



COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, and Elmhurst

46-11 104th Street

Corona, New York 11368-2882

Telephone: 718-760-3141 Fax: 718-760-5971

e-mail: cb4q@nyc.rr.com

Helen Marshall
Borough President

Louis Walker
Chairperson

Barry Grodenchik
Deputy Borough President
Director of Community Boards

Richard Italiano
District Manager

COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE: TUESDAY, JANUARY 05, 2010

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

PLACE: FLANDERS FIELD VFW POST #150
51-11 108th STREET
CORONA, NEW YORK 11368

I. The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

II. The District Manager Richard Italiano took the roll call. A quorum was present.

III. Vote on the Minutes (December 1, 2009).

Ms. Laraine Donohue made a motion, seconded by Ms. Lucy Schilero, to **accept** the minutes.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 31 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

IV. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

Chair Louis Walker noted New York Educational and Military Youth Day was declared by the Governor on November 7.

Next, the Chair announced the honor of your presence is requested at the Inauguration Ceremony of The Honorable Helen M. Marshall Queens Borough President Tuesday, January 26, 2010, at 10:00 a.m., at York College Performing Arts Center, 94-45 Guy R. Brewer Boulevard, Jamaica, NY.

Before concluding his report, the Chair reminded the membership to see the Board Treasurer Joe DiMartino at the end of the meeting for collection to the Sunshine Fund.

V. REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

The District Manager announced HOPE 2010 The NYC Street Survey will be held on Monday, January 25. The NYC Department of Homeless Services will conduct the Homeless Outreach Population Estimate (HOPE). Volunteers are needed to canvass parks, subways, and other public spaces to count people living unsheltered. For more information or to register to volunteer, go to www.nyc.gov/dhs or call 311.

Next, the District Manager announced the change in Council Member representation because of the 2009 election. Subsequently, it was also announced Queens President Helen Marshall had appointed former Assemblyman Barry Grodenchik as her new Deputy Borough President/Director of Community Boards. Mr. Grodenchik was named to the post following former Deputy Borough President Karen Koslowitz's election to the City Council.

Next, the District Manager reported on the removal of all vendors in front of the Queens Center Mall. A multi-agency vendor enforcement operation was carried out on Queens Boulevard the week before Christmas. Six arrests for illegal counterfeiting were made. Although it took a long time in coming, this issue will be monitored to see if/when the vendors return and additional actions will be taken.

Next, the District Manager announced the MulchFest2010 TreeCycle on Saturday and Sunday, January 9 and 10. Bring your holiday tree to a designated city park to be recycled into mulch. You are encouraged to bring bags to take advantage of the free mulch provided at designated sites. Specific parks sites were announced.

Next, the New York Hospital of Queens is sponsoring a free community symposium on bones, joints and muscles and arthritis on Monday, January 25, 2010, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., at the New York Hospital Queens Lang Auditorium, 56-45 Main Street, Flushing, New York.

Next, the District Manager reported on the January 2010 #7 Line Service Diversions. Service Diversions will occur on the #7 Line between Corona and Flushing on January 16-18 and January 23-25 2010 weekends in order to carry out switch and track work in the area of Main Street-Flushing Station. There will be no #7 Line subway service between Mets-Willets Point and Main Street Flushing Stations between the hours of 12:01 a.m. on Saturday and 4 a.m. on Monday on both weekends. Special free shuttle buses will operate between Mets-Willets Point and Main Street Flushing stations on those weekends.

More service diversions affecting weekend service on the R Line in Queens and Manhattan during January 2010 were announced. In order to carry out fan plant rehabilitation work in the R line's tunnel west of the Queens Plaza Station from 12:01 a.m. on Saturday to 5 a.m. on Monday on the January 9-11 and January 16-18 weekends. All R line trains will operate between Queens and Manhattan via the 63 Street line between the 36 Street Station in Queens and the 57 Street-7 Avenue Station in Manhattan.

VI. PRESENTATION: Corona Community Ambulance Corp. Inc. – David Moretti, President Update on the Expansion and Change in Service of the Ambulance Corp.

