



COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, Elmhurst, and Newtown

46-11 104th Street

Corona, New York 11368-2882

Telephone: 718-760-3141 Fax: 718-760-5971

E-mail: qn04@cb.nyc.gov

Donovan Richards
Queens Borough President

Rhonda Binda
Deputy Borough President

Marialena Giampino
Chairperson

Christian Cassagnol
District Manager

January 12, 2021

COMMUNITY BOARD ATTENDANCE

Board Member Attending:

Marialena Giampino
Lucy Cerezo-Scully
Chaio-Chung Chen
Lynda Coral
Lorena Diaz
Michelle Dunston
Aridia Espinal
Kristen Gonzalez
Vincent Laucella
Carol Machulski
Sunil Mahat
Patricia Martin
Matthew McElroy

Rovenia McGowan
Ruby Muhammad
Sandra Munoz
Gurdip Singh Narula
Georgina Oliver
Alexandra Owens
Alexa Ponce
Ashley Reed
Cristian Romero
Clara Salas
Lucy Schilero
Alton Derrick Smith
Gregory Spock
Marcello Testa

Board Members Absent:

Andy Chen
David Chong
James Lisa
Salvatore Lombardo
Sylvia Martin
Edgar Moya
Rupinder Raj
Oscar Rios

Neil Roman
Fernando Ruiz
A. Redd Sevilla
Dewan Tarek
Izaida Valcarcel
Louis Walker
Rosa Wong
Minwen Yang

Attending:

U. S. Senator Charles Schumer
Christian Cassagnol, CB4 District Manager
Margaret Silletti, CB4 Community Coordinator
Christian Long, Community Assistant
Assembly Member Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas
Cristian Romero, Congresswoman Grace Meng's Office
Michelle Hernandez, Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's Office
Lizette, Assembly Member Jeffrion Aubry's Office
Alexandra Owens, Assembly Member Catalina Cruz's Office
Jessica Schabowski, NYC Mayor's Office
Berenice Navarrete-Perez, Council Member Francisco Moya's Office
Kelly Wu, Council Member Daniel Dromm's Office
Joe Nocerino, Office of the Borough President of Queens
James Mongeluzo, NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer
Elizabeth, Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz

NOTE: During the Board's virtual meetings, it may be difficult to determine Board members or legislator representatives or guests who were present if they were not actively engaged or participating in the dialogue or visually seen. Please notify the Board office if you were in attendance at any meeting and not marked present.

Correction: Board Members Sunil Mahat and Ruby Muhammad were present at the December 8, 2020 Board Meeting. They were inadvertently marked absent.

COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, January 12, 2021

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

PLACE: ONLINE Via Webex

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Marialena Giampino called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Marialena Giampino stated she is honored to serve as Chairperson and is looking forward to working with the Board to make a difference. She reported the first Executive Board meeting was held last week. Many issues were discussed to improve Board operations. On the agenda was the meeting structure. Feedback from the Board Members was requested. A question and answer survey will be done and sent by email for a response. The goal is to determine what we can do to better to improve the Board's operations and also requested was to provide suggestions/concerns on the survey.

Also discussed were the pending cuts to the Board's budget.

There was a change to the Transportation Committee structure noting Lynda Coral stepped down as Chair; the new Committee Chair is Matthew McElroy.

Furthermore, she announced Board Member Louis Walker will serve as the Board's Parliamentarian. He was thanked for his dedication and guidance throughout his years of service serving as Board Chairperson of Community Board 4.

Attendance and Community Board responsibility was also reviewed. Although taking into consideration the pandemic, slowly the attendance at Board meetings have dropped. Members attend the meetings but disappear throughout the meeting or before the meeting ends resulting a lack of a quorum. Without a quorum voting cannot commence leaving agenda items to carry over to the next Community Board meeting.

This is problematic because votes need to be taken on important issues. Although the Board is meeting virtually and upcoming meetings will be virtual through 2021 if there are issues logging on or dialing in, please contact the Board office for assistance.

She cited the items on tonight's agenda were a carryover from the December 8, 2020 CB meeting due to a lack of a quorum.

Attendance at the Community Board meetings will be taken at each meeting. Please let us know if you will be late or cannot attend meetings. Keeping the lines of communication open is vital.

Next, she reported the Board will enforce its ability to vote off inactive Board Members as it affects the quorum. Letters will be sent out to Board Members attendance reviewed.

Meanwhile, Chairperson Marialena Giampino attended her first Borough Board meeting last night. Borough Hall had announced we will be learning about the new ranked choice voting system. More information will follow.

At this point, Captain Jonathan Cermeli, 110 Police Precinct, addressed the Board and gave background information about himself. He spoke about how important community meetings are and importance of community involvement. The more community involvement we have is essential so that people can take ownership of their communities.

He has been at the Precinct a little less than a year and walked in on the pandemic, which is a trying time for Elmhurst and Corona. Although there was much sadness, there is a much hope. He was optimistic things will start to improve and noted hospital admissions are not nearly as much as it once was.

Next, the June 1 protests were mentioned, noting there is room for improvement in any profession. The Department is open to any ideas or suggestions regarding police reform. People should show respect to the authority of the Police Department and its officers and know it is a very tough profession. Police officers have families and chose this profession not to get rich but to help other people. Although there are bad people in the profession, negative judgement cannot be passed on to all officers. Take into account, we are living in trying times.

The following statistics were given:

The year ended slightly up in overall crime, but in Queens North there was a slight increase (less than 1%). Commercial burglaries during the pandemic were noted. With stores closed, criminals took the opportunity to break into those establishments.

Another increase was in gun violence. Gang violence correlates to gang related shootings. As an example, walking down the street with your child and there is a gang shooting, random people have been injured. You do not have to be in a gang to be hit by a stray bullet. Police are ramping up their efforts to combat gang violence by working with partners in Federal law enforcement and taking guns off the street. Going into 2021, the main focus is to crack down on crimes dealing with criminal enterprises (gangs), anyone selling guns, and narcotics sales. Those perpetrators will be put behind bars.

