more details.

Subsequently, Ms. Cassino explained Arthur Ashe Kids Day last year was held on August 25. This is a two-fold event. The outside of the site is free to the public, however, in the stadium it is a ticketed event. Complimentary tickets are given away to different organizations. Please contact her if you think your organization would benefit from those tickets. Also, she noted the Community Board 4 organizations that have taken advantage of this support.

Moving forward, more tennis news, programs, tournaments, schedules, initiatives, and events were presented to the Board.

X. Report and Vote: Public Safety Committee

SLA Applications

Public Safety Committee Chair Lucy Schilero reported a committee meeting was held on April 2. Sgt. Sean Fagan, Transit Police District 20, was asked about security cameras. They handle 167 stations in Queens, and have only eight NCO officers for all of Queens. More officers are needed and this concern should be brought up in future talks.

Specifically, cameras in the #7 train were brought up. The cameras for the Police Department, the big box cameras, are placed only on the outside facing the street and stair level, nothing inside. The MTA handles all the inside turnstiles. Everyone was talking about how we can find those commuters jumping the turnstiles. Only the MTA can give the cameras and the films to Transit to see who are the most offenders.

Transit cannot cover all of New York City or Queens. Summonses are \$100, and many times not paid. There are all age groups, ranging from ten years old to 84. More cameras will be requested, especially for the 90th Street station, where gangs from MS13 were present.

Since there are no cameras on moving trains, cameras are also being asked for. If it is known someone took photos on the moving trains and the police request those photos and they are not given to them, the person can be arrested.

Some members wanted to know about fixed (unintelligible) for the 90th Street Station. Currently, Transit has moved away from it but the 115 and the 110 Precincts are handling it at this point. Right now, they are working out of the 112 Precinct and because of gangs there.

Subsequently, Public Safety Chair Lucy Schilero invited Transit to talk at a Community Board meeting. Another question brought up at the meeting was house wellness checks where cameras are on all the time. The response was no because there are laws on this matter and they are not allowed to do. For the privacy of those they do check on such as homeless people, cameras will be on.

Transit Police handles from Jamaica to Astoria, all of Queens except for the Rockaway area. She inquired if we needed to push for more officers, especially for the #7 Train and if they would like our help on that request. Call 718-585-4444 for more information.

Next, she reported pickpockets are a major problem on the #7 train. Women have a tendency to not look where they put their purse/belongings. Transit suggests not to keep phones visible and not to use phones while the train is in motion. Hispanic and Asian women, especially the elderly are the most vulnerable. Our help is needed to put the word out to not allow these people to be that open with their cameras and personal belongings.

As far as sex crimes—forcible touching and public lewdness is a major problem on the #7 train. If a photo can be taken and brought to the police, it would be very helpful.

The homeless issue was brought up, specifically, those that take up more than one or two seats. It is being addressed. The homeless are being approached by Transit who is undercover. The Department of Homeless Services and another group called Bowery Residency Committee will talk to them to determine whether or not the homeless person needs more help than just being moved to a residence/shelter. The big problem in Queens is there is not enough shelters to help the mentally ill. A program trying to make a start at the 103 Precinct in South Ozone Park is to set up small shelters that could take in a few of those homeless people affected in our area. Building housing is another option so that the homeless will have permanent residences.

Besides that, day laborers are another problem. The biggest one is at Elmhurst Station where laborers are taken in, go through the process, and the Committee determines if they can help them out. Many are fearful they will be deported, which is a major issue. However, they are made aware the intent is not to deport them.

Reverting back to the turnstiles, one problem is at the 103 Street station there's a woman that sells Metro cards for \$2. Many people buy from this woman because they save \$0.75. This community has a lot of poor people where \$0.75 can go far. She was arrested, but is back on the street. Other ways are being looked at to control or curtail the situation either when commuter go through the gates a high sound buzzer may be added, which does not work. Other ways will be determined to get some volunteers to be aware of and take photos. There are not enough officers to police this situation. The problem is overwhelming and any suggestions are welcomed.

Following she talked about Upskirting where they go under a bridge and take pictures underneath women's skirts. The biggest area is the 94 Street Bridge and 91 Street Bridge in Elmhurst. The #7 train is also being looked at for Upskirting.

Because the biggest complaint during the summer is noise complaints, Public Safety Committee Chair asked to bring in the noise meters.