Mr. Moretti reported in an effort to better service Community Board 4, plans are in progress to finalize an expansion of area. According to the NYS Department of Health, Corona Community Ambulance Corp. can only service the area which is considered its primary operating territory, which is Corona and part of north Corona, and omits Elmhurst and other areas. Since 1999, residents of Elmhurst, E. Elmhurst and Jackson Heights have not had a volunteer ambulance service. In this regard, Corona Community Ambulance Corp. has restructured and reorganized to do a full expansion of areas to include both Community Boards 3 and 4. With a 100 member personnel and ambulances ready to provide service, the Department of Health requires public need. Letters of support are needed to provide proof of public need.

Mr. Moretti reported as of yesterday, a guaranteed day time tour was officially launched. The pilot program was initiated on December 14. As of 8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m., seven days per week, an ambulance is available for dispatch. In the timeframe December 14 to January 3, 200 calls were answered, 165 were hospital transports. Because the membership had supported the idea of a guaranteed day time tour, second and third units were initiated. Many days a second unit was in operation from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., midnight to 8:00 a.m. with other tours in operation. Maximum capacity is four ambulances in one day.

Mr. Moretti explained it is a 60-day process from the date of submission to the regional EMS Council. From the state of New York, the only way to prove positive public need is to gather letters from the public. The entire membership of Corona Community Ambulance has reinvested itself in the community to help and support the neighborhood. If necessary, a DBA for the Elmhurst community can also be done. Based the figure of 200 calls in a month for this year, 1300 calls will inevitably be surpassed.

More features have been added such as paramedic services to improve quality of care to the residents. An EMT class is offered. Classes start in February, 2010. Details will be posted.

Restructuring had taken place on how the agency operates, how it works in the community, and how it responds to the community.

Ms. Georgina Oliver inquired how the agency will handle the additional requests from the Elmhurst residents. Mr. Moretti responded by providing multiple ambulances, they are able to pick up on the call volume. Acquiring a fifth and six ambulance is in progress, and also by expanding its membership to accommodate the greater territory. Once the expansion is finalized, the agency has the means and personnel to cover. Dispatchers and radio communication between the vehicles are in effect.

Mr. Enrique Lugo asked about the economics of the service. Mr. Moretti reported as an agency that does not generate many donations, the following options are available to a client:

- ❖ Bill the insurance company
- ❖ Make a small donation
- ❖ Use as a community service (client not billed)

Mr. Moretti continued its agency's budget for 2010 is a quarter of a million dollars.

Mr. Nick Pennachio asked if there is a geographical limitation such as transporting a client to a Manhattan hospital. Mr. Moretti said it depends on the current condition of the patient. If the response team feels a patient requires immediate care, transport to the nearest hospital will be advised. However, if the medical professional team deems the patient can be transported to their desired hospital, the patient will also be advised. Another option is that the patient can be transported to the nearest hospital to be stabilized and then transported to their desired hospital by Corona Community Ambulance Corp.

Call the emergency phone # 718-592-1068 for assistance.

At this point, the Chair called for a motion to write a letter in support of the Corona Community Ambulance Corps., Inc.

Mrs. Judy D'Andrea made the motion, seconded by Ms. Priscilla Carrow, to **support** Corona Community Ambulance Corps.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 31 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

The Chair also added if anyone wished to write his/her own letter of support, please do so.

VII. Nomination Committee

The Chair announced Board Elections will be held next month. According to the Bylaws, the Chair is entitled to choose two people from the floor to serve on the Nomination Committee. Subsequently, the Board designates three people from the floor.

Ms. Ashley Cooper and **Mrs. Pat Terranova** were assigned to serve on the Nominations Committee as the Chair's nominees.

At this point, nominations were taken from the floor. Mr. Tony Moreno nominated **Mr. Stephen Castro**. The nomination was seconded by Mrs. Miriam Levenson.

Ms. Georgina Oliver nominated **Mr. Diego Freire**. The nomination was seconded by Mr. Peter Vekiarelis.

Ms. Audrey Galligen nominated **Mr. Nick Pennachio**. The nomination was seconded by Ms. Clara Salas.

At this point, the Chair stated five people were designated to serve on the Nominations Committee. Does the Board want additional members, asked the Chair.

After a brief discussion, Mr. Tony Moreno moved to close the nominations, seconded by Mr. Stephen Castro. By a voice vote, the Board voted 31 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed. The Nomination Committee had been formed.

