

**Community Board 1**  
**September 16, 2014**

Mr. Vinicio Donato, Chairperson of Community Board 1, commenced at 7:00 pm by introducing public hearing item from the Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA) Cal. # 1255-80-BZ – Premises 35-33 31<sup>st</sup> Street. An application to renew the term of variance granted by the BSA in June 2001 for 10 year period. Mr. Michael Nacmias stated the extension of term of variance and amendment to change the use from manufacturing, which was previously approved to an eating and drinking establishment. Mr. John Carusone asked about accessory parking. Mr. Nacmias stated that he was unaware of that. Mr. Carusone stated that with this number of occupants you will end up needing parking, one parking space for every 300 sq. ft. of the commercial area. Mr. Nacmias stated that under the current zoning resolution they are not required to have parking. Mr. Carusone stated that the parking requirement changed when it was in manufacturing use which required one parking space for a 1,000 sq. ft. for a total of 5 parking spaces. In this case you will need one parking space for 300 sq. ft. in at 5,000 sq. ft. space. This is a busy commercial area under the “E1” and street side parking is limited. There were many violations issued to the previous owner, 2 violations have been taken care of. He stated the reason they may have not been taken care of the others was due to the expense of paying for the violations and are still open. The next issue is the Certificate of Occupancy (COO) and you have only been open for one year with the violations. Mr. Nacmias stated that the owner would like to lease the space to the restaurant and it is not that the restaurant owns the building. If the application moves forward and is favorable; he is sure the tenant and the owner would work together to remove the debris and the graffiti. Both parties are aware of the situation and the instruction to clean the graffiti and garbage. They are also aware of the ECB violations which they are working on to clear those up as well. Mr. Risi stated that until all the violations are dismissed and cleared they will not be able to obtain a COO. This may take a while. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone on the Board who had a question for the applicant. There was no one. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against this item. Seeing no one. Item closed.

Mr. Joseph Risi read the next public hearing item from the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) #11897-2014-ASWC – Premises 36-06 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Pink Nori). An application to establish an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 6 tables and 12 seats. Mr. Tang, owner, came up on behalf of the application. It is a restaurant located at 36-06 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue and is applying for unenclosed sidewalk café with 6 tables and 12 seats. Mr. Risi asked him to provide the Board with some additional information such as, what type of establishment you currently have. Mr. Tang stated that the restaurant is a Japanese cuisine restaurant with a full bar. Hour of operation are from 12pm to 11pm weekdays and 12pm – 12am on Friday and Saturday. Mr. Risi asked if he was aware of all the rules and regulations regarding the operation of an unenclosed sidewalk café. Mr. Tang replied “Yes”. Mr. Risi asked what are the hours of operation on Friday and Saturday for a sidewalk café. Mr. Tang stated that the hours are from 12 to 12. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone on the Board who had a question for the applicant. There was no one. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against this item. Seeing no one. Item closed.

The next item #1426466 –DCA – Premises 47-02 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Max). An application to renew the license to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 14 tables and 28 seats. The owner came up on behalf of the application. Mr. Risi asked how long they currently have their unenclosed sidewalk café. The owner replied “2 years”. Mr. Risi asked since you had the initial license have you had any violations in connection with the operation of your unenclosed sidewalk café. The owner stated that they received one violation. It was for covering the unenclosed cafe and it was removed and they paid the violation. Mr. Risi asked what type of business they have and what the hours of operation are. The owner stated that they are a German cuisine restaurant and the hours of operation are from 11am to 12am weekdays and 11am to 2am on weekends. Mr. Risi asked if he knew the prescribed hours of operation for the unenclosed sidewalk café on Friday and Saturday night. The owner replied “The same hours”. Mr. Risi stated that this is not correct, the hours of operation are until 1am for outdoor café. Mr. Donato asked if anyone on the Board had any questions for the applicant. Ms. Rose Ann Alafogiannis asked if there is any type of music, live or otherwise. The owner stated there is no live music only low music from

speakers inside. . Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against this item. Seeing no one. Item closed.

