



COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, Elmhurst, and Newtown

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Sharon Lee

Acting Borough President

Louis Walker

Chairperson

Christian Cassagnol

District Manager

COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, April 28, 2020

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

PLACE: Online Via Webex

COMMUNITY BOARD ATTENDANCE

Board Members Attending:

Louis Walker
Lucy Cerezo-Scully
Chaio-Chung Chen
Lynda Coral
Aridia Espinal
Marialena Giampino
Vincent Laucella
James Lisa
Matthew McElroy
Edgar Moya
Sandra Munoz
Gurdip Singh Narula

Alexandra Owens
Alexa Ponce
Ashley Reed
Oscar Rios
Neil Roman
Cristian Romero
Clara Salas
Lucy Schilero
Alton Derrick Smith
Gregory Spock
Dewan Tarek
Marcello Testa

Board Members Absent:

Karin Abreu
David Chong
Erica Cruz
Michelle Dunston
Jennifer Gutierrez
Kristen Gonzalez
Salvatore Lombardo
Patricia Martin
Sylvia Martin

Rovenia McGowan
Ruby Muhammad
Georgina Oliver
Rupinder Raj
Fernando Ruiz
A. Redd Sevilla
Izaida Valcarcel
Rosa Wong
Minwen Yang

ATTENDING:

Christian Cassagnol, CB4 District Manager

Margaret Silletti, CB4 Community Coordinator

Christina Long, CB4 Community Assistant

Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

Council Member Francisco Moya

Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz

Victoria, Brian Barnwell's Office

Jessica Schbowski, Office of the Mayor

Kelly Wu, Council Member Daniel Dromm's Office

Joseph Nocerino, Queens Borough President's Office

James Mongeluzo, NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer's Office

Zachariah Boyer, NYC Public Advocate Jumaane Williams' Office

I. Call To Order (7:00 p.m. – 7:05 p.m.)

Chairperson Louis Walker Called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Correction to March 10, 2020 Minutes: A quorum was present at the March 10, 2020 Public Hearing.

2. Chairperson’s Report – Moment of silence for those we lost. (7:05 p.m. – 7:10 p.m.)

Chairperson Louis Walker Read the following statement from Andrew Sokolof Diaz, President Together We Can Community Resource Center, Inc.
Cofounder/Co-President 89 Street Tenants Unidos Association
Land Use & Youth Committees, Public Member, Queens CB3

“I am writing this statement to call on CB 4 or any individual member joining here today: to motion for a Resolution declaring the CB4 area a disaster zone and to call on all levels of government and the business community to immediately bring in and coordinate accessible permanent food sites across Corona and Elmhurst.

We know that prior to the COVID-19 pandemic crises, the Corona community experienced one of the highest rates of obesity, malnutrition and various other negative effects as a result of systemic neglect and disinvestment. Now that we are in the midst of this crisis and sadly, that Corona 11368 and Elmhurst 11373 within the CB 4 district are literally the pandemic epicenter of the entire planet-where are the additional permanent food pantries and distribution sites will be brought to the community.

Based on FoodHelp NYC and the map picture included in the statement, the entire portion of Corona and areas of Elmhurst have NO food pantries or sites. These are the densest and most affected areas with COVID-19. We cannot wait any longer, we are late to respond and our neighbors are quite literally starving and dying as we well know.

Thank you to all members of CB 4 for all your work. It is great to see much more CB Member attendance especially during these times. Be Well.”

Before the next statement was read Board Member Dewan Tarek asked was a course of action required or was it read on someone’s behalf? Furthermore, Board Member Dewan Tarek asked about the writer’s credentials.

Chair Walker responded the sender would like a motion to be made, which we cannot do, and read the sender’s information to the Board.

Board Member Dewan Tarek noted there are inconsistencies to statements made.

Next, Chairperson Walker read a message from Maspeth High School.

Respectfully submitted; Mario Matos, Jr., Community Liaison

“Greetings,

We hope when you hear this message you, your families, and your loved ones are safe, healthy, and most importantly, HOME.

First off, as of March 23, 2020, our school community has been actively engaged in Remote Learning using the Google Classroom platform. Students engage with classroom teachers on a daily basis, departments actively collaborate virtually, and administration continuously provides support and guidance in all educational matters.

