



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

April 11, 2023

COMMUNITY BOARD ATTENDANCE

Board Members Attending:

Marialena Giampino
Jonathan Anzalone
Isaac Carmignani
Jaime Cho
Lynda Coral
Michelle Dunston
Leeanne G-Bowley
Alexander Huaylinos
Vincent Laucella
Myrna Littlewort
Carol Machulski
Matthew McElroy
Mac Ryan Merchan
Jose Morillo

Sandra Munoz
G. Oliver
Georgina Oliver
Ramon Pimentel
Lindsay Quartini
Mildred Ramirez
Ashley Reed
Clara Salas
Delia Sebastian-Cecilo
Meenu Singh
Alton Derrick Smith
Anthony Szeto
Charlie Tetiyevsky
Louis Walker

Board Members Absent:

Rownoka Ashakhan
Michelle Calderon
Valery Calderon
Aridia Espinal
Lara Gregory
Ramakrishna Kadukuntla
Abu Zafar Mahmood

Sylvia Martin
Rovenia McGowan
Edgar Moya
Ruby Muhammad
Alexandra Owens
Alexa Ponce
Cristian Romero
Dewan Tarek
Marcello Testa
Minwen Yang

ATTENDING:

Christian Cassagnol, CB4 District Manager
John Bahia, Assembly Member Steven Raga's Office
Kyle Salcido, Congresswoman Grace Meng's Office
Rene Castellanos, Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's Office
Representative from Assembly Member Catalina Cruz's Office
Mercedes Jennings, State Senator Michael Gianaris' Office
Representative from State Senator Jessica Ramos' Office
Representative from Council Member Francisco Moya's Office
Pat Rosero, Queens Borough President's Office
Michael Katz, Community Resident
Peter, NYS Nurses Association
Daniel Randell, MTA
Mr. Ramirez, MTA
Tyron Acosta, MTA
Daniel, MTA
Tommy Lin, NYC Department of Environmental Protection

COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

Date: Tuesday, April 11, 2023

Time: 7:00 P.M.

Place: Elmhurst Hospital
Auditorium
79-01 Broadway
Elmhurst, NY

I. First Vice Chair Ashley Reed opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

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

IV. Vote: February 14, 2023 and March 21, 2023 CB Minutes

The February 14 and March 21 CB minutes would be voted upon in two separate motions.

Minutes: February 14, 2023

Board Member Clara Salas made a motion, seconded by Transportation Chair Matthew McElroy, to **approve** the February 14, 2023 minutes. Since there were none opposed or abstentions, motion passed.

Minutes: March 21, 2023 CB Meeting

Correction: Made by Ashley Reed – Parks Committee Chair

Page 9 – The committee had not heard both presentations. The committee heard the presentations for the first time at the full Board meeting held on March 21, 2023.

Correction: Made by Matthew McElroy – Transportation Committee Chair

Page 11 – Remove: ~~Free buses will be available this spring and if they are available for the 7 train they may be available for the Woodhaven Blvd. station planning for September.~~

Add: Under Environmental Committee Report- March 14, 2023

The committee meeting scheduled for March 1 was postponed.

The Committee Chair spoke with Dana Linton of Con Edison regarding the transmission line completion: she stated that construction was on target and the anticipated completion date will be May or June. The anticipated date for testing is unknown.

As of February 18, Con Edison submitted a proposal with the Public Service Commission requesting increases for electric of 11.2% to raise \$1.2 billion in revenues and gas of 18.2% to raise \$503 million in revenue.

These increases are to be spread out over a 3-year period effective June 1, 2023 as follows:

	<u>1 Year</u>	<u>2 Year</u>	<u>3 Year</u>
Electric	4.9%	3.8%	3.2%
Gas	7.7%	6.4%	6.4%

Public comments on the proposal are now open.

Purpose of increases:

- o To build a greener grid that is more reliable
- o To protect NYS against climate change
- o To pay NYC property taxes
- o To increase benefits for disadvantaged environmental communities especially to reduce fossil fuel emissions

The purpose of the March 1 meeting was to plan a committee event focusing on educating the community about curbside composting and its resumption in April.

Reviewed the NYC Flood Prevention Program noted as a resource on Mr. Moya’s newsletter. My intention was to identify any permanent solutions it might offer. Most of the advice is of little value as the community needs the type of solutions in our FY 2022 & FY 2023 Needs Statement.

I did not attend the QSWAB meeting of February 22 for religious reasons but did attend the meeting on March 15. Minutes of the previous meeting were voted on and passed.

Bylaws Committee submitted suggested changes to the bylaws including the establishment of minimum number of board meeting to be convened per year, the definition of “member in good standing”, and criteria for removing a member from the board. A motion was made to accept and passed.

Legislative Committee proposed that the NYS budget not include any content regarding Extended Packaging Reduction. All QSWABs support the public discussion of EPR instead of in governmental privacy. A motion was made and passed.

Minutes: March 21, 2023

Board Member Clara Salas made a motion, seconded by Board Member Charlie Tetiyevsky, to **approve** the March 21, 2023 minutes with corrections.

Since there were none opposed or abstentions, motion passed.