The next item #1418049 – DCA – Premises 32-02 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Burger Club). An application to renew the license to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 22 tables and 50 seats. Mr. Qadm, owner came up on behalf of the application. Mr. Risi asked how long he owned the restaurant. Mr. Qadm replied “2 years”. Mr. Risi asked if he received any violations in connection with the sidewalk café. Mr. Qadm stated yes, the tables were too far out and that was at 12am when they were cleaning the sidewalk. Ms. Antonella DeSaverio asked about the barrier and the edge of the sidewalk, from the diagram it does not look like it is 8’ from the curb. Ms. Elizabeth Erion asked about the number of tables and seats inside of the restaurant. Mr. Qadm stated that there were 15-17 tables and 35-46 seats inside. Mr. Risi asked the owner if he was willing to sign a stipulation decreasing the application to 9 tables and 24 seats. Mr. Qadm disagreed with the decrease of tables and seats. Mr. Teddy Kasapis stated that he wanted to address the issue since this establishment is down the block from his office. It’s on the corner of 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 32<sup>nd</sup> Street. Mr. Kasapis noted that the owner has big tables that can seat 8 people. He stated that he has eaten at the establishment and believes most of the Board has eaten there. Ms. McDonald stated that the question is how many tables and chairs would be feasible for his location. This is what we are trying to determine. Ms. Erion asked what is the width of the restaurant on the outside. Mr. Qadm stated that it is about 16’ to 18’ wide from side to side. Mr. Donato stated that there is a little confusion. He asked how many tables would be in front of the establishment now. Mr. Qadm stated that there would be 8 tables. Mr. Donato asked how many people would be at a table. Mr. Qadm stated that there would be 22 seats. Mr. Donato asked if there was anyone in the audience who wanted to speak for or against this application. Mr. Simon, a resident stated that the owner seems more concerned with the number of seats than the number of tables. He puts 2 tables at a time or 1 big table of 8 he can accommodate couples or a group of people at the long tables. He is in support of the application. No further discussion. Item closed.

The next item #1451259 – DCA – Premises 36-08 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Anitika Pizzeria). An application to renew the license to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 6 tables and 12 seats. No one came on behalf of the application. Mr. Donato stated that all the DCA’s seems to be on 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue which seems to be a very busy and crowded avenue.

#### **VOTING:**

Mr. Carusone reiterated public hearing item from (BSA) Cal. # 1255-80-BZ – Premises 35-33 31<sup>st</sup> Street. An application to renew the term of variance granted by the BSA in June 2001 for 10 year period. Mr. Carusone stated that the committee met and recommends approval of the application with the same exact conditions of the original approval and the committee reserves the right to monitor these conditions and any violations reported to the Board. The original application was for the COO to be issued within one year and that condition will be kept in the event that there is some problem with the COO that they must come back for a request for a COO, seconded by Thomas Ryan. Mr. Donato asked if there were any questions. There was no further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried with 33 in favor, 10 Against and 1 for Abstention for Cause.

Mr. Joseph Risi read the next public hearing item from the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) #11897-2014-ASWC – Premises 36-06 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Pink Nori). An application to establish an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 6 tables and 12 seats. Mr. Risi stated that the committee met and recommends approval of the application, seconded by Linda Perno. Mr. Donato asked if there were any questions. There was no further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried.

The next item #1426466 –DCA – Premises 47-02 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Max). An application to renew the license to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 14 tables and 28 seats. Mr. Risi stated that the committee met and recommends approval of the application, seconded by Ms. Rose Ann Alafogiannis. Mr. Donato asked if there were any questions. There was no further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried unanimously.