As a result this will be a safer community to work, live, play, and enjoy. Community involvement is needed such as if you see something, say something.

If you have any information or suggestions, send an email to Captain Cermeli or P. O. Dave Saponieri.

Next, he mentioned the bomb hoax scare at the Queens Place Mall where a car was staged to look like it would detonate.

Police were able to effectively evacuate the Queens Place Mall. Everyone was able to get out safely.

With the political climate in the world, tempers are very hot right now and there are many agitated criminals. More vigilance is needed now than ever before.

In conclusion, Captain Cermeli stated we have the best and highly trained Police Department in the world.

No questions were taken. However, Chairperson Marialena Giampino said if there are any questions, please email Captain Cermeli to keep the lines of communication open by working together.

3. District Manager's Report

District Manager Christian Cassagnol discussed upcoming events. First, he reported on the Elmhurst mural. The winner of the contest, Daisy Mendoza, will be creating a mural at the corner of Whitney Avenue and Broadway on Monday, January 18.

To help out the NYPD, The Board was able to provide the Precinct with paint for the graffiti cleanup.

Community Affairs P. O. Dave Saponieri said Friday, January 15, the NYPD will be at the site to clean the existing graffiti on site and prepare it for our artist on Monday.

If Board Members want to stop by Friday morning to lend a hand and on Monday also to help our artist, it would be appreciated.

A Special Thank was given to Council Member Daniel Dromm and Assembly Member Catalina Cruz for their support.

Next, he spoke about the city's pending budget cuts to the Board's internal operating budget. In order to close the gap in the city's budget and save money, every city agency's funding is being cut. Community Boards have been long asking for increased funding in their budgets. Currently, the Board staff consists of only two persons who take care of the many daily functions of the Board such as meetings, newsletters, etc. The give back in funding requested would not only destroy the Board, but also it would not make an enormous dent in the city's budget long term. While we were informed to provide giveback numbers, we have not yet done so. One of the main reasons for this was because it came to our attention Council Member Holden, a former Community Board 5 Member, who currently oversees the communities of Maspeth, Elmhurst, and Middle Village, wrote a letter in support of the Community Boards not to decrease its funding. Since the Board consists of volunteers working, at times until 11:00 p.m., this move would damage our communities. Council Member Holden's letter was sent to OMB, the Borough President's Office, and the Mayor's Office.

As a result, Community Board 4 will be seeking support from Council Members Dromm and Moya to duplicate the efforts of Council Member Holden to support the Board.

Next, District Manager Cassagnol reported on discretionary funding. At this time of the year, discretionary funding will be allocated. Several methods are in place to apply. The first one is directly from the Queens Borough President's office. The link on their website for discretionary funding applications should be live by the end of the week. In the meantime, log on to the City Council's website if you represent a 501-C3 a not for profit to request funding in FY'22. If you plan to fund a program in the future, this is the opportunity to do so. Call the Board office if you need assistance with the process.

Lastly, District Manager Cassagnol reported on community events. If you know of any community events or have flyers, ideas, initiatives, share them with the Board office for posting on our social media outlets such as Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, also noting Board meetings are livestreamed on YouTube. Additionally, incoming events are printed in the Board's Newsletter, which is sent to thousands of people.

Any events that anybody hears about, please let the Board office know for sharing.

At this point, Chairperson Marialena called on Board Secretary Dewan Tarek to take the attendance of the Board. Going forward the Board Secretary will officially take attendance at each Board meeting. While taking attendance tonight, Board Members will be asked if they accept the minutes of the December 8, 2020 Board meeting. Any comments, questions, concerns please bring them up (2 minutes each time limit) when you are called on.

Since Board Secretary Dewan Tarek was not in attendance, Board Chairperson Marialena Giampino took the roll call.

4. **Open Session #1**

Chairperson Marialena Giampino called on the following Board Members:

Lucy Cerezo-Scully – Accepted December 8, 2020 Minutes. No comments

Chaio-Chung Chen – Accepted December 8, 2020 Minutes. He commented the police did much to help the community and protect its residents and thanked the police officers.

Andy Chen – Not present

David Chong – Not present

Lynda Coral – Accepted December 8, 2020 minutes – No comments

Lorena Diaz – Accepted December 8, 2020 minutes. Asked about information regarding vaccine distribution.

Chair Marialena Giampino responded this would be brought up under the Health Committee's report. Also flyers on distribution will be shared by email to all.

Michelle Dunston – No response

Aridia Espinal – Accepted December 8, 2020 minutes – Reported on Barbara Jackson's passing. Barbara Jackson always attended Community Board 4's meetings and had served as a District Leader. Board Member Ari Espinal had the privilege of serving as a district leader following her tenure and requested a moment of silence for Ms. Jackson.

At this point, Chair Marialena Giampino called for a moment of silence for Barbara Jackson.

Marialena Giampino – Accepted December 8, 2020 minutes and noted Board Member Sunil Mahat was marked absent at the December 8, 2020 meeting, but was actually present for the meeting.

Kristen Gonzalez – Accepted December 8, 2020 minutes – No comments

Vincent Laucella – Accepted minutes from December 8, 2020 minutes and reported there is a COVID-19 Rapid setup at 110 Astoria Blvd., the First Baptist Church and the Park of America's set up is on Thursday, and Our Lady of Sorrows. Testing took no more than three minutes to get the Rapid Response. Results were on your phone 20 minutes later.

A public thank you was given to Yessenia Calle who put in many art installations including Winter Wonderlands throughout our community. Council Member Francisco Moya was thanked for funding the installation. For the people who vandalized it, we do not condone violence and we will take a stand against it.

James Lisa – Not in attendance

Salvatore Lombardo – Not in attendance

Carol Machulski – Accepted December 8, 2020 minutes. No comments

Sunil Mahat – Commented he was present at the December 8, 2020 meeting and was marked absent. He reported on a pedestrian safety issue as well as a vehicle safety issue by Whitney Avenue and Judge Street. There is a three-way intersection by the church and Veteran's Grove Park. There are no lights or crossing markings. Many seniors and children are in a dilemma how to navigate the crossing. Safety issues are involved and before something bad happens, corrective action is needed to make a proper pedestrian crossing.