Another issue is abandoned cars throughout the community, which includes restoring cars on blocks. The 110 Precinct issues summonses and the Dept. of Sanitation will also tag the vehicle.

But, the perps. will remove all the markings so that there is nothing displayed and, as a result, the car cannot be legally taken. The Police Dept. is asking neighbors to take photos of the vehicles and keep a record. The 110 Precinct and the NCO officers will also keep records to have the car removed.

Before reporting on the liquor licenses, she explained the Committee was approached by a restaurant attending the Thai festival mentioned tonight to sell liquor on the street level. A waiver would be given, however, the Committee had never encountered a situation like this before, noting the majority was not in favor of the request. At the committee meeting, it was a very heated discussion. Questions arose such as whose responsibility is it, who will sell the liquor, and noted there are many children nearby.

The Committee abstained from taking a vote because more study was needed. She explained the waiver is similar to a New Year's waiver where many of the businesses will ask to have their liquor licenses extended on New Year's Eve from 4:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. The Committee will watch this event, and also will set up rules so that if this occurs again the Committee will have guidelines to present to the applicant, and have them take full responsibility for their actions. Any suggestions, please let her know.

At this point, Public Safety Committee Chair Lucy Schilero reported on the liquor licenses:

NYS LIQUOR AUTHORITY LICENSES – April 2019

NEW APPLICANTS

<u>Establishment's Name</u>	<u>Establishment's Address</u>	<u>Committee Recommendation</u>
Sizzling Republic Corp. Liquor, Wine Beer & Cider	89-06/08 Queens Blvd. Elmhurst, NY	Approved
J&J Pizzeria Café Bar Corp. Wine, Beer & Cider	40-13 82 Street Elmhurst, NY	Approved
Gemi Thai Inc. Wine, Beer & Cider	85-32 Grand Avenue Elmhurst, NY	Approved

RENEWAL APPLICANTS

<u>Establishment's Name</u>	<u>Establishment's Address</u>	<u>Committee Recommendation</u>
Mama Leti's Inc. Wine, Beer & Cider	40-07 Junction Blvd. Corona, NY	Approved
Silver Spoon Diner Beer & Cider	58-21 Junction Blvd. Elmhurst, NY	Approved
NY Chevillo-tte High Flying Birds Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider Applicant failed to respond.	78-14 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Denied
Delicias Cuencanas Corp. Wine, Beer & Cider	41-07 99 th Street Elmhurst, NY	Approved
Luz de America Rest. Inc. Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider	104-30 Roosevelt Avenue Corona, NY	Approved
Thai Son Queens Inc. Wine, Beer & Cider	40-10 74 Street Jackson Heights, NY	Approved

CORPORATE CHANGE APPLICANTS

<u>Establishment's Name</u>	<u>Establishment's Address</u>	<u>Committee Recommendation</u>
El Cuencanito Deli & Pizza Rest. Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider	83-20 Queens Blvd. Elmhurst, NY	Approved
Forest Hills Spa Inc. Wine, Beer & Cider	59-21 Calloway Street	Approved

ALTERATION APPLICANTS

<u>Establishment's Name</u>	<u>Establishment's Address</u>	<u>Committee Recommendation</u>
Pico de Gallo Inc.	82-12 Roosevelt Avenue	Denied
Liquor, Wine Beer & Cider	Jackson Heights, NY	
Applicant withdrew their application and will apply again at a later date.		

METHOD OF OPERATION CHANGE APPLICANTS

<u>Establishment's Name</u>	<u>Establishment's Address</u>	<u>Committee Recommendation</u>
Pico de Gallo Inc.	82-12 Roosevelt Avenue	Denied
Liquor, Wine Beer & Cider	Jackson Heights, NY	
Applicant withdrew their application and will apply again at a later date.		

Discussion ensued with the Thai restaurant owner in regard to selling alcohol at the upcoming event. District Manager Cassagnol the 110 Precinct was contacted and they were going to speak to the restaurant owners. 110 Precinct handles the safety aspect and the Board handles the community aspect. Once the NYPD approves the selling of alcohol, the Board would follow-up. The Board has not heard from the NYPD which is the reasoning the Committee has chosen not to vote.

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

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

Board Member Matt McElroy commented the Thai event is a wonderful event.

Discussion ensued.

At this point, Public Safety Committee Chair Lucy Schilero took questions from the Board.