In addition to the daily updates and announcements provided by faculty and support staff, Maspeth High School’s guidance department continues to actively reach out to families in order to:

- *Assist families in obtaining a DOE-issued iPad, should they need one.*
- *Ensure students are actively engaged in remote learning daily, and*
- *Be available to support students and families with emotional and academic concerns*

Remote learning will continue for the remainder of the school year. We hope to receive guidance in the coming weeks as to a return to on-site instruction, alternative Prom and Commencement Exercises.

Lastly, it’s official! Maspeth High School is a “2020 Best High School” based on rankings that U. S. News & World Report published April 21. Our students, parents, support staff, faculty, and administration are proud of this achievement!

One final note, the COVID-19 pandemic has affected Queens at the heart of where many of our school families reside. Our school community extends its utmost gratitude and appreciation to all the essential workers providing sorely needed services during the crises.

Visit the website for daily for news and updates.

Stay healthy!"

At this point, the Board observed a moment of silence for long time Board Member Priscilla Carrow who passed away after a battle with COVID 19. She was a compassionate kind person and will be sorely missed by all. Priscilla Carrow served as a Board Member for 28 years and worked tirelessly for our community. Also remembered were family and friends who succumbed to the virus.

3. Report of the District Manager (7:10 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.)

District Manager Christian reported the staff is working from home and committee meetings are being conducted as best we can. A quorum was not present at the last Public Safety Committee and explained if a restaurant has any violations and we do not obtain any liquor licenses until the COVID-19 pandemic ends, the State Liquor Authority will be informed of any violations we are aware of. But, no formal votes will be taken.

He cautioned not to go on the internet looking for cures or answers. But any information needed to rely on the Board office as we do receive our information from reliable sources.

Next, in response to the e-mail about additional food pantries and food distribution centers, we are working with elected officials to get more food to our constituents but it is a matter of space. He also spoke about the monetary aspect from the City Council funding emphasizing we cannot use the stipend for food because of strict guidelines. It was considered opening the Board office as a distribution center but it is a very small space and would not be feasible.

As the weather is getting nicer, more people will be utilizing the parks and letting their guard down. Park goers must take extra precautions to stay safe. As a result, more problems will occur with social distancing. The NYPD was consulted about enforcement, which will not occur just yet, however, vehicles will be onsite at the parks to encourage park goers to use social distancing. Team sports such as basketball and soccer are not permitted in the parks at this time.

4. Open Session #1 (7:15 – 7:30 p.m.)

Before Board Members were called on, District Manager Cassagnol explained Board Members who called in via phone, it is impossible to see them, therefore, only those Board Members physically in the room will be able to speak.

Chairperson Louis Walker called the following Board Members for statements/concerns:

Karin Abreu – No Response

Lucy Cerezo Scully – In attendance
No statements.

David Chong – No Response

Chaio-Chung Chen – No Response

Lynda Coral – In attendance. No statements.

Erica Cruz – No Response

Michelle Dunston – No Response

Aridia Espinal – In attendance.

Board Member Aridia Espinal stated she is working to help Corona/Elmhurst communities and if anyone would like to assist, please call or e-mail the Council Member Moya's office.

Marialena Giampino – In attendance
Wished all safety and health

Kristen Gonzalez – No response

Jennifer Gutierrez – No response

Vincent Laucella – In attendance

James Lisa – In attendance

Salvatore Lombardo – No response

Patricia Martin – No response

Sylvia Martin – No response

Matthew McElroy – In attendance

Rovenia McGowan – No response

Edgar Moya – In attendance

Ruby Muhammad – No response

Sandra Munoz – In attendance

She reported local leaders as well as the churches are working very hard on providing food to community residents noting St. Bartholomew Church is helping homebound and undocumented community members. The community is working hard to provide for our most vulnerable residents.

Gurdip Singh Narula – No response

Georgina Oliver – No response

Alexandra Owens – In attendance

Alexa Ponce – No response

Rupinder Raj – No response

Ashley Reed – In attendance

Oscar Rios – In attendance

Neil Roman – In attendance

Cristian Romero – In attendance

Board Member Cristian Romero wished all and their families' good health.

