



COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, Elmhurst, and Newtown

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Helen Marshall
Borough President

Louis Walker
Chairperson

Barry Grodenchik
Deputy Borough President
Director of Community Boards

Christian Cassagnol
District Manager

COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2013

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

PLACE: VFW POST #150
51-11 108 STREET
CORONA, NY

I. Chairperson Louis Walker opened the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

II. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all. Board Chairperson Louis Walker asked the Board Members to remain standing to observe a moment of silence for Board Member Judy D'Andrea's father who had passed away.

At this point, Board Member Judy D'Andrea thanked the Board for the fruit basket sent to her and her family and for their kind thoughts.

III. First Vice Chair Patricia Terranova took the roll call. A quorum was present.

IV. VOTE: MINUTES SEPTEMBER 9, 2013

Board Member Judy D'Andrea made a motion, seconded by Board Member Georgina Oliver, to **approve** the minutes of the September 9 meeting.

By a voice vote the Board voted 27 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed

V. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

In lieu of the Chairperson's report, the floor was turned over to Deputy Inspector Ronald Leyson, 110 Police Precinct, who reported the summer was really good, but during the last month most of the crime categories had seen an increase. Between September 2 and September 29 crime increased more than 22% overall. Crime statistics were read to the Board. Grand larcenies jumped 60 percent with 61 reported this year.

Hand snatchers showed an increase around and in the Queens Center Mall, pick pocket issues and property taken were part of the statistics. Be smart with your Smart Phones. Be alert and pay attention to your

surroundings he cautioned. There was a rash of phone snatchings. An increase was also shown for property stolen from vehicles. Among the stolen items from vehicles were pocketbooks, MacBook Pros, and cash.

At the gym, check the lock and he explained the different ways to do so. This is a prime area for thieves to break in and steal your possessions.

Unattended property crime has increased dramatically. Not paying attention, people put belongings down come back and its gone. Whether property is left on the floor, baby carriage, or on the counter, when it is unattended credit cards, wallets, personal papers and ultimately identity is stolen. The holiday season will be here soon. He cautioned to be mindful of your surroundings and protect your personal property. Don't leave belongings unattended.

This year, there had been a sharp increase in crime inside Flushing Meadows-Corona Park. Much of the crime occurred during the Electric Daisy Concert. Fifteen crimes were reported, which drove the overall number up. Regarding the Soccer fields, he reported on the losses people incurred from the pickup Soccer games. One victim lost over \$1,000 in cash plus his personal papers. Do not put bags on the floor. Car break-ins by the soccer fields were also mentioned. Overall, auto break-ins have increased.

Robberies on the Roosevelt Avenue corridor (north end) were mentioned. Extra police were stationed there, but much of the crime is alcohol driven. The 110 Precinct works with not only the clubs but also with CB4's Public Safety Committee about problematic locations and closing them down. This partnership has been very successful.

Next, he discussed the new iPhone 5S and 5C. Just before the release of the new phones, the new operating system IOS 7 was released. He urged all owners of an Apple product to upgrade to the new operating system. The new security features built in to the operating system will make the phones less desirable to thieves. Contact Community Affairs at 718-476-9310 to register your electronic device in the event it is stolen it can be returned to you. It is imperative to sign up for these programs or log on to the NYPD website and click the link for crime prevention.

On cool nights people want to air out their homes but this is an invitation to thieves. Secure your windows and protect yourself. Many crimes happen that we can prevent Deputy Inspector Leyson advised. Unpreventable crimes the Police can protect you. Much can be done in this community as a partnership with you and the Police to drive crime under control.

Striving to address residents' concerns before they become problems in the community, D. I. Leyson explained he is here to address quality of life issues.

Board Member Giancarlo Castano brought up an issue with a noise complaint by a neighbor and his frustration calling 311. The report issued stated an inspection was made but no noise found. But, the music continued until 4 a.m.

Board Member Sandra Munoz added the message she received when she called 311 was that the response time would be within eight hours—too long a timeframe. D.I. Leyson explained the 311 system was put into place by Mayor Bloomberg and is an excellent resource, but it is not the NYPD and proceeded to give the Board details on how the system works and the system in place at the Precinct.

Board Member Georgina Oliver brought up a concern with an elderly neighbor. D. I. Leyson suggested Ms. Oliver call the Community Affairs Bureau and the Police will do a wellness check at off hours on the senior.

At this point, Mr. Tom Finkelppearl of the Queens Museum was pleased to announce the Queens Museum will re-open with three days of cost free festivities over Veterans Day weekend November 9-11. Everyone is invited to attend the Open House and many activities are planned.

