

Community Board 1, Meeting Minutes

March 15, 2016

Board Member Attendees – List Attached.

Opening – 7:00 pm

Joseph Risi, Chairman: The Chairman opened the meeting by greeting everyone and asked that they recite the Pledge of Allegiance. The Chair continued by introducing the Chair of the Consumer Affairs Committee, John Katsanos.

Public Hearing Items:

Department of Consumer Affairs

Item: #1197298-DCA Paleros Inc., D/B/A Grand Café at 37-01 30 Avenue an application to renew the license to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 20 Tables and 40 Chairs.

- John Katsanos, Chair, Consumer Affairs Committee: Mr. Katsanos began by greeting everyone. Mr. Katsanos stated that the Consumer Affairs Committee met and he stated they recommended unanimously the approval of the unenclosed sidewalk café with no stipulations. He then called on the applicant and requested he sign in and state his name.
- John Solonitis, Owner/President: Mr. Solonitis stated that he is the owner and the president of the corporation (Grand Café).

*John Katsanos asked several questions.

- John Katsanos: Mr. Katsanos asked if there were any further questions from the Board and also asked if there were any questions from the public for or against this application. Hearing none, he opened it for a motion.
- Joseph Risi, Chairman: The Chair asked if there are any oppositions of the application. A motion was made to accept the application it was seconded by Rose Anne Alafogiannis and one board member opposed.
- George Stamatiades, First Vice Chairperson: Mr. Stamatiades announced the Roll call, 34 in favor and 1 against, no abstentions.
- Joseph Risi, Chairman: The Chairman confirmed the vote, 34 in favor and 1 against and Mr. Risi stated the motion is carried.

Item: #1459574-DCA Noisette Café Inc., D/B/A Noisette 24-21 Steinway Street an application to renew the license to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 11 Tables and 27 Chairs.

- John Katsanos: John Katsanos stated that the Consumer Affairs Committee met and mentioned that they voted unanimously in favor, recommending approval for the unenclosed sidewalk cafe. He then called on the applicant but they were not present. Mr. Katsanos said he would like to mention that the Consumer Affairs Committee voted at the meeting that they will eventually will be creating new forms. They will be given to any cabaret, liquor and enclosed/unenclosed café applicants. The forms will be in addition to standard notice that they receive from the applicants which have very limited information and if the applicant does not fill-out the form and does not show up to the Full Board meeting the Consumer Affairs Committee will consider it for

- **John Katsanos:** Mr. Katsanos stated that some people had questions about Purlieu, an adult entertainment establishment, where a livery (car service) driver was shot in the head. He stated there was a M.A.R.C.H. and it was handled by a number of intergovernmental agencies.
- **Joseph Risi:** The Chairman asked Detective Negron from the 114th precinct to make comments on the nightlife in our community.
- **Detective Eddie Negron, Community Affairs, 114th Precinct:** Detective Negron greeted everyone and stated he has been a Community Affairs officer for approximately 8 years. He said the community in the 114th precinct is going through some drastic changes in terms of the nightlife specifically the gentlemen's clubs. He said he has no problem with any business that provides a safe environment for the Astoria residents. Detective Negron stated that the 114th precinct has been challenged with its response and the crime and the quality of life issues that emanate from having these establishments. He said some gentlemen's clubs do abide by the law and are very good neighbors by reaching out to them when they have events and they do a good job in curbing quality of life complaints such as noise but many of them do not do that. Detective Negron stated that he was not there to sway the Community Board in decision making. He feels that it is very important to remind the Community Board that they can play an essential role in helping the 114th precinct save lives. Detective Negron said that every Friday and Saturday night most of which he works until 4–5am, they run from one nightlife establishment to the next dealing with felony assaults. He said that the 114th precinct as of March 6th was up over 100% with felony assaults comparing year to date from 2015 to 2016 and added that crime is up in Astoria. He stated that they will continue to combat crime. Detective Negron said Captain Fortune is committed in providing the safe environment that the 114th precinct has come to expect however, if we don't concentrate on the nightlife the 114th precinct will struggle with keeping that prime category/classification down. He said that on any typical Friday and Saturday night they have 8 patrol cars that are responsible for answering typical 911 complaints. He said a patrol officer in the sector will respond, every patrol officer sector is assigned to a certain part of the precinct. He added that they have their specialty units whether they are in plain clothes or officers in uniform in unmarked vehicles, they typically have about 8 to 10 officers in that respect and other times they will have officers from outside units to supplement the precinct depending on the condition they have. Detective Negron said there are particular establishments that is continuously problematic and are in a desolate part of the precinct, it will be very challenging for the officers to provide service to other establishments or the overall community on the opposite side of the precinct. He said when some of these establishments come up, for example, they have a history, their office does an extensive background analysis, they examine crime, they examine 311 complaints for each problematic location and they put in 5 to 8 hours of time to get the statistics right. Detective Negron said they want to remind and ask the community when an establishment comes up like this that we stand together as a community and demand that these establishments respect the 114th precinct. He stated that they may come here for business and bring their patrons (from all over the city) to Astoria but our standards are extremely high (with regard to behavior) and should stay high and everyone should really pay attention to the nightlife in Astoria. He ended by thanking everyone.
- **Joseph Risi, Chairman:** The Chairman thanked Detective Negron and all the members of the 114th precinct for keeping our community safe and keeping all of the patrons that visit our community safe. He said Board 1 and the 114th precinct have their fair share if not more on premise licensed locations. He said the Community Board consistently asks for more police for the 114th precinct. Mr. Risi said they will do their best and use whatever efforts and influences they have to get more officers. The Chair added that the Community Board thanks him for

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automatic denial. He added that for now it had not been implemented. He asked to make a motion for recommending approval of Noisette Café. It was seconded by Rose Anne Alafogiannis.