Subsequently, First Vice Chair Ashley Reed welcomed the new Board members. The Board looks forward to working with those new members. New Board Members were called upon to tell the Board about yourself. Each new Board Member briefly presented details about their background.

First Vice Chair Ashley Reed announced Board Member orientation is on April 18 and urged all those who qualify to attend mentioning new members are mandated to be present.

V. District Manager’s Report

District Manager Christian Cassagnol’s report centered on Earth Day since April is Earth month. On April 8, the Queens United Lions Club in partnership with Community Board 4 sponsored an event at Louis Simeone Park and stated it was an excellent event and he cannot wait for it to happen again.

Next, he spoke about a field trip with the Corona Arts and Science Academy. The local school has a solid agricultural program, and the school was celebrating Earth month. Since Community Board 4 has excellent community gardens, a field trip was planned with two groups of 15 students per group to visit Sparrows Nest and Peach Tree. The children played with the hens, gathered honey, saw the quails and much more.

Letters of support were requested, as part of their assignments, from the children because the Borough Presidents will be pouring substantial funding into our community gardens. So much was done on the event’s day, and he encouraged all to come out and visit the beautiful community gardens in Community Board 4.

Normally, on April 22 (Earth Day) events are planned, however, the District Manager had a conflict. As a result, it will be planned for April 29 in addition to partnering with the Environmental Committee with the Department of Sanitation speaking about curbside composting, recycling, leaves, and any departmental issues. In addition, the Department of Environmental Protection will be present with giveaways to promote the event and tours will be conducted of both gardens.

Moreover, District Manager Cassagnol announced former CB4 Environmental Chair Giancarlo Castano as well as serving as CB4’s First Vice Chair who always wanted to give back to the gardens; but because of the conflict of being a Board Member, he was unable to do so. Now that he is an independent contractor, he will donate a substantial number of hours by his workers to physically work in the gardens. One of the gardens needs a floor built as well as a shelter constructed. Mr. Castano will donate the work needed before the April 29 event.

Equally important, another member is donating a tree to the garden. Also requested, employees from Green Thumb to apply to be a member of one of the gardens. The gardens are amazing and he encouraged all to visit!

Moreover, he announced an Environmental Committee meeting is scheduled for April 12. In attendance will be Assemblywoman Jessica Gonzales-Rojas to discuss several current initiatives. All were encouraged to attend and join the meeting virtually.

VI. Chairperson’s Report

No report given by Board Chair Marialena Giampino.

VII. Report from Elected Officials

NYS Assembly

Steven Raga

John Bahia announced Assembly Member Raga is introducing a resolution for Thai New Year in Assembly District 30.

A paper shredding event is planned on May 11 at the Big Six Towers, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. More details to follow.

A Rain Barrel giveaway is being planned for May. More details to follow.

A housing legal clinic, in partnership with Communities Resist, in April and May is upcoming. More details to follow.

Reach out to Assembly Member Raga’s office with any questions or concerns.

Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas

Brenda Barrera announced a paper shredding event Saturday, April 15, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Astoria Park parking lot.

A housing clinic is planned. Any issues with landlords, please call the Assembly Member's office.

House of Representatives

Grace Meng

Kyle Salcido reported last week Congresswoman Meng returned to D.C. to continue her work on the Appropriations Committee. She met with the Inspector Generals of the U. S. Department of Commerce and the U. S. Department of Justice and the Department of State to review budget requests from departments on behalf of the Biden administration.

Representative Meng is aware of the long processing times and passport related issues constituents are currently facing.

In her hearing with the Secretary of State, Representative Meng pressed for answers for the long processing times for passports and what the state department's plans are for alleviating them.

If you plan on traveling this year internationally, check your passport now. If it will be expiring near your trip, resubmit as soon as possible. Processing times in the last four months have nearly doubled. Those people that have not checked their passports for some time do so now. Restrictions are being rolled back as people want to travel. Volume is high for requests.

A passport event will be held, in partnership with the postal service, at the Forest Hills Post Office on Queens Blvd., Sunday, April 23, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and is a first come first serve event. No appointments needed/available.

Details were provided on the process.

During past passport events, very long lines were seen. Unfortunately if people came during the latter half of the event, they were not seen. Try to get there as early as possible.

Next, file your taxes or file for an extension by April 18.

Recently, Representative Meng introduced the New Deal for New Americans Act. The Bill would establish new programs to assist refugees and immigrants already here legally and help them to overcome challenges in their journey to become American citizens.

These challenges include issues such as language barriers, training, and helping to break down obstacle to naturalization in gaining citizenship. The measure would also strengthen coordination between federal, state, and local governments to support social, economic, and civil integration of the new immigrants and refugees in this country. Some programs in the Bill include English as a gateway to integration program, teaching English and preparing individuals for the naturalization or government test.

The Workforce Development Grant Program ensures equitable access to education and workforce training and legal services and immigration grant program to provide nonprofit organizations to what they need in order to offer services to incoming immigrants and refugees.

Finally, Representative Meng is extremely concerned with mail theft in Queens and New York City. Unfortunately, this has become an increasingly serious and is not a Queens or New York specific issue. Across the nation, there has been upward of a 400% increase in mail theft. Congresswoman Meng along with her other partners in the Federal government are working to address this. If you have a specific issue related to delivery, or witnessed theft etc., please do not hesitate to contact Congresswoman Meng's office at 718-358-6364.

