



## COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, Elmhurst, and Newtown

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**Donovan Richards**  
Queens Borough President

**Marialena Giampino**  
Chairperson

**Ebony Young**  
Deputy Borough President

**Christian Cassagnol**  
District Manager

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December 14, 2021

### BOARD ATTENDANCE

#### Board Members Attending:

Marialena Giampino  
Chaio Chung Chen  
Andy Chen  
Lynda Coral  
Lorena Diaz  
Leeanne G-Bowley  
Lara Gregory  
Vincent Laucella  
Carol Machulski  
Sunil Mahat  
Patricia Martin  
Sylvia Martin  
Matthew McElroy  
Sandra Munoz

Gurdip Singh Narula  
G. Oliver  
Georgina Oliver  
Alexandra Owens  
Shrima Pandey  
Ashley Reed  
Cristian Romero  
Clara Salas  
Lucy Schilero  
Alton Derrick Smith  
Marcello Testa  
Louis Walker

#### Board Members Absent:

Michelle Dunston  
Ari Espinal  
Kristen Gonzalez  
Deependra Lama  
James Lisa  
Salvatore Lombardo  
Rovenia McGowan  
Jose Morillo  
Edgar Moya  
Ruby Muhamad  
Purushottam Panthee

Alexa Ponce  
Lindsay Quartini  
Brian Ramirez  
Oscar Rios  
A. Redd Sevilla  
Urgen Sherpa  
Gregory Spock  
Dewan Tarek  
Dechen Tsering  
Yilin Wang  
Minwen Yang  
May Yu

ATTENDING:

Christian Cassagnol, CB4 District Manager  
Margaret Silletti, CB4 Community Coordinator  
Christina Long, Community Assistant  
Kelly Wu, Congresswoman Grace Meng's Office  
Michelle Luna, Congresswoman Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez's Office  
Detective Dave Saponieri, 110 Police Precinct

Note: Representative from Council Member Francisco Moya's Office in attendance, but due to technical issues could not present a report.

Representative James Mongeluzo from the NYC Comptroller's Office in attendance, but due to technical issues could not present a report.

**COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING**

**DATE: Tuesday, December 14, 2021**

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

**PLACE: On Line via Webex**

I. Chairperson Marialena Giampino opened the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

**II. Open Session #1 Board Member Attendance (Statements will be limited to two (2) minutes)**

Board Chair Marialena Giampino took the roll call.

Chaio-Chung Chen – In attendance

Andy Chen – In attendance

Lynda Coral – In attendance

Lorena Diaz – In attendance

Michelle Dunston – Absent

Aridia Espinal – Absent

Leeanne G-Bowley – In attendance

Marialena Giampino – In attendance

Kristen Gonzalez – Absent

Lara Gregory - She thanked all who made her joining the Community Board a lot easier. Board Chair Marialena Giampino and Public Safety Committee Chair Lucy Schilero and Board staff were given a special thank you.

Deependra Lama – Absent

Vincent Laucella – In attendance

Vincent Laucella announced on December 19 at 1:00 p.m. Silverspoon Diner will host a toy giveaway in memory of Jim Galloway in Lefrak City and the Queens United Lions Club and numerous Community Board members who are a part of the Queens Lions Club will be present. If anyone would like to volunteer to help out, please be there about 11:30a.m./12 Noon to distribute toys.

James Lisa – Absent

Salvatore Lombardo – Absent

Carol Machulski – In attendance

Sunil Mahat – In attendance

Patricia Martin – In attendance

Sylvia Martin – In attendance

Matthew McElroy – In attendance

Rovenia McGowan – Absent

Jose Morillo – Absent

Edgar Moya – Absent

Ruby Muhammad – Absent

Sandra Munoz – In attendance

Gurdip Singh Narula – In attendance

G. Oliver – In attendance

Georgina Oliver – In attendance

Alexandra Owens – In attendance

Shrima Pandey – In attendance

Purushottam Panthee – Absent

Alexa Ponce – Absent

Lindsay Quartini – Absent

Brian Ramirez – Absent

Ashley Reed – In attendance

Parks Committee Chair Ashley Reed had attended the Queens Lions Club Chartering ceremony last month and congratulated the members who do a great job in the community.