- Joseph Risi, Chairman: The Chairman asked if all were in favor, all the Board members said, I. The Chair asked if there were any oppositions, hearing none, he said, “no oppositions”.

Item: #1378-2016-ASWC NYCBCH LLC., D/B/A NYC Bagel & Coffee Co. 40-05 Broadway an application to obtain a new the license to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 9 Tables and 18 Chairs.

- John Katsanos: Mr. Katsanos stated that the Consumer Affairs Committee met and said that they are recommending approval for the unenclosed sidewalk café based on a reduction of tables and chairs to 5 tables and 10 chairs. He called on the applicant and asked him to state his name and what his relation is to the business.
- Michael Lagudis, Owner: He introduced himself.
- John Katsanos: Mr. Katsanos asked him what their hours and method of operation are.
- Michael Lagudis: Mr. Lagudis said they are open from 6 am to 10 pm. He stated that they sell bagels, coffee, sandwiches and things like that.
- John Katsanos: Mr. Katsanos asked him if there any obstructions on the sidewalk and asked him about their accessibility.
- Michael Lagudis: Mr. Lagudis said there are no obstructions.
- John Katsanos: John Katsanos asked him to give an overview.
- Michael Lagudis: Mr. Lagudis said their entrance is to the right of the store, there are 19 feet of windows that open, and there is a little over 15 feet of sidewalk in the front. He added that there is a bike rack that is being removed.
- John Katsanos: Mr. Katsanos asked him if he is willing to reducing to 5 tables and 10 chairs.
- Michael Lagudis: Mr. Lagudis answered that they have another store on 23rd Avenue, which has 9 tables and 18 chairs and they were approved and added that the sidewalk is the same size. He said he has an enclosure next to him and they got approved. Not sure.
- John Katsanos: John Katsanos stated that he wanted to open it up to the Board for questioning.
- Joseph Risi, Chairman: The Chairman asked John Katsanos if there is any reason why he is requesting a reduction in the amount of tables and chairs.
- John Katsanos: Mr. Katsanos said he will leave that to the Committee members.
- Joseph Risi, Chairman: The Chairman asked Mr. Lagudis if they have a liquor license or if he intends on applying for one.
- Michael Lagudis: Mr. Lagudis said no liquor license. He added that the tables are 20” by 20”, which might change your view.
- Joseph Risi, Chairman: The Chair stated that they have taken a view.
- John Katsanos: Mr. Katsanos asked Pauline Jannelli if she had any comments with respect to reduction.
- Pauline Jannelli, Assistant Chair, Consumer Affairs Committee: Ms. Jannelli said she has walked by the establishment and she feels that if you try to walk through with a stroller you cannot do so, it is narrow.
- Michael Lagudis: Mr. Lagudis said it is narrow by Lite Bites but that is not the case by their establishment. He said there is an 8 foot circumference around the tree and if there was not the city would not allow them put the tables there. He stated that the plans should show it clearly.

*The Board held a Q&A session with the owner regarding the set-up.

- John Katsanos: Mr. Katsanos asked if there are further questions from the Board. Hearing none, he asked if anyone from the public would like to make any comments. He then asked to make a motion for the approval of 5 tables and 10 chairs to the committee. It was seconded by Ed Babor.
- Joseph Risi, Chairman: The Chairman said a motion was made for 5 tables and 10 chairs and seconded by Mr. Babor.
- Dominic Stiller: Mr. Stiller said he feels it is a drastic reduction. He said the owner can get it approved by Consumer Affairs exactly the way it is. It is not kosher to him because it looks like there is not an 8 foot clear diameter around the tree. We should come to an agreement, he said he feels that it should be reduced by 1 table and the community will be better served for a clear path.
- John Katsanos: John Katsanos said he wanted to withdraw his motion and is making another motion. He said he would like to make the reduction to 1 table and 3 chairs. It was seconded by Evie Hantzopoulos. He then asked Mr. Lagudis if that was okay with him.
- Michael Lagudis: Mr. Lagudis asked if there is a way to make the deduction 1 table and 2 chairs and he would make it with the help of the architect.
- John Katsanos: Mr. Katsanos amends the motion to the reduction 1 table and 2 chairs. It was seconded by Rose Anne Alafogiannis.
- Joseph Risi, Chairman: The Chairman said the motion was made for amending the application to 8 tables and 16 chairs. He said it was seconded and asked if all were in favor, all the Board members agreed. He also asked if anyone was against the motion. Hearing none, the Chairman stated that the motion was carried unanimously 35 to 0.
- Michael Lagudis: Mr. Lagudis thanked everyone.