At this point, Board Members addressed questions and concerns to Kyle Salcido.

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

Rene Castellanos reported April 13, the office will be posting a virtual Town Hall at 5:00 pm about the state budget and its effects on the district. More information posted on the Facebook page. Details were given.

March 24, the Department of State updated processing times for U. S. passport applications. Routine processing will take 10 to 13 weeks; expedited processing, which costs an additional \$60, will take 7 to 9 weeks. If you are planning to travel, resubmit early. Not recommended a passport expiring within six months of travel. If there are any questions, contact the Congresswoman's office or stop by the office.

Next, all high schoolers in District 14 were invited to participate in the 2023 Congressional Art Competition. To participate, students may submit artwork to the Congresswoman's office via email for a chance to have it displayed in the U. S. Capitol for one year and recognized in a special reception. The deadline is April 26 at 5:00 p.m.

Please contact the office if you have any questions or know of a school that would like to participate.

Lastly, the Army Corps. Of Engineers have been investigating measures to mitigate future flood risks to the district. One of the measures includes a Seagate placed at the mouth of Flushing Creek to mitigate storm surge in Flushing Bay.

If you have any thoughts or concerns about this proposal, contact the Congresswoman's office.

NYS Assembly

Jeffrion Aubry

No Report.

Catalina Cruz

A representative reported a homeowners benefits information session was held with the NYC Department of Finance.

A seasonal community cleanup was held and a human rights forum too.

Upcoming: Legal clinic April 28 by appointment on social media.
Further, the office is open to assist with public assistance issues.
Please feel free to contact the office.

NYS Senate

Michael Gianaris

Mercedes Jennings reported the office is a support and resource to all constituents.
Constituent services: Many residents had called the office with issues on the LIRR (Woodside). There was hanging debris from the top of Woodside LIRR. Senator Gianaris called in it immediately and was able to resolve the matter and prevent a huge incident from occurring. Working with the MTA to restructure it, so that it would be safer for the commuters.
Call the Senator's office on any matters of concern.
Furthermore, Mercedes Jennings spoke about the tragic death of 7-year old Dolma Naadhun struck and killed by an SUV in late February at the intersection of Newtown Road and 45 Street. Not only a stop sign was installed on 46 Street and Newtown Avenue, the Senator's office is working to put a Stop light to prevent another tragic incident.
Next, she spoke about legislation Senator Gianaris is working on to lower the speed limit around residential areas so that it is safer for pedestrians to cross the street.

Jessica Ramos

A representative from Senator Jessica Ramos' office reported the Senator's office has been assisting with filing taxes by appointment only.
In addition, April 8 a mammogram bus was stationed in front of the Senator's office where 30 women were screened.
Also, the Senator's office has been working with the carpenters union regarding apprenticeship programs. The union offers different free opportunities to learn about different construction jobs. Please refer anyone in need of a job to the Senator's office.
Saturday, April 15, a health education project is planned at a Health Fair on Junction Blvd. Playground/34th Avenue.
The Senator's office is a registered Summer Youth Employment Program site. Anyone interested please contact the Senator Ramos' office.
Meanwhile, a volunteer who was formerly employed by the Dept. of Labor has been helping with labor issues. Anyone who needs help with labor issues, please contact Senator Ramos' office.

Toby Ann Stavisky

No Report. Representative not present.

NYC Council

Francisco Moya

A representative from Council Member Moya's office reported today was the last day Urban Upbound was stationed in the Council Member's office to assist with tax preparation. However, appointments are still being taken at their office located in Long Island City.
Call Council Member Moya's office to assist with making an appointment.
Thursdays, CUNY Citizenship Now is available in the office to help with the citizenship process.
Likewise, she reported on events in the park and upcoming cleanups in Corona, Lefrak, and E. Elmhurst.
Call the district office with any questions or concerns.

Shekar Krishnan

No Report. Representative not present.

Queens Borough President's Office Donovan Richards

Pat Rosero reported Monday, April 17, is Board Member orientation and swearing-in ceremony. Refreshments served between 5:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m. followed by the program.

Upcoming Events:

Eid Celebration, April 24, 6-8 p.m., Atrium at Borough Hall. Please rsvp.
Virtual Legal Orientation: The U-Visa in Spanish & English – Thursday, April 20, 6 pm – 8 pm
Back to School Backpack & School Supply Drive for Children in Need – April 3--September 4
Drop off donations of new or lightly used backpacks and school supplies in a collection box in the lobby of Queens Borough Hall.

NYC Comptroller

Brad Lander

No Report. Representative not present.

Public Advocate

Jumaane Williams

No Report. Representative not present.

Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz

No Report. Representative not present.

U. S. Senator

Charles Schumer

No Report. Representative not present.

Kristen Gilibrand

No Report. Representative not present.

