



Community Board No. 5

Borough of Queens
Ridgewood, Maspeth, Middle Village and Glendale
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Vincent Arcuri, Jr.
Chairperson

Gary Giordano
District Manager

Minutes of Community Board 5 Public Meeting

January 8, 2025

Board Members Present

Vincent Arcuri, Jr; Carol Benovic-Bradley; Jessica Boiardi; Eric Butkiewicz; Rachel Caracci; Ethan Chan; Deepak Chaudhari; Betsy Chen; Walter E. Clayton, Jr; Patricia Crowley; Dmytro Fedkowskyj; Steven Fiedler; Dorie Figliola; Mati Gonzalez; Gail Grabowski; Fred T. Haller; Daniel Heredia; Christopher F. Herman; Fred Hoefflerle; Paul A. Kerzner; Maryann Lattanzio; Diego Leclery; Edward Lettau; Katherine Masi; Naho Matsuzawa; Michael O'Kane; Donald Passantino; Melissa Rebecca; Kenneth Rehberger; Theodore Renz; Lee S. Rottenberg; Katarzyna Syta; Barbara Toscano; Patrick Trinchese; Maryanna Zero; Brandon Zwagerman

Board Members Absent

Michael Byc; Maritza Carmona; Robert Cermeli; Charles Ober; Margaret O'Kane; Luis Rodriguez; Enriquez Rosa; Walter H. Sanchez; Lily Scarabino; Dennis Stephan; Gyanal Thapa; Jasmine Valle-Bueno

ELECTED OFFICIALS and STAFF

Clare Collins – Queens Borough President Donovan Richards
Kate Boehme – Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz
Tianna Armstrong – Congresswoman Grace Meng
John D'Angelo - NYS Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, 15th SD
Maria Valdez – NYS Senator Julia Salazar, 18th SD
Anna Sargeant - NYS Assembly Member Jenifer Rajkumar, 38th AD
Phil Wong - NYC Council Member Robert Holden, 30th CD
Kimberly Vega - NYC Council Member Jennifer Gutierrez, 34th CD

STAFF

Gary Giordano, District Manager-CB5Q
John Maier, Board 5 Staff
Derek Jasmin, Queens Planner, Dept. of City Planning

Vincent Arcuri, the Board Chairperson, welcomed everyone to tonight's Board Meeting and called the meeting to order at 7:30pm, following a Salute to the Flag. He informed everyone that this Meeting is being livestreamed via YouTube, where anyone can watch it at their convenience, by clicking on the link that's posted on our Board's Homepage at: www.nyc.gov/qnscb5. He announced the first Order of Business as:

PUBLIC FORUM

Joan Bruno, a Ridgewood resident, spoke about the daily problem with traffic congestion on Fresh Pond Road. She suggested that traffic flow could be improved by installing a Left-Turn signal at the intersection of Metropolitan Avenue and Fresh Pond Road, to allow northbound traffic to turn and head

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west toward Brooklyn. She explained that northbound traffic often backs up for blocks on Fresh Pond Road because a driver waits to make a left hand turn at this intersection but can't because of the continuous flow of traffic in the southbound lanes there.

The Board Chairperson referred the matter to the Transportation Committee. Eric Butkiewicz, the Committee Chair, welcomed Ms. Bruno to attend their next Committee Meeting at 7:30pm, on Tuesday, January 28th in the Board 5 Office when the Committee will discuss the request.

Dermot Smyth, a Middle Village resident, wished everyone a Happy New Year, and thanked Board Members for participating in local government by volunteering their time and effort to serve on this Board. He reminded everyone that he's running this year as a candidate for the 30th City Council District seat that will be vacated by Council Member Bob Holden at the end of his term in office this year. He said that, of all the candidates for the 30th Council District, he has the best experience and qualifications, having worked for the City's Teachers Union for the past 10 years and lived in this area of Queens for many years. In closing, he said that he would be honored to serve this community as Council Member of the 30th CD, if elected in November.