Oscar Rios – Absent

Cristian Romero – In attendance

Clara Salas – In attendance

Lucy Schilero – In attendance  
A. Redd Sevilla – Absent  
Urgen Sherpa – Absent  
Alton Derrick Smith – In attendance  
Gregory Spock – Absent  
Dewan Tarek – Absent  
Marcello Testa – In attendance  
Dechen Tsering – Absent  
Louis Walker – In attendance  
Yilin Wang – Absent  
Minwen Yang – Absent  
May Yu – Absent

Note: Many Board Members wished all Happy Holidays.

At this point, Board Chair Marialena Giampino announced a quorum was present.

### **III. VOTE: Minutes November 9, 2021**

Health Committee Chair Clara Salas made a motion, seconded by Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula, to **approve** the minutes. Since there were none opposed or abstentions, motion passed.

### **IV. Chairperson's Report**

Board Chair Marialena Giampino reported District Manager Christian Cassagnol is on leave because of personal family issues and will not give a report.

Next, she commented on the past two difficult years battling Covid-19 and Hurricane Ida and was optimistic 2022 will be a better year for all.

Board Chair Marialena Giampino reported on the 110 Precinct Council Gala last month which was a beautiful and well attended event. Also, it was noted Community Board members were present.

There are many holiday and community events this month. One that she is involved with every year with Council Member Dromm, Assembly Member Catalina Cruz, Community Board 4, Newtown Civic Association, Elmhurst History, the Elmhurst Book Swap, and Queens EDC sponsors tree lighting events every year in Elmhurst. The two tree lighting events were at Veterans Grove Park on November 23 and December 1 at Moore Homestead Playground. This was the Seventh Annual Year and was very successful and beautiful and the most attended of all tree lighting events. All event flyers are widely distributed in email blasts. It was suggested more community board members attend those festive, happy events.

Next, the Board Chair thanked EDC and Will McCarthy for the beautiful snowflake light banner on Broadway (next to Moore Homestead Playground). Usually, there is a Welcome to Elmhurst light sign every year during the holidays, but there were some issues with the sign, therefore, the snow flake banner is in its place. Hopefully, next year the Board can work with the incoming council member to bring back the Welcome to Elmhurst sign. Send any flyers to the Board office of any holiday events for distribution on social media. The email recap from tonight's meeting will be distributed.

Next, all committees were thanked for their participation with the Needs Statement, which was submitted, As yet, we have not received the final copy with the agency responses. Once received, it will be shared with all.

Next, all were urged to read the email blasts because important information is sent out such as an online zoom meeting for William F. Moore Park in Corona. The Parks Department is gathering information for questions, ideas and input.

Also a notification was sent out by the Board office to attend the meeting on a 5G design. The link NYC kiosks on Queens Blvd will be redesigned to create newer ones with 5G antennas. You can still send in questions by logging on to [nyc.gov/link/5G](https://nyc.gov/link/5G). It is important to review the information and give input as it will affect communities citywide. This proposal came to the Community Board five years ago when it was first rolled out. She and the District Manager worked very closely and gave feedback on the locations, which will be presented to the Board once the design is finalized. The locations presented to the Board had issues with two kiosks; one was proposed next to a bus stop and the other very close to residential homes. With the Community Board's feedback those two locations were not chosen. Since we know our communities the best, it is important our input is taken into consideration on those designs/installations.

Accordingly, the Board Chair reported she had attended the Borough Board meeting last Monday and reported on the open restaurant text amendment. DOT was in attendance. All the Community Boards' concerns are being looked at and DOT is still working on it adjusting certain aspects of the proposal city-wide.

