



COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, Elmhurst, and Newtown

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Donovan Richards
Queens Borough President

Rhonda Binda
Deputy Borough President

Marialena Giampino
Chairperson

Christian Cassagnol
District Manager

February 9, 2021

COMMUNITY BOARD ATTENDANCE

Board Members Attending:

Marialena Giampino
Chaio Chung Chen
David Chong
Lynda Coral
Michelle Dunston
Aridia Espinal
Kristen Gonzalez
Vincent Laucella
Carol Machulski
Sunil Mahat
Patricia Martin
Sylvia Martin
Matthew McElroy
Rovenia McGowan

Edgar Moya
Ruby Muhammed
Sandra Munoz
Gurdip Singh Narula
Georgina Oliver
Alexandra Owens
Alexa Ponce
Ashley Reed
Cristian Romero
Clara Salas
Lucy Schilero
A. Redd Sevilla
Alton Derrick Smith
Gregory Spock
Dewan Tarek
Marcello Testa
Louis Walker

Board Members Absent:

Lucy Cerezo Scully
Andy Chen
Lorena Diaz
James Lisa
Salvatore Lombardo
Rupinder Raj

Oscar Rios
Neil Roman
Fernando Ruiz
Izaida Valcarcel
Minwen Yang

ATTENDING:

Christian Cassagnol, CB4 District Manager
Margaret Silletti, CB4 Community Coordinator
Christina Long, CB4 Community Assistant
Council Member Francisco Moya
Berenice Navarrete-Perez, Council Member Francisco Moya's Office
Katherine Brezler, Deputy Director, Office of the Borough Pres. of Queens
Assembly Member Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas
Cristian Romero, Congresswoman Grace Meng's Office
Michelle Hernandez, Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's Office
Alexandra Owens, Assemblywoman Catalina Cruz's Office
Mary, NYS Senator Jessica Ramos' Office
Jessica Schabowski, NYC Mayor's Office
Kelly Wu, Council Member Daniel Dromm's Office
James Mongeluzo, NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer's Office
Elizabeth, Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz's Office
Gavin Simmons & Athena Castillo, Artists Making Changes Foundation
Maroua Righi, NYC Civilian Complaint Review Board

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.

COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, February 9, 2021

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

PLACE; ONLINE Via Webex

1. Call to Order

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

2. Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Marialena Giampino announced Board Executive Secretary Dewan Tarek would take the roll call and a vote on last month's minutes would be taken at that time. Since Secretary Dewan Tarek had poor reception, he could not take the roll call, therefore, Board Chair Marialena Giampino took the attendance. After consideration she announced the vote on the minutes would take place during the Open Session. A quorum was present.

At this point the vote on the minutes was taken. Board Member Clara Salas made a motion, seconded by Parliamentarian Lou Walker, to **accept** the minutes. The Board vote was 26 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions.

Subsequently, Board Chair Marialena Giampino reviewed the Community Board Member Feedback survey. If you have not filled out the survey, please do and return it. It can be anonymous or you may put your name on the form. She stressed the importance of the Board member comments or concerns to help the Board, the office, and meetings function better.

Next, the Board Chair gave an update about Borough Hall who are preparing to change the Community Board bylaws to include ethnicity. More information will be provided at a later date.

Also, Borough Hall is accepting applications for member renewals. All were urged to fill out the online form.

Accordingly, the Board Chair reported Board Member Rosa Wong had resigned. Further for the Youth and Health Committees, new Chairs were chosen. Board Member Ari Espinal will serve as the new Health Committee Chair and Board Member Sylvia Martin will serve as the new Youth Committee Chair. Congratulations to both.

In conclusion, the Board Chair urged all to continue practicing social distancing, wear masks and follow safety measures. City will be open for COVID-19 vaccinations. Emails will be sent out regarding COVID-19 testing and vaccination sites. She suggested all to spread the word about those sites.

Quality of Life issues in Corona and Elmhurst need to be addressed. If you see any problems, for example, traffic and/or garbage issues save the 311 reference number and report it to the Board office who will follow up with the responsible agency.

In conclusion, she reported last month at the Executive Committee and the Community Board meetings, Board attendance was discussed. For the past few years, Board attendance has been poor.

This affects the quorum and limits the Board's ability to conduct Board business. Also, attendance awareness letters were sent out via mail and email to Board Members. Since the pandemic, the option is given to Board Members to call in or via computer to enter the meeting via Webex. Support is given by the staff for login. In light of these reasons, a decision was made at the executive level to vote members with poor attendance off the Board. She explained these are members who were notified in the past, but did not seem interested in remaining on the Board. Those members did not attend any meetings. By missing meetings, it is not fair to the remaining members who do attend the meetings and continue to serve on the Board.

The four Board Members voted off were:

Rupinder Raj
Fernando Ruiz
Neil Roman
Izaida Valcarcel

At this point, Board Chair Marialena Giampino opened the floor for a motion. Therefore, Board Member Ashley Reed made a motion, seconded by Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula, to remove those Board Members with poor attendance.

District Manager Christian Cassagnol suggested a roll call vote on this matter.

The roll call vote was taken. Those Board Member attendance records were brought up and further discussed.

District Manager Christian Cassagnol provided detailed information on how many meetings were missed by those Board members. Those figures, along with appointment dates, were shared by Staff Member Christina Long to the Board.

Accordingly, Board Chair Marialena Giampino pointed out by removing those inactive Board Members, it will free up space for others to join the Board who genuinely want to serve. Borough Hall is also on board and reviewing inactive members.