Liquor Licenses

- John Katsanos: Mr. Katsanos told everyone that they were going to review 2 liquor licenses. The first application that came before the Consumer Affairs Committee was Mystique Mystique NYC LLC, doing business as Mystique Mystique located at 62-05 30th Avenue. They distinguish themselves as being topless adult entertainment. He said the Consumer Affairs Committee based on significant public safety concerns from the 114th precinct, voted overwhelmingly against the applicant. Mr. Katsanos said the Committee recommended they deny the liquor license.
- Joseph Risi, Chairman: The Chairman said the Committee is making a recommendation not to approve Mystique Mystique's new liquor license. It was seconded by Linda Perno and Bob Piazza. The Chair asked if anyone else had any comments. Mr. Risi asked if all were in favor, the asked if anyone was opposed. He said one opposed.
- John Katsanos: Mr. Katsanos said the next liquor license was Tompad LLC, doing business as The Last Word located at 31-30 Ditmars Boulevard. He stated they received notification that there would be a 500 foot hearing based on the application. Mr. Katsanos said the question that was before the Consumer Affairs Committee was whether they thought there was any adverse effect on the community. The Consumer Affairs Committee voted unanimously in favor of recommending approval of the letter, for the 500 foot hearing. He said the Committee would like to send a letter to the State Liquor Authority (SLA) saying there will be no adverse effect on the community. Mr. Katsanos said he wanted to make a motion to that affect.
- Joseph Risi: The Chairman said the motion is on the table and asked if anyone would second it. Seconded by Linda Perno. He asked if all were in favor of the motion in sending a letter to the State Liquor Authority. The Chair asked if anyone opposed, hearing none, he instructed John Katsanos to continue.

- **John Katsanos:** Mr. Katsanos stated that some people had questions about Purlieu, an adult entertainment establishment, where a livery (car service) driver was shot in the head. He stated there was a M.A.R.C.H. and it was handled by a number of intergovernmental agencies.
- **Joseph Risi:** The Chairman asked Detective Negron from the 114th precinct to make comments on the nightlife in our community.
- **Detective Eddie Negron, Community Affairs, 114th Precinct:** Detective Negron greeted everyone and stated he has been a Community Affairs officer for approximately 8 years. He said the community in the 114th precinct is going through some drastic changes in terms of the nightlife specifically the gentlemen's clubs. He said he has no problem with any business that provides a safe environment for the Astoria residents. Detective Negron stated that the 114th precinct has been challenged with its response and the crime and the quality of life issues that emanate from having these establishments. He said some gentlemen's clubs do abide by the law and are very good neighbors by reaching out to them when they have events and they do a good job in curbing quality of life complaints such as noise but many of them do not do that. Detective Negron stated that he was not there to sway the Community Board in decision making. He feels that it is very important to remind the Community Board that they can play an essential role in helping the 114th precinct save lives. Detective Negron said that every Friday and Saturday night most of which he works until 4–5am, they run from one nightlife establishment to the next dealing with felony assaults. He said that the 114th precinct as of March 6th was up over 100% with felony assaults comparing year to date from 2015 to 2016 and added that crime is up in Astoria. He stated that they will continue to combat crime. Detective Negron said Captain Fortune is committed in providing the safe environment that the 114th precinct has come to expect however, if we don't concentrate on the nightlife the 114th precinct will struggle with keeping that prime category/classification down. He said that on any typical Friday and Saturday night they have 8 patrol cars that are responsible for answering typical 911 complaints. He said a patrol officer in the sector will respond, every patrol officer sector is assigned to a certain part of the precinct. He added that they have their specialty units whether they are in plain clothes or officers in uniform in unmarked vehicles, they typically have about 8 to 10 officers in that respect and other times they will have officers from outside units to supplement the precinct depending on the condition they have. Detective Negron said there are particular establishments that is continuously problematic and are in a desolate part of the precinct, it will be very challenging for the officers to provide service to other establishments or the overall community on the opposite side of the precinct. He said when some of these establishments come up, for example, they have a history, their office does an extensive background analysis, they examine crime, they examine 311 complaints for each problematic location and they put in 5 to 8 hours of time to get the statistics right. Detective Negron said they want to remind and ask the community when an establishment comes up like this that we stand together as a community and demand that these establishments respect the 114th precinct. He stated that they may come here for business and bring their patrons (from all over the city) to Astoria but our standards are extremely high (with regard to behavior) and should stay high and everyone should really pay attention to the nightlife in Astoria. He ended by thanking everyone.
- **Joseph Risi, Chairman:** The Chairman thanked Detective Negron and all the members of the 114th precinct for keeping our community safe and keeping all of the patrons that visit our community safe. He said Board 1 and the 114th precinct have their fair share if not more on premise licensed locations. He said the Community Board consistently asks for more police for the 114th precinct. Mr. Risi said they will do their best and use whatever efforts and influences they have to get more officers. The Chair added that the Community Board thanks him for

coming month after month giving information pertinent to the meetings and that they truly appreciate it. He ended by saying that the community has approximately 400 licensed on premise establishments and he once again, thanked him.

- Antonio Meloni: Mr. Meloni stated that as the Chair of the Public Safety Committee he would like to propose that when they have questions prior to the general meeting there is more information about the people coming to us. He said he agrees that the community is inundated and that they have high standards and would like to work together with them on that.
- Detective Eddie Negron: Detective Negron said when they have the Consumer Affairs Committee meetings every month where he breaks down the statistics so, the numbers are current. Detective Negron said the way they vote is tough because if you are not at the meeting you may miss out on the information. He said he does not know what a good resolution would be. He thanked everyone for their continuous support of the 114th precinct and stated that this community should be an example to the entire city and the country regarding accountability and police community relations.
- Joseph Risi, Chairman: The Chairman thanked Detective Negron. He then introduced and welcomed Jessica Fiorillo the Lobbying Bureau Trainer from the Office of the City Clerk regarding the Amnesty Program.