Fernando Ruiz – No response

Clara Salas – In attendance

Board Member Clara Salas thanked Board Member A. Redd Sevilla of the New Life Fellowship Church and the Queens Community House, together with Community Board 4 staff member Christina Long (who contacted Board Member A. Redd Sevilla for her) for providing referrals of Elmhurst seniors to obtain meals and groceries delivered to them at home.

Lucy Schilero – In attendance

A. Redd Sevilla – No response

Alton Derrick Smith – In attendance

Gregory Spock – In attendance

Board Member Gregory Spock will present his report under the Parks Committee Report. Stay healthy and safe.

Dewan Tarek – In attendance

Board Member Dewan Tarek reported he is volunteering with Catholic Charities Friday, May 1, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Bartholomew Church to feed 1000+ families. All were urged to come out. The free food Pop Up distribution is located on site at 87-34 Whitney Avenue, Elmhurst, NY.

Marcello Testa – In attendance

Izaida Valcarcel
No response

Rosa Wong
Not called

Minwen Yang
Not called

5. Report from Elected Officials (7:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.)

Chairperson Louis Walker called on the Legislators/Representatives for reports.

Senate

Charles E. Schumer

No Report. Representative not present.

Kristen Gilibrand

No Report. Representative not present.

House of Representatives

Grace Meng

Board Member Cristian Romero reported the Congresswoman hopes everyone and their families are healthy and well during these turbulent times. The Congresswoman's office is working remotely from home and is accepting outreach from all in need of assistance. Do not hesitate to call the Congresswoman's district office. If the matter is not federal in nature, the staff will connect you with the right representative at the state or city level. Many people need access to information/resources and they are glad to help. Congresswoman Meng started to work actively with state and city officials to assist Elmhurst Hospital the epicenter of the pandemic. The Congresswoman distributed masks and gloves and hand sanitizers and other important PPE supplies to help Elmhurst Hospital as well as nursing homes, police precincts and community based organizations. The Congresswoman will continue to assist and fight for everyone to obtain funding from the Federal government to support essential workers, small businesses, and all those who are going through hardships. In addition to everyone left out of the first CARES package that had passed the House of Representatives and Senate.

If you need information on any matter such as unemployment benefits or resource guide or SBA loans, please reach out to Board Member Cristian Romero directly. District Manager Christian Cassagnol can provide his contact information.

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez hoped all are doing well during these difficult times. The Congresswoman's office is open to all in the community. Partnering with Congresswoman Grace Meng to ensure our community is receiving the resources that we deserve, at the Federal level she is fighting for mortgage and rent relief as well as recurring payments, not just the onetime \$1200 payment for families. But rather more payments that keep on recurring.

On the local level, the Congresswoman has not been waiting for the Federal Government to add more aid, but instead she has done more direct assistance. As a result, she is pleased to report that her office has been able to organize about \$350,000 to local food pantries/organizations in Queens and heavily impacted neighborhoods in the Bronx. Since there are many food pantries, she has personally been going out once a week delivering meals in Corona and Throggs Neck and other areas throughout the district.

If you have Federal issues, please contact the Congresswoman's office who will be happy to intervene.

Also, the Congresswoman is fighting for immigrant families on the Federal level, which is a challenge with President Trump, to get a win.

Chairperson Louis Walker stated no questions will be taken at this time.

NYS Assembly

Brian Barnwell

Victoria hoped all were doing well and reported the Assembly Member's office is working remotely. Calls are forwarded to staff and if you have any questions, concerns, or complaints, please call the district office. Since there is limited staff manning the phones, leave a message if your call is not answered and your call will be returned. Any questions with unemployment benefits, please call the office and they will provide assistance.

Partnering with Maspeth Federal Savings, the Assembly Member's office was able to secure 11,000 masks to help Elmhurst Hospital, First responders, and emergency rooms.

Michael DenDekkar

No Report. Representative not present.

Jeffrion Aubry

No Report. Representative not present.

Catalina Cruz

Board Member Alexandra Owens was speaking on behalf of Assembly Member Catalina Cruz. She reported she is the Communications Director for Assembly Member Cruz, also noting the celebration of Ramadan.

Board Member Alexandra Owens announced Prepared Meals Monday through Saturday from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the district office 41-40 Junction Blvd. Corona, NY.