More discussion ensued. The vote was 31 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions.

3. District Manager's Report

District Manager Christian Cassagnol Congratulated the new chairs of the Youth and Health Committees. Subsequently, he reported on budget season. This is the time of the year he testified to the elected officials, the Borough President, and the City Council on funding for the coming year (FY '22). Funding allocated July 2021.

The process entails District Managers discussing the Capital/Expense priorities. Some of the Board's top items were mentioned. Although we are in the midst of a pandemic, advocating for a new precinct or new hospital or new library would not be sustainable. Our capital items are submitted on the Needs Statement, but to discuss it for two minutes would not get the Board those items. Instead, more tangible items were requested small items in the tens of thousands of dollars instead of those in the millions of dollars. He cited the items that were discussed:

1. Art projects

The Elmhurst mural is well underway. Details were given. He further continued funding was requested from the Borough President's office. When Council Members give us money, it represents projects in their district, which hinders us because projects are district wide. The Borough President was asked for funding for mural replacement projects district wide, identify locations where graffiti can be replaced, and then replaced with an artist's rendering in the same process.

2. \$42,000 Stipend – This stipend was to be used for supplies, CB4 swag, etc., which we did purchase. However, all Community Boards received a budget cut (which we are fighting). Money for swag was requested such as more canvas bags, pens, pencils, brochures.

3. Community Events – Every year, the Board conducts a Youth Fair, which is a nominal amount. Up till now the Youth Fair has been held in Elmhurst. Consideration is now given to holding it in Corona. Because of the pandemic, a Youth Fair cannot be held, nonetheless, we will advocate for the funding for both the Elmhurst and Corona districts.

4. Community Board Cuts – CB4 Board members are volunteers and employs a paid staff of three and noted the Board office is understaffed and oppose the budgetary cuts. The amount of money taken from each Community Board to bridge the gap will not do anything for the city's budget. Letters were written to both Council Members to follow their colleagues in government to advocate against Community Board cuts.

The following were also reported on:

Needs Statement – This discusses all the items in the district. We have just received the response back from all city agencies, therefore, Chairs will receive the full list of responses. We are required to provide a response to the Mayor's Office about our feelings on these responses. The District Manager commented he would generate the responses to the Mayor's Office. Once the Chairs receive these responses on the Needs Statement if you see an item that did not receive a favorable response this is the Board's opportunity to comment. If there is an item the Chairs want the Board to fight for, let the District Manager know. The deadline is the third week of February.

At this point, the District Manager gave a brief overview of the group Artists Making Changes (AMC). There is several therapeutic art camps coming in the next couple of weeks. More details will be given by the presenters on the tonight's agenda and he urged all to sign up.

Before concluding, he reminded Board Members to complete their renewal application. He read the names of Board Members who are up for renewal and must submit an application to renew as application are due February 19.

Lucy Cerezo-Scully
David Chong
Lynda Coral
Michelle Dunston
Ari Espinal
Maria lena Giampino
Vincent Laucella
James Lia
Salvatore Lombardo
Sylvia Martin
Rovenia McGowan
Edgar Moya
Ruby Muhammad
Sandra Munoz
Georgina Oliver
Rupinder Raj (voted off the Board)
Ashley Reed
Neil Roman (voted off the Board)
Christian Romero
Fernando Ruiz (voted off the Board)
Clara Salas
A. Redd Sevilla
Gregory Spock
Izaida Valcarcel (voted off the Board)
Minwen Yang

4. Open Session #1

Chairperson Marialena Giampino called on the following Board Members for comments.

Chao-Chung Chen – Regarding the 110 Precinct, a 10-story building is needed to house the Precinct and its officers. If this building was acquired, the Board office can be located there also.

David Chong – No comment

Lynda Corral – No comment

Michelle Dunston – No comment

Ari Espinal – Thanked the Board for the position as Chair of the Health Committee.

Kristen Gonzalez – No comment

Vincent Laucella – No comment

Carol Machulski – Board Member Carol Machulski explained the two pieces of legislation currently in the New York State Assembly. Legislation that will make changes to the public health law. Article 21 Title 8 Section 2180 dealing with the Coronavirus. Bill No. A11172 prohibits mandatory immunization against the Coronavirus and gives legal guardians and incapacitated persons the right to choose to vaccinate or not.

The second Bill is with employers given the right to mandate their employees get vaccinated – Bill No. A11179. This may be a problem particularly if the employees do not want to be vaccinated. She commented there is nothing in the news about those Bills.

Sunil Mahat – Congratulated new committee Chairs. No comment

Patricia Martin – Congratulated new committee Chairs.

Sylvia Martin – No comment

Matthew McElroy – No comment

Rovenia McGowan – She had asked the District Manager to find out more information on her Board Member application as she is up for renewal. A paper application is needed.

Edgar Moya – No comment

Katherine Brezler, Deputy Director of Community Boards, reported the Borough President's Office will be encouraging members to take new online training and the Borough President's office is available to assist the online world, which is part of the job of being a Community Board member.

Ruby Muhammad – No comment

Sandra Munoz – No comment

Gurdip Singh Narula – No comment

Georgina Oliver – Congratulated a former Board Member, Helen Artega-Landaverde, who is now the CEO of Elmhurst Hospital Center.

Alexandra Owens – No comment

Alexa Ponce – Congratulated new committee Chairs

Ashley Reed – Congratulated new committee Chairs

Cristian Romero – Congratulated new committee Chairs and to Helen Artega-Landaverde, new CEO of Elmhurst Hospital.

