



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

May 9, 2023

BOARD MEMBER ATTENDANCE

Board Members Attending:

Marialena Giampino
Jonathan Anzalone
Michelle Calderon
Jaime Cho
Michelle Dunston
Leeanne G-Bowley
Lara Gregory
Alexander Huaylinos
Vincent Laucella
Myrna Littlewort
Carol Machulski
Sylvia Martin
Matthew McElroy

Mac Ryan Merchan
Jose Morillo
G. Oliver
Georgina Oliver
Alexandra Owens
Lindsay Quartini
Mildred Ramirez
Ashley Reed
Cristian Romero
Clara Salas
Delia Sebastian –Cecilio
Meenu Singh
Anthony Szeto
Louis Walker

Board Members Absent:

Rownoka Ashakhan
Valery Calderon
Isaac Carmignani
Lynda Coral
Ari Espinal
Ramakrishna Kadukuntla
Abu Zafar Mahmood
Rovenia McGowan
Edgar Moya

Ruby Muhammed
Sandra Munoz
Ramon Pimentel
Alexa Ponce
Alton Derrick Smith
Dewan Tarek
Marcello Testa
Charlie Tetiyevsky
Minwen Yang

ATTENDING:

Christian Cassagnol, CB4 District Manager
Jasly Martinez, CB4 Community Associate
Kyle Salcido, Congresswoman Grace Meng's Office
Representative, Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's Office
John Bahia, Assembly Member Steven Raga's Office
Samantha, Assembly Member Catalina Cruz's Office
Representative, NYS Senate Michael Gianaris' Office
Representative, NYS Senate Jessica Ramos' Office
Representative, NYC Council Francisco Moya's Office
Maricela Cano, Office of the Borough President of Queens
Scott Leach, NYC Department of Youth and Community Development
Derek Carter, Forestdale Inc.

COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

Date: Tuesday, May 9, 2023

Time: 7:00 P.M.

Place: Elmhurst Hospital
6th Floor Auditorium
Room C-611 – 6th Floor
79-01 Broadway
Elmhurst, NY

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

II. Roll Call

District Manager Christian Cassagnol took the roll call. A quorum was present.

III. Vote: Minutes April 11, 2023

Board Member Clara Salas made a motion, seconded by Environmental Chair Carol Machulski, to approve the minutes of April 11, 2023. Since there were none opposed or abstention, the motion passed.

IV. Chairperson's Report

Board Chair Marialena Giampino welcomed new Board members to the Board last month and were placed in temporary committees. In September, permanent committees will be assigned and urged Board members to attend and participate in upcoming committee meetings to get a sense which committee they would like to join in September.

Next, the Board Chair announced the new Health Committee Chair Dr. G. Oliver. Some new members were assigned to the Health Committee including Board Member Rownoka Ashakhan who was a transfer from the Public Safety Committee as she wanted to participate in the Health Committee.

Subsequently, an in-person Executive Board meeting was held on April 27. On the agenda was a discussion on office operations and Community Board 4's staff and staff raises. Discussion was on how to make the office operate more effectively. A directive is will be formulated for review on this objective.

Discretionary funding to the Board was also brought up such as planning for events with the remaining funding and upcoming projects.

Committee structure was talked about mentioning the committees have not been operating smoothly because of poor attendance.

At this point, District Manager Cassagnol provided an explanation on the discretionary funding. The Board had received \$5,000 in discretionary funding July 1, 2022 from Council Member Shekar Krishnan for community events. Approximately \$1500 was already spent on community events, noting this discretionary money cannot be used for staff raises.

Following Board Chair Marialena Giampino continued on the topic of committees about what can be done such as more responsibilities/more areas to cover, however, it is still unclear how to proceed and will be discussed at an Executive Board meeting in July.

The idea had surfaced about forming a temporary committee when needed for a specific period of time on a certain topic such as the census. In 2020, a Board Census Committee was formed for the census. For example, Animal Welfare could be added to the Health Committee and other specific categories to existing committees.

Environmental Committee Chair Carol Machulski said that is called an ad-hoc committee and asked if this was included in the Board's Bylaws.