Accordingly, the Board Chair reported after January 2022, in person meetings will be reviewed based on the status of the pandemic and the omicron variants. Governor Hochul had mandated community board meetings can be conducted online until the end of January, 2022.

The Board Chair will notify the Board on future developments. An Executive Committee may be held pertaining to holding meetings online or in person depending on on-going developments.

**V. Report from Elected Officials**

Statements will be limited to two minutes by representatives and three minutes for elected officials.

--Federal

--State

--City

**Senate**

**Charles E. Schumer**

No report. No representative present.

**Kristen Gilibrand**

No report. No representative present.

**House of Representatives**

**Grace Meng**

Kelly Wu reported FEMA has extended the application deadline for the disaster assistance until Tuesday, January 4, 2022. Apply through FEMA's website or the mobile app or help line at 800-621-3362. Information in the chat. Call or email the Congresswoman for assistance. Information in the chat.

**Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez**

Michelle Luna reported December 4 the Congresswoman stopped by Flanders Field Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 150 for the Queens County Council 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Legislative Breakfast. Last week, the House passed the Protecting Our Democracy Act with four of the Congresswoman's amendments to curb abuses of presidential power and increase transparency and accountability in the Executive branch.

The vote on the Build Back Better Act will be between Christmas and New Year's. Legislative questions and comments are welcomed.

Next, the Congresswoman will be hosting a virtual Youth Town Hall Friday, December 17 at 1 p.m. The event is geared toward middle school, high school, and college students. The Congresswoman will discuss working towards a safe and dignified future for our youth as well as opportunities for young people through the Congresswoman's office. Questions will be taken from the audience. Registration link in the chat.

FEMA has extended the deadline to apply for assistance to January 4.

Meanwhile, the district office is hiring interns for the spring 2022 session compensated at \$15/hr. Spanish language skills highly preferred.

**NYS Assembly**

**Brian Barnwell**

No report. No representative present.

**Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas**

No report. No representative present.

**Jeffrion Aubry**

No report. No representative present.

**Catalina Cruz**

No report. No representative present.

**NYS Senate**

**Michael Gianaris**

No report. No representative present.

**Jessica Ramos**

No report. No representative present.

**Toby Ann Stavisky**

No report. No representative present.

**NYC Mayor's Office**

No report. No representative present.

**NYC Council**

**Francisco Moya**

Representative was having technical issues. Information will be shared with staff member Christina Long who will share the information with the Board later on.

**Daniel Dromm**

No report. No representative present.

**Queens Borough President**

No report. No representative present.

**Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz**

No report. No representative present.

**NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer**

Due to technical difficulties, James Mongeluzo could not present a report.

**VI. Speaker: Deputy Inspector Jonathan K. Cermeli, 110 Police Precinct**

**Update On Public Safety Concerns Within CB4**

At this point, Board Chair Marialena Giampino recapped at the Community Board's November 9, 2021 meeting there was a discussion on quality of life issues and concerns were brought up about incidents in the district. Community Board members spoke on ways to work together and discussed solutions to some of the issues presented. Information will be presented by Detective David Saponieri on those safety concerns.

Guest Speaker Deputy Inspector Jonathan Cermeli 110 Precinct, could not attend.

Detective Saponieri reported crime is measured on a 28-day period which has experienced a huge increase in crime—286 percent. This includes a grand larceny scam, burglaries, grand larcenies and grand larcenies auto. The increase in burglaries can be attributed to the warm weather. Remove the window air conditioner as a precautionary measure. Also open windows invites a burglar into your home. Lock your home. Free crime prevention surveys are given to point out a deficient lock or a better way to secure windows or doors. A printout will be given.

For mechanics or construction workers, do not leave valuable tools in your truck. Make sure there is a lock on it. Breaking into a commercial vehicle is considered a burglary.