At this point, District Manager Christian Cassagnol commented he is aware of the problem and has been visiting the location daily. The intersection is an odd one and he will contact the Department of Transportation tomorrow to see what work has been done there and the last time it has been looked at and to get a traffic study of the general area.

Furthermore he commented the Community Board is working with the Mayor's Office and the Borough President's Office to get a couple of mobile testing sites. Details need to be worked out, but within the next ten days two vans will be stationed--one in Elmhurst and the other in Corona. More details will follow when finalized.

Pat Martin – Accepted December 8, 2020 minutes. No comments

Sylvia Martin – Not in attendance

Matthew McElroy – Accepted December 8, 2020 minutes. He commented the Executive Committee should consider front loading items/committee reports to be voted on so that votes are taken on the subject matter before people leave the meeting.

Rovenia McGowan – Board Member Rovenia McGowan reported there is still a rat problem with the BP Gas Station on the Horace Harding Expressway between Calloway and 99 Street.

Secondly, the south side of the Horace Harding Expressway, both sides, of the underpass between 99 Street and 108 Street is filthy. She emphasized community residents are very concerned about the rat problem.

Edgar Moya – Not in attendance

Ruby Muhammad – There was a problem with the phone at last month's meeting and she was marked absent. However, she was present and accepted the minutes. No comments

Sandra Munoz – Accepted December 8, 2020 minutes. No comments

Gurdip Singh Narula – Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula reported COVID-19 vaccinations are available to seniors age 65+ and it's very important for people to receive the vaccination.

Georgina Oliver – Accepted December 8, 2020 minutes. No comments

Alexandra Owens – Accepted December 8, 2020 minutes. No comments

Alexa Ponce – No comment

Rupinder Raj – Not in attendance

Ashley Reed – Accepted December 8, 2020 minutes and sent condolences to the family of Barbara Jackson.

Oscar Rios – Not in attendance

Neil Roman – Not in attendance

Cristian Romero – Accepted December 8, 2020 minutes. No comments

Fernando Ruiz – No comments

Clara Salas – Accepted December 8, 2020 minutes and sent condolences to the family of Barba Jackson.

Lucy Schilero – Accepted December 8, 2020 minutes and commented during the summer, there were a couple of protests in front of the 110 Precinct because of George Floyd and Black Lives Matter. The Precinct was very professional and allowed the protestors to congregate and state their feelings. It was appreciated by the protestors as well as the community.

A. Redd Sevilla – Not in attendance

Alton Derrick Smith – Thanked the Board for the sympathy basket on the loss of his mother. Accepted the December 8, 2020 minutes.

Gregory Spock – Accepted December 8, 2020 minutes. Also, he commented on another problematic intersection: corner of 41 Avenue and Broadway. Unfortunately, a head on collision had occurred there. He has also seen numerous accidents since he lives in the neighborhood. The Department of Transportation should look at many of those intersections as it is a serious issue for the community residents.

Marcello Testa – Accepted December 8, 2020 minutes

Izaida Valcarcel – Not in attendance

Louis Walker – Not in attendance

Rosa Wong – Not in attendance

Minwen Yang – Not in attendance

5. Report from Elected Officials

Federal Senate

Charles E. Schumer

Senator Charles Schumer will report later in the meeting.

At this point, Assembly Member Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas addressed the Board. The Assembly Member reported she is the new Assembly Member for District 34 which encompasses the neighborhoods of Jackson Heights, East Elmhurst, Corona, and Woodside. The Assembly Member covers four Community Boards: 1, 2, 3 and 4. Also in attendance was her Chief of Staff.

She expressed condolences on the passing of Barbara Jackson and asked for a moment of silence on the passing of Stephen Novell, President of Jackson Heights Jewish Center. A moment of silence was observed.

Assembly Member Jessica Gonzalez Rojas reported she is fully staffed and languages spoken in the office are English, Spanish, and Bengali. The office is accessible to the entire community and is located at 75-35 31 Avenue, in the Jackson Heights shopping center in E. Elmhurst, Suite 206B. Residents are not encouraged to in person visits. Instead, call and make an appointment and resources will be provided via phone, email, or by zoom (if available). In very limited circumstances, assistance can be provided for in person visits with all safety protocols being followed. Call 718-457-0384 or email gonzalezrojasj@nyassembly.gov.

Also, she noted the office is handicap accessible.

As part of the New York State Assembly, the Assembly Member serves on the following committees: Committee on Children and Families, Committees for Cities, the Environmental Conservation Committee, Social Services and Corporations Authorities and Commissions, emphasizing the Corporations Authorities and Commissions Committee oversees the MTA. It's important to ensure the best quality service for our neighbors.

Working with the Queens Borough President's office to identify a number of testing sites for mobile COVID-19 sites, she noted there are many restrictions such as where the vans can be parked, for example, not near a school or on the street. Locations and times will follow when finalized.

Next, Assembly Member Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas reported hardship forms are available for those facing foreclosures for the small homeowner and tenants facing eviction. If the form is filled out and submitted, you cannot be evicted until May 1, 2021. The Assembly Member's office is available for support and assistance.

Additionally, for the COVID-19 Rent Relief Prevention Program the application deadline is February 1. It provides eligible households with a one-time rental subsidy sent directly to the household's landlord.

Accordingly, for the Paycheck Protection Program people will have until March 31 to secure a loan. More information will follow. Finally, AHRC, an organization that serves people with disabilities, has a MLK Day planned and also offers virtual volunteer opportunities and virtual events. More information will follow for the sign up events.

Recognizing a very difficult time last week with the insurrection at the Capitol and also to ensure the members of Congress that overlap our district, as well as Senator Schumer, were well and safe, Assembly Member Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas has joined with 70 Assembly Members in calling for the removal of President Trump given his actions.

