



COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, and Elmhurst

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Helen Marshall
Borough President

Anthony R. Moreno
Chairperson

Barry Grodenchik
Deputy Borough President
Director of Community Boards

Richard Italiano
District Manager

COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2010

TIME: 7:40 P.M.

**PLACE: FLANDER'S FIELD POST #150
51-11 108 STREET
CORONA, NEW YORK 11368**

I. First Vice Chair Louis Walker called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

A moment of silence was observed for Pearl Harbor Day.

III. District Manager Richard Italiano took the attendance. A quorum was present.

IV. Vote: Minutes of the October 05, 2010 Meeting
Minutes of the November 09, 2010 Meeting

Mr. Alirio Orduna made a motion, seconded by Mr. Al Perna, to accept the minutes of October 5 and November 9, 2010.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 30 in favor, 0 opposed with 0 abstentions. Unanimous.
Motion Passed.

At this point, the First Vice Chair called for a brief recess before proceeding to the regular Board meeting, so that the Board members and guests can enjoy the delicious holiday food.

The meeting resumed at 8:00 p.m.

V. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson Anthony Moreno thanked the CB4 Staff for their hard work during the past year. The Staff received a round of applause.

Also Chairperson Moreno wished the District Manager Richard Italiano continued good health and well being on the road to recovery.

The Chairperson also thanked the Board Members and Community Leaders for their dedication in making this community a safer place to live in. Their dedication and hard work makes us want to stay here and not move away. Thank you for all your hard work for the City of

New York and the communities of Community Board 4 and the Borough of Queens said Mr. Moreno.

Next, the Chairperson reported at the November 9, 2010 CB meeting, a Department of Transportation presentation was given at the Elks Lodge on Queens Boulevard regarding the proposed conversion of 57th Avenue to a one-way. However a quorum was not present and a vote could not be taken, the presentation had to be rescheduled for tonight's meeting. He urged all Board members to attend all meetings. Attendance is vital. Location should not be a factor. Desirably, Board meetings should be held at locations in all parts of Community Board 4. The Elks Lodge had been chosen as the next meeting place since a Public Hearing is scheduled and the accommodations are more advantageous to hold the Hearing nearer to the applicant's site. The next Public Hearing application is in reference to a property located on Queens Blvd. and Broadway. The applicant proposes to build a mini-mall on a very small piece of property.

Please note your calendar the next Community Board 4 meeting will take place Tuesday, January 11, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the Elks Lodge 878, 82-20 Queens Boulevard, Elmhurst, NY. Parking is available behind the Elks Lodge.

VI. REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

District Manager Richard Italiano reported on correspondence by DOT Queens Commissioner Maura McCarthy in regard to the Board's request to investigate the feasibility of changing the direction of traffic flow on Lewis Avenue between 102 and 103 Street from two-way operation to one-way operation westbound. DOT's investigation concluded that a conversion to one-way operation westbound for Lewis Avenue would improve traffic safety in the area.

DOT had also recommended converting Larue Avenue between 102nd and 103rd Street from two-way operation to one-way operation eastbound because of its narrow width (24 ft.) to create a pair with Lewis Avenue.

With the eastbound conversion of Larue Avenue, DOT recommended day lighting on the southwest corner of Larue Avenue at: 103rd Street and southeast corner of 103rd Street at 53rd Avenue to improve better visibility for motorists. This will result in the removal of two parking spaces from each intersection. Also recommended by DOT was day lighting the northwest corner of Lewis Avenue at 103 Street in order to provide safe westbound turns for school buses.

Next, the District Manager informed the Board beginning January 3, 2011 meter rates will begin to be changed with an estimated completion date of June 30, 2011. Rates will change as follows:

- Where passenger and commercial parking rates at muni-meters in Manhattan south of 86th Street are \$2.50 per hour they will increase to \$3 per hour.
- Where passenger parking rates at other metered locations citywide are \$0.25 for 20 minutes, they will increase \$0.25 for 15 minutes.