District Manager Cassagnol responded yes and elaborated the Board Chair has the authority to create committees and appoint committee chairs. He explained there are no provisions on the Board's committees for aging, veterans, or technology matters which could be ad-hoc or permanent committees.

Next, Board attendance was brought up. There are some Board members who do not attend Board meetings having very poor attendance. Those members will be notified as well as the Borough President's Office. A slate will be presented to the Board at the next Board meeting either to retain or vote off those members with poor attendance.

Next, the Board's bylaws was discussed since there are some topics in the bylaws which need to be reviewed and will be discussed at the July Executive Board meeting.

V. District Manager's Report

District Manager Christian Cassagnol reported on observing April as Earth month. The Corona Arts and Science Academy had a field trip to one of our community gardens where the children picked up rocks in the garden, painted them, and those rocks were scattered throughout the garden. Also, he pointed out one of the Board members had donated a tree to the garden. Photos available. All were urged to visit the garden. The children also painted the benches in spring colors.

Next, he spoke about the upcoming event "Spring at Simeone" where tours of the gardens and plantings with the children and workshops will be conducted.

Funding by the Queens Borough President was allocated and the Board had to submit an itemized list of needs for the gardens, not monetarily, such as infrastructure/outreach which was included in the Borough President's Sustainability Report for both gardens.

Furthermore, planning meetings is difficult to arrange from the Newsletter to committee meetings. All the work is done by the staff. Since the Board office is a staff of three, it does help to contact, stop by the office, or plan a visit to the community gardens.

Significantly, committee meetings are not well attended by Board Members or members of the public. Going forward if a committee meeting is held virtually, the link will be shared with the public, and he also advised the Committee Chairs to tighten up meetings to showcase to the public how the Board performs and encourage the public attendance at meetings.

Next, the District Manager reported the Board has a major issue with gang recruitment. Many of the local schools are affected by gang involvement. After COVID-19, many children lost their parents. Junior high schools are overrun by gangs. It is important to combat infiltration of gangs before it worsens. Strategies are needed and this issue was also included in the Board's Needs Statement.

Lastly, the Queens Borough Public Library appealed to the Queens Borough President to ask Community Boards to address certain needs in our libraries and what we would like to see. A letter was written addressing two points:

1. Lefrak Library – When will it reopen? What about infrastructural upgrades?
2. Elmhurst Library –It's too modern and as a result, the classic ambiance was lost as well as the community gardens That were in front of and inside the library.

On the third floor, there is a rooftop garden with panels, however, there should be plantings. There is nothing there now.

Updates were requested on both libraries.

Transportation Chair Matt McElroy asked if the back garden in the Elmhurst Library is open for people.

Board Chair Marialena Giampino replied it was to be for community use, but it never happened.

Environmental Chair Carol Machulski reported it is used; and also commented on a nursery program as there were adults and children who had blankets on the floor and food. She had seen it used in the morning by the older Chinese men playing a game too. Subsequently, she asked what happened to the Friends of the Library.

Board Chair Marialena Giampino said the community was to plant and take care of the gardens; but nothing had happened, noting the group is not around.

Consumer Affairs Chair Michelle Dunston added the Lefrak Library needs a building that is structurally sound because during the last heavy rainfall, the library flooded out.

VI. Public Forum – Good & Welfare of the District

Board Member Jon Anzalone spoke about a pedestrian and safety issue. The pedestrian crossing signal at the intersection of 108 Street and Corona Avenue, on the south corner of William F. Moore Park, was removed and is yet to be replaced. This is a very busy intersection in the neighborhood. If a pedestrian is crossing east to west to the corner of Moore Park, the southbound traffic has a red light and stopped, but the northbound traffic on 108 Street still flows.

Board Member Vincent Laucella reported four people were injured at that sidewalk and photos were taken.

VII. Report from Elected Officials

Senate

Charles E. Schumer

No Report. Representative not present.

Kirsten Gillibrand

No Report. Representative not present.

House of Representatives

Grace Meng

Kyle Salcido reported two weeks ago, Representative Meng was honored to escort South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol into the chamber of the House of Representatives. Representative Meng was joined by Queens Korean-American leaders to hear President Yeol's address before a joint session of Congress. Representative Meng has also reintroduced the Autism Family Caregivers Act, a bipartisan bill that would provide access to caregiver's skills and training, for family members who care for children with autism spectrum disorder or other developmental disabilities or delays.