Presentations:

- Jessica Fiorillo, Lobbying Bureau Trainer, Office of the City Clerk (**See Attachment - Brochure**): Ms. Fiorillo thanked everyone for inviting her and shared that she lives in the community so she was excited to be there. She stated something very important to Community Boards is lobbying. Ms. Fiorillo said in laymen's terms lobbying is the attempt to influence New York City Government and its affiliates i.e. appearing before a community board is lobbying so anyone who comes before you for a license, a permit to influence your determinations are lobbying you. Ms. Fiorillo said it is really important just because someone is not called a lobbyist does not mean they are not lobbying and anyone who is attempting to influence your agenda is lobbying. She said most people are not aware they are doing so, she asked everyone if they did not get the brochure she passed around to please let her know. She added that they have some common examples of lobbying, one would be trying to influence the board determination of a community board, another would be applying for discretionary funding so, if you are involved in a non-profit or you try to get a grant from the Borough President or the Mayor or from a specific New York City fund, you are lobbying to get those funds. Ms. Fiorillo said it is really important that a lot of people in the community are involved in a lot of great groups that give back but they are actually lobbying when they do so. She said it sounds like a lot of information that is not relevant but it could be if you are involved with an organization so, please look through the brochure. Ms. Fiorillo stated that she was there because a lot of people don't know about lobbying so they are offering an amnesty period. She added that if they are required to file with their office but never have they can file without being penalized. Ms. Fiorillo said the state is going through their own process of determining if public relations is lobbying. She stated they have not come out to say PR work is lobbying but by the time they come out with that information it will be after the amnesty period, they are not going to be eligible, and right now PR work is not considered lobbying. Ms. Fiorillo said most of this should apply to developers, architects and engineers, a lot of them do not come forward. She stated that everyone has the right to lobby when they spend \$5,000.- in a calendar year doing so or \$10,000.- if you are an architect or an engineer. Ms. Fiorillo added that the Amnesty is important because it is an opportunity to file if they never have. She said as a lobbyist the fee is \$150.- to register with their office each year and \$50.- for each registration thereafter for each additional client. Ms. Fiorillo said on their website they have a number of advisory opinions that go to each like the Board of

Standard of Appeals, each different department has advisory opinions. She said additionally on their website they have a number of legislative history and they have a few administrative law cases. Ms. Fiorillo said they have specific advisory opinions for different city agencies, a lot of them have to do with land use planning nothing for architects and engineers to look through like a guide. She said they work a lot with AIA on providing guidance for architects and engineers, they are hoping to do a program with them before the end of June. Ms. Fiorillo added that grant writers are excluded. She added that all of their information is on the back of the brochure. Ms. Fiorillo stated that the fine for a violation can be \$20,000.-, additionally \$25.- a day for each misfiling or \$10.- a day for misfiling and they can back file. She said a person can call the hotline and they don't have to give your name/identity, additionally, they have an open hour on Wednesday's from 3-4pm for people to come in and speak to an attorney to talk about their issue. Ms. Fiorillo ended by thanking everyone for having her.

- Joseph Risi, Chairman: The Chairman stated to the Board Members what they should take away from this is that ignorance of law is no excuse. He said if you think your organization is lobbying, you should apply for the amnesty program and should file as a lobbyist. The Chair stated that then you will not have any issues, will not have to look back or have any issues or problems. The Chairman also gave the public an opportunity to ask questions or make comments, hearing none, he continued with the next speaker.

*There was a Q&A with the Board members.

**Discussion ensued.

- Joseph Risi, Chairman: The Chairman introduced and welcomed Larry Gallegos the Governmental Affairs Manager at the Queens Public Library that came to update us on the renovations and the modifications to the Steinway Street Library.
- Larry Gallegos, Governmental Affairs Manager, Queens Public Library: Mr. Gallegos greeted everyone, introduced himself and said he is with the Government Affairs team at the Queens Public Library. He said he came to update the community on the Renovations for the Steinway Library. Mr. Gallegos thanked Councilman Constantinides for additional funding. He said the renovations consist of a New ADA Ramp and Handrails, a New Book Drop and a New Aluminum Framed Entry System. Mr. Gallegos introduced Richard Tobin from their Capital team to expand on the renovations.
- Richard Tobin, Capital and Facilities Maintenance, Queens Public Library: Mr. Tobin introduced himself. He shared with the first phase they reached about 95% to renew the Children's Room. He said they had the Architect revisit and discovered that the entrance needed to be changed and some other renovations. Mr. Tobin said the renovations consist of the New ADA Ramp and Handrails which is a compliant pedestrian access ramp to the building entrance along 31st Street is added so that it coordinates with the library's new exterior check-in equipment. He said the next revision would be a New Book Drop, the new outside self-check in equipment and new book drop is added at the main building façade facing 31st Street to replace the existing book drop and last the New Aluminum Framed Entry System, the new entrance system at the library main entrance at 31st Street is necessitated by the reorientation of the new ADA ramp. Mr. Tobin ended by asking if anyone had any questions.
- Joseph Risi, Chairman: The Chairman asked him how many libraries we have in our community.
- Larry Gallegos: He mentioned about four different locations but said he is uncertain of the exact amount and would get back to him on that.
- Joseph Risi, Chairman: The Chair asked if anyone had any questions, hearing none he continued and thanked them for coming.