VII. REPORT OF THE TREASURER (From November Meeting)

District Manager Richard Italiano presented the report. The status of the \$8,000 held in the balance is still unclear.

The money is desperately needed by the Board to operate; but if we do not receive it, other means will have to be explored. At present, the Board is meeting its financial obligations.

VIII. REPORT OF THE LEGISLATORS

Mr. Sebastian Maguire, representing Council Member Daniel Dromm, announced the Council Member provided funding in the amount of a \$1,000,000 for Elmhurst Hospital to pay for a new chest pain facility that is being constructed as part of its emergency department.

Also at Elmhurst Hospital a lawsuit was in progress to lay off 150 workers—carpenters, maintenance workers and workers who work to keep the Hospital safe. Due to the efforts of Council Members Ferreras and Dromm, the layoffs were prevented.

In addition, a co-op/condo Forum was held yesterday in Jackson Heights. Next year, a landlord/tenant Forum is being planned in Elmhurst. Planning for that is in progress now. Updates will be provided as we get closer to the planned date.

Regarding the traffic proposal to convert the two-way operation of 57th Avenue from 92nd Street to 90th Street to a one-way westbound operation, the Council Member wholeheartedly supports the study.

Lastly, Mr. Maguire reported community space in and around that area will be opening up soon. The Council Member is very interested in keeping a dialogue open about community issues. Working through the Council Member's office, community space had been obtained in Community Board 4 from one of the retailers. More details will be forthcoming.

Furthermore, the Toys for Tots Drive is being conducted and will end on December 16. If you have any toys for donation, drop them off at the Council Member's District Office.

In conclusion, Council Member Dromm will host a Holiday Open House on December 14 at 5 p.m. at the District Office at 37-32 75th Street.

Next, Mr. Yonel Letellier, representing Senator Jose Peralta, reported at the end of summer the Senator had secured \$250,000 in funding to expand The Doe Fund, which provides sanitation services along 37th Avenue in Jackson Heights, and will now service Roosevelt Avenue and Astoria Boulevard. The Senator feels this is a great program to help Sanitation and keep the community clean and safer. The Doe Fund in Jackson Heights and Corona has gotten rave reviews. Because of budget cuts, our neighborhoods are not receiving enough garbage collection and this program has been a welcomed one for the community. When it was removed from Roosevelt Avenue, many people complained.

The Doe Fund also services Lefrak City. In a month or two, the Doe Fund will expand its services to Northern Blvd. from 114th Street to 69th down Astoria Blvd from 108th Street to 82nd Street. Specific details about the Doe Fund's duties were given. Mr. Letellier said Sanitation pickups on Roosevelt Avenue were scheduled to be cut.

Also, coordinating efforts with Assembly Member Jeffrion Aubry, \$1.5 million was appropriated to paint the subway stations and underside of the train tracks from 111th Street to 103rd Street. Although much work had been done along Roosevelt Avenue, it was not clearly visible. Therefore, the Senator along with local legislators has in mind to do something more visible in reference to get the MTA more involved and also to get the police and district attorney's office more involved in the crime and prostitution issues.

Additionally, The Hispanic/Latino Book Fair of New York 2010 will be held on Friday, December 10th, Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th at the Renaissance Charter School, 35-59 81st Street, Jackson Heights, NY.

Senator Peralta is also considering studies to be done not only along Roosevelt Avenue but also other areas such as E. Elmhurst, Corona, Lefrak City, and part of Woodside to determine what are the big problems of the business owners and residents of the community so that he can make future decisions either financial or aesthetically to help the community.

As far as the youth and teens of the community, workshops are planned to address matters such as gangs and graffiti and anti-violence.

Mr. Letellier also spoke about youth awareness and the Shaken Baby Syndrome. Details were provided.

Unlawful practices by shipping companies were reported on next. Senator Peralta is looking into sponsoring federal legislation to make companies register those businesses.

Handouts on how to protect yourself from unscrupulous companies were left with the Chair.