Representative Meng questioned Attorney General Garland, the Drug Enforcement Agency, and the Department of Justice about how budget cuts would impact public safety in regard to drug trafficking, gun control, and hiring of police officers and public safety programs.

Representative Meng also attended hearings with NASA and the National Science Foundation where she asked questions on the future of stem programs. She will continue pushing to ensure Queens Stem programs like the Queens Stem Academy, Queens Community College Stem Program continue to receive scholarship grant funding from the NSF and continue to remain fully funded.

As New York State's representative on the region of Leadership Council, Representative Meng met with the Secretary of Agriculture to ensure New York receives federal funding and discussed how to ensure more support for New York farmers and promoting New York grown products.

Finally, last year Congresswoman Velasquez along with Congresswoman Meng and NYS Senator Kirsten Gillibrand fought to include relief for victims of SNAP theft scammers as part of last year's federal government spending bill which provided two years of SNAP benefit reimbursements for recipients who had money stolen from their benefit cards on or after October 1, 2022. Please contact the Congresswoman's office or state representative Office of Temporary Disability Assistance if you were a victim.

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

A representative announced the Congresswoman's office submitted 15 funding requests for important community projects to the House Appropriations Committee. Among those projects, it was advocated for a total of \$4 million for NYCHA, playground revitalization projects in the district and \$3 million to fund a study on removing environmental impacts on Flushing Bay and more funding allocations were reported.

A reminder was given to renew your passport early. Please apply early as the Department of State recommends you apply nine months in advance.

If you have urgent travel, due to life or death emergency contact Congresswoman Ocasio0Cortez's office.

The office will be offering in-person casework assistance tomorrow at the Langston Hughes Community Library from 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

NYS Assembly

Steven Raga

John Bahia reported on the following updates:

NYS Budget – Has officially passed after one month late. Some highlights include: funding for SUNY and CUNY. \$3 billion in capital support for SUNY and CUNY schools. Funding for universal pre-K, Medicaid wage increases for home health workers and overall minimum wage increases to \$17 for all New Yorkers in New York City.

CUNY Update: Shredding event Thursday, May 11, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Big Six Towers, Woodside, NY. Register ahead by calling the Assembly Member's office or register day of by coming to the Big Six on May 11.

Rain Barrel Giveaway – May 17, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Maspeth Federal Savings parking lot. Call the Assembly Member's office to RSVP.

Lastly, a self-defense workshop is scheduled with Assembly Member Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas and Congresswoman Grace Meng on Wednesday, June 28 from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., Travis Park, Jackson Heights, NY

Please reach out to the office with any concerns.

Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas

No Report. Representative not in attendance.

Jeffrion Aubry

No Report. Representative not in attendance.

Catalina Cruz

Samantha reported on last month's community events such as CPR training with Corona Community Ambulance, mobile office hours with Emerald Isle Immigration, an immigration center, and a NYLAC mobile van came to the Assembly Member's office last Friday. The van will come back next Friday for an immigration inquiries clinic only.

Furthermore, a mammogram screening is scheduled May 31.

The annual Pride Prom will be held on Friday, June 16. More information to follow.

NYS Senate

Michael Gianaris

A representative explained the budget was passed. The MTA state budget would allow five routes of buses per county. It is a pilot program for one year. It is not clear which bus would be for Queens County, and there would be frequent subway service. SUNY and CUNY no tuition hikes. Also passed were two bills to clean up future campaign messes which would allow state reimbursement campaigns that spend money on legal defense fees for elected officials citing as an example NY State Majority Leader Joseph Bruno's after he was acquitted of corruption charges.

The city completed a mass grant infrastructure project a year early, which was under the budget.

Jessica Ramos

A representative reported the budget added funds to include undocumented children and child care services. More details to follow when program is rolled out.

The office is collecting for the Prom and if you have any clothes not needed, please drop them off at the Senator's office. All donations go to the high school.

Past Events: Members of the Muslim community join Senator Ramos to celebrate Ramadan.

Also a mammogram event was held where 30+ people were screened.