VIII. Public Forum – Good & Welfare of the District

Michael Katz, who lives in the area, reported on the decline of quality of life. Prostitution from 70 Street to 72 Street has become rampant. Unfortunately, it has become so loud residents cannot sleep at night. The 110 Precinct was contacted and reported the Police cannot do anything because it is now decriminalized. Regardless of the drinking and noise, Police will not take any action. Mr. Katz's intent was to alert the Board the quality of life is diminishing daily.

Next, Peter from the NYS Nurses Association (NYSNA's), a 30 year resident of Jackson Heights, between 34/35 Avenues and works in the pediatric Emergency Room.

March 2 the nurse's contract expired. Membership consists of 8,000 city nurses who are now without a contract. The pay disparity is about \$20,000 compared to private institutions. Significantly, this has resulted in short staffing and overworked staff. The retention rate in the Emergency Department on night shift are in single digits over 3 – 5 years. Pay parity is an issue of health and racial equity for New York City. Health & Hospitals nurses are not worth any less than private institution nurses and are still waiting for a contract. The city spent \$150 million last year on agency staff to replace nurses they do not have because nurses refuse to work for less than what they should be paid for.

In Jacobi Hospital, 183 nurses left the hospital, which is 20% of the nursing staff. Nurses at Tier 6 city pension stated they would not stay. If a contract offered is not fair, Mr. Katz would leave his position. In a single vacant position, three nurses are leaving which is \$75,000. More details were presented to the Board about past negotiations. Mr. Katz stated he has worked over 60 hours in a week. According to the Dept. of Health, this is illegal.

First Vice Chair Ashley Reed asked what actions the Board can take to bring awareness to the nurses' plight.

Mr. Katz recommended to speak to city representatives and mentioned a visit to State Senator Jessica Ramos office, Chair of the Senate Labor Committee and vocalize the disparity in existence. Now, the pay disparity is \$20,000 and rising to more next year. Mr. Katz cited an example if he leaves his position today, he will be paid twice his salary in the private sector. Nurses consistently receive offers to double their salary.

If nurses feel they are undervalued, they will not stay at public hospitals. Speak to the Office of Labor Relations (OLR) because they decide on the pay increments.

A flyer was available by scanning the QR code, you can sign the pledge: We Love New York Nurses and share your story.

Board Member Clara Salas asked what the starting salary is.

Mr. Katz responded \$84,000. In a private institution, it is \$19,854.28 higher.

Discussion ensued about past contract talks and pay disparity, which is about \$20,000.

At this point, the Board was given the opportunity to ask questions and express concerns.

Board Member Mac Merchan made a motion, seconded by Board Member Leeanne G-Bowley, to write a letter of support from the Board in favor of the public sector nurses.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 26 in favor, 1 opposed with 1 abstention.

Board Member Lynda Coral requested representatives from elected officials report back at the next Community Board meeting on this issue as it directly impacts our community.

IX. Guest Speakers:

1. Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA)

#7 Train Capital Project

Daniel Randell, Assistant Director, Government & Community Relations for NYC Transit

With the aid of a slide presentation, Mr. Randell reported he covers Community Boards 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. He handles any issues in Queens concerning NYC Transit. Regarding the previously mentioned issue with the LIRR debris, which the Senator's office brought to their attention, the issue was resolved in about two hours. Always utilize the elected officials as the NYC Transit has a great relationship with them.

The presentation centered about seven stations along the #7 line encompassing Community Boards 2, 3, and 4 on 111 Street, 103 Street, 82 Street, 74 Street, 69 Street, 61 Street and 52 Street. All of the non-express train stops east of 61 Street will receive structural and quality of life improvements which will allow the life span of the stations another 25 years. This information was provided to the Community Board through a briefing and a walk thru and with elected officials who will receive a copy of the presentation.

Projects sites were described and explained this project is a master plan expanding a number of neighborhoods along the #7 line. Structural rehabilitations include roofs, platforms, stairs, and mezzanines. Not included in the project are elevators, but will be coming eventually. Details were provided.

The work that will be done to these stations will allow the stations to continue to support a transit system in this neighborhood for another quarter of a century. Station rehabilitations, system upgrades to the CCTV camera system, customer information, public address system and lighting are included. The project will begin at the 82 Street and 111 Street stations in May, but he is presenting the information tonight and inform the public about the impact at each station. As a result, more information will be given on the plans service changes.

Mr. Ramirez, Resident Engineer, talked about improvements coming to the 61 Street station in Woodside. The main purpose of the plan is structural rehab. The 61 Street/Woodside station is in dire need of structural rehab. Stairway repair will be done which will bring it in good repair for the next 25 years. Track beds and rails rehabilitated. Walking the station on the mezzanine level, there are massive leaks and cracks. The drainage system and water proofing is scheduled for repair as well as fixing the ceiling as well as improving escalator service. The escalators will be increased to 32".

The three escalators will be replaced at 74 Street. Escalators go from the #7 train down to the E train.

Likewise, air conditioners will be improved as well as existing street stairs with new structural steel. Equally important, missing staircases within the station will be replaced.

Digital maps will be set up so that a commuter can see when the train is coming in real time. Anticipated start date for 61 Street is June 2023.

Environmental Chair Carol Machulski inquired if work will be done on the elevator.

The response was elevators are not included as part of this project, adding elevator will always be in service.