Also, the office is taking donations for diapers and masks. If you wish to donate, please come to the office.

NYS Senate

Michael Gianaris

No Report. Representative not in attendance.

Jessica Ramos

No Report. Representative not in attendance.

Toby Ann Stavisky

No Report. Representative not in attendance.

Office of the Mayor

Jessica Schbowski noted the observance of Ramadan. She reported the Mayor has been advocating for the Federal government to provide New York City with more testing supplies and stimulus funding. Approaching May 1, the Mayor is advocating for the Rent Guidelines Board to freeze rents for all regulated apartments as well as to use security deposits to pay rent. Also calling upon the state to approve an extension of the eviction moratorium 60 days beyond the crises that the corona virus has caused.

Currently operating with a crises standard for PPEs, she reported thousands of personnel have been added to hospitals while working with the Federal government to bring in more health care professionals. Tracking indicators that 304,372 residents have tested positive for the virus, but numbers are gradually going down which is a good indication of this crises decreasing. We must continue to practice social distancing as restrictions lighten up. Public events have been cancelled through the end of June and Alternate Side Parking has been suspended until May 12.

As we approach the summer, the Mayor is working with the City Council to open 40 miles of streets over the next month, Possibly reaching up to 100 miles open streets in and around parks. The Mayor's office will be working with city agencies NYPD, Sanitation and Parks.

Lastly if anyone has been violating the social distancing directive, please help enforcement teams by texting photos to 311692 or the 311 app.

At this point, District Manager Christian Cassagnol asked when the beaches would reopen.

Jessica Schbowski responded beaches will not have their traditional opening on Memorial Day weekend but is hopeful toward the end of the summer there can be either a full opening of the beaches or a more restrictive version.

District Manager Cassagnol brought up social distancing and contact sports in the parks. He reiterated if you see a violation of the directive, text 311692 and attach photos.

NYC Council

Council Member Francisco Moya reported he hoped all is well as well as everyone's families under the circumstances we are in. These are difficult times mentioning the passing of Board Member Priscilla Carrow who was a dear friend who he has known for over 20 years and gave her life to this community and the Board. She will be sorely missed and to keep her and her family in our prayers. Priscilla Carrow meant a lot to all of us. She is loved and missed and we will continue her great work.

Council Member Moya reported the office is operational. Please reach out by phone or e-mail at District 21@council.nyc.gov directly to the Council Member and his staff. Telephone 718-651-1917.

Council Member Moya reported Elmhurst was hit very hard by COVID-19. Council Member Moya helped secure one of the largest private donations of PPEs totaling 100,095 masks delivered by the good people at Apollo Management as well as over 50,000 hospital gowns at the forefront of the pandemic to Elmhurst Hospital. The virus impacted our community especially hard to those on the front lines. Essential workers such as delivery people, men and women manning cash registers and those stocking supermarket shelves, were hurt very badly. The Council Member lends his support in all ways possible to those impacted workers in this unprecedented crises.

Next, he had introduced the Burial Assistance Fund which he and Speaker Corey Johnson are advocating to ensure that anyone who has difficulty affording burial costs for their loved ones. This legislation would provide financial assistance from the City of New York. Currently, a program operated by HRA pays out up to \$900 in burial assistance. The average cost for a cremation is \$3,800, which is not nearly enough to pay the burial expense. Moreover, it does not cover anyone who is undocumented. In this area, 70% of the population affected by COVID-19 are Latinos and most of them work in the hospitality or service industry. The images in the news of the mass burials at Hart Island are heart-wrenching. It is so important that we provide assistance to those who need it.

Next, he reported the City Council has allocated \$25 million for emergency food. Food will be delivered to the food pantries in the City of New York, especially in this district. If anyone needs assistance or knows of families or seniors to obtain this benefit, please contact Council Member Moya. He said a large number of seniors need emergency food help. If deliveries are not sent to seniors that day, they will not have food, noting a high number of seniors live in this community.

Next, he spoke about the impact COVID-19 has had on small businesses. A stimulus package will be submitted to help the small business owner, especially those with less than four employees. No cost loans will be available from the City, which is a way for businesses to reopen.

