



## COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, Elmhurst, and Newtown

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**Donovan Richards**  
Queens Borough President

**Marialena Giampino**  
Chairperson

**Rhonda Binda**  
Deputy Borough President

**Christian Cassagnol**  
District Manager

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March 9, 2021

### COMMUNITY BOARD ATTENDANCE

#### Board Members Attending:

Marialena Giampino  
Chaio Chung Chen  
David Chong  
Lynda Coral  
Lorena Diaz  
Michelle Dunston  
Ari Espinal  
Kristen Gonzalez  
Vincent Laucella  
Salvatore Lombardo  
Carol Machulski  
Sunil Mahat  
Patricia Martin  
Sylvia Martin  
Matthew McElroy  
Rovenia McGowan  
Edgar Moya

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

#### Board Members Absent:

Lucy Cerezo Scully  
Andy Chen

James Lisa  
Ruby Muhammed

**ATTENDING:**

Christian Cassagnol, CB4 District Manager  
Margaret Silletti, CB4 Community Coordinator  
Christina Long, CB4 Community Assistant  
Assembly Member Catalina Cruz  
Council Member Francisco Moya  
Cristian Romero, Congresswoman Grace Meng's Office  
Michelle Hernandez, Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez's Office  
Assembly Member Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas  
Jessica Schabowski, NYC Mayor's Office  
Kelly Wu, Council Member Daniels Dromm's Office  
Kat Brezler, Queens Borough President's Office  
James Mongeluzo, NYC Comptroller's Office  
Yulitza Franklin, Community Development NYS Department of Financial Services

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 an attendee at any meeting and not marked present.

## COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

**DATE: March 9, 2021**

**TIME; 7:00 P.M.**

**PLACE: ONLINE Via Zoom**

### 1. Call to order

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

### 2. Vote on the Minutes February 9, 2021 CB Meeting

A motion was made by Board Member Lou Walker to accept the minutes, seconded by Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula. All in favor to accept the minutes. The vote was 32 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions  
Motion passed.

### 3. Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Marialena Giampino wished the Board all the Happy Holidays in March: International Women's History Month 2021, St. Patrick's Day, Passover, Easter, Ramadan and any other March holiday.

All the Board Members were thanked who filled out the Board's survey; some great feedback was received. From this response, we hope to improve our meetings, for example, the change of platform to zoom.

The Chairperson thanked those who expressed interest in serving on the Bylaw Committee. The Bylaws need to be reviewed and some changes made. Along with Chair Marialena Giampino, the following Board members were selected to serve on the Bylaw Committee:

*Louis Walker*  
*Lucy Schilero*  
*Matt McElroy*  
*Chaia Chung Chen*

Next, she spoke about two Boro Board meetings held at Borough Hall. The first meeting discussion was on Fiscal Year 2022 Capital/Expense budget items. Borough President Donovan Richard will fight as hard as he can to prevent budget cuts.

Next, Chair Marialena Giampino brought up the census count. Our numbers are still being calculated off the 2010 census, therefore, Queens is underserved. As a result, Queens is still being counted off the old numbers

and we cannot afford to have cuts. She was optimistic once the numbers are updated more funding will be allocated for Queens.

Accordingly, Borough President Richard had a presentation on the Mitchell-Lama Program. Legislation is being introduced to stop privatization of the program and secure state funding. A letter of support will be written by Borough President Richards. It is a great program and we should have more of it, stated Chair Marialena Giampino.

Next, Chair Marialena Giampino brought up her letter that was sent to members of the City Council regarding the Comprehensive Citywide Planning legislation that Speaker Corey Johnson had proposed. Since the Board had received late notice on this legislation, which was not directly sent to the Board but heard about it through other Community Boards. In her letter, she talked about the lack of transparency and noted the Community Boards would have less say in the ULURP process. Many Community Boards are not in favor of the legislation. The Mayor also opposes the plan noting it would be too costly for New York City.

On February 25, Council Member Dromm responded to the Board's letter regarding Community Board budget cuts. Since the Council Member is Chair of the Finance Committee, he wrote to Mayor de Blasio to not cut funding to the Community Boards since the Boards are already operating on a small budget.

#### **4. District Manager's Report**

District Manager Christian Cassagnol thanked Council Member Dromm for his support of Community Boards.

Next, he reported on the art camps, which are upcoming this weekend. Therapeutic art camps will take place on Saturday. Flyers will be shared with details. First class Saturday, March 13.

Subsequently, District Manager Cassagnol reported on the Elmhurst mural located at Whitney Avenue in Elmhurst. Plans are in process with the artist to finish the mural.

Next, District Manager Cassagnol read the following from John Wang, Queens Night Market:

Dear CB4,

My apologies for being unable to join tonight's meeting—we're currently hosting the last session of our free small business seminars, which is why I'm unable to attend this meeting.

I just wanted to let you know that we got approval from the City to reopen Queens Night Market this spring, as long as we do so in compliance within state and city COVID-19 safety protocols.

Because those safety protocols include certain attendance restrictions, we are still determining whether it makes sense for our vendors for us to re-open this spring. We're actively exploring ways that we can reduce or even completely waive vendor fees, thereby reducing the economic risk for our vendors.

The earliest we would open would be mid-April, but I just wanted to give you all the latest update because it we do decide to open, it will move very quickly.

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or concerns.

Thank you so much, and I'll see you all at the next CB4 meeting.

Next, he read the following statement from Mario Matos, Jr. Community Liaison, Maspeth High School

Beginning Monday, March 22, Maspeth High School will resume classes using the Blended Learning model that was used in the fall.

Fully remote instruction continues for all students who previously selected fully remote instruction.

It's important that schools can reach patients and guardians to share crucial information quickly, including alerts about confirmed COVID-19 cases in Schools. We encourage families to sign up for a NYC Schools Account (NYCSA) so you can be contacted via phone, email, or text message. With NYCSA, you can access your child's grades, test scores, schedules, transportation information, and more—from anywhere, and in all nine standard DOE language translations.

If you don't have an account, sign up today at [schools.nyc.gov/nycsa](https://schools.nyc.gov/nycsa). It only takes five minutes!