Moreover, an action to speak out against the Capitol riot is planned for Sunday, January 17. More details will follow.

To learn more the Assembly Member's work, follow her on social media: Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. Any constituent requests or services needed, do not send through social media. Please send requests by email or call the district office. Representing the district she has lived in for over 20 years, Assembly Member Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas is thrilled to work alongside its constituents for the improvement of our communities.

Kristen Gilibrand

No report. No representative present.

House of Representatives

Grace Meng

Board Member Cristian Romero reported Congresswoman Grace Meng was in Washington, DC, earlier this month to be sworn in to her fifth term in Congress and thanked her constituents and everyone who supported her.

Also thanked was Assembly Member Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas for reaching out and all those who reached out to Congresswoman Meng with the many emails, text messages, and phone calls on her safety, health and well-being. It was terrible what happened in the Capitol to her and her colleagues and the Congresswoman is thankful for the outpouring of support received.

Since we are starting a new year, Congresswoman Meng has done much in her last term, including securing \$180 million for a non-profit security grant program, which is a federally funded, to help houses of worships and non-profits improve security. This is a \$90 million increase from the funding secured last fiscal year.

At the end of December, Congress passed and the President signed into law a massive package that included \$1.4 trillion to fund the Federal government and \$900 billion in another Coronavirus relief package. Also included was the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) which are all federally funded programs to help our communities and businesses. He noted the program was also extended to condominiums and others to apply.

Call Congresswoman Meng's office if you have questions about any federally funded program or need assistance.

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

Michelle Hernandez, Field Representative and Caseworker for the Office of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, reported last week Congress certified the results of the presidential election and despite the violent disruption and threat to the democratic institutions, we are thankful for the safety of lawmakers and colleagues in D.C. and appreciate the concern of all those who reached out to the office. The Congresswoman is in support of Representative Ilhan Omar and Representative Cellini's articles of impeachment and has called for the immediate removal of the President. The Congresswoman is in support of Representative Bush's resolution calling for an investigation and the removal, if necessary, of Republican representatives who sought to overturn the results of the election. Their actions spurred the mob of Trump supporters who breached the Capitol.

Tonight, the House will be considering House Resolution 21 calling Vice President Mike Pence to convene and mobilize the principal officers to activate Section 4 of the 25 Amendment. Tomorrow, Wednesday, the House is expected to meet in the morning for legislative business and consider articles of impeachment against President Trump. In fact, it happened earlier today.

Next, she reported on community updates.

There was a winner from their congressional app challenge. A link will be shared in the chat to check out Michael Tavia's congressional app. which is about COVID-19 spreading. Michael is a high schooler in the district who competed against other high schools for creating an app.

Subsequently, she reported on the recent stimulus package passed at the end of December, which included a \$600 stimulus check. Check the status of your stimulus payment. She will share the link to access the site.

The IRS has announced a Recovery Rebate credit where you can file your taxes and receive your stimulus check as rebate credit. Information will be added into the chat.

In conclusion, she reported the Congresswoman will be fighting to continue for consideration of \$2,000 checks for constituents as well as those who are undocumented because many families who paid taxes did not receive a check. Call the office or access the Congresswoman's website for assistance.

NYS Assembly

Brian Barnwell

No report. No representative present.

Jeffrion Aubry

Lisette reported the office is open and taking constituent cases by appointments but walk-ins are not being taken. Constituent cases are handled by phone or zoom.

Catalina Cruz

Board Member Alexandra Owens cited important legislation that will benefit the community as we come out of the pandemic. Significantly over the past month, three toy drives were held which included a coat drive where over 2,000 coats were given out. Next, upcoming events were mentioned. Check social media for the exact dates and times, mentioning two Town Halls that are planned; check social media for details: catalinacruzny along with Facebook and Twitter and Instagram.

NYS Senate

Michael Gianaris

No report. No representative present.

Jessica Ramos

No report. No representative present.

Toby Ann Stavisky

No report. No representative present.

NYC Mayor's Office

Jessica Schabowski reported the Mayor's Office is in the middle of rolling out vaccine distribution where a goal of a million COVID-19 doses is to be distributed by the end of January. So far as of last week, 100,000 doses were administered which far surpasses the city's initial benchmark goal. Last week the Mayor has been advocating for the state to expand the distribution categories to include not only 1a and 1b, but also the Governor announced the expansion on Friday. As of yesterday, the roll out included individuals who are 75+ , first responders, teachers, public transit workers, grocery store workers, and public safety workers. As of today, the CDC expanded eligibility and the Governor announced it as well for people 65 years and older and for those immune compromised. All New Yorkers were encouraged to reserve their appointments by calling 877-vacs4nyc: 877-829-4690 or visit nyc.gov/vaccinefinder.

Also announced was the opening of a 24/7 mega vaccination site at Citi field which is part of the roll out of large-scale vaccination centers moving to a cumulative capacity of up to 100,000 vaccine doses per week. Also opening is an additional 12 vaccine hubs across the city from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., seven days per week and continuously expanding the infrastructure and the categories while working with the Federal and state governments on the roll out.

NYC Council

Francisco Moya

Berenice Navarrete-Perez reported last week Council Member Francisco Moya along with the Carpenters & Local 28 distributed 275 toys to students from the district's local schools for Three Kings Day. Additionally, the Council Member's office participated in a hand sanitizers distribution and PPE in Corona Plaza with local organizations while informing individuals where they can get tested in our district and the importance of getting tested.

At this point, information was provided regarding testing sites in our district. The Council Member opened several testing sites in our district at the First Baptist Church at 110 Astoria Boulevard, East Elmhurst, Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and at Our Lady of Sorrows, church parking lot, between 37th and 35th Avenues, from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday to Sunday. On Saturday and Sunday, testing sites will be open at the Parks of America corner at 104 Street and 41 Avenue in addition to Our Lady of Sorrows Church which will also be open on the weekends from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. All were urged to get tested since cases in our district are rising. Please feel free to reach out to the Council Member's office for assistance at 718-651-1917.

