



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

December 13, 2022

COMMUNITY BOARD ATTENDANCE

Board Members Attending:

Marialena Giampino
Jaime Cho
Lynda Coral
Michelle Dunston
Lara Gregory
Vincent Laucella
Carol Machulski
Sylvia Martin
Matthew McElroy
Mac Merchan

Jose Morillo
Ruby Muhammad
Sandra Munoz
Alexandra Owens
Purushottam Panthee
Alexa Ponce
Ashley Reed
Clara Salas
Alton Derrick Smith
Marcello Testa
Louis Walker

Board Members Absent:

Rownoka Ashakhan
Michelle Calderon
Valery Calderon
Aridia Espinal
Leeanne G.-Bowley
Ramakrishna Kadukuntla
Deependra Lama
James Lisa
Salvatore Lombardo
Abu Zafar Mahmood
Pat Martin
Rovenia McGowan
Edgar Moya
Tsering Dechen

G. Oliver
Georgina Oliver
Shrima Pandey
Brian Ramirez
Cristian Romero
A. Redd Sevilla
Urgen Sherpa
Dewan Tarek
Charlie Tetiyevsky
Yilin Wang
Minwen Yang
May Yu

ATTENDING:

Christian Cassagnol, CB4 District Manager

Jasly Martinez, CB4 Community Associate

Kyle Salcido, Congresswoman Grace Meng's Office

Michelle Luna, Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio- Cortez's Office

Pat Rosero, Queens Borough President Donovan Richards Office

Lilli Pioche, Assembly Member Jeffrion Aubry's Office

Diwakar Gupta, Nasir J. Khazada LLC Consulting Engineers – Cornelia Young

Walter T. Gorman, Consulting Engineers

Mike Liquori, VFW Post #150

Daniel Ashe

Zack Del Rosso

COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

Time: 7:00 P.M.

PLACE: VFW Post #150
51-11 108 Street
Corona, NY

I. Chairperson Marialena Giampino opened the meeting at 7:20 p.m. because a quorum was not present.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

III. Roll Call

Since a quorum was not present, the roll call would be taken later in the evening.

IV. Vote: Minutes November 9, 2022

The vote on the minutes would be taken later in the evening as a quorum was not present.

V. Chairperson's Report

Board Chair Marialena Giampino reported on the tree lightings in the community. Thank You was extended to Council Member Krishnan for his support of the holiday events including Community Board 4's tree lightings. Many children were in attendance. More tree lightings are upcoming and details will be provided.

Since a quorum was not present at tonight's meeting, the Board may not be able to conduct Board business which is unfortunate since there are many items on the agenda including the Board elections. If Board elections are not held, present officer positions will be rolled over to January 2023.

Board Chair Marialena Giampino explained many discussions were held whether or not to hold Board meeting virtually or in-person. Many people opted for in-person meetings, but do not attend. Going forward this is a serious problem which began in September, noting this is the second time a quorum was not present with only four meetings.

Next, the Board Chair said an Executive Board meeting was planned until after Board elections, however, the meeting may be held sooner due to the lack of participation.

Subsequently, the Board Chair announced if there is no quorum tonight, the guest speakers may have to leave since a vote cannot be taken on the BSA proposals to be rescheduled for a January 2023 presentation.

Lastly, Board Chair Marialena Giampino said she will be out January and February, but will be reachable, because she is expecting a baby boy. Applause and congratulations were extended to Board Chair Marialena Giampino.

VI. District Manager's Report

District Manager Christian Cassagnol reiterated on the tree lighting ceremonies. Thank you was extended to Staff Member Jasly Martinez who worked diligently on the tree lighting ceremonies and to the Board staff overall for their assistance.

Next, District Manager Cassagnol brought up the Needs Statement which has not been officially published and gave an update. Before concluding, District Manager Cassagnol mentioned Council Member Moya's tree lighting ceremony at the American Triangle at 102 Street and 43 Avenue.

Details for the many tree lightings will be shared as soon as they become available.

Please sign up for the CB4 Newsletter where more information is available.

VII. Report: By Law Committee

- **Reporting on proposed changes to CB4 Bylaws**
- **Vote: Proposed changes to CB4 Bylaws**

Parliamentarian Louis Walker reported the committee is still working on the bylaws and, most importantly, the removal of some Board members is a priority.