Our "Maspeth Makes a Difference" Club is looking for opportunities to take part in community cleanups. Please contact Mr. Pachter, Assistant Principal at [jpachter@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:jpachter@schools.nyc.gov).

If you have any questions, email us at [D24Q585@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:D24Q585@schools.nyc.gov).

At this point, NYS Assemblywoman Catalina Cruz addressed the Board. The Assemblywoman updated the Board on the work her office has been performing:

The Assemblywoman spoke about the conditions in our senior living facilities. Two Bills were passed in the Senate which she is sponsoring in the Assembly to be signed by the Governor to protect seniors. One Bill creates a Taskforce on how to improve conditions. This Bill takes an in-depth look what seniors need, what services are available, where do they live, and how services can be brought to them. Changes are needed so that seniors can age with dignity.

The other Bill involves identity theft and seniors. Once the law is signed, identity theft will be deemed as elder abuse. This will open seniors to more services and support and widen the availability of how we can help as a community.

Subsequently, the Assemblywoman spoke about Covid testing which they are conducting every Thursday. The office is offering Covid testing and had tested over 200 people. Free swab testing is performed to protect the people we love. Free testing will be conducted through the end of March and she was optimistic it can be done longer.

Next, Assemblywoman Cruz spoke about community cleanups. One cleanup was done in each neighborhood in the 39<sup>th</sup> Assembly District. With the warmer weather, another cleanup is planned for the neighborhoods. Council Member Moya was thanked for putting in additional funding when the city cut funding for cleanups.

Subsequently, the Assemblywoman spoke on Women's History Month and wished a happy Women's History Month to the women on Board 4 and thanked them for their commitment to our community. She spoke about a web series tomorrow with health experts from Elmhurst Hospital and the following week mental health will be discussed.

Accordingly, a mentorship and career panel with women from different industries with a chef is planned.

Next, she spoke about food distribution and the nonprofit that could not afford it any more. Therefore at the state level, Assembly Member Cruz introduced a Bill earlier this year for a program called Nourish New York

which was started by the Governor during the pandemic adding millions of dollars to make it a permanent program. It was known that food insecurity is not going to disappear anytime soon. Unfortunately, it will continue past whenever is the end of the pandemic. Making it a bipartisan issue, the Assembly Member and a colleague senator introduced the Bill which was passed in the Senate and she was optimistic in the next couple of weeks it would pass in the Assembly. In this way, it will create a direct connection between the farms in upstate New York who were losing business. Also we are one of the only districts in the state without a permanent food pantry. There are pop-ups in our district such as St. Leo's that operates often usually once a month.

Mr. Al Perna operates one whenever he can, but more permanence is needed. This Bill will create that opportunity. Covid testing will still be performed.

Assemblywoman Cruz reported she is teaming up with Congresswoman Grace Meng to collect feminine hygiene products that will be donated to a food pantry. Baby products, food and feminine hygiene products are very much needed. If you wish to participate, please drop off those items at the Assembly Member's office Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Fridays 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. until the end of March.

Currently, there is no additional monies to help our community with back rent. The Federal government just approved this week a package and we are expected to receive some additional money. In the last package, the Assemblywoman's office helped many of the residents pay some back rent. Also relief is given to homeowners who are suffering to pay mortgages.

When the funding becomes available, the Assemblywoman will ask the Board for assistance in outreach. Call Assemblywoman Cruz's office at 718-458-5367 for assistance by appointment only.

At this point, Council Member Francisco Moya addressed the Board. Council Member Moya reported on Covid testing and vaccines in our district which has not been able to acquire the vaccine in our zip codes. The Council Member wrote an op-ed in the *Daily News* two weeks ago and also spoke with the Mayor when he visited Queens to discuss how we need to start prioritizing distribution based on zip codes. So that everyone who is eligible in zip codes 11368 Corona and 11369 E. Elmhurst which were at the bottom of the list of people for vaccinations, which is unacceptable.

We cannot talk about opening sites in other parts of the city if our district has not addressed the inequities that exist in our own community. We were the epicenter of this pandemic and have an obligation to ensure that the state does its job in ensuring we get all of the vaccines necessary from the Federal government and that the city distributes it appropriately based on the zip codes deemed the areas that have a number of people that have been able to register. Looking to open sites directly in Community Board 4, the Council Member has been talking with the Mayor and has given him a couple of sites. Some announcements will be made to make it more accessible.

Council Member Moya has co-sponsored legislation regarding homebound seniors that cannot leave their homes to receive vaccinations. The legislation was passed last week to ensure that the Department of Health is going to administer sending people out to working with DFTA to go to homes of homebound seniors for vaccination shots and deem it as a priority.

Prioritizing our district to be the area where we receive the vaccinations and then have equity in its distribution, is the Council Member Moya's focus. People looking to register can do so from here and get the vaccinations without traveling to the Jacob Javits Center.

Also Council Member Moya is working with the clergy to explore different avenues where churches may be a vaccination distribution site and also to include Lefrak as a site.

Testing vans were brought to Lefrak by Council Member Moya and will be there the entire week. Traditional testing and rapid testing is performed. Testing vans are also located at the Park of the Americas and Our Lady of Sorrows.

Follow Council Member Moya on social media or sign up for his mailing list to get more information on the free testing sites.

Subsequently, Council Member Moya spoke about the preliminary budget and parks. It is a priority to bring in funding necessary to clean up our parks and have more inclusion from the community to be part of the scoping process while envisioning how to rehabilitate our parks and make them beautiful places for people in the community to enjoy. Tackling complaints about drinking and smoking marijuana in our parks, more money was added for PEP officers to come to the parks with those issues. Also the Council Member is bringing in a trailer based in the Park of Americas which will be the location for the PEP officers. This will be their hub for all of Queens and those officers will be deployed to areas that are trouble spots in the community. More planting and beautification for the parks is also planned. A display for the spring is scheduled. In William F. Moore Park, there is a heart created by one of our local artists that says From Corona with Love. We want to beautify our parks and make it a destination to make Corona and areas in CB4 destinations for people to look at and admire our local artists beautifying our community. In this way, it will promote keeping our parks clean and safe.