Daniel Dromm

Kelly Wu reported last month the Council Member's office mailed out its Newsletter to constituents which includes programs and information about what Council Member Dromm has done in the past months. An update was provided about the COVID-19 vaccine. The NYC Department of Health has launched a vaccine finder on its website where constituents can search for a nearby location where you will be directed how to make an appointment in the website.

Next, the Council Member's office continues to provide legal services for immigration, housing and other issues. The 30-minute consultation is free. Please feel free to call the office at 718-803-6373 for an appointment that will be conducted either by phone or zoom call. Call the office with any questions or concerns.

Office of the Queens Borough President

Joe Nocerino reported Borough President Donovan Richards is making changes and its exciting and moving fast to fine tune many things and it's going to be a great run for him and Mr. Nocerino is honored to be part of the team.

At this point, he turned the floor over to Kat Brezler, Deputy Director of Community Boards.

Deputy Director Kat Brezler reported in the chat you should be able to see the link live for Board Member applications.

Hopefully, this is a more seamless transition although you can still contact your council member for a recommendation or apply through the Borough President's office for consideration. Please feel free to email her directly if you need assistance.

Next, ranked choice voting was mentioned. Slides were e-mailed out earlier today and to let her know if there was any problems upon receipt. She reported she did not think this district is voting in the next couple of months.

A District Cabinet meeting was held today with the Board of Education. Any questions, please contact her and her email will be put in the chat.

NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer

James Mongeluzo announced:

The Comptroller's Office is continuing to put out *New York by the Numbers: Weekly Economic and Fiscal Outlook* Newsletter, which comes out every Monday. If you are interested in the Newsletter, sign up for it by clicking on the link in the chat and hit subscribe and enter your email to receive it weekly. There is much information about the current

economic conditions in the city and compares conditions to the country at large. It also gives considerable data about public transportation usage and some issues related to small businesses.

Next, an audit was completed on the Dept. of Homeless Services. The audit was conducted over the course of more than one year and thirteen different shelters were looked at housing families with young children with many issues found at those sites. Over 90% of the individual units within the shelters had safety deficiencies which included vermin in the room, unsafe conditions such as exposed electrical outlets, lack of window guards, mold and mildew, cribs that were broken so the safety features did not work correctly and many more problems.

A condensed version of the audit is available if you wish to read only the synopsis with some of the recommendations made by the Comptroller's Office.

Lastly, the Comptroller's Office has just put out a recommendation how to expedite the COVID-19 vaccine rollout. Although the Comptroller's Office does not have a formal role, there are ways the process can run more smoothly as much of the decisions is up to the state telling the city who can be vaccinated. The categories of those who can be vaccinated is based on age and profession. A standby list is needed to get a list of people who will soon qualify to take the vaccine. Once the state allows to vaccinate new categories of people, there will be an easier way to reach out to them. Also mentioned was the creation of a database to have a better idea where locations are that can be used as sites for administering the vaccine. In the event more vaccines become available, there will be more places to administer it. In conclusion, the city should tell people what the reality is with the vaccine and encourage people to take it because there are issues with the state's rollout. Perhaps the city can take a stronger role because there are concerns with the state. Information will be put in the chat. Contact James Mongeluzo at 646-689-6509 for assistance.

NYC Public Advocate Jumaane Williams

No report. No representative present.

Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz

Elizabeth, Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz's office, reported on an elder unit that investigates and prosecutes elder fraud. This afternoon the Queens DA co-sponsored an identity theft and scams workshop where the ADA gave a presentation on those crimes. If you know of anyone who is a victim of senior fraud, please contact the Queens District Attorney's Elder Fraud hotline at 718-286-6578.

Also Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz created a Hate Crime Bureau, which is an independent bureau to ensure that victims feel comfortable to walk in no matter immigration status.

6. Discussion and Vote:

a) BSA Application -2019-99 BZ -- 82-11 Queens Blvd.

Request to alter building, convert auto repair shop to a convenience store for signage, new dispenser layout, new canopy and new trash enclosure location.

b) Zoning for Coastal Flood Resiliency Plan

c) IN THE MATTER OF an application submitted by the New York City School Construction Authority pursuant to Sections 197-c and 199 of the New York City Charter for an amendment to the City Map involving the elimination of the northerly 15 feet of 44th Avenue between Junction Boulevard and National Street; the adjustment of grades and block dimensions necessitated thereby, including authorization for any acquisition or disposition of real property related thereto in Community District 4, Borough of Queens, in accordance with Map No. 5022 dated May 26, 2015 and signed by the Borough President.

d) Street Co-Naming for Jim Galloway – a portion of 57 Avenue

e) Janta-Polczynski (88-28 43 Avenue). Petition to Landmark Preservation Commission to save the former home of Walentyna and Aleksander Janta-Polczynski and have it designated an Individual Landmark

At this point, Chair Marialena Giampino called on the Board Members for their vote on the above agenda items:

Lucy Cerezo Scully – Yes to a, b, d, e – No to c

Chaio Chung Chen – Yes to all

Lynda Coral – Yes to a, b, d, e – No to c

Lorena Diaz – Yes to all

Michelle Dunston – Yes to all

Aridia Espinal – Yes to all
Marialena Giampino – Yes to all
Kristen Gonzalez – Yes to all
Vincent Laucella – Yes to a, b, d, e – No to c
Carol Machulski – Yes to all
Sunil Mahat – Yes to all
Patricia Martin – Yes to all
Matthew McElroy – Yes to all
Rovenia McGowan – Yes to a, b, c, e – No to d
Board Member Rovenia explained why she cast a no vote for item d. Elmcors is moving into the DEP building and, perhaps, Mr. Galloway’s name could be placed there too. She would like to see something other than the street co-naming, for example, a building in Lefrak City for Mr. Galloway.
Ruby Muhammad – Yes to all
Sandra Munoz – Yes to all
Gurdip Singh Narula – Yes to all
Georgina Oliver – Yes to a, b, d, e – No to c
Alexandra Owens – Yes to all
Alexa Ponce – Yes to a, b, d, e, -- No to c
Ashley Reed – Yes to all
Christian Romero – Yes to all
Clara Salas – Yes to all
Lucy Schilero – Yes to all
Alton Derrick Smith – Yes to all
Gregory Spock – Yes to a, b, d, e – No to c
Marcella Testa – Yes to a, b, d, e – No to c