Furthermore, the 61 Street station is three station/three track which consists of the express track, Manhattan bound, and Flushing bound trains. First, the CM Express track will be taken out of service from approximately June to December. The local Manhattan and Flushing bound service will not be affected. Pointing out, both platforms serve the local as well as the express track. To keep passengers safe, barricades will be erected along the platforms to isolate the work area to just the middle to keep the station active for all the passengers.

A decking system will be installed to protect the public and businesses below the elevated tracks, which will be under the tracks to catch any falling debris or potential tools.

Once the middle track is back in service, the local Manhattan bound track will be worked on. Temporary platforms will be installed at 33 Street, 40 Street, and 46 Street stations. Once the local track is taken out of service, platforms will be extended at those three stations to provide a stop always providing access to Manhattan bound or Flushing bound trains. As the work progresses, service will always remain at 33 Street, 40 and 46 Streets with work done at 61 Street.

The Flushing bound is expected to let out in five months after the Manhattan bound track is brought back into service. Removing those temporary platforms on the Manhattan bound, now will be put on the Flushing bound. Therefore, there will always be consistent service at those three locations minimizing impact on the #7 line.

Station areas north of Roosevelt Avenue on 61 Street is set for escalator construction. Anticipated construction date for this phase is June 2024.

For the 74 Street station, this project will replace the three escalators currently at 74 Street. Coming from the #7 line to the subways service for the E. All three escalators will be out of service the same time in June 2023. The first working escalator will be January 2024 (in about six months). Stair access is available at all times. At this station, another set of escalators is available. Use the escalators from the #7 to the E.

Next, Tyrone Acosta, Construction Manager, PMC Team, reported on the benefits of the five station repairs. These repairs will be typical for all five stations which includes 52, 59, 82, 103, and 111 Streets. Strengthening and extending the structuralized span of the station in the next 25 years by doing numerous steel replacement steel repairs which are direly needed and rehabilitating platform components including installation of detectable warning strips and platform edges, improving stair conditions by replacing all stairs (streets and mezzanine) and mezzanine to platform. All stairs brand new. Furthermore, eliminate uneven walking surfaces while replacing the whole mezzanine floor and upgrade customer experience with new wind streams including art work and painting throughout the station. Likewise, upgrading lighting fixtures and installing passenger identification CCTV cameras to enhance passenger safety.

Beginning with street and service impacts on 82 Street, the work at the five stations will be grouped and done in phases. Construction will take place one platform at time so that stations will not be closed completely. For 82 Street, work will be done on the Manhattan bound side. While work is taking place on the Manhattan bound side, all repairs will be done that is necessary. During this work phase, the #7 train will not be stopping at this station Manhattan bound for up to six months.

Two slides were shown for the Manhattan bound side pointing out stairs 3 and 1. This stage will take six months. Details were given on stair removal.

82 and 111 Streets work will be done at the same time; and 103 Street is one of the last stations to be done—anticipated start date: May 2025.

Manhattan bound side - No trains for up to six months and the staging area on 104 Street. Stairs 2 and 4 are connected with one landing. Approximately 100 feet of parking spots will be removed on Roosevelt Avenue.

Flushing bound side - The staging area is on National Street. Once stairs 1 and 3 are completed, stairs on sidewalk side will not obstruct the roadway, barricades will be placed around the stairs. Five ft. pedestrian walkways will be in place.

For 111 Street, no trains on the Manhattan bound side for six months. There will be two staging areas at 111 Street and at 112 Street. Five parking spaces will be affected for the duration of six months. One will occupy a bus lane and the Q48 bus stop will be relocated.

Stairs 2 and 3 were shown and the staging area stays on the same spot.

Next, Daniel reported there will be some service impacts when the work is in progress. Every station will remain open; no stations will be shut down. When the train is bypassed in one direction, you can board the train in the other direction or go to the stop before to get to your destination. From June 26 to end of December 2024, no #7 line express service west of 61 Street. Five extra stops between Queens Borough Plaza and 61 Street, but east there will be express options available.

A graphic will be disseminated to the Community Board for anyone's usage on social media networks.

The Manhattan bound bypass will start in May 2023 – October.

Flushing bound #7 train service to 82 Street from Flushing, take a Manhattan bound #7 to 74 Street.

From Manhattan bound service from 82 Street, take a Flushing bound #7 to 90 Street.

October to April same route but in the opposite direction.

For Flushing bound service from 82 Street, take a Manhattan bound #7 to 74 Street.

Service to 82 Street from Manhattan take the Flushing bound #7 to 90 Street.

Beginning in May, there will be the following #7 bypasses:

For Manhattan service from 111 Street take a Flushing bound #7 at Willets Point.

For service to 111 Street from Flushing, take Manhattan bound #7 to 103 Street for a Flushing bound #7 train.

From October – April, the Flushing bound bypass take the #7 to 103 Street.

103 Street Corona Plaza will be the last station to be rehabilitated, starting in January 2025.

Alternate routes were given while work is in progress.

Minimizing business and street vendor impact is essential. The contract with the MTA is to work closely with the local businesses and street vendors to mitigate impacts. Businesses at 82 Street and 111 Street and 61 Street stations have been contacted to notify them of the rehabilitation. Multi-lingual notifications have been prepared. Access to essential services will be maintained throughout the duration of the project.