VIII. Report: Nominating Committee

Nominating Committee Chair Matthew McElroy reported the committee met virtually. The incumbent officers were doing a fine job and none wished to withdraw, therefore, the Nominating Committee re-nominated the present slate of officers. However, there were some additional nominations from the committee. Three members were nominated in addition to the incumbents for At Large Directors.

The current slate of CB4 Executive Officers are:

Chairperson	Marialena Giampino
First Vice Chairperson	Ashley Reed
Second Vice Chairperson	Cristian Romero
Treasurer	Leeanne G. Bowley
Executive Secretary	Louis Walker

At Large Directors:

Lynda Coral
Lara Gregory
Alexa Ponce
Clara Salas

The Nominating Committee chose to add the following candidates to the At Large Director position:

Alexandra Owens
Carol Machulski
Vincent Laucella

Each new candidate was called, accepted the nomination, and will be on the ballot.

IX. Public Forum – Good & Welfare of the District

No speakers.

X. Report from Elected Officials

District Manager Christian Cassagnol called out if any one present is representing an elected official, please raise your hand. Representatives from the Queens Borough President, Congresswomen Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Grace Meng were in attendance.

Congresswoman Grace Meng's Office – Kyle Salcido reported November was the one year anniversary of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Congresswoman Meng helped pass the Infrastructure Investment Job Act adding \$1.2 trillion which will upgrade infrastructure improvements including updating 20,000 miles of road, improvements to transit sites and renew electric grids. Clean energy investment of \$7.5 billion in electric vehicle chargers also clean electricity for schools and clean drinking water and improvements in natural disaster preparations including climate change and \$2.2 billion was also added to improve public transportation.

Additionally, the Same Sex Marriage Act to protect same sex and interracial marriages and codifying those protections into law because of the recent Supreme Court rulings. Congresswoman Meng was the original co-sponsor of this Bill which will come back to the House to be voted on and amendments made in the Senate before being sent to President Biden's desk.

Next, Kyle Salcido spoke on the striking railroad workers. Congresswoman Meng voted to provide the railroad workers with seven paid sick days in addition to pass the deal drafted by the Biden Administration through Congress to avoid economic fallout and the lack of infrastructure and logistics prior to the holiday season.

Next, he reported on the Water Resources and Development Act and provided details.

Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's Office – Michelle Luna reported the Congresswoman joined a tele-Town Hall for seniors in the district organized by AARP to address lower prescription costs and reduce out of pocket expenditures made possible by the Inflation Reduction Act and answered questions on resources available to seniors. The recording can be found on AARP. The Federal Student Loan Repayment Pause has been extended to June 30, 2023. Details were provided.

Subsequently, Michele Luna announced the closing of the Congresswoman's Queens District office located in Jackson Heights at the end of this term. The Jackson Heights office was drawn out of the congressional district and the last day to receive in person assistance will be Thursday, December 15, at 7:15 p.m.

The Congresswoman will be taking over an office in Co-Op City beginning January 9 located at 177 Dreiser Loop, Room 3, Bronx, NY. Walk-ins will be accepted at the new location beginning January 9. Additional office locations will be shared at a later date as well as updates.

Discussion ensued about the new redistricting maps.

Queens Borough President's Office Donovan Richards – Pat Rosero reported on upcoming events:

- Queens Celebrates Kwanzaa, Wednesday, December 28 at 6 p.m. at Queens Borough Hall. Please RSVP at www.queensbp.org
- Queens Tech and Innovation Challenge – Earn up to \$20,000 in seed funding to boost start up; check the Borough President's website.
- Wellness Starts With Mental Health – connects Queens with free Mental Health Services in partnership with Better Help.

Additionally, Pat Rosero announced the 110 Precinct is looking for school crossing guards. If you know of anyone looking for a part time job 20+ hours per week at \$15.45/hour, please log on to the NYPD website for further information.

At this point, District Manager Christian Cassagnol took the roll call and announced a quorum was not present. Four Board Members were needed to attain a quorum.

Discussion ensued regarding meeting in person and virtually.

At this point, ULURP/Zoning Chair Alton Derrick Smith inquired if the ULURP presenters on the agenda would present the proposals tonight.

District Manager Christian Cassagnol replied no. One presenter had already left, but the other guest speaker was still present. He further explained they had already presented to the ULURP/Zoning Committee and will have to return next month to give the presentations.

ULURP/Zoning Chair Alton Derrick Smith suggested since the Board was four members shy of a quorum, the presentation be given tonight as most know what the presentation is and he can assist through the ULURP Committee. In this way, the presenters would not have to return next month.

Discussion ensued, but it was pointed out it cannot be done.