Please call Council Member Moya's office at 718-651-1917 if you need assistance.

#### **5. Open Session #1**

At this point, the Board went into Open Session #1 which also included attendance. Chair Marialena Giampino called on the following Board Members:

Lucy Cerezo-Scully – Absent

Chaio-Chung Chen – In attendance

Yi Chen – Absent

David Chong – In attendance

Lynda Coral – In attendance

Lorena Diaz – In attendance

Michelle Dunston – In attendance

Ari Espinal – In attendance and Wished the women on the Board a happy International Women's Day

Kristen Gonzalez – In attendance

Vincent Laucella – In attendance

James Lisa – Absent

Salvatore Lombardo – In attendance

Carol Machulski – In attendance

Sunil Mahat – In attendance

Patricia Martin – In attendance

Sylvia Martin – In attendance

Matthew McElroy – In attendance

Rovenia McGowan – In attendance

Edgar Moya – In attendance

Ruby Muhammad – Absent

Sandra Munoz – In attendance

Gurdip Singh Narula – In attendance

Georgina Oliver – In attendance

Alexandra Owens – In attendance

Alexa Ponce – In attendance

Ashley Reed - In attendance

Oscar Rios – In attendance

Cristian Romero – In attendance

Clara Salas – In attendance

Lucy Schilero – In attendance

A. Redd Sevilla – In attendance

Alton Derrick Smith – In attendance

Gregory Spock – In attendance

Dewan Tarek – In attendance

Marcello Testa – In attendance

Lou Walker – In attendance



Minwen Yang – In attendance

Chair Marialena Giampino announced a quorum was present and moved on to the next agenda item.

## 6. **Report from Elected Officials**

Federal

State

City

### **House of Representatives**

#### **Grace Meng**

Board Member Cristian Romero reported the Congresswoman has been working very hard on the anti-Asian hate crimes in our communities and around the country since the start of the pandemic. Terrible situations that many people in our communities have been going through. The Congresswoman is fighting to reintroduce resolutions and legislation to combat this kind of discrimination. All were encouraged if you see something, say something.

The NYPD has a hate crimes division that handles these kinds of racially biased crimes.

Regarding the new stimulus package which is in the House, there is not much information to update everyone. Questions have been received about when the new checks will arrive, how they will come, and who will receive them.

More information will follow.

#### **Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez**

Michelle Hernandez reported the last Town Hall was held last month on the COVID-19 vaccine. A recording of the meeting will be shared. Stay tuned for details on the March Town Hall meeting. Find out more about it if you are registered for the Newsletter and also links will be added to the chat.

Last month, the Congresswoman's office worked with the state to bring a pop-up vaccine site to the First Baptist Church in East Elmhurst, one of the hardest hit neighborhoods. Over 500 local residents were able to receive an appointment for their first vaccine. The state will come back in a couple of weeks to give the second dose.

On the legislative end, the Senate has passed an American Recovery Plan which is in the House and provides people with a stimulus check, unemployment benefits, money for vaccine distribution and relief for states and cities, schools and small businesses. For small businesses, there is a window open exclusively for businesses with 20 or fewer employees to apply for a PPP loan and the cutoff date is March 10, 2021. Business owners can reach out to the Small Business Administration approved lenders. Find directions for applying for the loan on the SBA website.

Lastly, the House passed the Justice and Policing Act which is a Bill that transforms policing in America as well as HR1 which is called For the People Act. This legislation will expand Americans access to the ballot box, reduce the influence of big money in politics, strengthen ethics rules for public servants, and implement other anti-corruption measures.

The Congresswoman's office is open and providing assistance to constituents. Contact her office via e-mail or over the phone.

At this point, Assemblywoman Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas addressed the Board. The Assemblywoman reported the office is located at 75-35 31 Avenue, E. Elmhurst. Appointments are not encouraged, but if you need to meet with the staff, please call or email the office and their phone number will be provided.

Next the Assemblywoman announced the hardship forms for COVID-19 that helps prevent foreclosures and evictions through May 1 are still available. Fill them out prior to May 1 but as soon as possible.

Also, the New York City Economic Development Corporation and the Queens Chamber of Commerce are offering Queens Small businesses grants for businesses of 20 or fewer employees hardest hit by the pandemic. All were encouraged to take advantage of these resources.

Next, the Assemblywoman held her first virtual Town Hall last week discussing the COVID-19 pandemic. Spanish interpretation was available and in the future, Bengali interpretation will be offered. Joined by community experts which included Helen Artega-Landaverde, the new president and CEO of Elmhurst Hospital.

Town Halls will continue to be held each month on different topics.

In the past two months, Assemblywoman Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas has co-sponsored over 71 Bills ranging from health care to nursing homes where numerous protections have been put in place.

Subsequently, the Assemblywoman was able to fight for the Phase 1B vaccines be included in food pantry, food bank, and grab-and-go workers and volunteers, noting our community has stepped up and helped out during the crises and this will ensure those groups of workers can access the vaccine.

Accordingly, Assemblywoman Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas has introduced legislation with Senator Biaggi where a standing advisory committee will be in place for the MTA to improve bicycle and pedestrian access on MTA bridges and stations.

Also, the Assemblywoman sponsored a Bill that would ensure all school districts would have a full time licensed social worker and a full time licensed psychologist on staff.

In conclusion, the Assemblywoman announced PPE and hand sanitizers are available in her office. If any local businesses need them, please contact her office.

### **NYS Senate**

**Toby Ann Stavisky**

No report.

### **NYC Mayor's Office**

Jessica Schabowski reported the Johnson & Johnson vaccine was approved and Merck has agreed to produce more vaccines with Johnson & Johnson. The Mayor's office had been advocating for this for months. We expect an increase in vaccine dosages sent to the city, especially increasing over the next few weeks. However, there are some concerns in the community about which vaccines to take and the health leadership continues to assure folks that once you get vaccinated and you wait a couple of weeks for your body to build up that system, they are close to zero hospitalizations and zero deaths. Get any vaccine that is available. Go to [nyc.gov/vaccine-finder](https://nyc.gov/vaccine-finder) or call 877-829-4692 or log onto [vax4nyc.gov](https://vax4nyc.gov) and she will put information in the chat.