New/Old Business

- Joseph Risi, Chairman: The Chairman asked for approval of the minutes. They were seconded by Rose Anne Alafogiannis and Ed Babor.
- Elizabeth Erion: Ms. Erion asked for an amendment to her report of last month.
- Joseph Risi, Chairman: The Chair asked if there were any other amendments, hearing none, he continued.

Chairperson's Report: Joseph Risi

The Chairman began by stating he met with the Chairs earlier that evening and is trying to introduce a couple of new things. He said he would like the Chairs and the Co-Chairs to develop their own ideas for what could make our community better. Mr. Risi said he wants to appoint non-board members to committees. He asked if any Chairs or Co Chairs know of someone that is active in a community and should be on their committee, please let him know so that he can meet with them, vet them, and appoint them to their committee. The Chairman also reported that we have an enormous amount of unenclosed sidewalk café applications, an enormous amount of renewals and new applications for liquor licenses that may come up in July and in August. Mr. Risi added that they are reaching out to the Department of Consumer Affairs and State Liquor Authority to see how they can handle the summer applications without the necessity of having a full community board meeting. He stated that under the open meeting law, we cannot do it by mail or internet. The Chair said he will report next month on how they progress on that. Mr. Risi added that his intention is not to have any meetings in July and August like since the inception of the community board and they will do their best to avoid that. The Chairman also reported that he attended a meeting at the Verve which was quite informative, the homeless shelter in Long Island City. Mr. Risi said the meeting was well attended by all the public officials. He added that he felt it was quite heated and they had a good exchange of ideas. The Chair ended his report by saying that he does not know what the result was but that Florence Koulouris and Dominic Stiller would give everyone more information.

District Manager's Report: Florence Koulouris

Good evening everyone, I am happy to be here with you tonight. Things have been very hectic in our District. We have had several extremely unfortunate incidents. Our office has been unsettled with the circumstances. The City of New York updated all the computers in our office and for a few days we had issues which are now resolved. On February 22nd, I attended a presentation by Durst regarding the Dewatering of their site, details will be provided to you by the committee. On the 23rd the 114th held the Community Council. On the 26th I attended the Cabinet Meeting for Pam's Place Women's Shelter along with our Chairman. There was a lot of dialogue on changes needed, representation from the Mayor's Office and the leading Public Officials were in attendance and a very strong message for change was shared. On March 2nd the Deputy Mayor Alicia Glen held a gathering, State of the City in Your Neighborhood. A question and answer session occurred and questions were addressed regarding the situations at Pam's Place and were informed of how the police were working along with the Mayor's Office to attain a quality of life in our District. On March 8th, DOT made a presentation to the Transportation Committee regarding 31st Avenue and also Northern Boulevard Honeywell-Broadway. At the same meeting MTA attended the Committee Chair will expand on these locations. The District Service Cabinet meeting was held on March 10th. On the 11th I attended the March meeting for Pam's Place. The head of Acacia was present to address the issues surrounding the shelter and a lot of work is required. The same evening, I attended the celebration for Greek Independence Day and the Borough President was in attendance. Today, I met with Bob Piazza and DOT to do a walk-about prior to tonight's

meeting as well as I attended the Borough Cabinet meeting. March is Women's History Month and the two topics were Domestic Violence which crosses the genders. There was also a presentation regarding Anti-trafficking, if you feel you know an individual who needs help, they can reach out to the Family Justice Center at: 718-575-4503.

Report on the Verve Hotel Shelter – Pam's Place

Florence Koulouris, District Manager: Ms. Koulouris indicated that she would give a brief report on Pam's Place. She stated that it is going to be a work in progress. Ms. Koulouris said that the crime surrounding the area has been addressed by our police and the provider Acacia has brought in their own team of people to work. She indicated that they now have increased the cars with identity to 2 cars with identity, they added foot patrol to the area and they are promising to bring in a whole slew of people to help these women. Ms. Koulouris said the problem with the location is it's claimed to be simply a homeless shelter but its far more than that and that out of 200 women, 183 have some kind of mental illness. She said the services that these women are being denied is completely unfair, these women deserve to be treated better. Ms. Koulouris said, yes, we know they are homeless but a hotel is not a place for people that need help and they need real help. She ended by saying that it is going to be a long haul with this establishment and that it is not going to be an easy fight for the neighborhood.

Public Comments

- Joseph Risi, Chairman: The Chairman asked if anyone from the public would like to speak or make any comments.
- Antonio Meloni, Board Member and Chairman of Public Safety: Mr. Meloni wanted to share with the Board and the community that we have a very iconic landscape in Queens, especially in Astoria. He said one of the biggest iconic landmarks is the Hell Gate Bridge and it is turning 100 years old. Mr. Meloni said that a lot of groups have expressed an interest in doing something to publicize the Bridge and make it a special event. He said very few things turn 100 years old and he said he would like the Community Board to get involved in this special celebration. Mr. Meloni said that there are about 12 different organizations represented like Kiwanis, UCCA, Greek-American Homeowners, Central Astoria, Astoria Homeowners Civic Association and the 114th Community Council. He added that the bridge has been here longer than everyone in the room. He stated that they all have a stake in Astoria and can do something. Mr. Meloni reported that it has not been painted in about 30 to 40 years and has not been lit up. He said elected officials have sent out letters. Mr. Meloni stated that Amtrak uses it but does not do anything for its improvements. He said the community can help because it is not fair and would like to make it a city-wide event if possible. Mr. Meloni also added that the bridges in Australia are known as landmarks and that this bridge is the first of its kind in the nation and in the world. He ended by saying that there will be a group meeting at Riccardo's in the near future and when he has a date, he will give it Florence to share with the Board and would appreciate everyone's help.
- Joseph Risi, Chairman: The Chairman expressed that the Board is in favor of what the bridge needs as far as the upgrades and are in full support of it.
- Sharon Pope, Community Outreach and Strategic Planning Manager, Bike New York: Ms. Pope started by saying they are a non-profit organization. She reported that the Five Boro Bike Tour will be coming through Astoria and Long Island City this year on Sunday, May 1st, so please join them. Ms. Pope said that this community usually come out and cheer them. She stated that they are the largest charitable bike tour in the country which funds all of their free programming. Ms. Pope said that they offer free classes from learn to ride classes bicycling basics which teach rules