Clara Salas – Comment unintelligible

Lucy Schilero – Congratulated new Committee chairs and to Elmhurst Hospital's CEO Helen Artega-Landaverde. The whole Board is very proud of her.

A. Redd Sevilla – Congratulated new committee Chairs. Thanked District Manager Christian Cassagnol and supporters on the Elmhurst mural. Also, he mentioned people helping the homeless who have been displaced from their homes during the pandemic. The homeless encampments in Elmhurst are intense. Providing food and jobs such as snow shoveling to the homeless is encouraging. Lastly, Board Member Alton Derrick Smith was recognized for fighting for banking equity in our neighborhoods

Alton Derrick Smith – No comment

Gregory Spock – Congratulated new committee Chairs. He commented on the businesses that put signs in their window that say No Mask are blatantly ignoring safety precaution rules. He has reported these business to Police officers and 311. Everyone has to do his part to spread the word to get back normalcy. All must wear a mask.

Second, he had met the group Artists Making Changes previously and is excited to have them come to the Board.

Dewan Tarek – No comment

Marcello Testa – No comment

Lou Walker – No comment

At this point, Council Member Francisco Moya addressed the Board. Council Member Moya thanked the Board Members for their help and support in getting the word out on the COVID-19 vaccines and helping their neighbors.

For the last couple of months, the Council Member has been bringing to the district every week two/three testing bands in different parts of the district. Two tests are being conducted, the rapid testing which you can get results in 15 minutes and the traditional test which takes 24 to 48 hours to get results. Back in December, vans were in the community so that residents had access. Our community was the epicenter of the pandemic. Testing is the only way to ensure we are keeping track of data in our community. Currently in zip code 11368, the positivity rate numbers have gone down significantly. Last week, it was up about 14%

As of today it's 8%. A real effect is seen in ensuring that people are getting tested and practicing social distancing, wearing masks, and no large gatherings at homes is key for people to follow during the pandemic. As the numbers come down, we will get through this.

The vaccine has been slow in coming to the community, noting he had worked with the administration and fought hard to get testing at Citifield and tomorrow he will be at Citifield with the Mayor for a walk-thru to ensure all is up to parity and also to include the clergy in the distribution mentioning testing was done at the First Baptist Church in Corona.

African Americans and Latinos in the community have been skeptical about taking the vaccine. In January, the Council Member held a Town Hall in Spanish and partnered with TeleMundo and Univision to bring to the community an educational component on what it means to take the vaccine. Doctors from Elmhurst Hospital and Health Dept. representatives were present to take questions. This Thursday a Town Hall will be held at 6:30 p.m. The new CEO of Elmhurst Hospital Helen Artega-Landaverde will be present along with Dr. Massey, Chair of the Global Health Institute and the expert for Health and Hospitals Corporation as well as other experts. The meeting is open to all. Log on to [facebook.com/francisco Moyano](https://www.facebook.com/francisco Moyano). All were urged to attend. Flyers will be forthcoming.

There are about 800 vaccines available this week and talking with the Governor and the Mayor we are looking to increase that by 5% starting next week. However, we must ensure the testing facilities are a priority so that those eligible are getting to register and getting the vaccine from the communities that are hardest hit. People are coming from all over to get the vaccine and all should get it, but there needs to be a priority for the community that was devastated by the pandemic. Call 877-vax for NYC or 1-877-vax4 NYC or go to [nyc.gov/vaccine finder](https://www.nyc.gov/vaccine-finder) to register.

Next since tax season is coming up, the Council Member mentioned Upbound an organization that prepares taxes for free for the community. The group prepares taxes remotely or by phone. Call 718-784-0877 (dial 1 for English, 2 for Spanish).

CUNY Citizenship is held twice a week to answer questions regarding immigration issues.

For not for profit organizations, discretionary funding deadline is next Tuesday, February 16. Access the portal for the New York City Council.

Lastly, the Council Member spoke about the food disparity throughout the city and our community. The Council Member funded five pantries within the district where \$25 million was allocated from the City Council to give money to food pantries that have been depleted. An additional 25 will be added by the end of this month. The Council Member partnered with the Hispanic Federation where \$50,000 was allocated. Small businesses and local restaurants have been impacted greatly by the pandemic. The Council Member had partnered with five local restaurants to prepare 500 meals per week to the community so that money is kept in the community and keeps these businesses open and feeds people that live in the vicinity and keeps the economy progressing in our community. If you know of anyone in need of food or hot meals, call Council Member Moya's office at 718-651-1917.

Lastly, Council Member Moya urged all to see the beautiful winter wonderland display in William F. Moore Park. All were encouraged to stop by and see the special Valentine's Day surprise—a beautiful heart which is lit up in neon colors with the inscription, "From Corona with Love".

At this point, Chair Marialena Giampino said Berenice, Council Member Moya's staffer, will put the information in the chat.

5. Report from Elected Officials

Federal

Senate

Subsequently, NYS Assembly Member Jessica Gonzalez Rojas who represents the 34th Assembly District, which she has a small part of CB4, provided information to the Board.

The Assemblywoman's office is open, however, walk-ins are discouraged because of the COVID-19. Video or phone call appointments can be scheduled. The office is located in the Jackson Heights shopping center at 75-35 31 Avenue, Suite 206B, phone number 718-457-0384; or email gonzalezrojas@nyassembly.gov. Information will be shared in the chat. English and Spanish are spoken along with Spanglish and Bengali and other language needs can be accommodated.