The Chair reminded the Board at the February meeting when elections are held and the Committee presents its report; nominations can also be taken from the floor for any office where the incumbent's term is ending.

Before moving on to the next agenda item, the District Manager asked the members of the newly formed Nominations Committee to remain after the meeting to discuss a day to meet.

VIII. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Committee Chair Lucy Schilero presented the Committee's report.

New Applicants

<u>ESTABLISHMENT'S NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION</u>
Puerto Escondido Food Corp. On Premises Liquor	97-12 Roosevelt Avenue Corona, NY 11368	Denied. 9/19/09 summons-Noise complaint Proof is requested when owners officially acquired the business.

Renewal Applicants

Brenmac Tavern, Inc. Grandstand On Premises Liquor	85-35 Grand Avenue Elmhurst, NY 11373	Denied. Noise/Grand Larceny complaints.
Ecuadorian Rest. Corp. DBA Coci Austro Restaurant Restaurant/Wine	111-22 Roosevelt Ave. Corona, NY 11368	Denied. Noise comp. 3/28/09 with more. Committee requests meeting w/owner.
Editas Bar & Restaurant, Inc. Premises Liquor	85-10 & 85-12 Roosevelt Ave. Jackson Heights, NY 11372	Denied. On-going problems as well with previous owner. Numerous court summonses: disorderly premises/noise. Robbery, Misdemeanor Assaults
El Rincon Criollo Rest. Inc. Restaurant Wine	40-09 Junction Blvd. Corona, NY 11368	Approved.
Mexican Junction Rest. Corp. Eating Place Beer	96-06 Roosevelt Avenue Corona, NY 11368	Denied. Sale to minors. Court order in effect to appear. Illegal coin operations.

Mr. Tony Moreno inquired about the Committee's process in determining how its recommendation is achieved, for example, Bremac Tavern. Committee Chair Schilero responded information presented to the Board is taken directly from police reports. What the Committee takes into consideration is were those issues cleared. Moreover, a meeting is held with the owner. Subsequently, the Committee makes a recommendation based on all reports and information gathered.

Committee Chair Schilero also explained the time limit involved to comment. Since there is little time, less than 30 days, if an application were tabled, a license could be issued any way.

Ms. Laraine Donohue questioned the correlation of a grand larceny charge to the issuance of a liquor license. The Committee Chair explained the procedure and how a decision is formed. This procedure had been in existence for years. Also, she is aware the establishment is popular, but the Committee needs to know more about those charges and proceed accordingly. If a problem occurred inside the establishment, it is also taken into consideration and deliberated upon and a decision rendered accordingly.

After more discussion followed, the Chair reported the Board does not have to accept the Committee's recommendation.

Mr. Enrique Lugo asked if the Committee recommendation for denial was based with prejudice or without prejudice. The Committee Chair replied no, recommendations are based on information contained in police reports.

Mr. Lugo pointed out the down economy and added the Board must do the right job since it is a major responsibility to those people involved.

Ms. Georgina Oliver made a motion, seconded by Mr. Enrique Lugo, to vote on each establishment separately. By a general consensus, the Board agreed.

Before the vote was taken, Mr. Stephen Castro asked will this set a standard from this day on since the Board needs to be consistent. In this way, the Committee will be advising the Board of its findings and the Board will determine the recommendation for the establishment.

The Chair explained this was the way it has always been since the Board must approve the Committee's recommendations.

At this point, the Board reviewed the applicants on an individual basis:

New Applicants

1. Puerto Escondido Food Corp. – Denied by the Public Safety Committee

Ms. Laraine Donohue made a motion, seconded by Ms. Audrey Galligen, to support the Committee's recommendation to **deny** the application.

Before the vote was taken, the Chair clarified a yes vote means to support the Committee's recommendation to deny the application.

By a roll call vote, the Board voted 25 in favor, 5 opposed, with 1 abstention. Motion to deny passed.

Renewal Applicants

1. Brenmac Tavern, Inc. Grandstand

Ms. Georgina Oliver made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stephen Castro, to support the Committee's recommendation to **deny** the application.

The Chair reiterated a yes vote supports the Committee's recommendation to deny the application.