Movie Night in the Park this Friday at the Park of the Americas at 104 Street & 42 Avenue, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Senator Ramos' office was able to secure space for a food pantry. A new food pantry will be located on Corona Avenue. A ribbon cutting is planned for May 11, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m., 92-21 Corona Avenue, Corona, NY.

A Labor Summit is planned at Pan American High School on labor rights for people to learn about rights in the workplace and partnering with CUNY Law to conduct those workshops. More details to follow.

Toby Ann Stavisky

No report. Representative not present.

NYC Council

Francisco Moya

A representative reported Saturday, May 6, the Council Member had a cleanup in Corona with the Dept. of Sanitation at the American Triangle.

Saturday, May 20, in East Elmhurst another cleanup is scheduled and another for June 3 in Lefrak City.

The Council Member joined the First Baptist Church on May 30 to combat hunger in the borough by providing funding to Meals-on-Wheels and Met Council.

Other events include Fitness in the Park at William F. Moore Park today on Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Wednesdays at Helen Marshall Playground from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Thursdays from 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. in the Park of the Americas.

Tomorrow, a Key to the City family resource fair immigration coalition At the Queens Public Library Langston Hughes from 12:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. will be held. Legal consultations and health access will be discussed. For young moms, diapers and baby needs will be distributed.

Lastly, Council Member Moya is aware of the problems at William F. Moore Park and is in contact with the Department of Transportation and solutions are in progress.

Shekar Krishnan

No Report. Representative not in attendance.

Queens Borough President Donovan Richards

Maricela Cano, Director of Community Boards, Queens Borough President’s Office, congratulated the ten new appointees and informed the Board that Community Board 4 is the poorest in attendance as well as the worst quorum.

When the Board does not have a quorum, the Board is passing liquor licenses and is conducting business without the approval of the community. The Borough President and his office has taken time to review Board Member applications to ensure the candidate is committed. During the initial process, many members said they were committed, therefore, attend, participate, and be engaged in Board activities.

If you cannot continue as a Board Member, please reach out to the Board Chair, the District Manager, or Maricela Cano for a solution to move forward.

Next, Maricela Cano announced upcoming events at Queens Borough Hall:

Wednesday, May 17, MWBE Resource Fair for contracting opportunities with HPD

Monday, May 22, at 6:00 p.m. – AAPI Heritage Celebration

Friday, May 26, at 11:00 a.m. – Civic Engagement Resource Fair

Tuesday, May 23 – Haitian Flag Raising

Thursday, May 25, at 6:00 p.m. – African Day Celebration

Thursday, June 8 – Aviation Job Fair

NYC Comptroller

Brad Lander

No Report. Representative not present.

NYC Public Advocate

Jumaane Williams

No Report. Representative not present.

Queens District Attorney

Melinda Katz

No Report. Representative not present.

VIII. NYC Department of Youth and Community Development

Scott Leach, Director of Fatherhood Initiative DYCD

---Introduction and Program Overview

1. Scott Leach reported the Department of Youth and Community Development is part of the largest part of the work done by the agency. Community Development is helping people build themselves out of poverty. This agency funds many community programs and projects. Community Boards govern and decide how the money is spent, whereas, the Community Boards report to DYCD saying the respective community needs money. Your voice needs to be heard for funding.

DYCD works with the Department of Youth because of past Mayor’s administrations to keep youth busy.

On the community development segment, DYCD oversees immigrant, housing, work, reading/literacy, and fatherhood programs,

More is done on the community development segment (DYCD) more than the youth segment.

Summer youth, summer camp, and after school programs are included.

There is much more DYCD carries out. There is an app with DYCD information. Go to Discover DYCD on your phone and go to search. Put in a zip code and search what programs are in that zip code. All DYCD funded programs in that particular zip code will appear, whether it’s after school, fatherhood, or reading programs and much more. Go the website and see all the programs and resources DYCD has to offer for your community, parents, and new Americans.

Department of Youth and Community Development has a plethora of community events, for example, assistance with community gardening.

He added DYCD funds hundreds and hundreds of programs.

Mr. Leach said DYCD has a department called Discretionary Grants partially governed by the legislators who decide which events to fund.

Moreover, 30% of DYCD’s contracts must fund MWBE’s. In a year, a report must be submitted to the government that 30% of the money spent by DYCD went directly to MWBE’s.