Council Member Moya has introduced a few Bills to protect small business owners to be heard tomorrow at the City Council. He cited if you order from Seamless, Grub hub or any other app delivery services, they charge local restaurants a 10% fee. If you go on the app and look at the menu, it is from the actual company and not from the restaurant. If you make a phone call but do not place an order the company still charges the restaurant a 10% fee plus a phone fee which can cost up to \$9 for a two minute call or less. As a result, the City Council is enacting measures to protect small businesses.

Before concluding Council Member Moya thanked Board Chair Louis Walker, District Manager Christian Cassagnol, and Board Members for keeping government work alive and ensuring our community is taken care of.

Daniel Dromm

Kelly Wu said the Council Member sent his regards and reported on the conditions/problems at the Queens Adult Daycare Center in Elmhurst. Recently, the daughter of a resident of the daycare center was interviewed for an article and was told by the Administrator that her father was fine and there were no confirmed cases of the Coronavirus in the Center. Actually, the Administration had lied to the family members about health conditions at the facility and the health condition of their loved ones. In fact, about 12 residents have died and 44 have tested positive for COVID-19 as of April 15. As a result, Council Member Dromm and Assemblywoman Catalina Cruz are working on a letter asking Governor Cuomo and the NY Attorney General to launch an immediate investigation into the Queens Adult Daycare Center.

Next, she reported working with Sherpa, Council Member Dromm was able to implement a food distribution program for the district. Food is distributed once a week. If you need more information, call Council Member Dromm's office. Right now, there is no fixed date, therefore, call the office for more information.

Next, she reported Council Member Dromm was able to add a new food distribution site for kids at P. S. 89. Food is available every day from 7:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Food is available for adults from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Council Member Dromm has advocated 11,000 hotel rooms for free to people who need a space to quarantine or isolate. If someone has tested positive for COVID-19 they can apply to this program for a hotel room for quarantine

Next, she spoke about NYC's new hotline for tenant/landlord issues. Call 311 for guidance on such issues as harassment, addiction and benefits issues.

Lastly, Council Member Dromm's office continues to provide assistance on immigration issues. If you need an appointment, please call the Council Member's office. Appointment to be conducted by phone. Call 718-803-6373. For all other matters, call the office and leave a detailed message. A return call from the staff will be given as soon as possible.

Office of the Queens Borough President

Joe Nocerino representing the Borough President's office reported Borough President Sharon Lee sent regards and hoped all are safe and well. A full written statement will be sent at a later date to be distributed to the Board although he read some of its contents now.

CENSUS: Mr. Nocerino urged all to log on to go online and fill out the form.

COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBERS TERM EXTENSIONS & APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Nocerino explained for those Board Members whose term expires this year, terms were extended to May 31. An additional 60 days was given. Presently, the Borough President is working to fill seats on the Board.

Virtual Parent Advisory Board meeting, Thursday, April 30, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Log on to the Borough President's website to link in to the NYC Department of Education will discuss online learning, cancelled tests, and other changes to this year's academic calendar.

Fresh Direct Food Initiative – Acting Queens Borough President Sharon Lee announced a two month extension to Queens Partnership with Fresh Direct. Food is sent to every Board in the area. This is in conjunction with Mayor Bill de Blasio and the Sanitation Commission. In this Board area, Church of Ascension in Elmhurst, Domenico American Society of Queens, Elmcors, Elmhurst Community Partnership, and Make the Road in Jackson Heights, will be receiving food within the next several weeks. Food is delivered by the Port Authority. Bronx Borough President Reuben Diaz was thanked.

Next, Acting Borough President Sharon Lee has announced a second extension in coordination with EDC and the Queens Night Market to provide thousands of freshly prepared meals to hospital workers. Acting Borough President Sharon Lee is paying the cost in conjunction with Resorts World Casino.

NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer

James Mongeluzo presented the following updates:

Impact of COVID-19 on the City's Economy and Revenue the City Can Collect--On March 23, the Comptroller's Office issued a report with an estimate on the amount of money the city will lose because of the pandemic on uncollected taxes and the slowdown in the economy. The estimate includes losses of \$6 billion to the city. Based on the continuance of the pandemic and the uncertainty of the end of social distancing and the PAUSE order, there are no exact numbers because everything is so fluid.