Regarding the Dept. of Labor Grand Larceny scam, he explained anyone that did not qualify for benefits during Covid-19 got a preloaded card from the government with up to \$15,000. Whether there was a skimming device on an ATM or a generic pin someone had hacked the system, over 200 reports were taken in the 28 day period which has skyrocketed crimes. Those will be recorded as a felony and there is a process reporting this type of crime. Victims of this scam should contact Blackhawk agency. There are three pieces of paper that need to be completed and notarized. Bring the form to the Precinct where a report will be filled out. The Precinct's financial teams are looking into this scam. Many other agencies are investigating also to refund money to the victims.

Additionally, people are purchasing online and it may not be on the most secure website. Shoppers are getting hacked by leaving their credit card information. Be sure to sign in and out of those websites when holiday shopping. Change passwords and pin's every once in a while, especially after holiday shopping.

Next, Detective Saponieri discussed grand larceny autos, which has shown an increase. People leave keys in the ignition when running into the store. Opportunists will steal your car. Invest \$150 in an auto start. Summonses are being issued to combat that practice.

Following Detective Saponieri spoke about temp tags. Texas, New Jersey, Illinois issue temporary plates which are not registered nor insured. Police have been doing huge operations every week. For the 28 day period, ten arrests have been made and cars are impounded.

Subsequently, holiday shopping was brought up. Be mindful of pocketbooks and make sure they are zipped up and be aware of your surroundings and pickpockets.

Do not leave valuables in your car. Put a coat or other covering over them. Do not leave items out in open view because it's an easy grab for a thief.

Extra police presence is at Queens Center and Queens Place during peak shopping hours from 12 Noon to 8:00 p.m. Patrol cars are out moving traffic.

Regarding Catalytic converters, the 111 Precinct made an arrest for three individuals stealing catalytic converters, and some are crime victims in the 110 Precinct.

With New Year's Eve approaching, Police will do SLA inspections at nightclubs and bars ensuring patrons are not overserved and confirming camera systems are up to date.

E-bikes there is heavy enforcement and the Police garage is full with those bikes. Unregistered E-bikes are confiscated every day. Additionally, December 21 a traffic safety forum is planned on Zoom.

Board Member Louis Walker inquired about the temp plates' ten arrests that were made and noted there are about 50 of those temp plates on the streets.

Detective Saponieri responded that number is for the 28 day period. Also, 15 summonses were issued and cars impounded.

Board Member Louis Walker asked are there any major operations where several cars are impounded at once.

Detective Saponieri replied the major problem is storage as some of the towing facilities and impound locations were shut down. When vehicles are impounded, only two or three can be taken and it must be confirmed there is room for additional vehicles. Storage is the main issue.

Referring to the pre-loaded cards mentioned earlier, Board Member Louis Walker asked why anyone would load \$15,000 on one card.

Detective Saponieri replied those cards were issued to illegal or undocumented immigrants that have not been able to reap the benefits of the stimulus money.

Discussion ensued about the pre-loaded cards.

Environmental Chair Carol Machulski inquired about speeding. Off Christie Avenue and 96 Street, cars coming off Junction Blvd, heading toward 99 Street and coming up 96 Street where it meets Christie Avenue, there is a stop sign. Often, motorists do not stop at the Stop sign. There have been a couple of near miss accidents. Motorists coming off Junction Blvd. are speeding. Loud mufflers is also a problem. Motorists deliberately speed on 96 Street because they want to hear the muffler noise.

Detective Saponieri said summonses have been issued and the information will be taken back to the Precinct urging everyone to join the traffic safety meeting on December 21.

Subsequently, a house of prostitution was mentioned on the corner of 96 Street and Christie Avenue with details provided.

Detective Saponieri asked for the exact location to report it.

Next, Board Member Sunil Mahat asked about noise pollution in the neighborhood. Vehicles that have the temporary registration from out of state and make noise such as those with the anti-theft car alarms that go on continuously for hours. One time an alarm blasted beyond 15 hours. 311 was called and he noted a patrol car passed the offending vehicle three times and nothing happened.