IX. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Transportation Committee Chair Joseph DiMartino reported the Committee met on the DOT's proposal to convert the two-way operation of 57th Avenue from 92nd Street to 90th Street to a one-way west bound operation and related traffic improvements. The Committee's recommendation was to try it out for three to six months and after that trial period, to come back to the Board for another presentation.

Mr. Joseph DiMartino made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stephen Castro, to **approve** 57th Avenue from 92nd Street to 90th Street to a one-way west bound operation.

The First Vice Chair called for discussion from the floor. Mr. James Lisa said with all increased buildings and over population, with traffic congestion generated by the area Malls, he recommended tabling the proposal until the beginning of next year just to see the effects of the population on the community and how it will affect traffic patterns. By striping 56th Avenue, which is a one-way street, as two lanes he was uncertain by closing the street entering 57th Avenue, which is part of the proposal, will help or hurt the area. Further studies should be done about the effects of increased population on the traffic patterns. Otherwise, in the future DOT will have to come back to re-examine the situation.

Next, Lucy Schilero said whenever traffic patterns are changed in the neighborhood, traffic is displaced in other neighborhoods bordering the same avenues as our streets which presents conflicts. Enforcements agents are needed. Constant monitoring on a regular basis is also needed. Our fair share of agents is crucial, otherwise, DOT will be back again in six or seven months to look at the situation again.

Next, Mrs. Judy D'Andrea agreed the population had increased in the area. The neighborhoods will continue to grow. She wholeheartedly supported the recommendation more traffic agents are needed to direct traffic and make it flow more efficiently. One way streets and traffic signals is not the answer. Actual people such as Police and Traffic Enforcement are essential. She expressed support for the one way motion.

Next, Mr. Stephen Castro said this area is home to many people and nothing else will change that fact. Traffic issues began when the Queens Center Mall was expanded. Queens is the number one borough where people from all over the world settle first. Since traffic is already flowing in the same direction already, it should not be a major issue. People make a right on 90th Street because they are looking for free parking. They are not doing it to get to the Mall. You enter the Mall from 59th Avenue or westbound on 57th Avenue. Everyone in our community wants to drive and factoring in people from outside the community driving in. No one wants to pay for parking. The only resolve is to restrict the cars coming into our area.

Next, Mr. Nick Pennachio inquired when the study was taken and voiced opposition to the proposal.

Next, Mr. George Onuorah recommended to try out the proposal and if it does not work out, to change it. Mr. Onuorah supported the one way street conversion on 57th Avenue toward Queens Blvd.

Discussion ensued about a trial basis for this street conversion. The consensus was this idea was not feasible.

Next, Ms. Ann Pfoser Darby said she opposed the proposal and stated she was against this whole thing.

At this point, the First Vice Chair called the question. He explained a yes vote approves the proposal; a no vote keeps the street the way it is.

By a roll call vote, the Board voted 14 in favor, 14 opposed, with 1 abstention. Motion ***did not*** pass. The First Vice Chair explained an abstention is counted as a no vote.

The First Vice Chair reminded the Board the Department of Transportation, at its discretion, may implement this change since the Board's role is advisory.

First Vice Chair Louis Walked also thanked DOT's Queens Borough Commissioner Maura McCarthy for both presentations at the November 9 and December 7 CB meetings.

X. CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Vote: Sonero's Bar Restaurant Inc.
Sidewalk Café

The First Vice Chair reported initially the applicant sought permission for an *unenclosed* sidewalk café. However since the last Board meeting when it was brought to the Board, the applicant now seeks permission for an *enclosed* sidewalk safe. Therefore, it cannot be voted on at this time. A new application must be filed.

XI. ULURP AND ZONING

Committee Chair Miriam Levenson reported a Committee meeting was held on November 16. A property owner had received permission from the Chief Engineer to construct a multi-family house on 72nd Street and 40th Avenue. The home was constructed and when it came time to obtain the Certificate of Occupancy, the Buildings Department denied it; however, the Committee granted the owner the variance since he initially had received approval for construction. Secondly, a presentation was given by a representative from the Department of City Planning regarding a change in the wording and the administrative code of the Buildings Dept. The Committee also voted yes on this recommendation. The new wording is easier and more explicit whereas before it was very vague, added Mrs. Levenson.