Next, he will provide a link for small businesses and M/WBEs to a series of webinars via zoom. Small business owners can join in and receive information about money available to them through the government and more ways to get private funding. Many people did not receive the PPP money so that other ways are being sought to help the small business owner. There is a focus on businesses owned by women and minorities. If you do not fit into those categories, there is still useful information useful for you.

Comptroller Scott Stringer will be on a call tomorrow with the Queens Chamber of Commerce to provide more information. The web meeting is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. Statements will be made followed by a question and answer session. The meeting will focus on the impact COVID-19 has had on small businesses within Queens.

Lastly, he will provide a link to the Comptroller's COVID-19 Resource Center which has much information. It is the most comprehensive guide for New York City. To name a few groups that could benefit from the site are: tenants/landlords business owners, civics, seniors, nonprofits and community based organizations, Block and tenant associations, immigrant community groups, homeowners association and civics, and much more. Please share as there is much helpful information available.

Lastly, the Comptroller's Office has been helping the frontline workers advocating for hazard pay and making sure there is enough PPEs in places that needed it the most. If you have any suggestions, please contact Mr. Mongeluzo.

District Manager Christian Cassagnol commented if the links provided are clickable, we will share the information as best we can.

NYC Public Advocate Jumaane Williams

Zachariah Boyer announced he had sent District Manager Cassagnol a few resources from his office where people can go for assistance.

The District Manger replied the material was received and it would be shared with the Board after Mr. Boyer's report tonight.

Mr. Boyer reported the email contains the Public Advocate's constituent services portal and contact information on himself and the office.

The office is open and working and a constituent services team is available to help with any issues you may have.

Also, Mr. Boyer said the Public Advocate has been calling for additional testing sites in light of the risks faced by frontline workers and the racial disparity during the crises. Slowly, results are being seen. As he receives more information, he will update the Board.

Call him at is 646-397-3435 for assistance.

Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz

Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz reported the District Attorney's office is operational and working hard every day to ensure the court system is running smoothly. All arraignments are conducted by Skype so that social distancing is observed. Staff is not in the office unless they are essential personnel for intake and arraignments when people are arrested. Appellate Division arguments are also conducted by Skype and all is done by video conferencing.

Hundreds and hundreds of inmate petitions were reviewed for release from Rikers Island. Almost 100 people were released without any objection. In the first two days, consideration was given to thirty inmates on their age, criminal history, and the remaining time left in their sentence in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Queens District Attorney stated she is balancing very carefully the dangers to the public and the inmates to ensure this is right for Queens. But, there has been a very large push for people with health issues and gave an example of a gentleman with one lung to be removed from Rikers Island. At the same time, arraignments are being conducted making sure that people that are arrested are arraigned in a healthy and safe way.

Next she reported domestic violence numbers have decreased, which is counterintuitive to the fact we are social distancing in our homes. She has done a PSA announcement on Twitter.

The Queens District Attorney asked the Board if anyone knows of domestic violence victims. Police are not doing home visits because of the quarantine and shelter in place orders. No physical check is in place. She said although the numbers have gone down, it cannot be real. There is a hotline at the Queens District Attorney's office. Call 718-286-4410. The hotline will ask the caller if it is an emergency to call 911. However if the caller needs social services or wants to talk to an assistant district attorney about domestic violence to explore options during this pandemic, help is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Next, the Queens District Attorney reported numbers will be released tomorrow on suicides doubling during the pandemic crises. Under these tragic circumstances, people feel fear and that there is not many people they can talk to. Some people are sheltering in place alone and find very few people to talk to and not sure where to turn. Because the lack of human contact is a concern, we need to be checking on our loved ones and friends to make sure they are feeling okay and they are not feeling alone during this crises.

With the rapport the Queens District Attorney has established with Community Boards, she urged all to call her if you need any assistance and Stay Safe and provided her office phone number 718-286-6300 and her e-mail address which is sent directly to her phone. Her email address is katz@queensda.org.

6. Committee Reports

Census

District Manager Christian said she is not in attendance. He will forward an e-mail to the Board that, in particular, Corona is being undercounted. Social distancing does not mean completing the census.

Consumer Affairs

Committee Chair Alexandra Owens reported the areas of Corona and Elmhurst were the hardest hit during this pandemic. The Mayor's Office announced there is a new fund for small businesses that should be available. Information will be provided.