Helen Artega-Landaverde was congratulated on her new position as CEO at Elmhurst Hospital.

Next, the Assemblywoman announced the COVID-19 hardship forms for those facing foreclosures or evictions are available online and allows to prevent evictions or foreclosures until at least May 1. The form will be put in the chat or call her office for assistance.

Thursday, February 11, the Assemblywoman is hosting a self-swab event COVID-19 testing in her office in partnership with the New York City Health and Hospital Corporation as well as the Borough President. Self-swab means information is taken and you are handed a kit and informed how to take the test. Then the kit is sent out to a lab and the results given online. Results take a couple of days to obtain, and testing is free.

Also, Queens's small business grants are available through the New York City Economic Development Corporation in partnership with the Queens Chamber of Commerce. Grants are offered to businesses with 20 or fewer employees in the neighborhoods hardest hit.

Next, the Paycheck Protection Program will resume. People have until March 31 to secure a loan.

The popular event of paper shredding is planned. Bring documents that have financial information or your personal data to shred. The event will be held in the Jackson Heights Shopping Center, noting different events will be held through the districts of Corona, Jackson Heights, Woodside and E. Elmhurst. Saturday, February 13, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., is the shredding event—rain or shine.

Accordingly, Assemblywoman Jessica Gonzalez Rojas is sponsoring 19 Bills at the beginning of session. The Bills are related to housing, health care, criminal justice, and COVID-19 relief. She is a co-sponsor of the New York Health Act and recently passed the COVID-19 Emergency Protect Small Business Act to help small businesses facing evictions and foreclosures.

Subsequently, Shamima Rahman, liaison to Community Board 4, was introduced to the Board.

Charles E. Schumer

No report. No representative present.

Kristen Gilibrand

No report. No representative present.

House of Representatives

Grace Meng

Board Member Cristian Romero reported on the vaccine and the questions about racial inequities inequalities with vaccine distribution. Congresswoman Grace Meng led her colleagues urging the Health and Human Services Secretary designate to address demographic data on COVID-19. A national data breakdown is being called for of race, ethnicity, gender, disability, and if available sexual orientation for public review. This is important because it will address long-term health disparities and racial inequalities that might be seen in the months/years to come.

Since the 117th Congress has kicked off, the Congresswoman introduced legislation for the National Office of New Americans Act. Her office would help with language access, job placement, and civic engagement. Since the Congresswoman was in the New York State Assembly, her dream was to create an office such as this one and become a reality.

In conclusion, with the 117th Congressional House appointment, there are new chairs, new positions and new committees. The Congresswoman sits on a few important committees. The Congresswoman is a member is the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee that fights for key programs in our community comparing it to WIC and SNAP programs. Many of these programs are used by Queens and New York families. Since the pandemic, the Congresswoman has recognized the critical need to address food insecurity as a result of COVID-19.

All were thanked for reaching out to the Congresswoman last month asking if she was okay after the Capitol attack on January 6.

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

Michelle Hernandez reported on their monthly, virtual Town Hall meeting this evening. She will share a link to their YouTube page where there will be a follow-up to the meeting. Today, the Congresswoman joined city and state representatives to discuss COVID-19 vaccine and its rollout.

For legislative updates, end of January the Congresswoman with Representative Bowman led a 52 House member letter asking HUD and the Treasury to repeal a Trump-era guideline that is delaying emergency rental assistance. Quite importantly, the FEMA funeral assistance relief legislation that the Congresswoman has been championing for several months with Senator Majority Leader Schumer and Representative Lee will soon be available. If a loved one was lost due to COVID-19, reimbursement up to \$7,000 for funeral expenses will be given. The program is retroactive and will be reimbursed back to January, 2020. She informed the Board FEMA will need expense documentation which includes receipts, invoices, death certificate, and documents for identification. The program will be available for people and families that are undocumented or mixed status.

Also, the Congresswoman wanted to recognize local Queens's community groups that she worked with to form this legislation including Elmcor and Voices Latinas. A fact sheet link will be included in the chat.

For community updates:

The Congresswoman's office is hosting a Wounded Warrior fellow. Currently looking to hire, this is a fellowship program for a veteran that is a two year position. A link to the website will be shared with job requirements.

Lastly, the Congresswoman's office is participating in the congressional art competition, which is a nationwide competition hosted by the Congressional Art Institute. It is a collaboration with art teachers across the district. High Schoolers will submit their entries to the office and a panel will select the winner.

Contact information to the office will be shared in the chat box.

NYS Assembly

Brian Barnwell

No report. No representative present.

Jeffrion Aubry

Representative did not report.

Catalina Cruz

Board Member Alexandra Owens reported Assembly Member Catalina Cruz was appointed as Chair of the Task Force of New Americans. The goal of the task force is to advocate for policies and legislation that would provide equity to immigrants living in New York State. Since the district is very diverse, noting 60% of the district is foreign born and 40% are without status, meaning undocumented or similar status. This taskforce is very important to resolve issues.

Next, upcoming events and educational programming were mentioned. Information will be sent out as soon as dates are available.

Accordingly, a COVID-19 testing event was held. Hosted every Thursday, from the Assemblywoman's office and partnering with the Health and Hospitals test and trace on the self-swab. So far, 60 to 70 tests are given per day, which is a much needed resource.