Moreover, the Mayor has charged DYCD to help curb gun and gang violence in the community.

In Queens on June 2 the first in-person fatherhood conference will be held at DOC. Subject matters include a father’s role in reducing crime, father’s role in schools, protect his pay check (child support orders), new immigrant fathers, and workshops on mental health.

Moreover, men are wanted as teachers.

A male coming into the Board of Education is highly sought after, with most of his college tuition paid for, and the guarantee of a job for at least two years. In the men's teach program, the criteria is, once schooling is completed, he must work at a low scoring school in the country, which is a job guarantee for two years right out of college. As part of the program, initial government support is brought to that particular school.

Board Member Georgina Oliver asked how long the process is and is the funding explained on the website.

The response was it is very competitive and is a year and half ahead. If applied for funding now, it would not happen until 2026. Normally, the process opens up between December and February. Log on to the website for more information.

2. Forestdale Inc.

Derek Carter, Program Director, Forestdale Inc.

Discussion – Fatherhood Program Overview

Derek Carter, Program Director at Forestdale, reported it is one of the oldest and largest agencies in Queens and offers a plethora of services for the whole family such as foster care, preventative, youth services and health services etc. The goal is to strengthen families. The funding for the father's program is received from DYCD and the purpose of the program is to work primarily with non-custodial fathers.

Non-custodial fathers are not residing with their families. The objective is to keep families connected. Many surveys and studies show that children thrive academically, socially, and emotionally when fathers are involved in their lives. The purpose is to remove any barriers that prevent a father from engaging with his children. Many times fathers become non-custodial because of a case of domestic violence with the child's father and mother. Forestdale help repair that condition. Many times fathers do not understand what domestic violence is. They think it is just physical but it can be emotional such as yelling at someone because the other person is intimidated. Fathers do not realize that because of the way they were brought up.

As a result of the pandemic with the loss of parents, many children have turned to gang recruitment as a way of finding family, which can also happen when parents are in their lives. If fathers are not nurturing or communicating, children can feel they are not part of the family unit. Forestdale helps fathers see their role is not just to provide material needs, but also to provide emotional and social support.

In the program, fathers are exposed to parenting, domestic violence, and anger management classes. Also included is an abusive intervention program, which is more intense of domestic violence classes.

Fathers do nurture, which is not just a mom's job, but also to communicate with his children when a father asks his child to do an assignment.

All programs at Forestdale are free because of the contract with DYCD. Not only working with non-custodial fathers, the program also works with custodial fathers. No one is turned away for services.

Fathers entering the program walk away with a clear, new prospective. An example was cited of a young father that enrolled in the program. Fathers are strengthened in the program so that they can be committed to their families. In this way, those fathers will strengthen their households and communities.

At this point, questions were taken from the Board.

A Board Member asked who teaches the parenting/domestic violence classes.

The response was Forestdale's program team. Fathering specialists who are trained to teach domestic violence, parenting class, anger management, and awareness are part of the team.

A Board Member asked if there were income requirements.

The response was yes because DYCD is an anti-poverty program. The focus is on fathers who cannot afford the services. There is an income level, however, they do accept fathers over the income level because of household size and the pandemic. During the pandemic, many fathers lost their jobs which is a consideration for eligibility.

Further, program services are conducted in English and Spanish.

A Board Member inquired how someone can sign up for services.
The response was flyers were on hand with contact information.

District Manager Christian Cassagnol asked if services were conducted in-person or virtually.

The response was during the pandemic, all classes were virtual. As of the contract last July, program services were brought back in person. The parenting class, which is the first class taken, is in-person. Other classes are held virtually. More explanation was given on the effectiveness of virtual verses in-person classes.