of the road and how to bike and navigate our wonderful city confidently and safely. She also said that they offer for free that they go into the schools where they teach the children how to bike confidently and safely as well as that they have afterschool programs. Ms. Pope ended by saying to feel free to contact her if you have any questions, that she had business cards with her and asked if anyone had any questions.

*There was a brief Q&A with the Board members.

- Joseph Risi, Chairman: The Chairman thanked her for coming to the meeting. The Chair asked if anyone else would like to speak.
- Norm Strateria, Constituent: Mr. Strateria stated that he is a resident and lives on 32nd Street. He spoke in support of the plans by the DOT for the bicycle route along 31st Avenue. He ended by saying that he thinks the idea is phenomenal.
- Christina Ferlawn, Constituent: Ms. Ferlawn stated that she moved from Astoria to Jackson Heights but she still comes to Astoria to work, socialize, to visit friends, shopping, to enjoy the waterfront and attends Community Board meetings as well. She shared that she comes by bike every day and spoke in favor of the bicycle route along 31st Avenue.
- Joseph Risi, Chairman: The Chairman thanked them and asked if there was anyone else from the public that would like to speak. Hearing none, he said he continued.

Committee Reports

- Daniel Aliberti, Access and Disability: No report.
- RoseMarie Poveromo, Airport: No report.
- Norma Nieves-Blas, Capital/Expense & Budget Planning: No report.
- Thomas Ryan, Community & Economic Development: No report.
- John C.V. Katsanos, Consumer Affairs: No Report
- Danielle Tharrington, Education/Library: No report.
- Antonella Di Saverio, Environmental Protection: Ms. Di Saverio reported that on February 22nd the Durst organization had a meeting at the Astoria World Manor as one of their requirements that they had to meet in order to get a permit for their Dewatering proposal. She said they are building 1 building out of 7 at Halletts Cove. Ms. Di Saverio said dewatering is when they treat contaminated water and discharge it. She continued and said they are planning to discharge the water to the river through the sewer system. Ms. Di Saverio stated that they found heavy metals such as lead, arsenic, chromium, iron and agnames in the soil and water on the property. She added that they are sure all of it will be filtered out and that it was all well presented. Ms. Di Saverio said there was not a good turnout from the community at the meeting and that the public commentary closed on Monday, March 14th. She also mentioned that there was a leak at Indian Point in January which is 37 miles from Midtown Manhattan and will keep close tabs on it.
- Judy Trilivas, Health/Senior Services: No report.
- Gerald Caliendo/Elizabeth Erion, Land Use & Zoning: Ms. Erion said she had a follow-up for the two zoning amendments, she said it has not been voted on yet by the City Council. She said there was a public hearing on March 7th by the Zoning and Franchising Sub-committee. She added that the full council will vote on the 2 text amendments on Thursday, March 17th. Ms. Erion stated that she does not have the definitive modifications that the council is making because they were not ready. She said the Councilman's office was not ready to release any information and that they were still working on the wording etc. Ms. Erion said what they have to do basically is enlarging or changing the income wages and family sizes. She said that they were

doing something with parking. Ms. Erion said she thinks it has to do with the transit zones. She added that they are also changing the percentage of housing units that would be required to be affordable in order to subsidize them. Ms. Erion ended her report by saying that they will know more next month and she thanked everyone.