The next item #1418049 – DCA – Premises 32-02 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Burger Club). An application to renew the license to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 22 tables and 50 seats. Mr. Risi stated that the committee met and recommends approval of the application subject to the applicant reducing the number of tables to 15 tables and 35 seats and maintaining and providing for 8’ clearance of the curb to sidewalk café. The applicant had agreed to the reduction in the number of tables and chairs, seconded Ms. Mary O’Hara. Mr. Donato asked if there were any questions. There was no further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried with 4 Against.

The next item #1451259 – DCA – Premises 36-08 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Anitika Pizzeria). An application to renew the license to operate an Unenclosed Sidewalk Café with 6 tables and 12 seats. Mr. Risi stated that the committee met and recommends approval of the application, seconded by Ed Babor. Mr. Donato asked if there were any questions. There was no further discussion. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried unanimously.

**GENERAL DISCUSSION:**

Ms. Beth Canneli, Senior Director of Outreach, spoke of a facility that was established over 30 years ago by Captain Riddle to address the heroin epidemic in New York City. She stated it is ironic that it is starting to come back. Outreach offers a variety of services to Astoria and the surrounding communities and is conveniently located in Richmond Hill, Queens and Greenpoint, Brooklyn. Substance abuse is ramped throughout the communities. Outreach works with everyone even those who don’t have insurance. The programs are for adolescents, middle school children, women, adults, teens and DWIs and they provide services in multiple languages. She brought flyers and brochures for further information and you can go online to [www.opiny.org](http://www.opiny.org).

Ms. Fernanda Calderon, Health First NYC stated this is a non-profit health insurance company. She came to speak about the Affordable Care Act/Obama Care. Many people know that they are required to have health insurance coverage. Last year we had open enrollment and many people signed up. This year open enrollment will begin on November 15, 2014 to February 15, 2015. Those who have already applied have to renew their insurance, either automatically or if they need assistance they can reach out to her or others for assistance. This is an opportunity for those who were not able to apply previously. She is present and will be available to let everyone know what they are eligible for based on their income for individual or family plans and their costs.

Mr. Nico Guzman, a resident, thanked the Board for being so sharp. He recently moved from Florida and the reason he is present is to speak about the climate march on Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>. This is a people’s march for climate change and they are expecting over 300,000 people to participate. There is a movie called Island President which speaks about the Maldives which are in the South Pacific. This is going to be the first nation that is going to be impacted by climate change. They have been moving their entire nation to Australia. He asked how many people were impacted by Hurricane Sandy. The storms are going to get worst and we are trying to come together as one global family. He believes in the power of unity. He hopes to meet some people there this Sunday at Columbus Circle, Central Park South.

Mr. Wendell Walker, representing the Museum of the Moving Image, stated that on Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup> the Museum, Kaufman Studios along with Local 817 of the Teamsters Union are inviting the public to visit a “behind the scenes day”. The public will be able to enter trailers used for production i.e. make-up, dress, etc. and experience what the actors do. All are invited.

Mr. Adam C. Powell, a former Councilmember, stated that he is very familiar with the work of the Boards and appreciates the opportunity to speak. He is representing a client that needs a liquor license call RACKS at 19-26 Steinway between 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Avenues. They have come before the Board before and he believes that they have a very good product and are located in a very desolate industrial business zone. His client has invested a lot of blood, sweat, tears and money into opening up this establishment. His client needs a liquor license in order to open the business. It will be a full fledge entertainment venue, sports lounge, restaurant, and adult topless entertainment. Some may find this offensive but this is only entertainment like gambling or horse racing which some may find offensive. These days these

types of establishments are no longer called gentlemen's lounge, because we live in 2014 and many women are enjoying these types of establishment for bachelorette parties or birthday parties. This establishment has a full fledge menu which the client will present to you. His client has been the owner of the establishment for 10 years. IT used to be a pool hall. There were no incidents or violations in those 10 years. He is respectfully request that the Board approve his client's application for a liquor license. He requested that the Board allow his client to prove himself to the Board. There are so many establishments like this such as Riveria, Perfection and so many others. Some of them are good neighbors and some of these establishments are better neighbors than the local bars and clubs. The best thing about all this is that they have to come back before the Board in 2 years for renewal. Currently there are no lights or cameras, if they come in there will be lights and cameras installed and well kept. A year ago the committee approved it and the Board disapproved it 17 to 15 and last night the committee disapproved it. He is requesting that the Board approve the application so that his client could open his establishment. He asked if the Board could vote on this application tonight.