XII. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Vote: SLA Applications

Committee Chair Lucy Schilero presented the Committee’s report.
Liquor License Applications – November.

NEW APPLICANTS

<u>Establishment’s Name</u>	<u>Establishment’s Address</u>	<u>Committee Recommendation</u>
El Iaconazo Food Inc. On-Premises Liquor	89-58 Elmhurst Avenue Elmhurst, NY 11373	Denied. Arrests for False Personation & Forged Document Arrest – Forged Instrument 12/5/09 Assault 1/6/10
Elm’s Caffè Inc. Beer Only	74-32 Broadway Elmhurst, NY 11373	Approved.
Jardinova On Premises Liquor	90-31 Corona Avenue Elmhurst, NY 11373	Approved
Sirena Encantada Corp. Restaurant Wine	87-37 Britton Avenue Elmhurst, NY 11373	Denied. Felony & Misdem. Assaults Sale of control substance
Teresa’s Bakery Inc. d/b/a/ Que Sabor Bakery/Café Restaurant Wine	84-60 Grand Avenue Elmhurst, NY 11373	Approved.

RENEWAL APPLICANTS

<u>Establishment’s Name</u>	<u>Establishment’s Address</u>	<u>Committee Recommendation</u>
51 Bar Corp. dba Lemon Tree On Premises Liquor	80-12 51 Avenue Elmhurst, NY 11373	Denied. Long history of problems. Assault w/bottle. Noise complaints.
America’s Restaurante of Corona Restaurant Wine	103-10 Roosevelt Avenue Corona, NY 11368	Approved.

Coco South East Asian Cuisine Inc. Restaurant Wine	82-69 Broadway Elmhurst, NY 11373	Approved.
Cositas Ricas Ecuatorianas Corp. Restaurant Wine	86-10 Roosevelt Ave. Jackson Heights, NY 11372	Denied. Sale to minor. 10/12/10 Numerous noise complaints. Arrest gang assault.

Liquor License Applications – December

NEW APPLICANTS

<u>Establishment's Name</u>	<u>Establishment's Address</u>	<u>Committee Recommendation</u>
Fiesta Latina Sports Bar Corp. Restaurant Wine	102-30 43 Avenue Corona, NY 11368	Approved
Kai Fish Market, Inc. Restaurant Wine	102-23 Horace Harding Exp. Corona, NY 11368	Denied. No Cert. of Occupancy
Priama, Inc. dba Club Glass On Premises Liquor	79-51 Albion Avenue Elmhurst, NY 11368	Approved
Restaurant Mexico Intl. Restaurant Wine	40-18 82 nd St. Elmhurst, NY 11368	Approved

RENEWAL APPLICANTS

<u>Establishment's Name</u>	<u>Establishment's Address</u>	<u>Committee Recommendation</u>
GMRI, Inc. dba Red Lobster #6273 On Premises Liquor	88-01 Queens Blvd. Elmhurst, NY 11373	Approved
La Esquina Criolla Restaurant, Inc. Restaurant Wine	94-67 Corona Avenue Elmhurst, NY 11373	Approved
Mangos Steakhouse & Bakery Inc. On Premises Liquor	78-14 Roosevelt Ave. Jackson Heights, NY 11372	Approved
Tulcingo Café. Corp. On Premises Liquor	95-02 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY 11372	Denied. Sale to Minors. Failure to check ID Unlicensed Cabaret

RENEWAL APPLICANTS (cont'd)

<u>Establishment's Name</u>	<u>Establishment's Address</u>	<u>Committee Recommendation</u>
Wa Wa San, dba Penang Malaysian Cuisine Restaurant Wine	82-84 Broadway Elmhurst, NY 11373	Approved
Paraiso Colombiano Rest. Corp.	106-20 Corona Avenue	Approved

Mr. Albert Perna made a motion, seconded by Mr. Joseph DiMartino, to **accept** the Committee's report as presented.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 30 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Unanimous. Motion passed.

XIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Environmental

No Report. Committee Chair not present

Parks

Committee Chair Anthony Caminiti reported on Saturday, December 11, 2010, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m, a flea market will be held at St. Leo's. All were invited to attend.

Health

Committee Chair Priscilla Carrow reported the Committee did not meet.

Postal

Committee Chair Stephen Castro reported the community was concerned about the postal van. He requested the Board to make a list of merchants that would be willing to sell stamps. The Postmaster would review the list and contact those merchants. Since the van is at 108 Street only on Wednesday, other vendors are being sought to sell stamps. Mr. Castro reported this would be in place of having the postal van during the week. It's up to the Board and the community to decide the issue.

Mrs. Judy D'Andrea brought up the importance of having the postal van at this location, not only to sell stamps but to accept packages. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Castro reported the van was not making enough money to justify it being in placed at 108th Street. Mr. Lisa brought up the van was not well advertised and also if the driver was sick or on vacation, there was no one else to drive the van, pointing out no one knew its days/hours of the operation.

Mrs. Judy D'Andrea stated it was not making enough money because it was not there consistently.

Mr. James Lisa said the van should be on site for the convenience of the residents. With the overcrowded post offices at Junction Blvd. and 104th Street, it would be more conducive for the residents to utilize the van. Community residents are being penalized because of the existing postal system.

More discussion ensued.

Youth

Committee Chair Clara Salas reported on a November UFT meeting she had attended in Flushing. Workshops were excellent. She also reported on the Beacon Parents' Forum for parents of Pre-K, Kindergarten and 1st Grade children to discuss information on preparation for the gifted and talented test. The Forum will be held on Wednesday, December 8, 6:30 p.m., at Trinity-St. Andrews Lutheran Church, 60-06 60th Avenue, Maspeth, NY.

Next, she reported at IS 119 a Joint Public Zoning Hearing will be held on December 9, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. at I. S. 119, 74-01 78th Avenue, Glendale, NY. The Department of Portfolio Planning will present the I. S. 119 proposed zoning changes and the Community Education Council District 24 together with Community Superintendent Madeline Chan will hear comments.

All were urged to attend both meetings.

A Youth Committee meeting is in the planning stages for April, unless a meeting is necessary beforehand. Details will follow.

At this point, District Manager Italiano asked the Committee Chairs who are planning meetings for January, 2011 to call the Board office so that it can be placed on the calendar.

XIII. PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. George Onuorah announced Youth International will host a children's holiday party at St. Paul's The Apostle Church in Corona. He urged all to attend and join in the festivities. Since the children are our future, a community dialogue is very much needed with the schools and the Community Board to address some of the issues our children are facing such as gang violence, peer pressure etc.

Next, Ms. Lucy Schilero reported Community Board 4's CERT Team, which had been honored as being the most consistent with community outreach. The team was asked to come to St. Leo's to do outreach on safety first in our community. Members of the CERT team were presented to the Board. Ms. Schilero expressed optimism for more members to join the team.

Next, Mr. Albert Perna reported on a children's Christmas Party on December 17, from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. at the VFW Post #150 in Corona.

Santa Claus, clowns, music and all kinds of food from the area restaurants will be on hand. All were urged to come and enjoy the festivities.

Next, Mr. Perna spoke about bringing the cadets into Corona. Starting with two cadets, the organization now has 52 all sponsored by Mr. Perna. They meet at the VFW Post #150 in Corona every Friday night from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. With the community's help, the organization is growing. Mr. Perna provided more details.

Next, Ms. Georgina Oliver thanked everyone for their support in the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer campaign. Her goal was \$2,500 to raise for the cause; however, \$2,800 was raised. Congratulations!

Next, Mr. Alirio Orduna reported on a 92 year old female marine who is the oldest female marine alive.

There being no further business, Mrs. Judy D'Andrea made a motion, seconded by Mr. Robert Rothschild to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

After the meeting, Board members and guests were invited to enjoy the delicious Holiday sheet cake. The cake was so good and a good time was had by all!