Last week, the first state of the district was held where the Assembly Member spoke about past victories and where we are going to be taking the district. The week before a Town Hall was held on the eviction moratorium scheduled for May 1. How to protect yourself and how to prevent eviction and stay in your home was discussed.

Call the office for an appointment if you need assistance.

NYS Senate

Michael Gianaris

No report. No representative present.

Jessica Ramos

Mary reported the office is working remotely. Senator Ramos has held many Town Halls during the months of January and February, noting one was held for E. Elmhurst this evening.

There are no upcoming events as yet and to follow Senator Ramos on social media for upcoming events. Call the office at 718-205-3881 for assistance.

Toby Ann Stavisky

No report. No representative present.

NYC Mayor's Office

Jessica Schabowski reported the Citi field site will be open tomorrow that will have appointments 50 of which will be for TLC licensed drivers and food delivery workers from the five boroughs and 50% of appointments will be for eligible Queens's residents. Continuing to build out capacity not only in Queens but all over the city as supplies are desperately needed. Advocating for the Federal government to rev up production and working with the state to ensure we get an increased allocation as the vaccine supply increases. Elmhurst and Corona have been added to the list of 33 neighborhoods identified by the Task Force of Racial Inclusion and

Equity. The city will use this data to broaden its outreach and education to address vaccine hesitancy, prioritize appointments, and add new vaccine sites as seen with the Citi field site which eventually will be a long-term 24/7 location.

Also, middle schools will be open on February 25. Building testing capacity for the increased students who will be tested weekly at 20% of students in grades six to eight coming back to in-school learning when there was the last window in the fall.

Lastly, from the Mayor's State of the City starting this year the precinct council will be able to perform evaluations of commanding officers performances and also help select precinct commanders from the start providing an advisory opinion. All were encouraged to get civically involved.

NYC Council

Daniel Dromm

Kelly Wu reported on an upcoming food distribution at Elmhurst Hospital for Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, February 17 at 2 p.m. – 5 p.m., February 18-9 a.m. to 12 p.m., and February 19 at 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The Council Member's office continues to provide legal service for housing and general immigration. It is a 30-minute free consultation. If you need an appointment feel free to call the office at 718-803-6373, noting the office continues to work remotely. Information will be put in the chat.

Office of the Queens Borough President

Deputy Director Kat Brezler reported the Board Member applications deadline is February 19. A link will be in the chat. Small business grants are available. Link will be in the chat. For Citi field vaccines, link for the follow-up in the chat.

NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer

James Mongeluzo announced:

The publication *New York by the Numbers Weekly and Economic Fiscal Outlook* Newsletter is distributed every Monday. If you want to know about the finances of the city and what is taking place during the pandemic, please subscribe. Or if you do not wish to subscribe, the link will be in the chat.

Next, he spoke about the fair shot vaccine equity plan that the Comptroller's Office released because there were some concerns with the way data was tracked and also the concern was brought up by multiple elected officials. It would be advantageous for the city to track zip codes, race, age and professions of people. Moreover, the idea of having more restrictions is favored on who can get the vaccine in the sense of where they actually live. For example, there was an issue in Washington Heights where people were coming from Westchester to get vaccines while the people who live in upper Manhattan were having problems getting the vaccinations, noting remedies are in place such as Yankee Stadium for Bronx residents and Citi field for Queens's residents.

Meanwhile a plan for PPP distribution has been put out, which is the Payroll Protection Plan from the Federal government. The city can do a better job with outreach, especially to people who do not speak English very well who own businesses but do not know the technical language so it's harder for them to fill out the more complicated forms, which uses a lot of legal terms. More support is needed for people who speak other languages.

Also, a comprehensive list of the financial institutions that are administering the PPP is needed because it does not exist.

Lastly, the Comptroller's office would like the city to help some of the non-profits who incurred many costs during the pandemic being at the front lines helping with food relief etc. There is the indirect cost rate that has not been covered in the budget that was supposed to be covered but taken a way. Help is needed for the nonprofits with those costs that were accumulated during the time Outreach was done. Information will be in the chat.

Subsequently, he spoke about two new reports. One is the blueprint for strengthening public safety which has five major points related to the NYPD. The plan details the finances of the city and public safety in general. More details were given. Similarly, he spoke about an uptick in gun violence in the city. There are some suggestions to help with more proactive community strategies and also ways to help the NYPD deal with some of those issues.

Discipline transparency and civilian oversight of the NYPD was mentioned.

Next, the decriminalization of certain offenses was explained as well as to initiate operational and managerial reforms. More details on similar reforms that can be instituted towards the NYPD to cut costs were explained.

The full report was put in the chat.

NYC Public Advocate

No report. No representative present.

Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz

Elizabeth, Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz's Office, reported at the end of January the District Attorney's office held a webinar on human trafficking awareness. Several experts from the DA's office as well as partner services providers spoke about available resources for victims of sex and labor trafficking in Queens County. If you know anyone who are victims or who would like to report a suspicious activity, please contact the DA's office the human trafficking bureau by calling 718-286-6548.

Next Thursday, the District Attorney will celebrate Lunar New Year with honorees and special performance. If you have an interest, please register on their website.

6. Presentations

A. Artists Making Changes Foundation Program Overview

The Importance of Therapeutic Art Camps to Process the Experience and Impact of COVID-19

Gavin Simmons and Athena Castillo presented the program. Ms. Castillo explained Artists Making Changes started in 2013 and is a nonprofit organization that works with a population that has been exposed with adverse life experiences.