The Board Chairperson thanked everyone for their input, and announced the next Item on the Agenda:

Chairperson's Report

Vincent Arcuri

The Board Chairperson took the attendance of Board Members present. He recognized Gary Giordano, the District Manager, John Maier of the Board's staff, and Derek Jasmin, Queens Planner in the Dept. of City Planning, who were present at the Board Meeting. He wished everyone a Happy New Year, and announced the next Item on the Agenda:

Minutes

The Board Chairperson asked Board members if they reviewed the minutes from last month's Board Meeting which was conducted on December 11, 2024. On a motion from Walter Clayton, Jr, that was seconded by Lee Rottenberg, the minutes were adopted, as written.

Alcoholic Beverage License Applications and Renewals

Mr. Arcuri directed Staff Member John Maier to read aloud the list of Alcoholic Beverage Applications and Renewals, which was distributed to all Board Members.

New Liquor License Application

- 1) * Bar-V Group LLC d/b/a **The Village Saloon** 82-11 Eliot Ave, Middle Village, NY 11379 [R]

Liquor License Renewal Applications

- 1) Relax Cafe Inc. d/b/a **Relax Cafe Lounge** 68-17 Forest Ave, Ridgewood, NY 11385 [R]
 2) JNS Ventures Ltd d/b/a **VIXEN** 60-07 Metropolitan Ave, Ridgewood, NY 11385 [R]
 3) **Ridgewood Moose Lodge** 1642 Loyal Order of Moose Inc. 72-15 Grand Ave, Maspeth, NY 11378 [CL]
 4) **Gottscheer Central Holding** Inc. 655/657 Fairview Ave, Ridgewood, NY 11385 [R]

New Wine, Beer & Cider Applications

- 1) * **Low Cinema LLC** 70-11 60th St, Ridgewood, NY 11385 [B/T]
 2) * LZ Cuisine Inc. d/b/a To Be Determined, 73-06 Metropolitan Ave, Middle Village, NY 11379 [R]

Wine, Beer & Cider Renewal Applications

- 1) Wakamatsu Queens Japanese Restaurant Inc. d/b/a **Wakamatsu Japanese Restaurant** 70-18 Grand Avenue, Maspeth, NY 11378 [R]

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- 2) SSC Group LLC d/b/a **Sugarcoal-Aroma**; 64-30 Woodhaven Blvd, Rego Park, NY 11374 [R]
- 3) **Carlo Pizza of Metropolitan Ave Inc.** 74-02 Metropolitan Ave, Middle Village NY 11379 [R]
- 4) NYC Dynamic Squared LLC d/b/a **Lucy's Kitchen**, 552 Onderdonk Ave, Ridgewood, NY 11385 [R]
- 5) **Banatul Folklore and Soccer Club** 1880 Menahan St, Ridgewood, NY 11385 [CL]

* Also Seeking a **Temporary Retail Permit** - Information about the Temporary Retail Permits can be found on the State Liquor Authority Website at: <https://sla.ny.gov/node/13981>.

[B/T] = Bar/Tavern , [CA] = Catering , [CL] = Club , [R] = Restaurant

Jessica Boiardi, a Board Member from Middle Village, asked about the status of 73-06 Metropolitan Avenue, in Middle Village. She said that this location had a history of problems when it was a party hall a couple of years ago. She asked if the new restaurant would have the same management as before, because that could be a problem.

Staff Member John Maier replied that when the Board receives 30-Day Notifications from applicants about a new liquor license application, our office requests that applicants fill out a questionnaire that would provide more details about the principal partners who are associated with the business, the lay out of the premises, their proposed hours of operation, etc. However, this month, we haven't received responses to our request for more information from all the new applicants, so we can't provide any further information at this time, he said. The District Manager commented that this location has been closed for quite a long time now. He said that prior to the problem party hall, this site had been occupied as a hardware store for many years.

CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION PERMITS

Staff Member John Maier reported that no new construction or demolition notifications were received since last month's Board Meeting.

The Board Chairperson invited the staff of local elected officials to address the Board.