Without a quorum, no votes can be taken.

Parliamentarian Louis Walker clarified the reasoning the guest speakers cannot present tonight is because you are asking people who did not see the presentation to vote on a proposal they did not see and reiterated it cannot be done.

Discussion ensued about voting off members who do not attend meetings and emphasizing agenda items cannot be voted on for months because of the lack of quorum.

Environmental Committee Chair Carol Machulski suggested provisions should be made in the Board's Bylaws stating to bypass *Robert's Rules of Order* on a quorum and use 1/3 of membership present to take a vote.

District Manager Christian Cassagnol responded this can be done for a Public Hearing but not for a full Board vote.

Transportation Committee Chair Matthew McElroy commented the quorum issue may be in the Charter.

More discussion about removing members who have not attended Board or Committee meetings, specifically, mentioning the time frame of two years for some. It was brought up the Board can vote off its own members.

ULURP/Zoning Committee Chair Alton Derrick Smith pointed out when the committee's guest speakers attended the ULURP meeting, no quorum was present. Likewise, at the Board meeting noting the guest speakers must return again.

A Board Member noted a quorum may not be present to vote off negligent Board Members.

Also brought up was the question is a quorum needed to vote off members?

The response was yes.

Pat Rosero, Queens Borough President's Office, commented starting in January new applications will open and if the Board knows of good applicants who will attend meetings be sure they apply.

XI. Report & Vote: Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee
State Liquor Authority Applications

NYS LIQUOR AUTHORITY LICENSES

December 2022

NEW/TEMPORARY PERMIT APPLICATIONS

<u>ESTABLISHMENT NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>LICENSE TYPE</u>	<u>NEW/Temp.</u>	<u>DATE REC.</u>
Las Vegas Events, Inc.	45-18 104 Street Corona, NY	Wine, Beer & Cider	New & Temp.	10/28/22
Queens Mall BDS, Inc.	88-01 Queens Blvd. Elmhurst, NY	Wine, Beer & Cider	New & Temp.	10/20/22
Q Town Asian Cuisine	82-87 Broadway	Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider	New	11/18/22

RENEWAL APPLICANTS

<u>ESTABLISHMENT NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>LICENSE TYPE</u>	<u>DATE REC.</u>	<u>LIC. EXPIRED</u>
La Esquina Criolla Rest. Inc.	94-67 Corona Ave. Elmhurst, NY	Wine, Beer & Cider	11/9/22	12/31/22
Unidentified Flying Chicken Inc.	71-22 Roosevelt Ave Jackson Heights, NY	Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider	10/27/22	12/31/22
Sonero's Bar	92-02 Corona Ave. Elmhurst, NY	Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider	10/20/22	11/30/22

Committee Chair Lara Gregory acknowledged the committee members: Georgina Oliver, vice-chair, Rownoka Ashakhan, and Ruby Muhammad for their hard work.

Corporate Change Applicant

<u>ESTABLISHMENT NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>LICENSE TYPE</u>
Bakery Restaurant Los Parceros, Corp.	40-09 82 Street Elmhurst, NY	Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

Class Change Applicant

<u>ESTABLISHMENT NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>LICENSE TYPE</u>
Puebla Puebla Bar Restaurant Inc.	42-18A Junction Blvd. Elmhurst, NY	Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

Next, Committee Chair Lara Gregory reported on the following liquor license applications for approval by the Board:

New/Temporary Permit Applicants

Queens Mall BDS, Inc.
Db: Brooklyn Dumpling Shop
88-901 Queens Blvd.
Elmhurst, NY

Q Town Asian Cuisine
82-87 Broadway
Elmhurst, NY

Renewal Applicants

La Esquina Criolla Restaurant
94-67 Corona Avenue
Elmhurst, NY

Unidentified Flying Chicken Inc.
71-22 Roosevelt Avenue
Jackson Heights, NY

Sonero's Bar Restaurant Inc.
Db: Sonero's Night Club Bar
92-02 Corona Avenue
Elmhurst, NY

(The SLA had already approved the license. Sonero's had submitted the application two days after Community Board 4's deadline.)

The following business license applications were denied by the committee:

Las Vegas Events, Inc.
45-18 104 Street
Corona, NY

There was no appearance from the business despite notice of meeting sent to them as well as the warning of a possibility of denial of their license to address specific questions by the committee.