Next, Jessica Schabowski highlighted March 14 is the COVID-19 day of remembrance in New York City. Any New Yorker who had lost a loved one to COVID-19 to participate in the city's Memorial Event by sharing the

name and photograph of the person they lost and that photograph may be featured as part of the city's ceremony. The link will be put in the chat.

Lastly, today the Mayor announced Vaccine for All Corps., a civilian corps for workers to join the City's vaccinations effort. Through the Corps, the City will recruit two thousand New Yorkers to serve their communities with a priority focus on residents in the 33 Task Force for Racial Inclusion and Equity neighborhoods which include Corona and Elmhurst. The Corps is hiring for clinical roles including vaccinators as well as support and administrative roles. Website will be put in the chat.

### **NYC Council**

Daniel Dromm

Kelly Wu reported CUNY Citizenship New in partnership with the New York City Council is hosting an event for potential immigration legalization visually on March 11 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

If anyone is interested, call for an appointment at 646-664-9400. Or send a text to 929-334-3784.

As a reminder, the Council Member's office continues to provide legal services visually. There is a 30-minute free consultation dealing with immigration or housing or other issues. Call the office at 718-803-6373 to schedule an appointment.

### **Office of the Queens Borough President**

Deputy Director Kat Brezler reported the Borough President's State of the Borough is on their YouTube channel. Also, new members will be coming on the Board on April 1.

### **Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz**

Elizabeth reported tomorrow at 6:00 p.m., please join legal experts, the District Attorney and tax advocates to learn about avoiding scams. Take advantage of free resources and report crimes to obtain justice.

For this program, translation available in Spanish, Chinese, and Korean.

Also, the District Attorney's office has created a hate crime bureau during District Attorney Melinda Katz's first 100 days. If you see a hate crime and you want to provide the evidence, please call the District Attorney's office at the Hate Crime Helpline 718-286-7010.

### **NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer**

James Mongeluzo announced:

The Comptroller's Office has released many new reports which include the cash balance projection for the City of New York, the quarterly cash report as well as the annual audit report which summarized all the audits done in fiscal year 2020 covering audits that showed where the City could either save money or reduce expenses that would reach a total value of nearly \$32 million. Some of the recommendations had been taken; some have not. He mentioned concerns expressed by several of the Board Members about the USTA. In the report is a list of recommendations given and suggestions the Parks Department is looking into. However, all of the money has not been received that the Comptroller's Office believes is owed to the City.

Also, the preliminary budget presentation has been released where there are many good visuals and it explains the situation the City is facing, the challenges and opportunities we have to improve as the economy reopens. Information included is stalled job recovery, slow roll out of the vaccine and he noted the vaccine situation has improved a lot. Small revenue was down about 50% compared to January 2020. Property values have decreased. The Department of Finance had collected fewer property taxes, which is a serious drop in 25 years.

Lastly, he encouraged all to look at the Comptroller's database of unclaimed wages. \$2 million has been given out to people since the pandemic began. There is still much money unclaimed that people should have. Many last known addresses were in Corona and Elmhurst.

Contact James Mongeluzo at 646-689-6509 for more information. All links will be in the chat.

## **7. Presentation**

### **Banking Development District (BDD) Needs within Community Board 4Q**

**Yulitza S. Franklin, Deputy Director for Community Development**

**NYS Department of Financial Services**

Ms. Franklin provided an overview of her office, the bank and development district, and the role in ensuring that the current Corona banking development district is serving the community's needs.

Serving as the Deputy Director for the New York State Department of Financial Services which is the state agency that supervises most community banks, she stated there are not a lot of large institutions but they do supervise all insurance companies operating in the state. For example, mortgage bankers, mortgage broker's originators, check cashiers, and other licensed services. Link in the chat.

The Development Unit administers the New York State Banking Development District Program enacted in 1997 for the purpose of providing incentives for banking institutions to locate brick and mortar branches in underserved areas. The office monitors the activities of these institutions on an annual basis to ensure the goals set for themselves to meet the community needs continue to be congruent with those needs. Also bank applications are reviewed such as branch openings, closings, bank mergers, and acquisitions for consumer impact. If there is a branch closure within the district that will result in a significant impact to the community, a public comment is welcomed.

Also other community development supports are provided. Working with all regulatory counterparts to spread the word of community reinvestment and the importance of public comments during those examinations because those are the only exams that are made public to ensure public input.

As the BDD program pertains to our district, Corona is one of the development districts in Queens and the only one that continues to be actively served meaning while the areas continue to have the designation there are some banking development districts that are no longer active because the branch closed, or the branch opted to not to participate when it reached profitability, or not to participate in the program, or they may have not met the needs of the community. In those cases, the Department recommended non-renewal of those deposits.

When a bank locates in a banking development district and applies to participate in the program, they are eligible for up to \$10 million in subsidized deposits which means those deposits are provided at subsidized rate. For example, if the jumbo CD rate is up one percent minus a hundred basis points that deposit would be free to that institution.

Also, they have access to up to \$25 million in market rate deposits and if they operate within New York City, they can access an additional \$20 million in deposits from New York City Banking Development District Program. What do they need to get in return for all those deposits? They need to provide financial education which as of 2011 became a requirement for all participating BDD banks. Additionally, they have to provide accessible and affordable banking products and services and to remain in sync with the community. In other words, they have to demonstrate to extent to which they are connected to the communities they serve, whether

that be by way of participating in community related events, providing donations to organizations within, or serving the bank development district or any combination.

Ms. Franklin was optimistic New York Community Bank which is the institution serving the Corona BDD would be able to make it. The understanding they have entered in conversations with the Community Board 4's leadership and she was interested in how the conversations were going because they do monitor the extent to which the branches cultivate and maintain those connections because those connections will prove important to the institution in ensuring they continue to provide the services as needed in the community.