Elected Officials

On behalf of **Queens Borough President Donovan Richards**, Clare Collins wished everyone a Happy New Year. She announced that the application process for Community Board Membership is up and running now, with a link to the application on their website at www.queensbp.nyc.gov. She said that new applicants, as well as Board Members who are up for reappointment this year, should apply online before the deadline on Friday, February 14th. She said that paper applications are available upon request by calling their office. For more information, she welcomed calls to Michael Carlier, the new Director of Community Boards at **(718) 286-2777**, or via email at mcarlier@queensbp.nyc.gov.

Ms. Collins announced the upcoming events that will take place in Queens Borough Hall, at 120-55 Queens Boulevard, this month:

- at 6 PM on Tuesday, January 14th -**Virtual Parent Advisory Board Meeting**
- at 6 PM on Thursday, January 16th – **Haitian Independence Day Celebration**
- at 6 PM on Thursday, January 30th – **Lunar New Year Celebration**

For more information and to RSVP to these events, she welcomed everyone to visit their website at www.queensbp.nyc.gov.

She also announced that a Vital Parks for All Public Forum, will be held in Queens Borough Hall, from 6:30 PM to 8 PM, next Wednesday, January 15th, in partnership with the NYC Dept. of Parks Commissioner Sue Donohue, to discuss strengthening the health and environment of communities in Queens through our Parks system. She said that Vital Parks for All will involve an initial \$3.2B investment aimed at revitalizing aging park facilities, delivering new resources where they are needed most, and

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equipping New Yorkers with data to champion their parks. She advised that anyone who wishes to attend this Forum should register by sending an email to: rsvp@parks.nyc.gov.

On behalf of **Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz**, Kate Boehme reported that due to advanced DNA testing techniques that are assisting the detectives in the Cold Case Squad in the District Attorney's Office, they were able to identify a female homicide victim whose identity has remained unknown for more than 30 years. She said that the victim was recently identified as Judy Rodriguez by using advanced DNA testing.

She said that the victim's unidentified body was originally discovered on August 25, 1992, bound at the ankles with a cord and covered with a large wooden board, in a grassy area at the intersection of Cross Island Parkway and the Southern State in southeast Queens. During their trial, she said that the 4 men who were prosecuted and convicted in 1992 and 1993 for their roles in this killing refused to reveal the identity of their victim, which has remained unknown until recently. She said that Ms. Rodriguez had been reported missing by her family shortly after being last seen on January 23, 1991, at her daughter's 1st birthday party.

Ms. Boehme reported that the Queens District Attorney thanked "our partners at the NYPD and the Office of Chief Medical Examiner, who have now provided those crucial details in the victim's DNA, which I hope brings a measure of solace to her family. This case is a prime example of the determination of my Cold Case Unit in identifying victims and solving the borough's oldest, most challenging homicides. And I extend special gratitude to U.S. Representative Grace Meng for securing a \$500,000 grant for the Cold Case Unit in my office, which will be used to obtain such answers for other families."

The Board Chairperson asked how the Cold Case Squad was able to crack this case after so many years. Ms. Boehme replied that detectives search through websites, for example, Ancestry.com to identify anyone who is searching for their long-lost relative. She explained that detectives collect a sample of their DNA that's been donated to the website for research purposes and then search for a match in the DNA database of missing persons which is only accessible to members of law enforcement. When they find there's a positive match with the victim's DNA, they inform the missing person's living relatives about the circumstances surrounding their death, to provide some closure to their grief. She said that their staff is optimistic about solving many Cold Cases using this methodology.

On behalf of **Congresswoman Grace Meng**, Tianna Armstrong wished everyone a Happy New Year. She announced that, this year, their office will be open on occasional weekends to accommodate constituents who work all week long so there's an opportunity for them to meet face to face with staff to address their problems. She said to begin with their office located at 118-35 Queens Boulevard, Suite 900, will be open on Saturday, January 11th from 10 AM to 1 PM, and their Flushing office, located at 40-13 159 Street, will be open on Sunday, February 9th, from 10 AM to 1 PM. She welcomed constituents to call their office for assistance in dealing with any federal agencies or services at **(718) 358-6364**.