With the aid of a slide presentation, Mr. Simmons reported Artists Making Changes Foundation fosters creative and intellectual development for underserved communities and populations. All populations should have the opportunity to explore their own artistic vision and cultural expression. Through the art of creation, they would like to connect to the self/individual and the individual identities cultivated grown and changed at every stage of life. As a nonprofit they like to examine those different nonverbal communications and help heal intergenerational trauma through nonverbal language development or a process of understanding your Internal dialectic or your internal thought process to help you ground yourself to heal from past victimizations or adverse life experiences through art. The program ensures participants understand that through art you can find language for experiences that would not have language. Nonverbal communication through the arts whether it be dance, painting, or sculpture or any active educational music.

These tools help you develop a greater sense of self. Through the sense of self, you are able to uplift and have more energy to face the day, overcome challenges, and connect with your fellow community members.

Through COVID-19 much was lost on the person-to-person connection or the ability to decompress throughout your day by having person to person interaction.

Next, Mr. Simmons spoke about the programs and classes and camps offered. Working and developing on what is the most feasible and most attractive to the community a painting course taught by Mr. Simmons and Ms. Castillo will be offered. Details are still being finalized on what would be constructed or what will be created. Also offered is a dance or movement class. The dance class is planned for February 13 and the painting class on February 27 at 5:00 p.m. A flyer will be sent with further details.

Client information is important such as gaining a history, a socioeconomic status, cultural upbringings all play into how you develop and understand your own internal trauma and how to move out of it. This is important in building a profile for clients.

In the U. S. some of the programs that were done before COVID-19, the children and the activities they worked through.

At this point, Ms. Collins further explained the program. She explained the Foundation is a group of healers, therapists, social workers, artists in every capacity. Lesson plans are made with a therapeutic background while looking at the population and their needs following with a lesson plan in a physical form or fine art form. Impacting communities in New York, New Jersey, Cuba Dominican Republic and Italy—always putting the children at the forefront of their focus.

More information was given on the virtual classes which is important for all to work together. Six virtual classes were given such as a cooking class, artists working from different countries so children were able to cook with a chef from Saint Croix. The children were able to mediate with someone that was overseas. For the classes that will be held, they will partner with two artists or healers to ensure every child is being seen.

More details were given by Ms. Collins on individual slides and upcoming classes were mentioned.

Another presenter from Artists Making Changes Foundation provided more information and on developing routines in dance.

B. NYC Civilian Complaint Review Board

Review of CCRB's mission, Civilian Rights and Responsibilities, overview of the Right to Know Act
And how to file a Complaint.

Maroua Righi representing the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB), reported the CCRB is a city government agency that investigates, mediates, and administratively prosecutes allegations of police misconduct. It is an agency entirely independent from the NYPD and staffed by all civilians. Investigations are based off the patrol guide, where police officers get the rules and regulations that they follow. Outside of those rules and regulations is when they may be engaging in misconduct.

There are four categories of police misconduct that are investigated: force, a abuse of authority, discourtesy and offensive language.

Force – If an officer uses excessive or unnecessary force whether it's punching a person or using night sticks, Taser, batons, firearms, or even just taking the gun out and pointing it at someone which means any form of force used against a civilian.

Abuse of Authority - When the power or influence is misrepresented to gain civilian compliance. For example, frisking someone or stopping their vehicle without sufficient cause, searching a person's car or their home without sufficient cause, refusing to identify themselves. This also includes covering their badge, refusing to give their name, and refusing to tell the person which precinct they are from.

Discourtesy – If an officer acts or speaks to someone in a rude, discourteous manner. Since officers are supposed to engage in CPR, which is interacting with people with respect, professionalism and courtesy. Any kind of profanity when they speak to people and any discourteous conduct such as if your ID is given to the officer and when he returns it to you instead of putting it in your hand, the officer tosses it on the floor and expects you to pick it up. Similarly, any hand gestures like giving the finger is discourtesy.

Offensive Language – Any type of verbally offensive speech that refers inappropriately to face, religion, sexual orientation, perceived disability nationality and even telling a person to go back to their country.

In addition to investigating those four categories of misconduct, the CCRB investigates if the Right To Know Act has been violated. The Right To Know Act was a law that was passed in 2018. The four main major components of the Right To Know Act include: Officers identifying themselves to any civilian to provide their name, rank, precinct, shield number, and to explain the purpose of the interaction. A person has the right to know why they have been stopped by an officer. If the officer wants to search you or your car, your home without sufficient cause, they need to ask for your consent and remind you that you have the right to say no.

Also, all NYPD officers carry business cards. Anyone has the right to ask for the card and it should be provided by the officer.

Additionally, people have the right to language access services. If an officer is interacting with you and you don't speak English, the officer should provide services because the person involved should know the purpose of the interaction.

If a person has experienced any of the forms of misconduct or witness misconduct, file a complaint with the CCRB. Call the hotline during business hours, outside of business hours call 311, access the website or mail a complaint into the agency. You can also file a complaint in person, at the local council member's office or local police precinct.

Accordingly the CCRB can take complaints about police misconduct from third parties meaning if you see a video of police misconduct and you don't know those officers in the video, you can still submit it to the CCRB for an investigation.

The CCRB can only investigate complaints of misconduct against NYPD officers. Complaints against any other type of law enforcement cannot be investigated. However, if someone wants to file a complaint against, for example, a Port Authority officer or a state trooper, the complaint can be submitted to the CCRB and it will be transferred to the appropriate agency for investigation.