Lastly, Ms. Franklin reminded the Board that in as much as the borders for this bank development district were approved at a time of the designation upon and foreseeing need the Community Board along with the bank are able to redraw that border as needed to encompass the entirety of the Community Board or move it to where the needs are, the law also permits overlapping banking development districts. For example, if the Community Board sees it appropriate for another institution to serve within the existing bank development district that's a conversation that can also be had.

At this point, a chart was shared with the Board and ULURP Chair Alton Derrick Smith was asked to speak on it.

ULURP Chair Alton Derrick Smith explained the income levels on the chart. Regarding the income levels and banking, the concern in Community Board 4's income for the area. At 30% under 50k, the number at \$24,000 and from 50k there is 40% community, from 100k it is 22% community and over 200k it is 4%.

Looking at an earlier chart provided by Citizen Committee For Children of New York which showed Community Board 4 is extremely underserved as a banking community, especially Corona as well as E. Elmhurst (Community Board 3).

In terms of communication, ULURP Chair Alton Derrick Smith did reach out to Mr. Graziano. There was a mishap in terms of communication. The Board has not had communications and if any Board Member as had communications with New York Savings Bank to notify ULURP Chair Alton Derrick Smith, however, Mr. Graziano did show some interest in attending today.

Looking at the chart, it shows Corona, E. Elmhurst and Elmhurst. Basically, the Board's Needs Statement addressed the economic development for the area. The need is great for banking that will address the under bank as well as the underserved. At that time, we became aware there was a BDD that was developed in 2005. But at that time, it was a chaotic time and Board Member Lucy Schilero can always speak about it.

Also, ULURP Chair Alton Derrick Smith commented the community lost banks on Junction Boulevard and another community bank, noting a full service bank is now an ATM bank. As a result, Corona and Elmhurst are underserved in terms of banking. Questions arise what do we do and how do we proceed in terms of developing a BDD for our area.

Ms. Franklin responded the first step which was already taken was to ensure that New York Community Bank is able to share with the Board the extent to which they are providing affordable and accessible products in the area and also free services that are non-banking related but that are a community service and if those services need to have a farther reach, that is a conversation that should be between the bank and the Community Board.

The second step is based on the numbers that the market would be able to sustain having more than one banking institution serving the community as a banking development district. If the Board finds that is the case, the next

step would be to reach out to an institution such as an institution near the area. Banks like to branch when they consider expansions to set up branches near other branches in close proximity. If you have institutions surrounding the community district, the first step is to engage them and they would be more than happy to support that outreach.

The other strategy is if you find another institution or potential branch closure if the deposits would make a difference in remaining in the community and it is an institutions that has the ability to provide products and services the community needs, Ms. Franklin would be happy to speak to them.

Board Member A. Redd Sevilla asked is possible to be able to have another bank established in the neighborhood to ask a bank to come in and make that determination.

Ms. Franklin replied yes. Looking at the banking population and it is found the community has less than the state average which is about 2.6 anything below that would deem the area underserved and to demonstrate the extent to which it continues to be underserved even with the presence of another institution that is serving the community. This would demonstrate the need is greater than the one bank can provide.

Next, Board Member Lucy Schilero asked does the \$10 million previously mentioned go to a commercial or savings bank.

Ms. Franklin responded both. Typically savings banks are not eligible to receive municipal deposits only except if they are participating actively in the banking development district program.

Board Member Lucy Schilero said a Chase Bank closed at Junction Boulevard. Initially, there were two Chase Banks because of the overcrowded community. One was closed because the rent was so high which took up much of their income. Can they complain about this, she inquired?

Ms. Franklin replied they do not regulate Chase Banks. They would need to reach out to the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency which is the regulator that supervises Chase Bank because there is a Community Affairs Officer and the contact information is available on their website.

Lastly, Ms. Franklin reported as of 2019 Section 96 of the Banking Development District Law was amended to include credit unions.

Next, ULURP Chair Alton Derrick Smith asked about under bank, noting how BBB is different from other banks and how it addresses communities with special needs and the type of products that a BDD bank can address and the savings products.

To rephrase, Ms. Franklin repeated the question as what are examples of specialized pros and services that BDD participating institutions provide.

Ms. Franklin answered participating institutions provide in addition to affordable entry products such as free checking accounts are second chance accounts which allow persons that may have notations in check systems to open accounts until such time they are able to clear those defaults and then be graduated to a regular account and there are institutions that provide credit builder programs which are savings accounts that serve as a credit loan where deposits are reported as timely payments to credit bureaus and build on a positive credit history. Also there are some institutions that have partnered with the New York City Housing Authority to provide remote rent payment which allows institutions that are amiss as NYCHA Development communities for those

residents to make rent payments at the branch at a lower rate than they would pay at a check cashing institution and provides incentive to open accounts so that the rents are deducted at no charge. Some institutions also provide very specialized financial education whether it be to school-age children or a growing senior population. For example, concerns related to identity theft or estate planning. Other services provided first time home buyer loans and small dollar business loans.

Before concluding, Ms. Franklin reported there are institution serving majority immigrant communities ensuring to have at least 95 to 100% bilingual staffing and the financial education provided is bilingually or in one language as needed and all signage and marketing materials serve the languages spoken in the community.

Next, Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula inquired to open a credit union what kind of credit union and how much money the banking industry will provide.

Ms. Franklin replied any credit union whether it is chartered in the state or whether it's a federal charter is eligible to apply for the ability designation as long as it's serving a community within the state. Also, they are eligible for the same deposit limits as banks. Therefore, the \$10 million subsidized up to 25 market rate and up to 20 with the New York City BDD program and those deposits need to be collateralized by the institutions. In other words, they need to provide insurance for those deposits. Most institutions provide that by a letter of credit from the Federal Home Loan Bank.

At this point, more questions from the Board Members were answered by Ms. Franklin.

#### **8. Vote: Public Safety Committee State Liquor Authority Applications**

Committee Chair Lucy Schilero reported on the Sunshine Fund. Some of the Board Members had asked if they should go to the office to donate to the Sunshine Fund. Public Safety Chair Lucy Schilero said do not go to the office as the staff is working remotely and the office is closed. Currently, the balance in the Sunshine Fund is \$419.35. The last two donations sent from the Board were for the passing of Barbara Jackson and Board Member Alton Derek Smith's mother.