On behalf of **Council Member Robert Holden**, Phil Wong wished everyone a Happy New Year. He announced that, with tax season about to begin, the Council Member has secured funding for tax preparers and accountants to assist individuals with an annual income of less than \$65,000 and families with incomes of less than \$93,000 to file their tax returns free of charge. He said that constituents can choose how they want to file their return in one of 4 ways, as follows:

- Meet with a tax preparer in person.
- Drop off your tax documents and pick up the completed return later.
- Attend a Virtual Tax Prep Session where participants are assisted in filing their tax returns by tax professionals they meet online.

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- Do your own taxes online using free filing software, but phone or email a volunteer for help. He said that this service is free and can be accessed by going to the website at www.nyc.gov/taxprep or by calling 311 and asking for “tax preparation” assistance. For more information about this free service, he said that copies of the **NYC Free Tax Prep** brochure are available in the back of the cafeteria. Mr. Wong also announced that from 10 AM to 2 PM, on Saturday, January 25th, the Council Member is sponsoring a Free E-Waste Recycling Event at Rosemary’s Playground on Fairview Avenue, between Woodbine Street and Madison Street, in Ridgewood. He said that the public is welcome to drop off electronic devices, including TVs, computers, microwave ovens, phones, cable and cable equipment, and so forth. Batteries will not be accepted, he said. Similar events are planned for Maspeth, Middle Village and Elmhurst later this year, he said.

In closing, Mr. Wong said that representatives from the Department of Finance will be available to meet with homeowners who have billing disputes regarding their property taxes or may want to file a claim for a refund or rebate, from 3 PM to 7 PM on Tuesday, February 11th in their District Office located at 58-38 69 Street, in Maspeth. He advised constituents to schedule an appointment for a free consultation by calling their office at **(718) 366-3900**.

On behalf of **Council Member Joann Ariola**, Linda Fogal wished everyone a Happy New Year. She informed everyone that the Council Member is happy to announce that two of the bills that she sponsored last year passed into law this year. She described **Intro 0103-2024** that requires that local elected officials be notified prior to the removal of-street parking spaces in their District. She said that the purpose of this new regulation is to ensure that drivers who park their cars on the street overnight will not wake up to find new parking signs posted and their cars towed away.

Ms. Fogal said that under **Intro 0104-2024**, the Department of Transportation will be required to consult with the Fire Department prior to approving Open Street applications and certain bicycle lane projects and further requires the Fire Department to confer with any affected firehouse prior to approving Open Street applications, bicycle lane projects, and major transportation projects. She explained that this regulation is needed to ensure that firefighters arrive on the scene of emergencies as fast as possible. Regarding the new Congestion Pricing Tolls, she said that individuals with disabilities will be exempt from paying the new tolls, provided they file for an exemption on the State’s Easy Pass website and state why they cannot take public transportation.

Ms. Fogal also announced that the Parks Department has begun hiring lifeguards to work at public pools and facilities. She said that the City seeks to hire more lifeguards than last year.

In closing, she said that representatives from the Department of Finance will be available, from 1 PM to 4 PM on Monday, February 3rd in their District Office located at 93-06 101 Avenue, in Ozone Park, to answer questions from homeowners about property tax issues and related matters. She welcomed constituents who live in the 32nd Council District to attend by appointment only, and said they should call the office at **(718) 738-1083** to schedule an appointment.

On behalf of **Council Member Jennifer Gutierrez**, Kimberly Vega announced that, this year, their office is partnering with CORE to offer Housing Legal Support for constituents who live in the 34th Council District, from 1 PM to 4 PM, every 3rd Wednesday, in the District Office at 244 Union Avenue, in Brooklyn. Constituents are advised to call their office to set up an appointment to speak with a housing attorney if they need advice or counseling about their home or apartment, she said. Constituents who are concerned about graffiti or accumulated trash in certain locations are welcome to call their office to speak with staff who will request Council 34’s Trash Force to clean it up.

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In closing, she encouraged constituents who are interested in becoming delegates in the ongoing Participatory Budget process to speak with staff in their office by calling **(718) 963-3141**.

On behalf of **State Senator Joseph P. Addabbo**, John D'Angelo said that the Senator is up in Albany this week for the opening of the new legislative session, and that he wishes everyone a Healthy, Happy New Year.