Before an investigation is conducted on a complaint, if the complaint had nothing to do with force or any type of sexual misconduct Mediation may be offered—is when you and the officers involved can sit down in the presence of a mediator and talk about the incident. The purpose is to talk it out and explain your feelings. However if the person is not satisfied with mediation, CCRB proceeds with a full investigation.

Additionally, the CCRB weighs all the evidence against the patrol guide to determine if misconduct occurred or not. It could be the officer did not engage in misconduct that they were just doing their job so it would be considered exonerated. Unfounded means there is clear evidence proving they did not commit the misconduct. Unsubstantiated means there was not enough evidence to prove the officer engaged in the alleged misconduct, substantiated is when there is enough credible evidence to prove the officer had engaged in misconduct. For more serious forms of misconduct, it can go to an administrative trial. Those are public and take place at NYPD headquarters.

More information was provided on the functions and duties of the CCRB. Access the website to see the complete listing.

Before concluding, Ms. Righi reported she is part of the Outreach Unit that conduct presentations that are provided across the five boroughs to organizations such as schools, after school programs, community organizations, NYCHA, and precinct councils.

7. Committee Reports:

Consumer Affairs

Committee Chair Alexandra Owens reported the next meeting is Thursday, February 18 at 6:30 p.m. An email will be sent to committee members. On the agenda is bringing more banks into the community.

Environmental

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

Health

Committee Chair Ari Espinal thanked former Committee Chair Ashley Reed for an amazing job as Health Committee Chair. Congratulations were extended to Helen Artega-Landaverde on her new position. As newly appointed Health Committee Chair, she looks forward to chairing the committee and working with the members.

Parks

Committee Chair Gregory Spock talked about the Alliance and the CAB—there is an exciting art exhibit that will be coming to Flushing Meadows-Corona Park and will only be here two days. It's by a female artist collective called Swoon. The work is amazing!

He did not know the full details on the art exhibit but February 13 and 14 it will be in the Park to keep with the seeing more art mood and engaging in art in our community. The Elmhurst Mural is progressing and updates will follow. Daisy and Christian were thanked for their help in bringing it to fruition. More murals in the community are planned and we are trying to secure more funding for those projects.

Additionally, Parks Chair Gregory Spock continues to advocate for transparency between the Alliance and the CAB for Flushing Meadows-Corona Park. He had attended their most recent Board meeting with District Manager Christian Cassagnol. Administrators want the meetings to be as private as possible. Despite being a public meeting, registration had to be done in advance and you were given the zoom link an hour before. His feeling is that there is something to unpack there. However he continues to serve as Vice Chair of that organization. A survey was sent out asking for feedback. If you did receive the survey, please respond and give your feedback of what can be done better and how the relationship between the Parks Department and the Community Advisory Board can be improved.

In conclusion, an upcoming Parks Committee is planned for March.

Transportation

Committee Chair Mathew McElroy thanked former Committee Chair Lynda Coral for her work over the last several years. She did an amazing job!

A Transportation Committee meeting will be held Tuesday, February 16, at 6:30 p.m. All should have received the meeting notice. There are two areas that have issues with pedestrian safety in terms of street crossing. One location is at the corner of Whitney Avenue and Judge Street near St. Bartholomew's and the other location is along 41st Avenue running from 79th Street to Baxter Avenue--79, 80 and 81 Streets. There have been comments for over a year. The Department of Transportation will be in attendance on February 16.

Anyone who lives in those two areas and crossing those streets, please attend and share your feelings. The 41 Avenue area is on the back side of the hospital.

The other item on the agenda is pedestrian crossings across Baxter Avenue, south of Roosevelt Avenue and the intersection of Glean Street and Roosevelt Avenue regarding car traffic—how the turning is regulated there.

Public Safety

Committee Chair Lucy Schilero reported the committee met on February 2 and a quorum was present. Votes were taken as no votes had been taken in quite a few months.

Before presenting the liquor licenses, Committee Chair Lucy Schilero read some of the answers she had received from Police Officer John to questions asked, although he could not attend the meeting since he was on a special investigation.

Questions asked were:

COVID 19 -There were four cases last month and still are Officers that were affected with the second phase of COVID-19. Those are still being treated. No new cases reported at this time. It was reconfirmed even though cases were reported, the Precinct is fully staffed and still covers most of the area.

Gun Arrests – She reported on some shootings and gave information about an incident in Brooklyn this past weekend. Details were provided.

Noticeable is people coming into Queens from other areas such as Manhattan and Brooklyn. Keeping a vigilance on it and watching for guns and gang related situations and spoke about a gang related incident a month ago. The FBI is working with the 110 Precinct on those issues.

Prostitution near P.S. 19 was brought up and the Precinct is investigating, especially the NCO Officers.

Homeless on Broadway and Whitney Avenue transients. The Precinct is working with Breaking Ground where they will canvas the neighborhood and are asking neighbors to come and help them.

Graffiti Cleanup – The Precinct received 5/6 gallons of paint. Two were used but heard nothing more about funding for paint.

Committee Chair Lucy Schilero asked about NCO Officers having zoom meetings. Many people who are not computer savvy can go online by looking at the phone numbers of each NCO Officer's court quadrant and by logging on to the 110 Precinct's website to find out when the zoom meetings will be held and can call in. Go to www.nyc.gov to find out how to join the meeting.

Next, she announced the Fire Department had five cases at Engine Company 289 with COVID-19. One of those cases was Captain Carmine who is out sick.