- Joseph Risi, Chairman: The Chairman said there was rumor that the Mayor and the City Council may have reached an agreement.
- Elizabeth Erion: Ms. Erion said that it goes to the Mayor after the Council votes on it on Thursday and there is a whole process if the Mayor does not approve.
- John C.V. Katsanos, Legal, Legislation & Parliamentary: No report.
- Richard Khuzami, Parks/Recreation & Cultural Services: Mr. Khuzami started with a cultural event that happened which he was privileged to be on the Committee for the Queens Council on the Arts for their awards for grants this year. He said he was happy to share that 22 arts organizations and artists received grants from our community board, for example: Art House, Astoria Conservatory for Music, Astoria Big Band/Jazz Band with Carol Sudhalter, Goodwill Industries of Greater NY/NJ for a theater piece they are putting on, the Astoria Choir and the Variety Boys and Girls Club of Queens, sponsors of the Ophelia Theatre Group. Mr. Khuzami added that it was great to see that culture is alive and well here. He also shared that Playground 35 has a Welcome to Spring in the Playground which will take place on Sunday, March 20th. Mr. Khuzami added that there was a flier in the folder about it. He said that Playground 35 is soon having renovations, which Nancy Silverman is quite involved with it and you can ask her questions. He reported that IS 204 opened with their 6th, 7th and 8th grade Girls along with the City Parks Foundation an afterschool program that combines science technology, interactive games and field trips at 36-41 28th Street and that you can go the city parks foundation website to get more information on that. Mr. Khuzami said there are scoping meetings coming up community parks initiative (CPI), the first will be the Dutch Kills Playground at PS 122 25-03 Long Island City on Tuesday, March 22nd at 6 pm, the second will be the Playground 35 at the Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35th Avenue and the third one will be the Astoria Health Playground at Variety Boys & Girls Club, 21-12 30th Road in Long Island City. He also reported that the Parks Department is starting their summer employment applications for swim instructors and other positions, the rates are up to \$19.51 an hour you can go on the Parks website and look under seasonal job opportunities. Mr. Khuzami said there is a workshop with the help from Parks that gives computer training at computer resource centers which serves 6000 New Yorkers. He said they have 32 locations and the one in our community is at A.R.R.O.W, located at 35-30 36th Street in the cultural district. He added that if you want more information on that you can contact them at: 212-255-3066. Mr. Khuzami ended with Astoria 5, saying there is a flier in the folder which is making your neighborhood greener and more beautiful, it will take place on Sunday, April 17th at 11 am at 21st Street and Hoyt Avenue South at the playground for further information you can contact, Lynn Kennedy at: www.lynnk@friendsofastoriaheightdpark.org
- Katie Ellman, Public Relations: No report.
- Antonio Meloni, Public Safety: Mr. Meloni reported on the incident of last week where the gentleman was killed who was the owner of the liquor store which is 2 blocks from his office. He shared the funeral was a few days ago. Mr. Meloni added that he was an amazing man who helped out people in the neighborhood. He said the man that caused all of this lived on 36th Street. Mr. Meloni stated that the police did an amazing job and had a lot of officers in the surrounding streets. He has never seen Astoria Boulevard with so many officers, their response was absolutely amazing. He said it is sad that someone had to die and someone was hurt but the good outcome was that the man was caught.

- Ann Bruno, Street Festivals/Special Events: No report but Ms. Bruno wanted to add to Antonio Meloni's report about the incident off of Astoria Boulevard. She stated that they had police officers called from all different precincts because there were not enough police officers to cover from the 114th Precinct. Ms. Bruno reported that the man threw a Molotov cocktail at the cops which in turn gave them burns on their faces and hands.
- Robert Piazza, Transportation: Mr. Piazza reported that at the last meeting they did not have quorum. He reported on the improvements on Northern Boulevard, Honeywell to Broadway, pedestrian crosswalks that did not exist are being put in place. Mr. Piazza added that in conjunction with this the MTA is changing the Q104 bus route at the very end. He said everyone that was there was in support of this, including non-members. Mr. Piazza is asked if a letter of support can be sent to DOT.
 - Joseph Risi, Chairman: The Chair asked Mr. Piazza to make this in form of a motion.
 - Robert Piazza: Mr. Meloni said he is making a motion for a letter to be sent to the DOT. It was seconded by Norma Nieves-Blas.
 - Joseph Risi, Chairman: The Chairman asked if all were in favor, all said I. The Chair thanked him.
- Robert Piazza, Transportation: Mr. Piazza thanked everyone. He continued with the 31st Avenue Bicycle Route which he said is a work in progress. He said the problem is with the pedestrians and the traffic, some changes need to be made. Mr. Piazza ended by adding that they will have a committee meeting on that.
- Jose Batista, Youth Services: Mr. Batista reported that the Department of Youth and Community Development has put out their applications for their Summer Youth Program, they are available on line right now at www.nyc.gov , and it is open for youth between the ages of 14 to 24. He said they are expecting a larger group than last year. Mr. Batista ended by saying that the Mayor has put in a lot of money for the program.
 - Norma Nieves-Blas: She asked what the deadline for applying is.
 - Jose Batista: He said in mid-April.
- Joseph Risi, Chairman: The Chair asked the Board members if there is any new business.
- Florence Koulouris: Ms. Koulouris added that they received a letter in the office that the Queens Library will be holding their Open Budget Hearing on April 4th at 6pm located at 41-17 Flushing, Main Street near Kissena Boulevard. She added that during the opening of the hearing to please RSVP. She stated that she has the address for the Board members.
- Joseph Risi, Chairman: The Chairman asked if there was any old business. Hearing none, he motioned to adjourn. It was seconded by Ed Babor and Vanessa Jones-Hall.

Meeting Adjourned – 8:50 p.m.

PRE-AMNESTY

- Present - December 31, 2015
- Eligible if engaged in reportable lobbying activities but have not filed since December 10, 2006
- Complete the Notice of Intent to Participate in the Pre-Amnesty

Forms available at
www.cityclerk.nyc.gov

AMNESTY

- January 1, 2016 - June 30, 2016
- Eligible if engaged in reportable lobbying activities but have not filed since December 10, 2006
- The NYS Joint Commission on Public Ethics is offering an amnesty program with similar eligibility requirements and application period as the Office of the City Clerk.



THE LOBBYING BUREAU

The Lobbying Bureau is responsible for the regulation and enforcement of New York City's Lobbying Law. The Lobbying Bureau works to ensure increased compliance and further the goal of greater transparency in government. The Lobbying Bureau offers training and assistance on the law and its filing requirements. For further information, please contact our office.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Address:
**Office of the City Clerk
Lobbying Bureau
141 Worth Street
New York, New York 10013**

Help Desk:
lobbyist_helpdesk@cityclerk.nyc.gov

Phone: 212-669-8171

Fax: 212-669-4224

Website: www.cityclerk.nyc.gov



OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

LOBBYING BUREAU

ONE-TIME AMNESTY
OPPORTUNITY

JANUARY 1, 2016 – JUNE 30, 2016



MICHAEL MCSWEENEY
CITY CLERK
CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

(REVISED 12/15/2015)

STEP 1:

IS YOUR ORGANIZATION LOBBYING?