Regarding the results of last year's poll of constituents' views about crime, cleanliness, traffic congestion, and other issues in their neighborhood, he said that the Senator has begun working to address the top priorities of each community. Flyers were distributed with information about new legislation that was passed by the Legislature, focusing on increases to the minimum wage, paid sick and prenatal leave, Equal Rights, and protecting the environment. He welcomed calls from constituents to the office at **(718) 497-1630**.

On behalf of **State Senator Julia Salazar**, Maria Valdez wished everyone a Happy New Year. She said that the Senator is up in Albany to attend the first official day in session this year.

This session, she said that the Senator is sponsoring new legislation including S 574, The End Toxic Home Flipping, which would impose a tax on certain residential properties which are sold within 2 years of their prior conveyance, exempt certain purchases of residential properties from mortgage recording taxes; and impose a tax on the transfer of certain properties in the City of New York that are sold for one million dollars or more.

Ms. Valdez announced that they will host a virtual session entitled Know Your Rights re: Utility Rights, from 6 PM to 7:30 PM, on Thursday, January 30th. For information about how to register for this event, please call the office at **(718) 573-1726**.

In closing, Ms. Valdez said that Tenant Support Services will be provided in their District office at 212 Evergreen Avenue, in Brooklyn, on the first Tuesday of every month, from 10 AM to 2 PM. Walk-ins are welcome, she said.

On behalf of **State Assembly Member Andrew Hevesi**, Kevin Wisniewski reported that the Assembly Member is up in Albany today for the start of the new legislative session.

He said that the Assembly Member's top priority this year is to implement a tax credit for working families which will significantly expand refunds for New York families. He welcomed calls from constituents about any matters that they think should be prioritized.

Mr. Wisniewski reported that their office was notified today that the Assembly Member has been successful in securing \$250,000 to pay for school improvements at PS/IS 119 in Glendale. He said that volunteers are always welcome to sign for local community clean ups and other events that they sponsor. In closing, he welcomed calls from constituents for information or assistance to the office at **(718) 263-5595**. He wished everyone a Happy New Year.

On behalf of **State Assembly Member Jenifer Rajkumar**, Anna Sargeant, the Chief of Staff, reported that two bills were passed in Albany in 2024 that were sponsored by the Assembly Member that will lead to greater regulation of E-Bikes, and increased enforcement measures against "ghost" cars. She said that, at present, they are working to draft new legislation called the Empire State of Mind, to help reduce recidivism by improving mental health outreach for people in New York State.

In closing, she welcomed everyone to contact their office, located 83-91 Woodhaven Blvd, between the hours of 9am and 5pm on weekdays, by calling **(718) 805-0950**.

The Board Chairperson thanked the elected officials and staff for their input.

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Mr. Arcuri reported that if the snow forecast is accurate and we get 10" of snow, he said that our Sanitation District Superintendent and crews are fantastic and do a great job making our roadways safe during a storm. He also reported that according to the most recent crime statistics for the 104th Police Precinct, the number of crimes reported during the past month is down or has stayed level in each of the major crime categories. He said that usually occurs when the weather is bad because most criminals don't like being out in the cold. He announced the next Item on the Agenda:

District Manager's Report

Gary Giordano

The District Manager wished everyone at Happy New Year and requested a Moment of Silence to remember the life and work of the late President Jimmy Carter who passed away last week, one week shy of 100 years old. He said that former President Carter did more than any other President after he left office by visiting 100 countries, mostly in Africa, to supervise democratic elections and deliver medications to those in need. He said that the former President was about 40 years ahead of his time, when he warned us, in 1978 and 1979, that if we don't reduce our consumption, we're going to cause a lot of trouble on this planet.

Mr. Giordano cautioned everyone about recent health statistics that show the number of cases of Flu are steadily increasing. He cautioned everyone to be extra careful.

Regarding crime statistics for the 104th Precinct, the District Manager reported that when he compared the total number of crimes in the major crimes category in 2024, to the figures for the same crimes that were reported in 1990, the statistics show an 81% decline, down from a total of 9,507 major crimes reported in 1990, to 1,810 in the same categories last year. He said that there's been a steady decline since 1990 in the number of major crimes reported annually in our Precinct, except for cases involving Rape, and Felonious Assault. He said that in most Rape cases reported in our Precinct, they involve domestic violence, where the victims know the aggressors. Regarding the 304 cases of Felonious Assault that were reported in our Precinct last year, he said they represent a 9% increase over the total figure of 279 cases that were reported in 1990.