At this point, U. S. Senator Charles Schumer addressed the Board. Senator Schumer thanked the Board Members for their service as he knows how important community boards are. Board Members work very hard for the communities they love which are very important. Although serving on the Board does not pay anything and it takes a lot of time, you are making your community better. He acknowledged how hard the Board was impacted by the pandemic being the epicenter of the epicenter of COVID-19 cases. Senator Schumer had visited the Board’s neighborhoods and said so many people had passed away loved ones, friends, and neighbors. The selflessness and heroism of so many people in the community who stepped up. This crisis shows the enduring strength of our communities, the mutual aid of our neighbors and the solidarity shared in a diverse, great place like New York City. All Board Members were recognized for their service.

Next, Senator Schumer addressed the events of January 6, 2021. Speaking about his experience on the Capitol attack, he reported he was up until 4:00 a.m. to watch the election results in Georgia when both candidates Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff were declared winners and was very happy with the outcome. With those wins, he would become Majority Leader. In the morning, he drove to Washington, D. C. and was on the floor of the Senate when an hour later, the Senator was standing next to a Police officer who was holding a submachine gun as legislators were rushed out of the Senate chamber. Because of a brutal band of thugs and insurrectionists, domestic terrorists had invaded the Capitol. It was clearly an insurrection. Those people should be punished to the fullest extent of the law and fined, convicted, and jailed for a long time because it’s the punishment they deserve and to ensure no one else does the same thing again. Let’s not forget who bears responsibility: Donald Trump. If it were not for Donald Trump, this riot never would have happened. He cited lies about his election, encouraged the angry mob in come to Washington, encouraged them to march on the Capitol, and in his words encouraged violence.

Senator Schumer was one of the first to say he should be thrown out under the 25th Amendment. If that does not happen, impeach Donald Trump who should not serve one more day as president and Senator Schumer is working hard to see that happens because Donald Trump should not hold any office. Senator Schumer also noted if the skin of the people who rushed the chamber was black or brown, they would have been treated differently. There was far too much complexity. It needs to be determined who was complicit, who allowed this to happen, and ensure they are punished as well.

2020 was one of the worst years we have ever had. First, the worst health care crisis in a hundred years, hundreds of thousands dead, so many millions sick with many still not recovered from their illnesses. As a result, it caused the greatest economic crises since the Great Depression years. People losing their jobs, not being able to feed their children, evicted from their homes, and the economic impact on small businesses. People who had struggled to create a small business lost it.

Accordingly, the racial divide and bigotry in America was torn wide open by the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery. But the year ended in three good ways: Donald Trump is gone, then he tried to create lies in court but all judges rejected them, including the judges Donald Trump appointed because democracy's roots are deep.

Second, the vaccine was developed. Medical science moved very fast and created an amazing vaccine that is 95% effective and has almost no side effects. President elect Joe Biden when he announces his plans will make distribution of the vaccine his number one goal, which is to have the majority of the country vaccinated by June. In the COVID-19 Relief Bill, all will receive the vaccine free. The Bill ensures communities of color are not neglected or placed at the bottom of the list and expressed optimism by the summer the country will recover as the majority of Americans are vaccinated.

Third, Congress passed the COVID19 Relief Bill. Senator Schumer reported he wrote the CARES Act, the original Bill put \$2 ½ billion into the country, distributed \$1200 checks, with help for renters and help with food etc. When the Bill was written in March, all thought COVID-19 would be gone and by the summer but funding ran out. Therefore a new Bill had to be enacted, but Mitch McConnell and the Republicans blocked it saying let's have a pause because he did not see a problem. It was the week before Christmas when the Bill was completed. Although there is more work to do and the Bill must go further, there are good aspects to the relief bill such as:

\$600 payments per person to low and middle income families. Senator Schumer is advocating for a \$2,000 payment for each person so that in the next few months, people will get an additional \$1,400 per person. Unemployment benefits were expanded meaning \$300 will be received in addition to Federal employment. The original Bill paid \$600. According, it applies to all even if they never received unemployment before—part-time workers, gig workers, and freelancers etc. \$25 billion was allocated for rent relief. Although there is a moratorium in place, rent must be paid. If rent is not paid after the moratorium, you can be evicted.

A \$13 billion increase in SNAP was passed to feed hungry families and \$4 billion was given to the MTA through Senator Schumer's efforts otherwise service cuts would have been implemented to subways and buses creating a hardship for commuters.

\$69 billion was allocated for vaccines, \$88 billion for K-12 public schools so that they can open safely, and \$10 billion for child care. \$7 billion for broadband for low income families that connect, including money to pay electric bills.

Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez had contacted Senator Schumer noting people cannot afford to bury their loved one. As a result, Senator Schumer secured funding in the Bill for burial costs for loved ones. \$7,000 will be given to families from the federal government to pay for burial costs.

Next, prisoners can get a Pell grant and Senator Schumer worked hard to secure this benefit.

Meanwhile, money was allocated not only small businesses but also non-profits and churches explaining many churches do not have money because there is no collection plate and do provide social services to residents, noting 1/3 of the funding goes to small and minority businesses who do not have bankers.

When Senator Schumer becomes Majority Leader and Joe Biden becomes President, there will be a bigger and stronger Bill.

If you have any thoughts or ideas, please contact Senator Schumer.

Senator Schumer spoke about the many young people who have huge college debt with huge interest rates where the Federal government is charging 7%, stating President elect Joe Biden can forgive those loans. He and Senator Elizabeth Warren are proposing \$50,000 of those loans be forgiven. E-mail, write, or call President-elect Joe Biden, to implement this proposal.