IX. Report and Vote: Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee

State Liquor Authority Applications:

NYS LIQUOR AUTHORITY LICENSES

May 2023

NEW/TEMPORARY PERMIT APPLICATIONS

| <u>EASTABLISHMENT NAME</u> | <u>ADDRESS</u> | <u>LICENSE TYPE</u> | <u>NEW/Temp.</u> | <u>DATE REC.</u> |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Mexican Grill Inc. DBA: Mexican Grill | 102-14 Roosevelt Ave. Corona, NY | Wine, Beer & Cider | New & Temp | 03/30/23 |
| Elm Rostery Inc. | 83-30A Broadway Elmhurst, NY | Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider | New & Temp. | 04/03/23 |
| Patacon Pisao 2 Corp. | 85-22 Grand Ave. Elmhurst, NY | Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider | New & Temp. | 04/20/23 |

RENEWAL APPLICANTS

| <u>EASTABLISHMENT NAME</u> | <u>ADDRESS</u> | <u>LICENSE TYPE</u> | <u>DATE REC.</u> | <u>LIC. EXP. DATE</u> |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Mexport International Corp. DBA: El Tenampa Rest. | 96-14 Roosevelt Ave. Corona, NY | Wine, Beer & Cider | 03/31/23 | 04/30/23 |
| Ayada Thai Inc. DBA: Ayada | 77-08 Woodside Ave. Elmhurst, NY | Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider | 04/05/23 | 05/31/23 |
| El Zocalo Grill Corp. | 40-10 83 Street Elmhurst, NY | Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider | 04/17/23 | 06/30/23 |
| El Gran Coffee Shop | 86-10 Roosevelt Ave. Jackson Heights, NY | Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider | 04/24/23 | 05/31/23 |

CORPORATE CHANGE APPLICANTS

| <u>EASTABLISHMENT NAME</u> | <u>ADDRESS</u> | <u>LICENSE TYPE</u> | <u>TYPE OF APPL.</u> | <u>DATE REC.</u> | <u>LIC. EXP. DATE</u> |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| New Sushi Island Inc. | 87-18 Queens Blvd. Elmhurst, NY | Wine, Beer & Cider | Corporate Change | 04/03/23 | 02/28/25 |

METHOD OF OPERATION CHANGE APPLICANTS

| <u>EASTABLISHMENT NAME</u> | <u>ADDRESS</u> | <u>LICENSE TYPE</u> | <u>TYPE OF APPL.</u> | <u>DATE REC.</u> | <u>LIC. EXP. DATE</u> |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Mitad del Mundo Bar & Rest. Corp. | 104-10 Roosevelt Ave. Corona, NY | Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider | Method of Op. Change | 04/06/23 | 10/31/2023 |
| El Tucan Inc. DBA: El Tucan Rest. | 43-24 91 Place-1 st Fl. Elmhurst, NY | Wine, Beer & Cider | Method of Op. Change | 04/17/23 | 01/28/25 |

ALTERATION APPLICANTS

| <u>EASTABLISHMENT NAME</u> | <u>ADDRESS</u> | <u>LICENSE TYPE</u> | <u>TYPE OF APPL.</u> | <u>DATE REC.</u> | <u>LIC. EXP. DATE</u> |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Sumak Rest. Inc. DBA: Bravazo | 97-15 57 Ave. Corona, NY | Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider | Alteration | 04/03/23 | Lic. Pending |

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------|----------|----------|
| Amadeus 7951 Albion LLC | 79-51 Albion Ave. Elmhurst, NY | Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider | Alteration | 04/18/23 | 09/30/24 |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------|----------|----------|

Committee Chair Lara Gregory reported the committee has communicated with the FBI for active shooter training for our community. No need to wait for a tragedy to happen before we are prepared. What is needed from the Board is a commitment to attend. Names are needed to sign up for the training, otherwise, the training will not occur. Also, volunteers are needed to organize the training. It is essential many people learn the skills and disseminate them. Tragedies have occurred both inside and outside buildings.

Also, the committee has received information about individuals forcibly opening mailboxes in buildings and pilfering the mail. This is both a police matter and a federal crime. Committee Chair Lara Gregory stated the Board office has already coordinated with the NYPD and she is a member of the Queens District Advisory Council that will work with the police for enforcement.

Next, Committee Chair Lara Gregory reported the committee met on May 2, 2023 with committee members Georgina Oliver, Rownoka Ashakhan, Ruby Muhammad, and Board Member Anthony Szeto. The Committee Chair stated the committee always has a quorum and thanked the members who serve on the committee. It was also announced Rownoka Ashakhan will no longer serve on the committee and was thanked for her service.