Discussion ensued.

Next, Public Safety Committee Chair Lucy Schilero inquired about the food drive. Will it be for churches or shelters?

Detective Saponieri explained items will be collected and brought to a location with the Youth Officers for City Harvest. It will be by which Precinct can donate the most by poundage. There is a big bin in front of the Precinct's front doors and whatever anybody can drop off is appreciated because Thursday morning is the deadline.

Subsequently, Board Member Vincent Laucella commented on an issue with the deli on 104 Street opposite the church. The new owner, Mr. Miguel, has taken away the downstairs drinking, which was leading too much of the quality of life crime. Also, the deli on the corner of 104 Street is under new management and has removed their illegal cigarettes and stopped selling alcohol to drunks and no more drinking in their basement. Additionally, Community Board Members are in favor of forming a coalition to address those illegal vehicles. The community wants to be a part of the solution addressing those cars.

More discussion followed.

Next, ULURP/Zoning Committee Chair Alton Derrick Smith asked about the motorcycles on the sidewalk. Is it normal because they just pop up from nowhere.

Detective Saponieri replied absolutely not and this is a 911 call as a reckless motorcycle on the sidewalk. It is a safety issue and a car will be sent immediately. Bicycles cannot ride on the sidewalk as well as electric scooters cannot ride on sidewalks. Pedestrians walk there.

Next, Board Member Andy Chen brought up the park on the corner of Broadway and 45 Avenue between the hours of 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Many seniors are exercising there and the homeless are harassing them while exercising. He asked if a patrol car is passing to pay some attention to this situation.

Detective Saponieri responded Parks Department and Homeless Services will be notified and a patrol car will be on site in the morning.

Subsequently, Board Member Alexandra Owens on the topic of homeless services, she lives directly across the street from the shelter at Baxter Avenue. There has been issues with two people living at the shelter as well as other individuals hanging out in the vestibule. In one case, someone had knocked out the glass next to the door and the same woman stole the cover from the radiator in the vestibule. Another woman had slapped one of her neighbors in the face. 911 was called but it usually takes an hour /two hours before someone responds. By then, the offenders are gone.

Board Member Alexandra Owens requested homeless service be brought in to work with the shelter.

Detective Saponieri recalled when the complaint is called in to say it is a disorderly person breaking the glass will get a quicker response, noting the perp must be actively engaging in the act. By saying the perpetrator was from the past, it will be logged in on a lower priority.

Accordingly, Board Chair Marialena Giampino noted there are many complaints on the Moore Homestead Playground. Different groups play music while exercising and dancing. Because there are so many groups going on at the same time, the residents in those buildings are upset about the loud music and can be harassing them. She inquired if there was a way to work with the Parks Dept. for a requirement that there cannot be all these different groups with all music playing at the same time. A schedule or permit should be in place. On both sides, there is quality of life issues. Residents of those buildings are constantly bombarded with noise every day.

Detective Saponieri said there is no amplified sound in parks because it would be one big jumble of noise. He will speak to Parks Dept. tomorrow about the issue and said enforcement is needed. A free for all leads to other quality of life issues.

Next, Board Member G. Oliver reported a doctor was attacked outside Elmhurst Hospital last Thursday.

Detective Saponieri said after speaking with Security at the hospital, there was an increase in incidents in and around the hospital.

Board Member G. Oliver continued hospital staff do not feel safe walking in front of the hospital since the increase of attacks on all personnel: doctors, nurses, physician assistants, and cleaning staff as there have been other attacks reported in front of the hospital as well as the Broadway side of the hospital, on or across the street in front of the park, and waiting for the bus noting most of the hospital workers do not leave work until late hours when it's dark adding the park is not safe.

Detective Saponieri responded patrols are being increased in the area.

Next, Board Member Chaio-Chung Chen brought up the antiquated 110 Precinct building. Nothing was ever done.

Detective Saponieri said it is always a top priority, but no response has been received.