Next, she spoke about the scams in the community mentioning price gouging on items mentioning such items as food and masks. If you hear of any scams, reach out to the Attorney General's office.

Also, the District Manager brought up price gouging. A discussion was held with a representative from the Department of Consumer Affairs and noted any pricing over 10% of the retail price is excessive. If you notice a store that has its merchandise retagged, see if you can determine what pricing is under the tag and report it if the overcharge is more than 10%.

The District Manager also informed the Board that people in Corona were not receiving their stimulus check. If you paid an accountant to prepare your tax return via EFT and the money was withdrawn from your bank account by your accountant, your accountant is directly responsible, which is why you are not receiving the stimulus check. The money is deposited to your accountant's account who takes out his fee and then transfers it to your account.

However, many people are getting errors from their bank. Your direct deposit is not linked to your bank account but instead to your accountant's bank. Cash payments for tax preparation did not present a problem.

At this point, Chair Louis Walker commented many accountants set up temporary account during tax time. In fact, many of those accounts are now closed because they are only set up for that time period.

Environmental

Committee Chair Oscar Rios was on the line but unable to speak.

Health

Committee Chair Ashley Reed stated price gouging can be reported by calling 311 and by saying "overcharge".

Next, she reported HRA offices are closed but are accepting applications. She encouraged all to apply for cash incentives and rental assistance even though you feel you may not qualify. An account with HRA can be created online and if any additional information is needed, you can upload documents. The process is completely safe and confidential. All were encouraged to use the services if you feel you are entitled to them.

Secondly, she thanked Council Member Francisco Moya for the donation of PPEs. This equipment was sorely needed for our health care workers and first responders.

In contact with the liaison at Elmhurst Hospital, cash donations are now needed. If you would like to make a donation, information will be provided.

Before concluding, she urged all to wear a face mask or face covering when out in public. If you do not have a mask, a scarf or bandana will do. Please remember the 6' social distancing directive to flatten the curve and to decrease infection from the virus.

Parks

Committee Chair Gregory Spock reported most of the announcements he had planned were reported on by the District Manager. Regarding social distancing in the parks, it is challenging but needs to be adhered to. The NYPD and PEP are as diligent as best they can on dispersing groups that are larger than ten. Also, you can call 311 to report large gatherings. We know that the parks is where people get exercise and fresh air but all that has changed with the pandemic.

To stay current on initiatives, Parks Committee Chair Gregory Spock sent the District Manager a link for webinars on how park design is changing. As the Board's Parks Committee Chair who will be the voice on how things need to be shifted and how future parks are designed in order to address those initiatives. There is a new normal that we are now facing.

As Vice Chair of the Flushing Meadows-Corona Park Community Advisory Board, he announced the CAB will meet via zoom May 7 at 7:00 p.m.

Transportation

Committee Chair Lynda Coral reported an update was received by the Department of Transportation stating contractors and staffing, weather permitting, will be completing bike lane markings in Community Boards 3 and 4 this spring. A map of where those markings will be completed will be shared at end of this meeting. The bike lane markings are for conventional bike lanes and shared bike lanes.

There is no committee meeting schedule for May as yet. But the committee plans on working with the Board office following up with the Department of Transportation on the Resort Casinos bus permit application that has been pending for several weeks, which is delayed because of the pandemic. An update will be provided as soon as more information is received.

Public Safety

Committee Chair Lucy Schilero was on the line but unable to speak.

District Manager Christian Cassagnol reported no formal votes will be taken tonight. Although the SLA process is still active, it is very difficult to vote on licenses when restaurants are shut down. We are extending our advisory role and writing to the SLA regarding any complaints or SLA violations that were reported. Also, we are informing the New York State Liquor Authority we are aware of issues but a vote will not be taken, citing the lack of a quorum. The pending applicants list will be shared.

ULURP & Zoning

Committee Chair Alton Derrick Smith commented these are unprecedented times the likes of which we have never seen before. In terms of ULURP matters, applications are still pending. At some point in time, ULURP applications will resume.

Youth Services

Committee Chair Alex Ponce reported there are no updates.

Regarding this year's CB 4's Youth Fair, District Manager Cassagnol reported at this point it does not seem it will occur.