The law defines lobbying as the attempt to influence eleven specific activities:

1. Any determination made by the NYC Council with respect to local legislation;
2. Any determination made by the Mayor with respect to local legislation;
3. Any NYC determination with respect to procurement of goods or services or the solicitation, award or administration of a grant, loan or agreement involving the use of public monies;
4. Any NYC determination involving zoning or land use;
5. Any NYC determination regarding the sale or purchase of real estate or a license or permit for the use of real estate;
6. Any determination regarding a NYC agency rule;
7. Any part of a City agency rate making proceeding;
8. The agenda or determination of a NYC board or commission;
9. Calendaring or scope of a NYC Council Oversight Hearing;
10. Issuance, repeal, change or substance of a mayoral executive order; or
11. Any support or opposition of federal or state legislation by a NYC elected official or employee.

EXAMPLES OF LOBBYING ACTIVITIES:

- Attempting to obtain discretionary funding from the NYC Council
- Attempting to influence the NYC Council or mayor with respect to passing a new law
- Attempting to influence investment decisions of the NYC's Pension Funds and Retirement Systems

STEP 2:

IS YOUR ORGANIZATION'S ACTIVITY EXCLUDED FROM LOBBYING?

The following activities do not have to be reported because they are exclusions listed in the Lobbying Law:

1. Advising or rendering opinions in relation to legislation, rules or other proposed legislative action;
2. Media publication or broadcast of news items, editorials, or paid advertisements;
3. Participation in public rule making or rate making proceedings of a NYC agency;
4. Appearing before a NYC agency in an adjudicatory proceeding;
5. Responding to an information request from NYC government;
6. Contractors or their representatives who appear before NYC in the regular course of the contracting process;
7. Advertising goods or services with fliers, etc.;
8. Appearances by architects and engineers before a community board in an adjudicatory proceeding;
9. Drafting and designing plans by architects, engineers and their subordinates even if preceded or followed by lobbying activity;
10. Architects and engineers when appearing before a NYC board or commission in actions designated as minor by the City Clerk; or
11. Architects and engineers when performing capital projects pursuant to a NYC contract.

STEP 3:

HAS YOUR ORGANIZATION REACHED THE REPORTING THRESHOLD?

If your organization exceeded \$5,000 in combined compensation and expenses with respect to NYC lobbying in a calendar year for any year from 2014 to the present, then your organization has reached the reporting threshold.

Please note: In 2014 the reporting threshold was raised. Prior to 2014, your organization reached the threshold if it exceeded \$2,000 in combined compensation and expenses with respect to NYC lobbying in a calendar year.

As of 2014, the threshold amount for architects/engineers is \$10,000.

IS YOUR ORGANIZATION ELIGIBLE FOR AMNESTY?

- ✓ Your organization engaged in reportable lobbying activity after December 10, 2006.
- ✓ Your organization has never registered or filed reports on e-Lobbyist.
- ✓ Your organization is not under criminal investigation relating to a lobbying law violation.
- ✓ Your organization is not a party to criminal litigation involving a violation of the lobbying law.
- ✓ If each of these requirements is satisfied, please apply for amnesty to avoid late fees or civil penalties.

15-Oct COMMUNITY BOARD 1, QUEENS

Attendance Record

DATE 3/15/16

- YES- Present
- NO- Absent
- EXC.- Excused

Community Board Member	YES	NO	Exc.
Rose Ann Alafogiannis	✓		
George Alexiou	✓		
Daniel Aliberti	✓		
Joan Asselin	✓		
Edward Babor	✓		
Jose Batista	✓		
Ann Bruno	✓		
Gerald Caliendo	✓		
John Carusone			E
Jean Marie D'Alleva	✓		
Joanna D'Elia			E
Dolores DeCrescenzo			E
Mary Demakos		✓	
Antonella Di Saverio	✓		
Katie Ellman	✓		
Elizabeth Erion	✓		
Mackenzi Farquer	✓		
Dean Feratovic	✓		
Evie Hantzopoulos	✓		
Amy Hau	✓		
Pauline Jannelli	✓		
Vanessa Jones-Hall	✓		
John Katsanos	✓		
Richard Khuzami	✓		
Nancy Konipol	✓		

Community Board Member	YES	NO	Exc.
Jerry Kril	✓		
Melanie La Rocca			E
Vincent G. Marsanico			E
Frances Luhmann-McDonald	✓		
Antonio Meloni	✓		
Prabir Mitra	✓		
Kevin Mullarkey			E
Stella Nicolaou	✓		
Norma Nieves-Blas	✓		
Mary O'Hara	✓		
Linda Perno	✓		
Robert Piazza	✓		
Rose Marie Poveromo	✓		
Gus Prentzas		✓	
Joseph Risi Jr.	✓		
Yawne Robinson		✓	
Thomas Ryan			E
Rudolfo Sarchese	✓		
Nancy Silverman	✓		
George L. Stamatiades	✓		
Dominic Stiller	✓		
Danielle Tharrington			E
Marie Torniali	✓		
Judy Trilivas	✓		
TOTALS			

NUMBER OF BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT 38

COMMENTS _____