Mr. Mark Weinstein, Attorney for RACKS, also spoke. This is not just a strip club or a gentlemen's club or topless club. This is a hybrid entertainment venue with a sports bar with gourmet food by top notch chefs. RACKS has been owned by the same owner who has no violations or incidents at RACKS in the past 10 years, since he has owned it. It's a question about responsibility and his responsibility to maintain his license. He asked that the Board respectfully consider that and since 1961 the history of the location in an industrial/manufacturing zone. Let's not forget changing demographics, from 2000 to 2010 there has been a decrease in children under 18 in 2 to 4 family homes. He understands that many people are concerned about the residential development. They will have a security plan that is very extensive. There is nothing there but trucks parked on the side. He cannot imagine why anyone would bring their children there.

Mr. Derrick Parker, Security for RACKS, stated that they will be metal detectors, ID scanners, lights and an extensive camera system. People will be screened and physically searched. In addition to that they will be working closely with NYPD and providing weekly updates of any problems.

Ms. Stacey Massuric, 10 year Astoria Resident, stated this would a good time to see if anyone had information on or about the increased helicopter traffic over the last several years. Not just where she lives on Ditmars but even other areas in Astoria. She feels like it seems to be more in the morning and even in the evening. It seems to be a traffic pattern not a police helicopter. She called 311 trying to get more information and register a complaint without any help. Ms. Joan Asselin stated that she has been listening to television over the last few days and she heard them talking about flying across the East River to eliminate traffic, this is why you are hearing helicopters going along the river. Ms. Asselin stated that she lives two blocks from the river and probably hears it more than most residents. This is probably going to be the program for the future. Mr. Donato added that the helicopters fly by all the time since there is a prison nearby looking for prisoners.

Mr. Norm Sutera, residents, stated that helicopters are his pet peeve too. He actually brought this up at AssemblyMember Simotas's town hall meeting back in April with the FAA representative. He stated that he did extensive research and received a response from the Deputy FAA Administrator for the Eastern Region. Astoria, and especially our Community Board, is directly underneath a helicopter route called the Throgs route. It is so popular because it is a gateway from NYC heliports on the eastside and goes over Queensborough Bridge and goes to the northern tip of Roosevelt Island and then drop over Astoria. It is a published route which means it is their highway in the sky. Ms. Asselin stated that it is their default route. He believes that the Board could write a letter to Queens Quiet Skys and explain that this is something that is absolutely unacceptable as well as to the FAA. He feels that this is an issue that the Board should look into.

Mr. Kristoph, a resident, stated that he is active in the community in different aspects. He loves his community and Astoria went through a zoning change in 2008 and he hopes that we uphold these changes. He came up to give his support to the RACKS club. He does live a few blocks away and he is a father with four children. This country has had these types of establishments for many years. Some

agree with them and some don't, there are many vices in society. If we follow the rule we set on ourselves and we are responsible citizen then we should not have any problem from an establishment opening up in a zone that it is permitted. If he knew that before he bought his home he would not have changed his mind. A new school opened up and took up all the parking, but he is not against education because of it. He knows that is the end result and will have to live with that.

Ms. Chole Bass, Boswyck Farms, stated that it is a hydroponic research and design company that recently moved from Bushwick to Astoria, Queens. This is the first time they have been able to attend a Board meeting. She is glad to be present and to inform everyone that they will be having a grand opening party for the entire community on September 29<sup>th</sup>, from 6pm - 9pm at 38-01 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Room 203. All are welcomed and there will light refreshments served on their rooftop garden.