Happy Women's History Month was wished to all the women on the Board.

The Public Safety Committee met on March 2 and a quorum was present. Discussion on CERT and how they are distributing PPE. Most importantly even though you are getting vaccinated, it takes time for it to work. It still is important to wear a mask and keep the 6' social distance.

Two subjects brought up at the meeting was graffiti and she spoke about the Mayor's Graffiti Initiative. Sherwin-Williams is the main distributor for the paint. This program will be starting on April 10. We may need to see how we can supply the 110 Precinct once this initiative moves forward.

Next, anti-Asian hate crimes was discussed. It was brought up Asian Americans are being subjected to violent attacks especially during COVID 19. Some of our Asian neighbors were very worried about their safety, but in our community there were no reports of anyone seriously intimidated or harassed in any way.

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

The following liquor licenses were presented:

#### **NYS LIQUOR AUTHORITY LICENSES**

**MARCH 2021**

**NEW APPLICANTS**

<b><u>Establishment's Name</u></b>	<b><u>Establishment's Address</u></b>	<b><u>License Type</u></b>
K's Cafeteria	48-03 108 Street Corona, NY	Wine, Beer & Cider
Tom N Toms Coffee Corp.	81-20 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider
Aroma de Café Bakery Inc.	81-02 Broadway Elmhurst, NY	Wine, Beer & Cider

**RENEWAL APPLICANTS**

<b><u>Establishment's Name</u></b>	<b><u>Establishment's Address</u></b>	<b><u>License Type</u></b>
John's Food Corp. <i>Nuevos Tacos Al Suadero</i>	97-22 Roosevelt Avenue Corona, NY	Beer & Cider
Dong Kee Restaurant Inc.	75-32 Broadway Elmhurst, NY	Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider
Page II Corporation <i>Parkside Restaurant</i>	107-01 Corona Avenue Corona, NY	Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider
El Patron	53-09 106 Street Corona, NY	Wine, Beer & Cider
Mahamitr Inc. Bla Bla Bar	71-28 Roosevelt Avenue, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Fl. Jackson Heights, NY	Wine, Beer & Cider
Best Sushi Island LLC <i>Sushi Island</i>	87-18 Queens Blvd. Elmhurst, NY	Wine, Beer & Cider
TBLS LTD. <i>Queens Theatre in the Park</i>	56-09 Grand Central Parkway Flushing, NY	Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider
Nevada Diner Inc.	80-26 Queens Blvd. Elmhurst, NY	Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider
El Tucan Inc.	43-24 91 Place Elmhurst, NY	Wine, Beer & Cider

**CLASS CHANGE**



<u>Establishment's Name</u>	<u>Establishment's Address</u>	<u>License Type</u>
J&I Products Corporation <i>Spicy Shallot</i>	77-01 Woodside Avenue Elmhurst, NY	Liquor, Wine Beer & Cider
Leticias Restaurant Inc.	40-32 National Street Corona, NY	Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

Regarding the denials of the applications, when the establishments goes back to the State Liquor Authority they often hear their case again and grant the liquor license. Neighbors ask how the establishment got the liquor license when there are many complaints such as noise or not following the COVID-19 rule against the business.

At this point the following denials were announced:

NEW APPLICANTS

Tom N Toms Coffee Corp., 81-20 Roosevelt Avenue – No Show  
(A no show is not granted a liquor license. Although there were a lot issues written on the police report).

Aroma de Café Bakery Inc., 81-02 Broadway – No Show

RENEWAL APPLICANTS

Dong Kee Restaurant Inc., 75-32 Broadway – No show

El Patron., 53-09 106 Street – Many issues on this establishment. Someone did attend, but there were some technical difficulties.

Mahamitr Inc. – Bla Bla Bar – 71-28 Roosevelt Avenue – Numerous noise complaints through the years.

El Tucan Inc., 43-24 91 Place – No show

Approvals

Italian Charities of America, 83-20 Queens Blvd.  
K's Cafeteria, 48-03 108 Street  
John's Food Corp., 97-22 Roosevelt Avenue  
Page II Corporation (Parkside Restaurant), 107-01 Corona Avenue  
Best Sushi Island LLC (Sushi Island) 87-18 Queens Blvd.  
Queens Theatre in the Park, 56-09 Grand Central Parkway  
Nevada Diner Inc., (Georgia Diner) 80-26 Queens Blvd.

Class Change:

J&I Products Corporation (Spicy Shallot), 77-01 Woodside Avenue  
Leticias Restaurant Inc., 40-32 National Street  
Board Chair Marialena Giampino abstained from the vote.

At this point, Board Member Sandra Munoz made a motion, seconded by Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula to **approve** the Committee's report as presented.

Since there was no opposition to the report, the Board voted 31 in favor, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

9. Committee Reports

### *Consumer Affairs*

Committee Chair Alexandra Owens reported a meeting was held last month to discuss selecting a co-chair. The Board's bylaws state committees can have co-chairs. This would bring better collaboration and fresh ideas and will be discussed further at the next committee meeting.

A while ago, Mr. Chen had suggested altering the name of the committee because Consumer Affairs is very limited in terms of what can be done. Given the fact that there is an economic crises and small businesses are suffering, a few ideas were brought up. One of the names that surfaced was Consumer and Economic Affairs which would cover workforce development, consumer affairs, small business development, and would make the committee more inclusive of all the district's needs.

Also discussed was a community needs assessment within CB4 where District Manager Cassagnol brought up to create a survey sent to small businesses and community outreach done so those businesses are aware of our existence. Resources would be provided to businesses and it would also let us know their needs. If we could get an assessment of what small/large businesses need, marketing workshops or grant programs could be provided.

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 18 at 6:30 p.m. Survey questions will be reviewed and new ideas brought in.

### *Environmental*

District Manager Christian Cassagnol reported on upcoming community garden events scheduled for April. Flushing Meadow-Corona Park is planning an Earth Day week and we will collaborate with them on this event. A committee meeting is planned.