Katherine Masi, a Board Member from Glendale, commented that, although the official crime statistics for the 104th Precinct indicate that crime figures are down, she said that reporting standards have changed over time, particularly in the case of Felonious Assault cases being plead down to Misdemeanors. She also pointed out that there's been an alarming increase in the number of Fraud cases over previous years. The District Manager agreed that scams are much more prevalent today. He warned everyone about new schemes that involve bank and credit card fraud, check washing and mail theft.

As an aside, the District Manager said that a tree was recently severely vandalized on St. Johns Road in Ridgewood, possibly by a property owner on that block. Paul Kerzner, a Board Member from Ridgewood, said that this person could be subject to 90 days in jail. Fred Haller, a Board Member from Glendale, said that this person would certainly be subject to a fine that is commensurate with the diameter of the trees that were damaged and/or killed. He said that he knows of a similar case of arboricide in which the perpetrator was fined a total of \$90,000 for killing a large shade tree in front of his home.

The District Manager publicly thanked Paul Kerzner for spearheading the planting of street trees throughout Ridgewood and other communities in our Board, beginning in 1972. Mr. Kerzner replied that in December, he and Luis Rodriguez completed a tree survey of Ridgewood and submitted a list of 2,400 locations where street trees are needed.

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Regarding the Grand Street Bridge over Newtown Creek, the District Manager reported that for the past few nights, the Bridge has again been completely shut down for structural repairs. He said that our Community Board has been discussing the need for repairs and replacement of this bridge since 1998. He said that the Environmental Review for this project is expected to be complete this year, and construction of a new bridge over Newtown Creek is slated to begin in 2028.

The District Manager announced the list of applications for proposed Street Fairs that are planned in our Board area, as follows:

1) GRAND AVENUE FAIR btw 65 Street and 72 Street, in Maspeth

The Maspeth Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club & Kiwanis Club are sponsoring the proposed event, which is planned for Saturday, April 26th from 10am to 6pm.

2) MYRTLE AVENUE RIDGEWOOD FESTIVAL on Myrtle Avenue btw Wyckoff Ave & Fresh Pond Road in Ridgewood

The Ridgewood Local Development Corporation is sponsoring the proposed event which is planned for Sunday, May 4th from 10am to 6pm.

3) MYRTLE AVENUE FESTIVAL on Myrtle Avenue btw Fresh Pond Road & Forest Avenue in Ridgewood

The Kiwanis Club of Glendale is sponsoring the proposed event, which is planned for Sunday, July 20th from 10am to 6pm.

4) FRESH POND ROAD STREET FESTIVAL on Fresh Pond Road btw Woodbine Street & Menahan Street in Ridgewood

The Federazione Italo-Americana di Brooklyn and Queens is sponsoring the proposed event, which is planned for 4 consecutive days in September: starting on Thursday, Sept. 4th, from 4pm to 11:30pm; on Friday, Sept. 5th, from 4pm to 11:30pm; on Saturday, Sept. 6th, from 4pm to 11:30pm; and ending on Sunday, Sept. 7th, from 4pm to 11:30pm.

5) MYRTLE AVENUE FESTIVAL on Myrtle Avenue btw Wyckoff Ave & Fresh Pond Road in Ridgewood

The Myrtle Avenue Business Improvement District is sponsoring this event, which is planned for Sunday, September 14th from 10am to 6pm.

The District Manager informed everyone that the Executive Committee plans to meet with the applicants for these Street Festivals soon and report their recommendations to the full Board at next month's Board Meeting.

Daniel Heredia, a Board Member from Ridgewood, asked how he could inform local vendors about these planned Street Festivals, so they could participate in it. The District Manager said that he could always contact the Board Office for more information about any upcoming events in our Board area.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Transportation and Public Transit Services Committee

Eric Butkiewicz

Eric Butkiewicz welcomed Joan Bruno, the speaker who complained about traffic congestion on Fresh Pond Road in Ridgewood earlier tonight, to call the Board Office with more details about this problem, so that this matter could be addressed by the Committee at their next Meeting, at 7:30pm on Tuesday, January 28th. He welcomed her to attend the Committee Meeting if she'd like to listen to their discussion on this topic.