Subsequently, Transportation Committee Chair Lynda Coral reported next week a Transportation Committee meeting will be held where an MTA representative is a guest speaker based on a request from DOT to present to the Committee an update on the Big Jump initiative. The Committee had requested to be provided with DOT's agenda two weeks in advance so that the Committee can review and gather questions that it can send back to DOT. In this way, DOT's responses can be discussed at the meeting in a more organized manner. Moving forward, the Committee would like to proceed in this manner with all agency meetings.

At the last meeting, the Transportation Committee had received a request from the public requesting two traffic lights on 44th and 45th Avenues/National Street. The District Manager has written a letter to DOT requesting a traffic study.

Also, the Transportation Committee voted to approve the street co-naming at 43 Avenue & 95 Street for Sgt. Paul Michael Ferrera.

Subsequently, Board Member Lucy Schilero made a motion, seconded by Board Member Edgar Moya, to approve the Committee's report.

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

XI. Committee Reports

Consumer Affairs

Committee Chair Georgina Oliver reported a meeting was held on March 22 at Silver Spoons Diner on Junction Blvd. On-going issues with price gouging at the Food Bazaar on 57th Avenue were discussed. Further study is still needed. Additionally, the store does not accept manufacturers' coupons. It was unclear if there are any regulations about not accepting those coupons, which is problematic.

Guest speaker was the FDNY fire safety officer who presented a good presentation what to expect and not to expect how we can manage fires in our home, how to form an escape plan, what we should do and where we should go in case of a fire and safety techniques like drop and roll.

The FDNY fire safety officer/community outreach is available to attend community events and make a presentation.

Furthermore, if you call and make an appointment the Red Cross will install your seal and fire alarms free. From time to time, the FDNY also gives out alarms and systems.

She announced the next committee meeting is May 24, but will no longer be held at Silver Spoons because a \$50 fee will be charged. Meetings will now be held at the Board office at 7:00 p.m.

Environmental

Board Member Jennifer Gutierrez reported the third annual Earth Day event is scheduled for Saturday, April 20, from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. She urged all to visit the Corona Taxpayers and Sparrow Nest Gardens. Come at 10:30 a.m. if you can help to set up and join in a fun event.

Health

Committee Chair Ashley Reed reported a guest speaker from Queens Community House will be at the upcoming Health Committee meeting April 24. Services provided for seniors and families in our district will be discussed. Meeting location to be determined, but notices will be sent out shortly with information. All were urged to attend.

Additionally, on Monday, April 18, she had attended the Boulevard Family Residence meeting where this quarter 19 families were placed in permanent housing with plans to move about 30 more families. They are still renovating and so far 96 units have been converted, kitchenettes installed and hope to have all 200 units converted by next spring. School attendance record is 89%.

Parks

Committee Chair Gregory Spock reported a very successful free dog/cat vaccination event was held Sunday, April 7. People came for rabies, Bordetella, distemper vaccines for their pets. In addition, there was a small fee for microchipping and dog licensing. Over 300 people had attended. A huge Thank You was extended to all, including agencies, involved in the event.

Next, the following upcoming meetings were mentioned:

Flushing Meadows-Corona Park - Saturday, April 27 from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

All members of the Community Advisory Board (CAB) will participate in a park cleanup.

Wednesday, April 17, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. next CAB meeting at the Queens Museum.

ULURP & Zoning

Committee Chair Alton Derrick Smith reported applications are pending and a meeting will be scheduled shortly.

Youth

Committee Chair Alexa Ponce reported the committee met March 28 and the Citizens Committee for Children of New York presented slides. They had collected a lot of resources, data from different agencies such as ACS, DHS, DOE, and NYPD to track demographics, education, etc. in Elmhurst and Corona. The slides gave many statistics on what families are experiencing and going through living in our communities. For the committees and advocates, please view the information. You will find it very helpful and interesting. The link is <https://data.cccnewyork.org>.

Secondly, she announced the Paint For Awareness event Saturday, April 27, 12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., at Italian Charities Senior Center. Flyers were in the back. 100% of all proceeds go directly to Autism Speaks. Purchase tickets at website Autism Speaks. All were urged to participate.

At this point, Chair Louis Walker reported on the number of hospital beds in Queens as compared to other boroughs citing statistics and pointing out Queens is once again shortchanged and not receiving its fair share of proper services. More work is needed by our legislators for our fair share.

Since there was no further business, Board Member Lucy Schilero made a motion, seconded by Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.