Mr. Tex Crushiak, resident, stated he attends St. George's Church on located on 14<sup>th</sup> St./27<sup>th</sup> Avenue. They are happy to install their 17<sup>th</sup> Rector in a few weeks, her name is Reverend Karen Davis Larson and she will be the first female Rector of the Church. He read the invitation that was given out to the community of her pending arrival. It will take place on Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 10am at St George Episcopal. There will be a service and dinner served. He would accept contributions for this booklet of commemoration.

Mr. Taskos, a resident, stated that he brought up at AssemblyMember Simotas's meeting a few months ago real estate taxes. He just received his bill from Department of Finance who are very meticulous in sending it four times a year. It is up another 100 dollars, at what point are we going to say that these increases are not sustainable. A few years ago the taxes were quadrupled and consistently increased. At what point do we consider this theft. The DEP is the only utility that does not cover the entire piping to the home. They do not cover the piping from the home to the sewer line and the homeowner is responsible for it. He believes that this is an insurance racket. We should get the conversation going with family people who have set income, something needs to be done.

Mr. Rob (Illegible), a resident, stated that he and his wife purchased a home on Ditmars across from a school. All they knew at the time was that they were living across from a school yards. They knew that there would be lots of noise, traffic and children. What they didn't know at the time was that there were going to be 18 wheelers and large trucks driving down their block illegally. Hotels were going to be illegally converted into homeless shelters and fireworks being blown off in the schoolyard with yelling. They did know that they were moving into an area that was near a manufacturing zone. They both grew up in Astoria and one of the things that is troubling him tonight is that the business that is applying for a liquor license is doing it within their zoning rights. They are not violating any laws and have done all the correct applications. They have invested the time and the City has let them invest the money, it would be a crime to refuse them at this point since it is their legal right and they are there within their rights.

### **BUSINESS SESSION:**

Mr. Donato motioned to accept the minutes of June's Board meeting, motion seconded by Mr. Stamtiades. Motion called and carried unanimously.

Mr. Donato reported that at the Borough President's office last night he learned that the tennis matches that just finished two weeks ago earned more money than the Yankee and Mets stadiums earned together. They are planning to construct a covering for the main stadium at the end of 2015 and early 2016 in case it rain. Then they will work on the smaller one. They have put a tremendous amount of money into that place. Mr. Donato welcomed everyone back. Unfortunately, Mr. Bob Piazza's wife passed away a week ago and asked everyone to stand for a minute.

Ms. Lucille Hartmann, District Manager, reported that Mr. Wendell Walker has already reported on the Press Release for an event that will be taking place on Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup> on 36<sup>th</sup> Street between 34<sup>th</sup> and 35<sup>th</sup> Avenues (outside of the Kaufman Studios). The event is being sponsored by the Kaufman Studios and the Museum of the Moving Image along with the Theatrical Teamsters Local 817. A behind

the scenes look at film productions will be available with 20 working movie trailers and trucks. Admission is free. If you are interested there are flyers on the table at the back. On September 18<sup>th</sup> the Alzheimer's Association sponsored by the Floating Hospital and the AHS Caring Communities will hold a meeting geared to Caregivers at 40-06 Astoria Blvd. The event will be of value to those in need and those who provide care. On September 18<sup>th</sup>, the Astoria Homeowners, Tenants and Business Civic Association will be holding its meeting at St. Francis of Assisi School basement with guest speakers Borough President Melinda Katz, Council Member Constantinides and Deputy Inspector Kevin Maloney. All are welcomed. She added that there will be a meeting of the Capital/Expense Committee on September 30<sup>th</sup> to prioritize its recommendations to be presented to the full Board at our October 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

Ms. Rosemarie Poveromo, Chair of Airport Access Committee, reported that the helicopters are being used during the summer and the fall months. They go out to eastern Long Island. The reality of the situation is, the airport is there, both LaGuardia and Kennedy airports. The planes are flying and the helicopters are flying no matter who is upset. She is aviation Chair and she has been working on this problem for 30 years. They are not going to stop the traveling public from taking planes. No matter how we rant, rave and scream, helicopters and planes are in the air. Ms. McDonald stated that she wrote a question down for Ms. Hartmann and discuss it with Ms. Poveromo about the 3 billion dollar project to spruce up LaGuardia. Ms. Poveromo stated that she was not aware of the status. Ms. Hartmann stated that the Board will be scheduling a committee meeting. Nothing has been finalized, and we are tentatively scheduling October 23<sup>rd</sup> for a PowerPoint presentation on the new developments at the airport.