7. Open Session #2 – Final Community Board Member Comment Period (8:20 – 8:40 p.m.)

At this time, microphones will be unmuted by the moderator host only for members of the Board who may have had questions or comments throughout the meeting. This will be done alphabetically.

Board Member names were called in no particular order.

Gurdip Singh Narula

Working with United Sick, Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula reported almost 50 to 70,000 meals were served to hospitals mentioning Elmhurst, Queens and Jamaica Hospitals and will provide food to other hospitals. If anyone is in need of food, his organization is willing to offer food. He also mentioned 30,000 meals were supplied to Elmhurst Hospital three weeks before the pandemic.

Marielena Giampino

Board Member Marielena Giampino reported everyone should continue social distancing and to be safe and healthy. She was hoping to return to normalcy in the near future.

Matthew McElroy

Stay tough.

Alexandra Owens

All were urged to wear face masks.

Alton Derrick Smith

No statement.

Aridia Espinal

No statement.

Ashley Reed

Stay safe and hope to see everyone soon.

Chaio-Chung Chen

Stay safe and healthy.

Clara Salas

Be safe.

Cristian Romero

No statement.

Gregory Spock

Board Member Gregory Spock questioned what is considered essential and non-essential construction and this is being exploited and to be vigilant of what is occurring with construction.

Lucy Cerezo-Scully

Board Member Lucy Cerezo-Scully was grateful for all the support and work people are doing during this pandemic. Living and working in the community, her students are struggling and many are food insecure. To help out, she is spreading the word where to obtain food and supplies etc. Sadly, a colleague had succumbed to the corona virus. She was grateful for the support given each other in these unprecedented times. Stay safe.

Edgar Moya

Board Member Edgar Moya commended all on the call and to stay safe and healthy.

Marcello Testa

No statement.

Lynda Coral
No Statement.

Neil Roman
No statement

Dewan Tarek
Bless all.

Sandra Munoz
Stay safe and healthy. Wear face masks and gloves and practice social distancing. We will get through this together.

District Manager Cassagnol announced a quorum was present at this meeting.

At this point, District Manager Cassagnol read the following statement, which will be sent to the Board Members, by the Civilian Complaint Review Board Outreach Coordinator.

“My name is Maroua Righi and I would like to introduce myself as the Outreach Coordinator at the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) for the borough of Queens. As you may know, the CCRB is a City Agency independent from the New York City Police Department that investigates and mediates complaints against NYPD officers in a neutral and unbiased manner. The CCRB investigates allegations of excessive force, abuse of authority, discourtesy, and offensive language.

The CCRB office located at 100 Church Street, New York NY 1007 will be closed until further notice, but the Agency will continue to process complaints of police misconduct remotely. Civilians may file a complaint online by visiting the website www.nyc.gov/ccrb or by calling 1-800-341-2272 or 311. For more information on the City’s response to COVID-19, please visit www.nyc.gov/coronavirus.

The goal of the outreach efforts is to inform New York City residents about the agency. Every year we give presentations to educational institutions, religious institutions, libraries government and community organizations to offer information to community members, students, staff, and concerned parents about our agency’s services. Through our interactive workshops, we will provide the following information:

- *Structure and authority of the CCRB*
- *Civilian rights and responsibilities during police encounters such as “Stop & Frisk”*
- *How to file a complaint*
- *Highlight de-escalation*
- *Explain the processes of investigation and mediation*
- *The Right to know Act*

We are currently conducting remote presentations online. A full presentation takes 30-45 minutes but may be abbreviated to accommodate the allotted time. Please note that my schedule is extremely flexible as I am also available evenings and weekend. On another note, please do not hesitate to forward my contact information to any others who may be interested in having the presentation.

Please feel free to email me at mrighi@ccrb.nyc.gov or call me at 646-923-1056. Additionally, if anyone is in need of additional resources, please feel free to reach out to me as well. I look forward to working with you all in order to bring this important information to the community.

Thank you again and please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. Stay safe!”

*Warm regards,
Maroua Righi
Outreach Coordinator*

In concluding, Chair Louis Walker thanked all the Board Members for their attendance and Stay Safe.

There being no further Board business, Board Chair Louis Walker Meeting adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.