She spoke about the many fires in Elmhurst and how the Fire Department has encountered blocked entrances which hinders their work to save people. Also, do not leave any cooking unattended on top of the stove and also ensure egress is always clear.

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

The following liquor licenses were presented:

NYS LIQUOR AUTHORITY LICENSES
FEBRUARY 2021

RENEWAL APPLICANTS

<u>Establishment's Name</u>	<u>Establishment's Address</u>	<u>License Type</u>
El Sardinero Inc. Café 75	75-18 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider
Wangjo Inc. Awang Kitchen	84-05 Queens Blvd. Elmhurst, NY	Wine, Beer & Cider

CLASS CHANGE

<u>Establishment's Name</u>	<u>Establishment's Address</u>	<u>License Type</u>
Santa Barbara Service LTD. Mama's Pizza & Café	80-14 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider
El Zocalo Grill Corp. Elmhurst, NY 11373	40-10 83 Street	Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

El Sardinero Inc. had one incident but nothing serious. Did not answer Committee's calls, hopefully, they will appear next month.

Awang Kitchen had no serious incidents and usually are not called in. The Committee approved their application.

Santa Barbara Service LTD had no incident. It is under the 500' rule, but they have done very well. The Committee approved their application.

El Zocalo Grill Corp. had five incidences. Since it was under the 500' rule, the Committee discussed it and the Committee Chair did more investigation. As a result, the Committee voted no on the application.

District Manager Christian Cassagnol brought up the current owners did not take over until June. The violations received date back to January. The new owners should not be held accountable for past incidences. The latest report does reference this fact. If that was the deciding factor in the Committee's vote, it should not be.

Committee Chair Lucy Schilero responded she did not know if that was the deciding factor, the Committee voted and it was a no vote.

District Manager Cassagnol reiterated some of the violations the restaurant had dated back to January, but the restaurant did not officially take over until June.

Discussion ensued.

After the discussion, Committee Chair Lucy Schilero left the final decision to the Board Members.

Board Chair Marialena Giampino called for a motion on the Committee's report as submitted.

Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula made a motion, seconded by Committee Chair Lucy Schilero, to **approve** the report.

More discussion ensued.

Subsequently based on the facts District Manager Cassagnol added in the Board's letter to the SLA, the Board cannot state this restaurant had violations because they predated the owner.

Taking of a roll call vote on the El Zocalo was brought up.

Further discussion followed.

After significant discussion, a roll call vote was taken to **approve** the first three applicants and to **approve** the last applicant with new information.

Before the vote was taken, District Manager Christian Cassagnol clarified two votes need to be taken one vote on the first three restaurants and another vote on the last applicant El Zocalo.

By a roll call vote, the Board voted 26 in favor, 6 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed

ULURP/Zoning

Committee Chair Alton Derrick Smith reported a special ULURP Committee meeting was held last month. Guests were invited from the city's Children's Committee for Children of New York and were joined by the Public Safety Committee as well as the Consumer Affairs Committee.

The meeting was considered special because of where we are in terms of a Bank and Development District (BDD). In the Needs Statement, it was indicated Community Board 4 is underserved when it comes to banking and necessary data was needed to support that fact.

One of the sources obtained was the CCC report, which was very alarming given the fact it showed how underserved Community Board 4 is. Based upon its findings, the Board had requested a BDD for the Community Board's area. At the time, we were unaware we already had a bank and development district. Information was sent to New York State Finance Services. Committee Chair Alton Derrick Smith spoke with a representative who talked with several Board members regarding the BDD. In 2005, the Queens Saving Bank of New York was designated as a BDD bank, mentioning it was over 16 years ago. A meeting was suggested with the bank and the Board because the Community Board plays pivotal role in developing a BDD. The Community Board has much input as to its

economic and consumer needs relating to banking. In 2005, there was a fight for a BDD (Public Safety Chair Lucy Schilero was thanked for bringing it up).

Moving forward, there is now a time and need for another bank. Given the fact, the bank on Junction Boulevard was lost and also mentioning the loss of the bank on 82 Street. Two full service banks are now ATM banks.

Looking at the report which was done before the bank on Junction Boulevard and before the full service banks were reduced to ATM. The report was provided by CCC who attended the meeting and the Committee Chair pointed out looking at the number which shows how underrepresented the Board is compared to New York City. On the average in New York City, there is 1757 banks to serve its residents. In Corona, there are only two banks for 22,055 people. In E. Elmhurst there is one bank for 16,745 people and for Elmhurst there is 11 banks for 6,116 people. Comparing those figures to New York City, our area is grossly underserved.

New York State Finance Services said they do want to meet with the Community Board to explore the possibility of another BDD bank although first a meeting with Queens Bank is needed to move forward.

More specific information was given to the Board by Committee Chair Alton Derrick Smith.

In this case, influence is needed so that we must indicate the type of bank the community needs such as a credit bank or a cdf bank—representing our needs economically.

At next month's ULURP/Zoning meeting representatives from Queens Bank and also New York State Finances are invited to discuss banking options for our community.

Youth

Committee Chair Sylvia Martin was newly appointed as Committee Chair and thanked former Chair Alexa Ponce for her hard work as Chair, especially noting the Youth Fair. She is looking forward to working with the Committee members and a meeting will be scheduled soon.

At this point, the Board Chair asked for a general consensus of the Board to pass over Open Session #2 since the meeting was very long. The Board agreed and the Board Chair Marialena Giampino adjourned the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.