VI. REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

District Manager Christian Cassagnol reported on the following issues:

- Saturday, October 5, 2013 Street Co-Naming for Richard Italiano at the southwest corner of 102 Street and Strong Avenue. Special thanks were extended to Council Member Daniel Dromm for his help and support.
- New Community Garden on 52 Avenue and 102 Street (Sparrows Nest)
- USTA Report Card System – Formulate a Board questionnaire by each Committee (5-10 questions), which will be divided into separate sections to be addressed by the respective Committee affected (Consumer Affairs, Postal, etc.). Subsequently, the questionnaire will be handed out to local businesses asking whether the U.S. Open positively or negatively affected them this year. Ultimately, this will be used as a guideline and passed on to the USTA.
- Budget Consultations - Boro-wide consultations were completed with the exception of one, which is coming up soon. On a local level, we have not met with all agencies yet. However, the FY 2014 Capital and Expense CB4 budget priorities were given to those local agencies. Meetings were scheduled with DOT and Parks. Agencies were requested to review the Board's budget priorities from last year and either add, move, or change existing priorities, if necessary. When this is completed, a meeting of the Board Chairs will be called to prioritize the submissions.
- Citizen Police Academy Training- This is an excellent program and should be taught in elementary and high schools. District Manager Cassagnol is in his fourth week of training. Transportation to and from the program is provided. However, in January, the program will be offered in College Point, which will make the commute easier. It is highly recommended to join.
- Congratulations to District Manager Cassagnol who completes one year tomorrow (October 9) serving as District Manager of Community Board 4 Queens.

VII. REPORT OF THE LEGISLATORS

Representatives of the Federal legislators were called on first by Chairperson Walker.

Jacqueline Hsieh, representing Congresswoman Grace Meng's office, reported the Congresswoman is hosting an informational seminar on the Affordable Care Act on Tuesday, October 15, 5 pm- 7 pm, at Elmhurst Hospital, 79-01 Broadway, Elmhurst, NY.

Secondly, anyone interested in applying to one of the prestigious United States Service Academies such as West Point, U. S Air Force Academy, U. S. Naval Academy, or the U. S. Coast Guard and lives in the district, please contact her to guide candidates through the process. Applications are due November 1.

Next, Representatives of the State legislators were called.

Ariel Shapiro, representing NYS Assembly Member Francisco Moya's office, reported on co-sponsoring a GED workshop charter school grants, scheduled for October 18 at 10 a.m. Information on how to pursue higher education will also be given.

Also, a Town Hall meeting is planned for October 22. A panel of City and State agencies as well as local community groups will be on hand to answer questions. This event will be held at the Jackson Heights Jewish Center, please feel free to stop by. Questions are also being collected ahead of time. Contact Assembly Member Moya's office to submit questions.

Next, Emely Paez, representing NYS Senator Jose Peralta's office reported, on the 7th Hispanic/Latino Book Fair of NY 2013, to be held on October 11, 12, and 13 at the Renaissance Charter School, 35-59 81 Street, Jackson Heights, NY. Agendas were on the back table outlining the event.

October 11 - Doors open at 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

October 12 – 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Gustavo Arango will read *El origen del mundo*. Book signing to follow.

October 13 - 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Next, Representatives from the City legislators were called forward.

Joel Trinidad-Santos, representing Council Member Julissa Ferreras' office reported on the following events:

ShocktOberfest – Sunday, October 27, 2013, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Playground for All Children

111-01 Corona Avenue

Flushing Meadows-Corona Park

Join in for a free day of spooky fun including crafts, music, a haunted house, pumpkin patch and more.

Subsequently, he spoke about the proposed BID expansion. Since there has been misinformation about the BID, a series of meetings has been organized. The next meeting is planned for October 17, 4 pm – 7 pm, Meeting calendars are on the back table.

Next, Bruce Eiber, representing Council Member Karen Koslowitz's office, reported next month's meeting will be the final meeting for Mr. Eiber because of re-districting. It has been a pleasure attending the Community Board 4 meetings and he reminded the Board to contact Council Member Koslowitz at 718-544-8800 for assistance. Tuesdays are landlord/tenant night at the district office.

VIII. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Committee Chair Lucy Schilero reported the Committee met on October 1.

The denials were addressed first.

NYS LIQUOR AUTHORITY LICENSES

October 2013

NEW APPLICANTS

<u>ESTABLISHMENT NAME</u>	<u>ESTABLISHMENT ADDRESS</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
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RMA-PRO LLC Liquor, Wine and Beer	79-51 Albion Avenue Elmhurst, NY	Denied
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New owner has not officially taken over the establishment. This location has a history of 311 noise complaints. Have had numerous grand petit larcenies. When asked how they intended to change the environment to prevent crime, noise, and other issues, owner could not provide a response.