### *Health*

Committee Chair Ari Espinal reported the committee has not yet met, but she had reached out to the Council Member and other community leaders regarding the vaccine and the disparity and how Citifield did not have enough vaccines for our community where COVID-19 hit the worst. Speaking with Council Member Moya and other community leaders about the distribution, by next month she will provide an update on how the vaccines will be rolled out in the neighborhood as well as more testing sites.

Also, she will meet with Helen Artega, the new CEO of Elmhurst Hospital.

### *Parks*

Committee Chair Gregory Spock reported on a Passarelle re-design and there has been a series of meetings related to the air train. Unfortunately, the Flushing waterfront was not attached to an extremely billion dollar project that the community does not want. It is geared more toward Manhattan. All were encouraged to attend and voice your opinion. This meeting will center more on what parks is doing. Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

March 24 the first of the quarter of the CAB meeting, which he is vice-chair, will be at 6:30 p.m.

Both meetings conducted via zoom.

Finally, a Parks Committee meeting will be held March 30 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss parks, for example, the USTA audit. There are concerning issues surrounding it, such as, there is a tenant that says parks is unable to effectively monitor and enforce NTC's compliance with its lease and the fact the Comptroller's office is limited to carry out a city charter mandated function independent audit—the compliance with that lease.

### *Transportation*

Committee Chair Matthew McElroy reported the committee met a few weeks ago and representatives from the NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) were present as well as a member of the community. He explained the application had been denied for the casino buses from aqueduct that have been blocking the park's view on 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Broadway

(CC Moore Homestead Park). A Special Thank You to Parks Chair Gregory Spock for bringing this issue to the Board's attention.

Discussing with DOT were two areas where there have been pedestrian safety issues raised. One is the length of 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue on the north side of the Hospital (the back side of the Hospital) from 79<sup>th</sup> to 81<sup>st</sup> Streets (three intersections). The other problem is at Whitney Avenue and Judge Street near Veterans Grove. Issues have been raised by several people on both areas. DOT has undertaken a study of both to determine a remedy to address the issues that have been raised.

The Department of Transportation representatives raised an issue on the neighborhood loading zone program they have. It applies mostly in fairly dense residential areas. It seeks to resolve double parking issues such as FedEx or UPS trucks block traffic behind them on one-way streets. The program has been instituted in a few places where they expand on hydrant areas or driveways—areas that are mostly not occupied and made them neighborhood loading zones so that delivery trucks can use them and not interrupt traffic. This program will be described in detail at a general Community Board meeting.

With the aid of a slide presentation, the project was shown. Changes are coming from DOT to an area just above Elmhurst Hospital on Baxter Avenue. Looking at the map, Area A is where Gleane Street, Baxter Avenue and Roosevelt Avenue intersect. Slide B is where 83 Street shoots off from Baxter Avenue and Slide C is where 82 Street comes into Baxter Avenue.

For the next slide, Transportation Chair Matt McElroy explained along Roosevelt Avenue cars turn both ways entering into Baxter Avenue noting Baxter Avenue is one way heading up into Roosevelt Avenue. Therefore, cars are turning onto Gleane Street from both directions on Roosevelt Avenue crossing through those three crosswalks previously mentioned. Since there are safety issues, the Transportation Committee and the District Manager with representatives from DOT visited the site in October. After visually inspecting the site, it was noted there are issues with pedestrians along Roosevelt Avenue, crossing Baxter Avenue while those cars have a green light and can turn onto Gleane Street.

Slide B. (Baxter Avenue & 83 Street) - The next two places people are crossing 83 Street as they continue along the side of the street, noting there is no crosswalk or stop sign, or yield sign.

Slide C. Baxter Avenue & 82 Street) - The next block down has the same problem. Cars coming south on 82<sup>nd</sup> Street enter Baxter Avenue.

The Department of Transportation is proposing changes to the intersection where Gleane Street, Baxter Avenue, and Roosevelt Avenue come together.

Transportation Chair Matthew McElroy provided more details.

In conclusion, Transportation Chair Matthew McElroy explained these concerns were motivated over pedestrian safety. DOT has taken the very wide 98' crossing on 83 Street by extending the sidewalk a little bit at the north side and putting in a crosswalk. In this way, it was brought down to a 35' crossing, which is safer. As a result, cars will yield to pedestrian.

Slide C. Baxter Avenue & 82 Street – For vehicles coming onto Baxter Avenue, a stop sign and a crosswalk will be implemented.

A project summary was presented by the Department of Transportation and explained DOT is not asking for a vote on the proposal. However anyone who has input, suggestions, comments please email those comments to the District Manager at the Board office.

At this point, District Manager Christian Cassagnol commented he met with DOT today and a concern brought up was that the local neighborhood was not canvassed. Although we understand this proposal is not seeking Board approval, the community was not properly notified. A small Public Hearing was done and very little feedback was received. We did tell DOT they must circulate. A reply from DOT representative John O'Neill was received that they will canvas the block this week.

At this point, Board Chair Marialena Giampino asked for the Committee's recommendation on the proposed changes.

Committee Chair Matt McElroy commented the committee was very concerned that the residents on Gleane Street (Slide A: Baxter Avenue & Roosevelt Avenue) will have to go out of their way. Currently, you can go along Roosevelt Avenue turn into Baxter Avenue, which is questionable, and continue into Gleane Street, which can be done from both directions on Roosevelt Avenue.

Under the new proposal if you are coming from the Manhattan side/Woodside, you will have to leave Roosevelt Avenue a couple of block earlier, head over to Baxter Avenue and come up. Coming from the Corona end, you will have to leave Roosevelt Avenue a long block earlier and go around and up Baxter Avenue, which is inconvenient to people living on the block.

For the residents living on the block, they should be made aware of the proposal and have their opinions known.

The Board had already notified those residents about the changes and only one or two comments were received.

District Manager Cassagnol responded although the changes are for pedestrian safety, the majority of people will have to go up 82 Street, pointing out 82 Street is the site of the new Chiptole development and the potential Target site. 82 Street is already problematic. DOT has heard the issue but those numbers do not exist right now. However he mentioned the Target development in the area, but right now they have to go with the existing site.