The Chair called out, "All of you in support of the Committee's recommendation raise your hands".
"All of you voting no, please raise your hands".

Any abstentions called out the Chairperson.

The District Manager recorded the count.

The Chair announced the Public Safety Committee's recommendation passed by a vote of 19 in favor, 11 opposed, with 1 abstention. Motion to deny passed.

Before the vote was taken, discussion ensued on the criteria for a noise complaint taking into consideration the location of the establishment and the documentation of decibels to be classified as a noise complaint. Moreover, the number of noise complaints must be validated, said Mrs. Judy D'Andrea.

Committee Chair Schilero responded police reports are taken into consideration as well as reports from neighbors. Only the number of calls received is on record, not the names of people who made the call, she stated.

At this point, Mr. Nick Pennachio mentioned Brenman Tavern (Grandstand) had been in the neighborhood for years, operated by a very responsible person. If the Board deprives the business of its income, it is a disservice to the community, emphasizing the Board must respect business owners.

Discussion ensued about the validity of 311 noise complaints.

2. Ecuadorian Restaurant, Corp. D/B/A Coci Austro Restaurant

Ms. Ashley Cooper made a motion, seconded by Mr. Melvin Morgan, to **overrule** the Committee's recommendation and **approve the application.**

The Chair reiterated a yes vote means not to agree with the Committee.

The Chair called out, "All those in favor of the recommendation, please raise your hands".

The Chair called out, "Any no votes or abstentions".

The District Manager recorded the count.

The Committee's recommendation was voted down by a vote of 27 in favor, 2 opposed, with 2 abstentions.
Motion to grant the application passed.

Mr. Stephen Castro stated too many personal feelings are going into the issue. The Board must support the community it is here to represent.

3. Editas Bar & Restaurant, Inc.

Mrs. Pat Terranova made a motion, seconded by Mr. Diego Freire, to **accept** the Committee's recommendation to **deny the application.**

Before the vote was taken, the Chair asked, Is there any discussion on the motion?

Since there was none, by a voice vote the Board voted 29 in favor, 1 opposed, with 1 abstention. Motion passed to deny the application.

5. Mexican Junction Restaurant, Corp.

Mr. Stephen Castro made a motion, seconded by Ms. Audrey Galligen, to **accept** the Committee's recommendation to deny the application.

82nd Street from Roosevelt Ave. to Baxter Avenue

The Committee Chair reported this organization had been conducting this event for many years without incident. The Committee **approved** the permit.

Mrs. Judy D'Andrea made a motion, seconded by Mr. Alirio Orduna, to **accept** the Committee's recommendation.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 31 in favor, 0 opposed with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------|--|-------------------------|
| 3. | Comite Divino Nino | June 13, 2010 | 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. |
| | | 80 th Street from Roosevelt Ave. to 41 st Avenue | |
| 4. | Comite Divino Nino | August 22, 2010 | 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. |
| | | 80 th Street from Roosevelt Ave. to 41 st Avenue | |

The Committee Chair reported this event was held last year without incident.

The Committee **approved** both permits.

Ms. Laraine Donohue made a motion, seconded by Mr. Melvin Morgan, to **accept** the Committee's recommendation for both Comite Divino Nino permits.

By a voice vote, the Committee voted 31 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

X. Committee Reports

ULURP & Zoning

No Report. Committee Chair Miriam Levenson reported the Committee did not meet.

Health

No Report. Committee Chair Priscilla Carrow reported the Committee did not meet.

Postal

Committee Chair Stephen Castro reported a Committee meeting is scheduled for January 20, 2010.

Agenda items to be discussed: Post Office Revised Hours and Mobile Post Office/Stamp Van.

Youth

Committee Chair Clara Salas reported a Committee meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2010, at Elmhurst Hospital Center. A representative from the School Construction Authority will make a presentation to give an overview of the SCA projects recently completed, projects in progress, and completed projects and the effect of school capacities in the Board area.

All were urged to attend.

The District Manager added as a follow-up to the Community Dialogue Forum held in October, participants interested in education and youth were invited to attend the Youth Services meeting to generate more members on the committee. This concept will be forwarded to other Board committees. Additionally from the forum, attendees who are interested in cultural diversity, a meeting at the Board office is also planned, which will result in increased membership to the Board's committees.