Before concluding, Detective Saponieri said he is always available. If something comes up, please email/text him.

At this point, Board Chair Marialena Giampino commented possibly Detective Saponieri can attend the monthly Board meetings to talk about issues in the community and answer questions.

## **VII. Report & Vote: Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee**

### **--State Liquor Authority Applications**

Public Safety Committee Chair Lucy Schilero reported the Committee met on December 7, 2021 and a quorum was present and presented the following liquor license applications:

The Committee Chair reported on New Applicants: Fogo de Chao Churrascaria (Elmhurst) LLC did not submit proper documents. Some establishments are doing renovations and the Committee does not issue licenses for establishments under renovation.



Next, 79 Bar Los Amigo Inc., 79-16 Roosevelt Avenue, was mentioned.

Momentos Grill Bar & Restaurant Corp., 41-07 99 Street, is going through a corporate change and needs to submit documents, When the documents are submitted and the Committee had met the applicant and also approved the applicant.

Next, the denial applications were presented:

82-63 Bakery Corp., 82-63 Broadway, was not ready to proceed, therefore, were denied and will come back again.

Nuevo Don Francisco Rest. Corp., 40-56 Junction Blvd., and El Mordisco Sport Bar Rest. Corp., 85-14 Roosevelt Avenue, and Coatzingo Enterprise Inc., 82-18 Roosevelt Avenue, had a number of assaults and the applicant was not able to answer questions. Those four establishments will have to come back to the Committee for review.

Subsequently, Public Safety Committee Chair Lucy Schilero gave the following approvals:

Sushi on Me, Mexican Junction Restaurant Corp., and El Puerto De Acapulco Bar Restaurant Inc.

### **NYS LIQUOR AUTHORITY LICENSES**

#### **December 2021**

#### **NEW APPLICANTS**

<b><u>Establishment's Name</u></b>	<b><u>Establishment's Address</u></b>	<b><u>License Type</u></b>
Fogo de Chao Churrascaria (Elmhurst) LLC	92-50 59 Avenue Elmhurst, NY	Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider
79 Bar Los Amigo Inc.	79-16 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider
82-63 Bakery Corp.	82-63 Broadway Elmhurst, NY	Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider
Sushi on Me Inc.	71-26 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, 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>
El Mordisco Sport Bar Rest. Corp.	85-14 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Wine, Beer & Cider
Mexican Junction Rest. Corp.	96-06 Roosevelt Avenue Corona, NY	Beer & Cider
Coatzingo Enterprises Inc. <i>California Sports Bar</i>	82-18 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

#### **CORPORATE CHANGE**

<b><u>Establishment's Name</u></b>	<b><u>Establishment's Address</u></b>	<b><u>License Type</u></b>
Momentos Grill Bar & Restaurant Corp.	41-07 99 Street Corona, NY	Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

#### **REMOVAL**

<b><u>Establishment's Name</u></b>	<b><u>Establishment's Address</u></b>	<b><u>License Type</u></b>
El Puerto De Acapulco Bar Rest. Inc.	45-02 Junction Blvd. Corona, NY	Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

Before concluding, Public Safety Chair Lucy Schilero reported Covid-19 numbers are rising in our neighborhood. Some of the strain is Delta, however, we don't know whether it is the newer Omicron variant and she urged all to stay healthy.

Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula made a motion, seconded by Board Member Vincent Laucella, to **approve** the Public Safety Committee report as presented. Motion passed.

Discussion ensued on what type of items to bring to the food drive.

### **VIII. Committee Reports**

#### ***Consumer Affairs***

Committee Chair Michelle Dunston reported the Committee had not met, however, she will contact her committee members. Council Member Moya was donating hand sanitizers which would give an opportunity to meet and greet the merchants. Committee Members will be contacted to assist in this undertaking and she will send an email with details.