Secondly, income inequality in poorer communities was looked at. As a result, Senator Schumer had proposed the Economic Justice Act with the most money allocated to the inner city earmarking \$435 billion; \$50 billion for child care, \$40 billion for community health. \$28 billion for federally supported jobs and training at-risk youth; \$200 billion for infrastructure, high speed internet, affordable housing, and community development. Money for every school to have a center where youth can go after school and at night. 40% of the jobs created would go to people who do not have jobs or to persons released from prison.

Third, Senator Schumer supports decriminalizing marijuana, expunging individual's records, and the money for marijuana flow back to the inner city.

At this point, Senator Charles Schumer took questions from the Board.

Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula congratulated Senator Schumer on becoming Senate Majority Leader and commented January 6 was the darkest day for this country and the shame that the president was a liar stating the president wrote a note on Twitter a couple of months before the insurrection.

This person should be impeached and the others should be prosecuted because this is an insult on the country. We are the strongest country in the world and now we are in shame. Small countries are making fun of us and it should not be tolerated.

Senator Schumer agreed with Board Member Narula and stated he was the first democratic Republican to call for him to be impeached and now to convict him. Further, Senator Schumer explained the process for impeachment following Board Member Narula's question about the impeachment process.

Next, Board Member Lucy Schilero stated COVID-19 has affected her business. She is a civic leader helping to get food out to some of her neighbors. Is it possible we can get an extension on income tax payments like before, she asked.

Senator Schumer responded it will be asked for again and further added there is new PPP and it's better than the last one. You can get a second round and there's money called idle which gives you a direct grant. If you haven't been able to get either the first round of PPP or idle, the Senator's office will provide a phone number to call.

Next, Board Member Gregory Spock commented the Senator has been a champion of saving the arts with the Save Our Stages Act. Since this community has a very vibrant art scene, he and fellow Board Members have been trying to increase public art in place of graffiti and other initiatives, on the local level what can be done/is being done to bring it back.

Senator Schumer replied Save our Stages will save all of the independent venues and the live venues that so many artists use and go to. It is a six month grant program which will keep them going for a long time. By the way, the same thing is being tried for restaurants. Through his efforts, it was implemented because of the importance of the arts commenting the arts are vital in every one of our communities.

Secondly, unemployment benefits have been expanded because many artists are gig workers or freelancers or part-timers and they can receive up to 24 weeks of unemployment insurance or through the PPP Save Our Stages if they are an employee.

Third, in the Senator's Economic Justice Act, \$20 billion is given to encourage the arts in the inner city. A copy of the legislation will be sent to the Board.

Board Member Kristen Gonzalez asked what the Senator would tell members of this community especially those that feel incredibly disenfranchised after not feeling supported during the pandemic after we were so hard hit. For example, with Trump gone but his legacy not gone in dealing with the police union that had endorsed Trump. In addition, undocumented immigrants that have not received the same amount of support. What is in store for those people, she questioned.

Senator Schumer replied total neglect and explained Martin Luther King hoisted on his shoulders a giant mirror and forced America to look into the mirror and America did not like what it saw and began to change. In a different way, COVID-19 was the same thing. It exposed all the fractures and flaws and disparities in American society comparing it to a huge magnifying glass. For instance, why did so many more people of color die of COVID-19, why did so many more people of color get COVID-19 because they had horrible health care? If there was a pre-existing condition such as diabetes and it was an upper middle class person in the suburbs, it was treated. If you were in the inner city, no one paid attention. COVID-19 has shown more focus is needed on our poorer communities that have been neglected.

In this Bill and the Economic Justice Act, the focus is money for the inner city: health care and housing.

Next he spoke about the Justice and Policing Act, which was designed by Ben Crump, the most famous civil rights lawyer in the country who wrote the Bill. The Bill eliminates no knock warrants and choke holds, and includes real police accountability. If a police officer is fired for treating people of color badly, they can always get a job in another police department.

Under this Bill, they cannot do so. Police officers would lose immunity so families who have lost loved ones can sue them, and the Bill is supported by 110 civil rights organizations.

Immigration - Through Senator Schumer's efforts, ITINs can now receive the \$600 and \$1200 for the first time. Senator Schumer's dream is to pass comprehensive immigration reform where every immigrant can work, travel, become a citizen and get full benefits of being an American. Not only will it help the 25-30 million immigrants, whether documented or not, it will create a huge economic benefit for all America. In this way, those immigrants will not have to worry about being deported and can be full American citizens. The Congressional Budget Office stated it will grow the American GDP by 3 ½ percent. President-elect Joe Biden supports comprehensive immigration reform where every immigrant would become a citizen.

Subsequently, more questions from the Board Members were answered by Senator Charles Schumer.

Before concluding, Senator Schumer said anyone who has a question send it to his Community Outreach staff members Steve Barton or Julietta Lopez.

Chairperson Marialena Giampino thanked Senator Schumer for addressing the Board and looks forward to future presentations.

Before departing, Senator Schumer wished all a good 2021.

6. Committee Reports

Consumer Affairs

Committee Chair Alexandra Owens did not give a report.

Environmental

No report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

Health

Committee Chair Ashley Reed reported the committee has not yet met but the committee is in the process of trying to get mobile testing vans and currently working on details. More information will follow.

Parks

Committee Chair Gregory Spock reported he and the District Manager met with Commissioner Dockett and discussed issues that were previously ignored and stonewalled by not getting responses on issues since October 2019. Accordingly, CC Moore Park now has clear signage. Only one person in the Park had to be told to smoke outside the fencing area, which was a huge benefit. The Park is heavily used, as well as other parks, by so many people in the district. He was optimistic clearer signage is in the parks' future.

Transportation

Committee Chair Matthew McElroy did not present a report.

Public Safety

Committee Chair Lucy Schilero reported the CERT Program is distributing masks and visiting distribution sites by risking their lives being exposed to those that may carry the virus.