Some of the complaints against the business were:

Assault 2
Loud Music/Party
Fail to Post Sign: "Prohibited Sale to Minor/ Intoxicated Person", Failure to Post "Pregnancy Warning Sign", Fail to Post "No Smoking" signs where required.
Petit Larceny; victim left purse unattended on chair. Upon return the purse was taken without permission.

The other business recommended for denial was Bakery Restaurant Los Parceros Corp., 40-09 82 Street (35 incidents)
No appearance from the business despite expansion of their license to include on premises liquor from the original wine and beer despite notice of the meeting sent to them as well as the warning of failure to appear could result in the denial of their license.
The committee had questions on the assault incident as well as the harassment incident.

Next, Committee Chair Lara Gregory reported on Puebla Puebla Bar Restaurant Inc., 42-18A Junction Boulevard (16) incidents.
The owner was able to respond through an interpreter on the five incidents of assaults from March 2022 through October 2022 as well as an SLA Operation: (4) C-Summonses issued to establishment by SLA. Operational changes will be instituted by the owner by an affirmation that includes a working camera and a policy not to serve visibly inebriated guests.
In response to questions by the committee, the owner said their policy is to serve even those who are visibly drunk or inebriated if they order food.

It was pointed out Puebla's license was only recently renewed about two months ago and there were five assaults in six/seven months with a limited wine and beer license. A full liquor license means more intoxicated patrons possibly committing assaults on the premises, but is up to the discretion of the Board.

The committee considered decisions of the New York Supreme Court about liquor licenses and such licenses are issued a privilege only to those with good character. Court cases were cited. SLA has indicated it is the licensee obligation to ensure that a high degree of supervision is exercised over the conduct of the licensed establishment at all times to safeguard against abuses of the license privileges and violations of the law.

XII. Guest Speakers:

- Diwakar Gupta, Nasir J. Khanzada LLC, Consulting Engineers

BSA Application: No. 2019-299-BZ: 82-11 Queens Blvd.

Propose to amend approved plans to create a smaller convenience store with room for five gasoline pumps.

- Walter T. Gorman, Consulting Engineers

BSA Application: No. 636-70BZ: 105-45 to 105-55 Horace Haring Expsy.

Propose to amend the resolution to permit the conversion of existing snack shop and the adjoining auto repair bay into an accessory convenience store.

ULURP/Zoning Committee Chair Alton Derrick Smith explained the application on 82-11 Queens Blvd. is under new management and is for canopies and also to convert the mechanic shop into a convenience store. He noted both proposals are basically the same. Next month a vote can be taken on the two applications provided a quorum is present.

XIII. Committee Reports

Consumer Affairs

Committee Chair Michelle Dunston reported the committee did not meet and there was difficulty reaching out to members.

District Manager Christian responded to contact the Board office who will assist.

Environmental

Committee Chair Carol Machulski reported the committee did not meet this month. However, QSWAB met on November 16. The first part of the meeting was an update on the Curbside Composting Program and details provided.

More information on prior meetings held was given.

Health

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

Parks

Committee Chair Ashley Reed reported the Parks Department will present to the committee the redesign plans for Hoffman Park either later this month or early next month.

Transportation

Committee Chair Matthew McElroy reported the committee did not meet and did not present a report.

At this point, District Manager Christian Cassagnol reported all the Community Boards were invited to the Borough President's Office to meet with the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation. It was a two hour session where many questions were asked, however, Community Boards were limited to the number of questions they were allowed to ask.

The main focus of the meeting was public plazas and open streets.

District Manager Cassagnol spoke about the problems with Corona Plaza and stated more help is needed. It was reported by the agency the Board area had received more summonses than any other borough. Standardization including standards for shelters and restaurants and streets was discussed. It was explained by the District Manager standardization does not work the same based on the community we live in. For example, standards here are not the same as for Bayside. It was understood demographics are different for each Community Board area.

Youth

Committee Chair Sylvia Martin reported due to illness the committee was not able to meet, however, a January 2023 meeting is planned.

At this point, Board Member Vincent Laucella mentioned upcoming events. At Silver Spoon Diner on Junction Blvd. an event honoring Jim Galloway is planned. Consumer Affairs Chair Michelle Dunston, the Lions Club and Youth Committee Chair Sylvia Martin were thanked for their help and support.

Also, the 110 Precinct is holding a fund raising event on Saturday morning at 11:00 a.m.

Other forthcoming events were announced by Board Member Vincent Laucella to the Board.

Since there was no other Board business, the Board Chair closed the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

The Annual Holiday Party followed the Board meeting, and a good time was had by all!