MTA maintains no business should be unable to operate as a result of the work performed.

Signage will be posted around the barricades on the worksite to let pedestrians know businesses are open. The MTA will work with local stakeholders and organizations to keep in communication with vendors and representatives on barricaded areas for pedestrian safety. Notices will be stationed specific and translated into different languages.

In terms of customer communications, an example of signage was shown which will be posted in the stations. Communications will include signage, announcements on the train and stations, in-person announcements on the ground, take ones for customers and informational sheets in multi-languages. Outreach is being done in one of the most diverse neighborhoods in the country.

Online communications via active social media campaigns with digital assets.

Customer service will always be available via Twitter, What's App, Facebook and email alerts to customers.

Go to the project website to see what's happening station by station as much work is being performed along the #7 line and provided the email address flushingline@mtacd.org to contact or reach out to Danny Randell, as he is the MTA contact, at daniel.randell@mtahq.org.

At this point, the MTA representatives took questions from the Board Members.

Board Member Lynda Coral brought up the pigeon infestation on 103 Street/Corona Plaza and how it will be addressed.

Mr. Randell responded while structural improvements are being made, opportunities will be made to bury wires for the birds so that they will have less places to stand and noted it is challenging to bird-proof a station. Also, bird deter systems will be installed; some are already in stations with the installation of netting and removing bird perches. However, there is no concrete plan for mitigation.

Board Member Lynda Coral asked can anything be done now as the situation has become completely unsanitary, and she had photos of the Pidgeon excrement covering the turnstile area.

Mr. Randell replied that is a separate issue from this project. Generally speaking, there are 472 subway stations and about half are outdoors and this is problematic at stations all over the city. When elected officials notify the MTA offices, a cleaning team is sent out as soon as possible. Help should be on the way in terms of the MTA hiring more cleaning staff. Their motto is cleaner, faster, and safer.

A Board Member stated cash machines are needed because many times the cash machines go down.

Next, it was brought up the traffic around 82 Street that the hospital and traffic around the staging areas should be monitored, specifically, the traffic flow for ambulance egress.

The response was all of the MTA's permits must be approved by DOT and there should not be any impact on the traffic around the hospital.

Furthermore, when the express train before 82 Street is not running, will there be service on the local and will there be increased service was asked.

The response was there will not be any decrease in local service because of this work and he would have to review plans to see if there would be an increase in the service. It's not clear if more trains can be operated. More trains are operated on the #7 line than any other line in the city other than the L train.

Because the express will be different, it will be more consistent on the local.

Another Board Member inquired about the 90 Street station.

The response was it was unclear why the 90 Street was not included. 95% of the stations will have ADA access, adding a further station renovation will be planned in time.

More questions were addressed by the MTA representatives.

There will be upgrades to turnstiles which may help passengers moving from the stairs to the streets, which was part of the design.

A Board Member inquired whether this project was added into the fiscal year project.

The response was yes; the contract has been awarded and funding available.

The MTA representative explained the agency has been coordinating with the Long Island Railroad on this project because a very unique shield will be installed across the Long Island Railroad tracks underneath the mezzanine of the Woodside station. However, all

city permits must be acquired and approved by the Department of Transportation. The MTA must work within those parameters and when issue arise they will be addressed.

A Board member inquired about the hazardous garbage that will be generated from the construction and how it will be hauled away.

The response was the MTA has its own lead asbestos abatement plans and any other environmental plans are thoroughly and rigorously reviewed on multi levels. On site inspectors are constantly there to ensure when lead or asbestos abatement work is done, the containment area is monitored. Likewise, many of the stations are enclosed and will have barricades.

Please reach out to Daniel Randell with any further questions.

Guest Speaker:

Tommy Lin, Queens Borough Coordinator, NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) address the Board on the water amnesty program which is a new program from January 30, 2023 – April 30, 2023. This program is geared to those individuals in arrears on their water bills over \$1,000. Currently, there is \$1.2 billion outstanding. 85% of the balance is from residential property.

With the aid of a slide presentation, the following three options were explained to the Board:

1. If you pay 100% of your bill, all interest charges will be forgiven.
2. If you pay 75% of your bill, 50% of interest charges will be forgiven.
3. If you pay 50% of your bill, 75% of interest will be forgiven.

To apply for the program, log on to the DEP website at www.nyc.gov/dep. and type in amnesty and fill in the information requested. The state also has a low income water assistance program and the highest amount awarded is up to \$5,000. The Department of Environmental Protection is funded by the taxpayers.

The DEP low income program and the state’s water assistance program is a one-time agreement to assist resident having trouble paying their past due water bills. Delinquent accounts pose a serious threat and nearly one in four customers are delinquent in their water bill because of the pandemic.

These interest rates apply to those customers who owe over \$1,000.