#### ***Environmental***

Environmental Chair Carol Machulski reported the Committee did not meet, but the next QSWAB meeting is tomorrow, Wednesday, December 15, and said she had received a copy of their bylaws and will forward to staff member Christina Long for distribution.

#### ***Health & Human Services***

Committee Chair Clara Salas reported the Committee had a successful September meeting and because of technical difficulties, the Committee was unable to meet in October. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for January 24, 2022 where two excellent doctors from Elmhurst Hospital will be guest speakers for an update on Covid-19 and will answer questions anyone may have.

#### ***Parks, Cultural Affairs & Historical Preservation***

Committee Chair Ashley Reed reported the Committee did not hold a meeting last month, but will reconvene after the holidays. She reported William F. Moore Park is located in the heart of Corona and also listed on the FY'23 Needs Statement as Continuing Support. Tomorrow evening the Parks Dept. is hosting a visioning session for the public to express its opinions on what they would like to see changed and what they would like to see in the park. All were encouraged to attend this meeting shown on zoom. Although it was included in the bulletin, she will post the link to register.

#### ***Transportation***

Committee Chair Matthew McElroy reported a Transportation Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 21, at 8:00 p.m. with a representative from the NYC Department of Transportation to discuss current and recent DOT projects/issues in Community Board 4. All were urged to attend.

#### ***Youth Services***

Youth Committee Chair Sylvia Martin reported usually the Committee meets on the fourth Thursday, but because of the Christmas holiday, the Committee will meet in January, 2022.

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

Committee Chair Alton Derrick Smith reported on January 27, 2022 a workshop is scheduled about community land trust and is looking forward to that meeting.

### **IX. Open Session #2**

Staff Member Christina Long called out if anyone had any issue to discuss. Board member Gurdip Singh Narula commented the Board should observe a moment of silence for the sadness of those people who died in the tornado citing 80 people who died and for those children missing and for those who lost their homes and lost everything.

He also suggested to get the two vaccinations and the booster injection. Many facilities are giving the vaccinations such as CVS, Rite Aid and others providing free vaccinations. The Omicron variant is spreading quickly, but with the vaccine you will be better protected.

Next, Health and Human Services Committee Chair Clara Salas inquired when the Elmhurst Post Office will open. Currently, area residents must travel to the Junction Blvd. Post Office as the Post Office had been closed for the past 2 ½ months.

Board Chair Marialena Giampino responded the Board office had inquired end of November, and the response was renovations are in progress due to flooding by Hurricane Ida. It is inconvenient without a post office in the community and is very problematic to travel to Junction Blvd. The Board office will follow up for a progress report.

At this point, Staff member Christina Long said she spoke with the Post Office yesterday and it is still under renovation as it had sustained extensive water damage and workers are actively still working to repair the destruction.

Board Chair Marialena Giampino asked if a reopening date/timeframe was mentioned.

Staff Member Christina Long responded no.

Health Committee Chair Clara Salas reported area residents have not seen anyone doing renovations inside the post office and stated the post office may not reopen.

Public Safety Chair Lucy Schilero reported because of the flooding, important mail was damaged and workers are trying to sift through the mail/packages, which takes time. However, she recommended to contact the Congresswoman to investigate.

It was unclear who the Congresswoman was for the Elmhurst Post Office whether to contact Hon Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez or Hon Grace Meng.

Meanwhile, Board Chair Marialena Giampino suggested a letter from the Board office be written to the Congresswoman that the Board is concerned about the reopening and the community needs the Post Office to reopen as soon as possible, commenting there could be other delays.

At this point, Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula said he had masks (100-200) for donation to whomever needed them.

Meanwhile, Consumer Affairs Chair Michelle Dunston stated the Post Office has three mailboxes. Does anyone know why those mailboxes are green?

Discussion ensued.

Before adjourning, Board Member Cristian Romero clarified the Elmhurst Post Office is in Congresswoman Grace Meng's district.

Since there were no further issues, Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula made a motion, seconded by Public Safety Chair Lucy Schilero, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.