The Committee Chair discussed the restaurants on the May 2023 liquor license applications, and noted it was unclear why El Zocalo Grill Corp. was on the list. This application was not heard by the committee. The restaurant had requested to be removed from the list and asked to be present next month, therefore, no committee recommendation was given.

Lara Gregory, Committee Chair, provided more information on this establishment citing C-Summons issued for exceeded occupancy and other serious violations. The committee needs clarification from the establishment on how these violations have been disposed. Documents need to be submitted ahead of time.

Subsequently, Committee Chair Lara Gregory said all the restaurants on the list were recommended for approval by the committee. Noteworthy is Amadeus at 79-51 Albion Avenue. Amadeus has implemented a strict policy for people entering with guns and have caught a person entering with a gun who was not able to enter the club. Although the incident was reported, Detective Dave Saponieri was present during the meeting and explained/endorsed the Amadeus' application. As a result, Amadeus' application was approved by the committee.

Before concluding, Committee Chair Lara Gregory emphasized it is important to have these meetings to ensure the interests of the community is represented. Queens is a shared space and businesses must be mindful of the community they serve and encouraged to give back to the community.

Health Committee Chair Dr. G. Oliver reported she had a patient who was injured by a stray bullet from Amadeus. This establishment has had an ongoing problem with its clientele.

Equally important, said Committee Chair Lara Gregory, this is one of the reasons businesses liquor license applications should be posted on the website for all to view the operation and status of a business.

Furthermore, this person no longer has the incentive to continue as a cab driver because of this incident added Dr. G. Olivier.

District Manager Christian Cassagnol provided an explanation on the printable pdf to access the full document of tonight's liquor licenses listing compared to the agenda list which does not have the full list of applications.

At this point, Committee Chair Lara Gregory explained the procedure on opening the email and attachment sent to the Board Member's inbox to see the complete list.

Continuing with Amadeus 79-51 Albion Avenue, Committee Chair Lara Gregory reported it is listed at 7951 LLC and doing business as Amadeus. The reasoning behind the Alteration application is to renovate the establishment. Specifically, it is not for a liquor license. The capacity for the space is for about 1,000 patrons to expand the banquet area with added chairs. The committee did question the incidents noted in the police report and Detective Saponieri spoke about those offenses and endorsed the Amadeus application.

District Manager Christian Cassagnol explained Amadeus has a very bad history with Community Board 4. He said shady matters went on between the owners and gave details, but the core problem was never solved. Was there a corporate change or change in ownership, he inquired?

Committee Chair Lara Gregory stated that matter was not addressed. However, concerns of the community on law enforcement issues are best addressed by the NYPD. The evaluation of the applications rely on NYPD, stated the committee chair since there are specific offenses listed on the report against the establishment. If the representative of the NYPD speaks in favor or against the establishment, it is significant.

Discussion ensued.

Board Member Clara Salas stated in pre-pandemic time's grievances were atrocious. Although some young people like the club, most people in the community despise the club and action needs to be taken.

In conclusion, Public Safety Chair Lara Gregory stated let the record reflect the anecdotal recollections of Board Member Clara Salas and the comments from District Manager Christian Cassagnol, as well as Health Committee Chair Dr. G. Oliver since this constitutes anecdotal evidence which will be referred to later on when the matter surfaces again.

Next, Board Member Alexandra Owens asked if there are any other city agencies that may step in regarding liquor licenses.

District Manager Christian Cassagnol responded agencies such as the Fire Department to check for direct points of egress, the Department of Buildings to ensure the building had the required Certificate of Occupancy and the NYPD. Normally, the Board does not coordinate with those agencies. However, he explained in the past the committee was examining the certificate of occupancy but realized no one on the committee was qualified to do so. Also, the SLA stopped the practice because false C of O's were submitted.

Committee Chair Lara Gregory said the main focus is how many liquor licenses have been issued in Community Board 4, how many liquor licenses has the State Liquor Authority (SLA) issued, and what percentage of the \$5,000 per person fee issued actually reaches the community.

Equally important, is the Public Safety Committee works within the Bylaws of Community Board 4 and ensures all have their due process and follows the principle of transparency and accountability.

At this point, Board Chair Marialena Giampino called for a motion on the Public Safety Committee report.