Environmental

Committee Chair not present

Parks

Committee Chair Tony Caminiti reported the Committee did not meet.

Consumer Affairs

Committee Chair not present.

At this point, discussion ensued on snow removal, garbage pick-ups, and holiday recycling collections.

XI. REPORT OF THE LEGISLATORS

Council Member Daniel Dromm applauded the Public Safety Committee Chair and the members who serve on the Committee for the difficult job they perform. He agreed businesses do need support; however, it is equally important to respect the rights of residents who live in the neighborhood and to ensure that all sides are heard and all are shown consideration, which is the role of the Community Board. Even though the discussion may get heated at times, it is a dialogue the community needs to have.

Next, Council Member Dromm was sworn in December 21 in a private ceremony by the City Clerk Mr. Michael McSweeney. January 6 City Council Speaker Quinn will conduct a swearing-in ceremony at City Hall.

Council Member Dromm also reported his district office, which is the same office formerly occupied by Helen Sears, is nearing completion and will open very shortly. The office is located at 37-32 75th Street, Jackson Heights, NY. All were invited to come to the office to share problems, concerns, issues, or compliments. Currently, four people were hired to staff the office with a possibility of adding more people depending on budget.

At this point, Council Member Dromm introduced his Chief of Staff Mr. Will Sweeney, a community organizer and activist and also mentioned the other staff persons who all look forward to serving the community.

Council Member Dromm said he looks forward to working with the Community Board and thanked the Board for its valuable service.

Before concluding his presentation, Council Member Dromm reported his inauguration ceremony will be held on January 10 at Queens Theater in the Park from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

If interested in attending, call Council Member Dromm at 718-457-2928 since seating is very limited.

Board Member Alirio Orduna, Commander, and the New York Military Youth Cadets will be present.

Next, Ms. Yoselin Genao, representing Council Member Julissa Ferreras Office, reported Council Member Ferreras had partnered with Speaker Christine Quinn in denouncing the new regulations and proposals from the MTA. There have been proposals to cut services to seniors, students and disabled riders. Action must be taken. Go online, sign petitions or call the Council Member's office to stop the MTA from cutting services. Everyone needs to be involved.

Next, Ms. Genao reported on the Child Safety & Protection Festival on Wednesday, January 6, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Council Member Ferreras' District Office, 32-33A Junction Blvd., E. Elmhurst, NY. All children receive an identification card. RSVP as soon as possible.

Activities Include:

- Fingerprinting & Photos for Child Identifications
- Toy Giveaway
- Book Giveaway

Next all were invited to join Council Member Ferreras for her Annual Three Kings Event at the RAICES Senior Center, on Saturday, January 9. Live entertainment, food, and children's performances will be provided.

XII. PUBLIC FORUM

Public Safety Committee Chair Lucy Schilero announced CERT will hold a blood drive on January 31, between, 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., St. Leo's Church (basement).

Next, Mr. Anthony Torres, a businessman and also representing Mexican Junction Restaurant Corp. (an establishment whose beer license application was denied tonight) stated due process was not served. Every decision made at the Board meeting affects families and lives and incomes. He stated the owner was never notified by the Public Safety Committee to explain his case. More details were given. The Committee should extend an invitation to the businesses to determine the latest information on the case before a Board decision is rendered. Businesses do support the community. More notification should be given before licenses are renewed or denied. The process needs to be reviewed.

Public Safety Committee Chair Lucy Schilero responded according to the police reports, four court cases in 2009 (sale to minors) were on record for this establishment.

Moreover, the Board is only given two to three weeks to comment, and reports are received very late, noting police reports are issued the night before. Legislators and the SLA were informed numerous times that two months is necessary to comment.

The Public Safety Committee and its Chair are always more than willing to meet and discuss issues with business proprietors.

Because of the very short time to study cases, which is woefully inadequate, a Board recommendation must be submitted in ten days. Discussion ensued.

A representative for Puerto Escondido Food. Corp., whose on-premises liquor license was denied at tonight's meeting, said the establishment had a new owner and should not be judged on actions by the previous ownership. More discussion.

There being no further business, Ms. Priscilla Carrow made a motion, seconded by Ms. Lucy Schilero to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