Eric Butkiewicz reported that the Committee met with representatives of the NYC Dept. of Transportation (DOT) in the Board 5 Office on Tuesday, December 17th, to review their presentation

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regarding the Grand Avenue/Grand Street Bus Routes and possible street improvements to Grand Avenue that would improve traffic flow and pedestrian safety on this Bus Route, between the Metropolitan Avenue Bridge in Brooklyn and Queens Blvd.in Elmhurst.

He said that their presentation identified several major issues that will be addressed by this proposal, which is still a work in progress. He said that this stretch of Grand Avenue has so much traffic congestion that it often prevents MTA buses from pulling out of the Bus Depot on Grand Avenue.

He said that at their Meeting, Committee Members had constructive feedback on what would be good to include in this proposal. He said that they emphasized how important parking is to the commercial corridor along Grand Avenue and in the industrial area in Maspeth. He said that over the next few months, DOT representatives plan to interview the owners of local businesses along this strip to obtain feedback from them, as part of their planning process. He said that they plan to present a more detailed proposal to the Committee in the Spring.

He reported that the MTA/NYCT just released the Queens Bus Network Redesign Final Plan Addendum which the Committee plans to review at their next Meeting on Tuesday, January 28, 2025 in the Board 5 Office. He welcomed input from everyone regarding the proposed revisions to the Queens Bus Network Redesign Plan, that involves changes to the Q38 and other Bus routes in our Board area, as well as changes to the frequency of Express Buses. He commented that there's been an increase in ridership on the Express Bus that he rides into Manhattan since the Congestion Pricing Plan went into effect, which may eventually require additional service on the Express Bus Routes.

In closing, he welcomed anyone interested in this topic to attend the next Committee Meeting, but advised them to RSVP to the Board Office at qn05@cb.nyc.gov or calling (718) 366-1834, so staff can make sure there's enough space to accommodate those interested.

Liquor License and Cannabis License Committee

Patrick Trinchese

Patrick Trinchese, Committee Chairperson, spoke about the application for a retail cannabis dispensary at 71-10 Grand Avenue, in Maspeth, which is within 500' of PS 58, the School of Heroes, on Grand Avenue, and is also very close to IS 73, just off Grand Avenue. He said that due to the Holiday Season, the Committee has not met to review this application. However, due to time constraints, on behalf of the Committee, he made a motion that the full Board recommend against the State Office of Cannabis Management's granting approval of this establishment at this site. Maryann Lattanzio, Committee Vice-Chair, seconded his motion.

On a point of order, Kathy Masi, the Board Parliamentarian, asked whether Mr. Trinchese was reporting on Committee business because there hasn't been a recent Committee Meeting.

Mr. Trinchese agreed to withdraw his motion and recommended that a letter be drafted by the Board staff to oppose the proposed establishment at 71-10 Grand Avenue, for the reasons outlined above. As there were no objections, the Board Chairperson directed the District Manager to submit a letter of objection to the State Office of Cannabis Management, regarding the application for a retail cannabis dispensary at 71-10 Grand Avenue, in Maspeth.

New Business

Lee Rottenberg, a Board Member from Middle Village, welcomed everyone to attend tomorrow night's meeting of the Middle Village Property Owners and Residents Association at 7:30pm, in St. Margaret's Parish Hall, in Middle Village. He said that representatives from the Department of Sanitation will be there to talk about the Department's new mandates regarding household and commercial garbage

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containers. He said that a representative from Senator Addabbo's office will also be there, as well as the new Neighborhood Coordination Officers who've been assigned to patrol Middle Village.

As there was no further business to come before the Board, the Board Chairperson announced that our next monthly Meeting of Community Board 5 Queens will be conducted on Wednesday, February 12th, 2025. He adjourned the public meeting of Community Board 5 Queens on a motion from the floor at 8:41pm.