Next, the officers at the 110 Precinct were asked if anyone was infected with the second phase of COVID-19. Five officers had contracted the second phase of the illness. Three other officers do not have any symptoms but had tested positive and we are hoping for their recovery.

Drugs and prostitution was discussed. Two locations were given to the 110 Precinct and we are still waiting for vice to investigate. No word as yet as to findings.

Subsequently, the bomb scare with the car that was parked at the Queens Place Mall was discussed. An arrest was made on the young man who perpetrated the hoax.

Committee Chair Lucy Schilero brought up the NCO Officers at Sectors B and C—the Elmhurst-Corona upper northern end of the Board area. Zoom meetings were held, but have not reached out to senior residents who are not computer savvy. Committee Chair Lucy Schilero suggested perhaps they can be reached by phone. In this way, they would have a phone number to dial in for the meetings.

Vendors were brought up also and she explained a vendor cannot sell tacos in front of a taco restaurant, commenting some of the products are not checked by the Health Department.

Regarding the Fire Department, the Committee Chair inquired whether there was an issue with COVID-19. As yet, no agency response. But they did insist, people should not leave anything lit on top of their stoves as many fires in Elmhurst have been reported. Another problem is overburdened surge protectors. Too many microwaves and heating items put on one surge charge. Blocked hallways and alleyways are a serious problem. All egresses must be kept clear because it presents a problem moving things around to get to people's homes/apartment if there was a fire. The deliberate set fire that killed people in December was brought up. Details will follow at the next meeting.

At this point, Committee Chair Lucy Schilero presented the liquor licenses.

The following liquor licenses were presented:

NYS LIQUOR AUTHORITY LICENSES
JANUARY 2021

NEW APPLICANTS

| <u>Establishment's Name</u> | <u>Establishment's Address</u> | <u>License Type</u> |
|------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Gorkhall Restaurant LLC | 77-04 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY | Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider |

RENEWAL APPLICANTS

| <u>Establishment's Name</u> | <u>Establishment's Address</u> | <u>License Type</u> |
|--|---|----------------------------|
| Sabor Latino | 95-35 40 th Road Corona, NY | Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider |
| Los Tres Hermanos | 111-16 Roosevelt Avenue Corona, NY | Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider |
| Mama Catalina Corp. <i>Carmen's Lunch</i> | 111-20 Roosevelt Avenue Corona, NY | Wine, Beer & Cider |
| Temezcai NY Corp. | 88-08 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY | Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider |
| Hua Rong Inc. | 83-23 Broadway Elmhurst, NY | Wine, Beer & Cider |

CLASS CHANGE

| <u>Establishment's Name</u> | <u>Establishment's Address</u> | <u>License Type</u> |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| El Cuencanito Deli & Pizza Rest. Inc. | 99-12 Alstyne Avenue Corona, NY | Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider |

Committee Chair Lucy Schilero reported most applicants were present, however, there were issues with the State Liquor Authority issuing many summonses. Hookahs were mentioned that were not licensed using this product which could easily spread COVID-19.

Lastly, the applicant El Cuencanito Deli & Pizza Rest. Inc. requesting a Class Change did not attend the meeting, but the Committee Chair is optimistic the applicant will attend next month as they are requesting a full liquor license to sell beer, wine and liquor.

ULURP/Zoning

Committee Chair Alton Derrick Smith reported on one application received at the Board office. A committee meeting is planned to review the application. No other ULURP items are pending. Banking issues in the underserved area of Community Board 4 were noted.

Youth

Committee Chair Alexa Ponce did not present a report.

7. Open Session #2- Final Community Board Member Comment Period

Board Chair Marialena Giampino called on the following Board Members for their response:

Lucy Cerezo-Scully – No Comments

Chaio-Chung Chen – Suggested a reminder for issues presented to be voted on.

Lynda Coral – No Comments

Lorena Diaz – Requested contact information for Senator Schumer's representatives so that information can be disseminated about federal funding for deceased family members due to COVID-19.

Michelle Dunston – Acknowledged the passing of Barbara Jackson and said information on the family was put in the chat where to send condolences and flowers. Chase Bank is open to go inside.

Aridia Espinal – No response

Kristen Gonzalez – Since Senator Schumer will address the Board again, she suggested reaching out to the public for questions.

Vincent Laucella – Urged all to get tested with the rise in COVID-19. Also to access the 110 Precinct on Twitter to learn about their major gun bust. The domestic terrorism we are seeing in Corona and Elmhurst are gang violence between rival gangs and getting significantly worse with more shootings. Many do not get reported. People are afraid to go to the police because of intimidation. This information must be sent to every community in every language. We must work together as a community.

Carol Machulski – No Comments

Sunil Mahat – No Comments

Patricia Martin – Thought it was a great meeting. Presentation by Senator Schumer was very uplifting. She feels very positive going forward in 2021.

Matthew McElroy – Presentation by Senator Schumer encouraging.

Rovenia McGowan – No Comments

Ruby Muhammad – Thankful for the Senator Schumer’s presentation and hopes to see much happen this year.

Sandra Munoz – She agreed with Board Member Ruby Muhammad Senator Schumer’s presentation was very uplifting to hear plans of reinstatement of many services from the past administration and she looks ahead to all the programs that will benefit undocumented community members. 99% of the undocumented individuals are contributing members of society who pay taxes and have EIN numbers to become citizens and submit their application for citizenship. She also acknowledged the passing of Board Member Priscilla Carrow and Barbara Jackson.

Georgina Oliver – No response

Alexandra Owens – No Comments

Alexa Ponce – No Comments

Ashley Reed – Reappointment applications are due February 19 and are digital online.

Christian Romero – No Comments

Clara Salas – No Comments

Lucy Schilero – No Comments

Alton Derrick Smith – No Comments

Gregory Spock – No Comments

Marcello Testa – No Comments

During the course of the meeting, many Board Members congratulated Marialena Giampino in her new position as Chairperson of the Board.

There being no further business, Chairperson Marialena Giampino adjourned the meeting at 9:40 p.m.