Mr. Joseph Risi, Chair of Consumer Affairs Committee, reported that the Consumer Affairs Committee met at the Board office on September 15<sup>th</sup>, at which time 12 members of the committee and Detective Negron of the 114<sup>th</sup> Pct. attended. He thanked Officer Negron for all the hard work that he has done. The committee doesn't approve or disapprove any application whatsoever. The Consumer Affairs Committee makes recommendations to the full Board. The Board does not approve or disapprove liquor licenses submitted by any applicant. The State Liquor Authority (SLA) approves or disapproves liquor licenses. Of note though, was the committee's recommendation and review of a standardize notice which was provided to CB1 by the applicant AG Inc. d/b/a RACKS located at 19-26 Steinway Street in Astoria. They are seeking issuance of a liquor, beer and wine license. The applicant appeared with their principals and was represented by their counsel. The applicant and their representative provided a very thorough presentation in support of their application. A similar application seeking licensing at this premise was denied by the SLA and the Board in the past. The applicant stated that they seek a full liquor license to be used with their proposed hybrid lounge/nightclub/cabaret and sports bar with topless entertainment. He noted that no cabaret license has been approved for this location. After due consideration, the committee recommends to the Board the application for on premise liquor license be denied by the SLA and the recommendation of such a denial is based on the detrimental impact this applicant's license will have on the quality of life in the area. Mr. Risi is recommending the Board to send a letter to the SLA asking them to deny the applicant a liquor license, seconded by Mr. Babor. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried.

Ms. Joan Asselin, Chair of Environmental Protection Committee, reported that she received in the mail from Astoria Generator Power Plant a letter, stating that two years ago one of the plants was not working and now they are back online with gas fired only generators. It should generate enough power to actually lower our gas consumption bills. This remains to be seen. Someone was kind enough to drop off new waste recycling notices. Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at Lefrak City at Junction Blvd between 58<sup>th</sup> and 59<sup>th</sup> Street you will be able to drop off any items that you can no longer use. They will try to repair and resell as part of their program. Mr. Thomas Ryan added that he believes the City, as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, will no longer allow you to dispose of any electronics in the garbage. Ms. Asselin stated that Con Edison has a program that they will give \$50 for your old refrigerator, air conditioner, etc. They come and pick it up from you. For more information you can give them a call to see what items are being picked up.

Ms. Judy Trilivas, Chair of Health & Social Services/Senior Committee, reported that with the current situation with Ebola, she wanted to assure everyone that the hospitals across the City are preparing to deal with it. There have been several conference calls, walk-throughs and drills in regards with dealing

with patient's and procedures of a possible outbreak. You may not hear what is being done but there is a lot of planning taking place. She also noted the Entro virus D68 that affects children, has been discussed and there have been several calls sharing information on dealing with patients that have it. Mr. Donato asked if she has a date when the hospital will be finished. She stated that the hospital will be opening up in stages starting next year in the Fall; they will start with the emergency room and basement and so on. Mr. Donato added that he has not heard any complaint regarding the construction that has been going on.

Ms. Mary O'Hara, Chair of Housing Committee, reported that she thanked the staff for putting together a very comprehensive fact sheet of the SCRIE Program. The other alert is to using AirBNB which provides short term renting of guest. There is growing opposition against the program in major cities. In New York it evades the hotel tax. It also brings up safety issues for fellow tenants in apartment buildings.