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

NYS LIQUOR AUTHORITY LICENSES

April 2023

NEW/TEMPORARY PERMIT APPLICATIONS

<u>ESTABLISHMENT NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>LICENSE TYPE</u>	<u>NEW/Temp.</u>	<u>DATE.REC.</u>
Tacompadre Rest. Corp.	101-16 43 Ave. Corona, NY	Beer & Cider	New & Temp.	03/01/23
Morena’s Kitchen Corp.	111-20 Roosevelt Ave. Corona, NY	Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider	New & Temp.	03/06/23
Kalahi and Company Inc.	51-24 Van Loon Street Elmhurst, NY	Wine, Beer & Cider	New & Temp.	03/06/23
Azoguenita Criolla Bakery & Restaurant Inc.	40-26 National Street Corona, NY	Wine, Beer & Cider	New	03/09/23
Catmandoo LLC DBA: Café Catmandoo	71-32 Roosevelt Ave. 1 st Fl. Jackson Heights, NY	Wine, Beer & Cider	New & Temp.	03/10/23

Nangma Tibetan Group Corp.	83-17 Broadway Elmhurst, NY	Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider	New & Temp.	03/13/23
Filipiniana LLC	84-05 Queens Blvd. Elmhurst, NY	Wine, Beer & Cider	Wine, Beer & Cider	03/20/23

RENEWAL APPLICANTS

<u>ESTABLISHMENT NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>LICENSE TYPE</u>	<u>DATE REC.</u>	<u>LIC. EXP. DATE</u>
Nevada Diner Inc.	80-26 Queen Blvd. Elmhurst, NY	Liquor, Wine, Beer & & Cider	03/06/23	04/30/23
Luz De America Rest. Inc. <i>DBA: Luz De America</i>	104-30 Roosevelt Ave. Corona, NY	Liquor, Wine, Beer & & Cider	03/06/23	04/30/23
Tropic Mex. Corp.	90-59 Corona Ave. Elmhurst, NY	Wine, Beer & Cider	03/06.23	03/31/23
Tacos Mexico Corp.	41-10 102 Street Corona, NY	Wine, Beer & Cider	03/06/23	04/30/23
Brother's Bar Corp.	40-37 75 Street Elmhurst, NY	Liquor, Wine, Beer & & Cider	03/09/23	04/30/23
Thai Son Queens Inc.	40-10 74 Street Jackson Heights, NY	Wine, Beer & Cider	03/10/23	04/30/23
Queens Seafood Rest. Inc.	82-22 45 Street Elmhurst, NY	Wine, Beer & Cider	03/13/23	05/31/23
Kido Sushi Queens Inc.	90-15 Queens Blvd. Elmhurst, NY	Wine, Beer & Cider	03/13/23	05/31/12
Betty's Catering Corp.	94-33 Corona Avenue Elmhurst, NY	Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider	03/15/23	05/31/23
61 Billiard & Snooker <i>DBA: Olympia Billiards</i>	40-09 77 Street, 2 nd Fl. Jackson Heights, NY	Wine, Beer & Cider	03/15/23	05/31/23
A.N.G Diner Corp.	58-21 Junction Blvd. Elmhurst, NY	Wine, Beer & Cider	03/20/23	04/30/23

CORPORATE CHANGE APPLICANTS

<u>ESTABLISHMENT NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>LICENSE TYPE</u>	<u>DATE REC.</u>	<u>LIC. EXP. DATE</u>
Los Tres Hermanos Potrillos	111-16 Roosevelt Ave. Corona, NY	Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider	03/06/23	01/31/25

Since the Committee Chair was not in attendance, committee member Georgina Oliver presented the report. All applicants were approved except for the renewal Tropic Mex. Corp because of a document error where the expiration date was not included on the form by the applicant.

At this point, District Manager Christian Cassagnol explained the process for the liquor license applications and 30 day notice. He explained the Board office policy. If any renewal has a clean record, they are not invited to come to the office and would obtain an immediate approval from the Board. Because the committee did not know the expiration date of this applicant, their license was denied. He further explained this restaurant had no violations, therefore, were not invited to the Public Safety Committee meeting.

Based on this technicality, the restaurant was called, the information would have been included. One item on their application was missed, which is public information. Equally important, the restaurant will receive its license nonetheless, and the District Manager provided more details about this application.

Discussion ensued.

Subsequently, Environmental Chair Carol Machulski made a motion, seconded by Transportation Chair Matthew McElroy to **approve** committee's report. The general consensus of the Board approved the committee's report with 0 opposed, and 1 abstention. Motion passed.

Significantly, a fire safety education workshop was held on March 18, 2023 in partnership with the Fire Department and the Queens Public Library, which was a huge success. An active shooter presentation was given along with other information.

XI. Committee Reports

Consumer Affairs

Committee Chair Michelle Dunston did not make a report and stated she will be stepping down as chair of the committee but will remain an active member.

Environmental Committee

Committee Chair Carol Machulski reported the March 1 committee meeting was cancelled due to personal reasons with both principals. Although the committee chair was unable to attend the March 14 Community Board meeting, she had submitted a committee report to the Board office and the District Manager. The report took note of proposed increases in Con Edison and National Grids rates are due to the change to green products and infrastructure.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for April 12. The main order of business is planning for an event in partnership with DSNY and DEP. The proposed theme is Earth Day.

For the February 22 meeting of the Queens Solid Waste Advisory Board, the committee chair did not attend due to religious observance.