Board Member Lucy Schilero asked if the school on Baxter Avenue and Gleane Street was taken into consideration, noting school buses are very active in the area.

District Manager Cassagnol responded the school's buses do not make the left off Roosevelt Avenue to go up Gleane Street because the school is a little further up—it's not the route the school buses take. He noted the school buses were brought up in discussions. Because this was designed by a pedestrian safety unit, the main focus is pedestrian safety.

Discussion ensued.

At this point, Public Safety Chair Lucy Schilero added for the graffiti initiative, call 311 or the 110 Community Affairs at 718-476-9310 or the NCO office at 718-476-6725.

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

Committee Chair Alton Derrick Smith acknowledged that Board Chair Marialena Giampino's letter provided a complete assessment to Speaker Corey Johnson's Comprehensive Citywide Plan Int. 2186, which does not support the needs of Community Board 4.

Chair Alton Derrick Smith had reviewed CB8's Land Use Committee video via YouTube which explains the Comprehensive Plan and gave a detailed understanding of the plan.

The plan calls for a greater density which is not what we need. It did not address the pandemic or the hurdles our community went through as the epicenter of the epicenter. It failed in many ways to implement what is needed for our community. It did not address the community's hospital systems nor the community's over crowdedness. However there was some mention about grains or tubes for ULURP, but it provided no details. It talked about contextual zoning, which our community did not experience. For more information on the plan, look at the link as well as the YouTube video.

In conclusion, Committee Chair Alton Derrick Smith mentioned two pending applications before the Committee.

#### *Youth*

Committee Chair Sylvia Martin did not present a report since the committee did not meet. A meeting is planned for next week.

### **10. Open Session #2 – Final Community Board Comment Period**

Boars Chair Marialena Giampino called on the following Board Members who were present:

Chaio Chung Chen – More patrols are needed in the community for safety reasons. Pedestrians crossing the street have more casualties even though there is less cars due to the pandemic.

David Chong – Commented it has been an absolute honor to serve on the Board and looks forward to other ways to work together in the future.

Lynda Coral – No comment

Lorena Diaz – No comment

Michelle Dunston – Acknowledge the denial of the casino bus application. Great job!

Ari Espinal – No comment. Thanked David Chong for his service on the Board.

Kristen Gonzalez – No comment

Vincent Laucella – Thanked Council Member Dromm's office for fighting for Community Boards and a community cleanup will be held at William F. Moore Park on March 21 at 1:00 p.m.

Al Perna and the Perna Foundation will hold an Easter Egg Hunt with an Easter Bunny, and DJ on March 28. Information in the chat.

Salvatore Lombardo – No comment

Carol Machulski – No comment

Sunil Mahat – No comment

Patricia Martin – Brought up moving the bus stop for the casinos, mentioning a hardship for seniors with walkers and canes. Celebrated all women on the Board during this month of celebration for women.

Sylvia Martin – No comment

Matthew McElroy – Acknowledged Board Member Pat Martin's concern about those seniors and the bus stop change.

It's been a pleasure working with Board Member David Chong.

Rovenia McGowan – Walgreen's is giving the COVID-19 vaccine. Call them.

Sandra Munoz – Thanked Transportation Chair Matt McElroy for the presentation on the street changes and said it is important to canvas the community to determine what is best for the people affected by those changes. Zip codes 11368, 11369 and 11373 have been hit very hard by the pandemic and difficulty obtaining a vaccine. For people with underlying conditions, it is impossible to get an appointment. However, she received an appointment almost immediately using her office's address in Jamaica. She did not take the appointment because she does not reside there and noted since we are in the epicenter of the epicenter our voices must be heard and vaccines more readily available to our community.

Also she is working on an incentive to empower young Latino women in high school to navigate the college process, provide empowerment tools and hear speakers, let her know.

Gurdip Singh Narula – Congratulated all the women for International Women's Month. CDC guidelines state if both parents are family members and they received both injections, they can have a meeting together as a small group but not as large group. Wearing masks is still recommended.

Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula mentioned the difficulty in obtaining an appointment for the vaccine in our community; other communities have more readily appointments. Elected officials in this area should arrange appointments for residents with more convenience.

Next, he mentioned tenant eviction and said landlords suffering because there is no relief. There is much talk but no results. People have lost their jobs and cannot pay rent. After March 1, tenants will be in evicted. Immediate help is needed for both tenants and landlords.

Georgina Oliver – No Comment

Alexandra Owens – Commented on the Transportation Committee's presentation. Living near the site she agreed and commented crossing the street is very dangerous especially crossing from the Target side to the other side of the street (where the grocery store is)—approximately a quarter mile without a stop light or stop sign. Cars whiz by.

Ashley Reed – Excellent Transportation Committee presentation. She also acknowledged Board Member David Chong and said it was a pleasure working with him on the Health Committee and wished him continued success.

Oscar Rios – No Comment

Cristian Romero – No Comment

Clara Salas – No Comment

Lucy Schilero – Brought up the need for traffic enforcement agents citing problems around the Queens Center Mall.

A. Redd Sevilla – Brought up the lack of locations for vaccines since our community was designated the epicenter of the epicenter. If you are under 65 years old, there are not many vaccine sites.

Alton Derrick Smith – No Comment

Gregory Spock – As a member of the CB4’s Executive Board, the elected officials speaking time should be limited to two minutes, which is also stated in the Board’s meeting notice. To save time, the Board switched to the zoom platform to promote events in the community. Our portion of the meeting to discuss Board business began at 8:04 p.m. and this needs to be addressed.

Next, he spoke about the Artists Making Changes event and addressed his comments to Kelly Wu, representative from Council Member Daniel Dromm’s office, noting we want to see the arts flourish in our community and the Board worked very diligently to promote this event. But, Council Member Dromm could not share the announcement, and Parks Chair Gregory Spock had to tweet him to say he was not representing his community.

Marcello Testa – No Comment

Minwen Yang – No Comment

Discussion ensued on how to keep the guests and elected officials speaking time at a minimum to save time.

Since there was no other business, Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula made a motion, seconded by Board Member Sandra Munoz. Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.