Mr. Antonio Meloni, Chair of Public Safety Committee, stated that in the Board's folders there is a letter from Council Member Constantinides asking the Board for a letter of support to co-name a portion of the Street (30<sup>th</sup> Ave. betw. 43<sup>rd</sup> & 44<sup>th</sup> Sts.) across from St. Josephs Church in honor of our former AssemblyMember Dennis Butler. Mr. Meloni motioned that the Board send a letter of support, seconded by Mr. Babor. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried. Mr. Ryan asked about the electric bicycles that are being driven around and are not licensed. He stated he saw a delivery person on one with a cell phone in one hand and holding something in the other while going uphill. How is this being handled or addressed? Mr. Meloni stated the actual legislation law that was passed is a bit strange. They are now required to have a number, the name of the restaurant with a red or yellow reflective jacket. And about two months ago they passed a law to make them illegal to ride. Many of the restaurants have no idea that the people they are sending out for deliveries are doing so illegally.

Mr. Jose Batista, Chair of Youth Committee, reported that the Western Queens Recovery services sent him an email requesting support from CB1 to help set-up a treatment center or a referral center at the Colin Powel H.S. There is a letter of support from the Principal from the high school. He read the letter he received to the Board. Mr. Batista motioned that the Board send a letter of support, seconded by Ms. Perno. Ms. McDonald asked if the services will be for the student of the school. Mr. Batista stated that the services will be for the students and their families. Mr. Piazza asked that the letter of support states that the services are specifically for the students and not for people of other neighborhood. Mr. Donato called for a vote. Motion called and carried with 1 Against.

Mr. John Carusone, Chair of Zoning & Variance Committee, reported that there will be a committee meeting on Monday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Ms. Erion, Assistant Zoning Chair, stated that they had a very busy summer dealing with Astoria Cove after the June 10<sup>th</sup> public hearing the Board had. On June 17<sup>th</sup> there was a vote to deny the application with many conditions. On July 17<sup>th</sup> the applicant revised their application and refiled with a text amendment with and exclusionary housing text amendment making it mandatory that this development provide affordable housing units (20% from 295 to 345). It is a precursory for city-wide text amendments which will come to the Board by the end of the year or early 2015. It expands the large scale development plan area, increase FAR 48,000 sq. ft., and building height. July 17<sup>th</sup>, Borough President held her Public Hearing and July 30<sup>th</sup> the Borough President issued a recommendation to disapprove the project, she acknowledge the outstanding issues and concerns of CB1. On August 4<sup>th</sup>, City Planning had their public hearing which was a repeat of what happened at the Board's public hearing. The Commission's interest coincided with what the community spoke about. On August 4<sup>th</sup> they had a review session and on August 6<sup>th</sup> they had a public hearing where there were 21 people who came to speak in favor and 26 against which was a repeat of the Board's hearing. On August 14<sup>th</sup> the applicant sent a letter to City Planning in response to the issues that were raised at the public hearing. She reviewed what the applicant would now be able to do with open spaces and improvements for open spaces in the area. There was a meeting to discuss the priorities of the community and where and how the money should be applied. The applicant committed to labor in respect to training programs and Hazmat remediation that are required. On August 20<sup>th</sup> the CouncilMember sent a letter to City Planning stating that the rents that were being proposed were extremely too high for median income in the neighborhood. He asked that the new text amendment address this issue. There has been 3 review session since then. They will be voting on the application on September 29<sup>th</sup> after which City Council

will have a public hearing and vote on it sometime in November. Ms. Erion stated that this project set a precedent and everyone worked hard on all the different issues and concerns. Mr. Donato thanked her for all her work and the committee's. Ms. Hartmann added that Ms. Erion did a great job and the Board was given a compliment on the recommendations that were submitted with the project. Mr. Donato acknowledged AssemblyMember Aravella Simotas's presence at our Board.

**NEW/OLD BUSINESS:**

None

There was no further business before the Board Ms. Erion motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Mullarkey. Motion called and carried unanimously.