At the March 15 meeting, two important topics were discussed:

Proposed changes in the bylaws governing membership with a brief discussion by the legislative committee on the Extended packaging reduction law. A motion was made and voted on and passed.

Bylaws changes were also voted on and approved.

The Environmental Justice Committee met March 17 regarding the draft letter on the quality of life issues in Community Boards 7, 12 and 13. Discussion still ongoing.

Health & Human Services

No Report.

Parks

Committee Chair Ashley Reed reported the committee did not meet last month, however, a community input meeting is scheduled for Frank D. O'Connor Playground (across from Elmhurst Hospital) on tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, April 26. More details to follow.

At this point, District Manager Cassagnol announced the 110 Precinct Council is having its yearly Easter Celebration April 13. Meet at VFW at 7:00 p.m. After the meeting, cross the street to William F. Moore Park for an Easter egg hunt, free prizes and giveaways, and much more.

Transportation

Committee Chair Matthew McElroy reported the committee did not meet in the last month. Two items will be upcoming in particular the Department of Transportation will reveal location for citi-bikes. When that happens, the Transportation Committee may or may not meet but will try to bring them forth so that residents can look at the areas in their neighborhoods which may be selected locations and to address concerns why that location was chosen.

Next, the Queens Bus Plan is being brought forward for comment before a final decision is reached.

Furthermore, Committee Chair Matt McElroy extended an invitation to the new Board members to join the Transportation Committee.

At this point, Board Member Georgina Oliver asked for more clarification on the Queens Bus plan.

Transportation Chair Matthew McElroy reported the plan was to revise the bus service in Queens with different, new routes. The Board has given comments and the MTA is considering comments from all the Community Boards in Queens and others. The MTA will present a final draft with those comments. The committee will review those comments and make a report to the Board.

At this point, Board Member Georgina Oliver brought up the street becomes one-way when those barriers are installed and brought up ambulances cannot get through.

District Manager Cassagnol responded he spoke to the Department of Transportation representative and they are still working on it. The email he had received was that jersey barriers were still going to continue and is still unclear.

A Board Member brought up shuttle buses while work is being done on the #7 line.

Shuttle buses between 74 Street/Roosevelt Avenue/Queens Plaza will be only on weekends, responded Committee Chair Matthew McElroy.

Discussion ensued on the planned changes to the #7 line.

At this point, Board Chair Marialena Giampino asked about the timeframe for the bus redesign.

Transportation Chair Matthew McElroy responded in the next couple of months. The redesign will come to the committee and the Board will have the opportunity to comment.

Board Chair Marialena Giampino inquired if the Citi bike locations will be brought to the committee.

Transportation committee Chair Matthew McElroy responded said it looks like there will be a 30-day comment period. If possible, it will be brought to the committee. Because committee members know their neighborhoods well it is very important for as many people as possible to provide input to the Department of Transportation.

Board Chair Marialena Giampino asked if the Board would be able to see the redesign beforehand so that the Board can study it.

Transportation Chair Matthew McElroy answered it depends on the timing. He noted this is not the final plan; it is the next step. Public input was enlisted on where the docks should be placed and 30-45 days was given for that input. Looking at this information to see which suggestions are viable or not workable. Then, it will be presented to the Board.

Transportation Chair Matthew McElroy suggested as soon as the information is released, it should be sent out in the Board's mailing.

Next, Board Member Vincent Laucella brought up its three years since Jim Galloway passed away. Is this political when a girl was shot in another borough and a street naming was done immediately, he inquired.

District Manager Cassagnol responded the Board submitted the street co-naming request, which was given to the Council Member and was not acted upon multiple times.

Board Member Vincent answered Jim Galloway gave his life to the children for thirty years.

District Manager Cassagnol explained the Board's action on this street co-naming request. The Board did follow up with the Council Member, not only for this street co-naming but for others, but never did receive a response. When a response was not received, the Board wrote again. An automated response was given that someone would reply, but no one did. Presently, there are still three/four street co-naming's pending that have gone unanswered.

Discussion ensued on street co-naming's procedures.

More discussion on the citi-bike lanes specifically how they take away parking which can be up to eight parking spaces on a block. Likewise, how citi-bikes are placed on the street. The suggestion was to start looking for streets where bikes can be stationed. For example, the 90th Street Triangle.

Board Chair Marialena Giampino commented she gave Transportation Chair Matthew McElroy a contact from the Juniper Civic Association that had to deal with this and came up with suggestions to be proactive. It may be productive to meet with them first before meeting with DOT.

Discussion ensued.

ULURP/Zoning

Committee Chair Alton Derrick Smith reported ULURP/Zoning applications are quiet.

Youth Services

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance. However, District Manager Christian Cassagnol reported the Youth Committee will participate in the event April 29.

At this point, Board Chair Marialena Giampino welcomed the new Board members and announced new board members will be receiving an email regarding temporary committee choices. In September, permanent committee assignments will be completed.

Subsequently, District Manager Christian Cassagnol gave brief summary of the Board committees and urged new members to visit committees.

Since there was no further business, Board Member Mac Merchan made a motion, seconded by Board Member Vincent Laucella, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.