Environmental Chair Carol Machulski made a motion, seconded by Consumer Affairs Chair Michelle Dunston, to **approve** the Committee's report with stated amendments by Board Member Clara Salas, District Manager Christian Cassagnol, and Health Committee Chair Dr. G. Oliver for Amadeus.

By a voice vote, the Board voted unanimously in favor of the committee's report. Since there were none opposed or abstentions, motion passed.

X. Committee Reports

Consumer Affairs

Committee Chair Michelle Dunston reported a meeting was not held, however, she had received the listing of her committee members. Although her members do not attend meetings, she did reach out to them. New members were welcomed to join the Consumer Affairs Committee. Help is sorely needed because teamwork is key. Issues such as economic development are addressed by the committee as well as the BID's or sidewalk cafes

Environmental

Committee Chair Carol Machulski reported the Environmental Committee met April 12 with two guest speakers: Assemblywoman Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas and Mr. Andrew Hoyles of the Department of Sanitation (DSNY).

Assemblywoman Gonzalez-Rojas who serves on the Assembly's Environmental Conservation Climate Justice Committee, provided an update on the Disadvantaged Environmental Communities map which is still not available. Obstacles to completion include the Public Renewables Act and the issue of ending methane measurement in 20 years.

Mr. Hoyles provided an update on the Curbside Composting program which is still functioning as a voluntary participation program. He noted that an obstacle to participation may be the community's failure to see benefits from their participation. He further stated fines may be used an incentive to participation in the future. Mandatory participation may occur in the future.

Lastly, he announced that DSNY will be having free composting events in April, May and June.

Under Old Business, there was an update by the District Manager regarding the April 29 Earth Day event at Sparrow's Nest and Peach Tree community gardens. While he detailed that DSNY, DEP and Green Thumb would be participating with free giveaways, and also that a former member of Community Board 4, Mr. Castano, would be donating staff and materials to construct a shed and flooring at one of the gardens, and that another current member of CB4 donated a Japanese Birch Peach Tree, ultimately the event was cancelled due to rain. Fortunately, the tree had been planted a few days prior to April 29.

On a happier note, both Sparrow's Nest and Peach Tree Community Gardens were featured in the Borough President's Operation Urban Sustainability Report for this year. After providing some history on both gardens, the articles addressed some of the problems plaguing them; lack of access to water, vandalism, unstable environment for the bees, rodents and poor drainage to name a few.

At QSWAB's monthly meeting on April 26, the minutes of March 22 could not be approved as there was no quorum.

While there were several items on the agenda, the bulk of the meeting was devoted to discussions of the NYS Solid Waste Management Plan and PLANNYC. The primary opposition to both was the short period of time allocated to public comment i.e. one month. That changed within the week to two months. The NYS Solid Waste Management Plan is 558 pages in its entirety.

Health

Committee Chair Dr. G. Oliver reported she is a new committee chair and to choose a time and date for members to meet. Expressed optimism to hold an event such as a rabies & dog licensing event by the Health Committee end of summer. Dr. G. Oliver is looking forward to scheduling this event.

Parks

Parks Committee Chair Ashley Reed reported on Frank D. O'Connor Playground and what we would like to see at the park--Special funding allocation to commemorate a memorial for Covid-19 victims before year end.

Transportation

Committee Chair Matt McElroy reported that the committee would meet Tuesday, May 16, to hear the Department of Transportation's (DOT) presentation on the rollout of the Citibike bike share program in Community Board 4. He encouraged all Board Members to attend.

Board Member Clara Salas asked about traffic congestion at Junction Blvd. and 57th Avenue. Committee Chair Matt McElroy replied this situation has been under discussion between Community Board 4 and the Department of Transportation for some time. DOT's analysis said that a left turn signal would result in longer waits and more congestion and traffic backups; DOT has agreed to continue working on the problem. A Board Member suggested that a crossing guard might help; Committee Chair McElroy said he would forward the suggestion to DOT.

Youth

Committee Chair Sylvian Martin reported the committee is planning an event in June at the community gardens. New Board Members were welcomed.

Since there was no further business, Board Member Clara Salas made a motion, seconded by Board Member Vincent Laucella, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.