RENEWAL APPLICANTS

<u>ESTABLISHMENT NAME</u>	<u>ESTABLISHMENT ADDRESS</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
El Madrono Corp. "Restaurant Gaby" Wine and Beer Only Failure to show. No paperwork was submitted to committee. (C of O, proof of ownership, corporation papers, etc.) 3/11/11 – 3Cs, obstructed view of bar, unlicensed billiard, no CPR kit 4/28/11 – 2Cs: sale after hours, obstructed view of bar 5/13/11 – 2Cs: unlicensed security guard, failure to maintain records	102-06 43 Avenue Corona, NY	Denied
Mirinea Inc. Beer Only "Timmy's Deli"	111-02 Roosevelt Avenue Corona, NY	Approved
Americas Restaurante of Corona Wine and Beer Only	103-10 Roosevelt Avenue Corona, NY	Approved
Kai Fish Market Inc. Wine and Beer Only	102-23 Horace Harding Exp. Corona, NY	Approved
Rancho Tipico Wine and Beer Only Failure to show. No paperwork was submitted to committee (Cof O, proof of ownership, corporation papers, etc.) SLA summonses issued. 4/6/11 – 3Cs: unlicensed sale of alcohol, obstructed view of into bar, no CPR kit 9/14/12 – 2Cs: unlicensed sale of alcohol, unlicensed bottle club 9/15/12 – 2Cs: unlicensed premise, illegal bottle club	98-53 Corona Avenue Corona, NY	Denied
Tradiciones Latina Corp. Wine and Beer Only 10/27/11 Petit Larceny complaint 10/14/12 Endangering the welfare of a child, resulting in an arrest 11/11/12 Assault complaint 5/28/13 Petit Larceny complaint	85-14 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Denied
Eustaquio Cortez Cabanas Paraiso Azteca Rest. And Bar Wine and Beer Only Failure to show. No paperwork was submitted to committee (C of O, proof of ownership, corporation papers, etc.) 3/8/11 IC: Unlicensed billiards 3/16/12 2Cs: coin operated devices, obstructed view of bar	102-53 43 Avenue Corona, NY	Denied

4/14/13 – 2Cs: unlicensed security guard, employing bouncer without registration card
 5/20/13 0 3Cs: Locked exit door, consumption after hours, no CPR sign
 Committee checking into 500’ rule-close to the church.

RENEWAL APPLICANTS (cont’d)

<u>ESTABLISHMENT NAME</u>	<u>ESTABLISHMENT ADDRESS</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
Gato Verde Sports Bar Corp. Liquor, Wine and Beer 311 Noise complaints – 7/1/11, 4/2/11, 9/24/13 1/23/12 – Criminal Mischief complaint resulting in an arrest 2/2/13 – Assault complaint resulting in an arrest 2/18/13 – Grand Larceny complaint	82-14 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Denied
China Pearl Seaford Restaurant Wine and Beer Only	82-22 45 Avenue Elmhurst, NY	Approved
Forest Hills Spa, Inc. Wine and Beer Only	59-21 Calloway Street, Basement Corona, NY	Approved

RECONSIDERATION

<u>ESTABLISHMENT NAME</u>	<u>ESTABLISHMENT ADDRESS</u>	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
Las Orillas de Gualaceo Inc. Wine and Beer Only	42-18B Junction Blvd. Corona, NY	Approved

Following the report, First Vice Chair Patricia Terranova made a motion, seconded by Board Member James Lisa, to accept the Committee’s report as presented. By a voice vote, the Board voted 27 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

Subsequently, Committee Chair Lucy Schilero noted the CERT Team gave out 3,000 Ready NY Emergency Guides on Saturday, September 21 – National Preparedness Month Event @ Target on Queens Blvd.

IX. PRESENTATIONS:

- A. Daniel Zausner, Chief Operating Officer**
- USTA BJK- National Tennis Center**
- 2013 US Open Recap**
- Fall/Winter Tennis Activities**
- 2013/14 Tennis Center Construction**

With the aid of a power point presentation, Mr. Zausner reported on on-going projects at the National Tennis Center over the next three to five years.

The U. S. Open finished up about three weeks ago, and it was a fabulous year. This year's event had the fourth highest attendance since their inception with 16 percent of those attending came from outside the United States.

Arthur Ashe Kids Day – Phenomenal turnout.

First Lady Michelle Obama attended with her two daughters.

As part of the \$500 million expansion, a roof will be put on the Arthur Ashe Stadium, which may lead to more events such as a community movie night.

Next, he mentioned organizations he worked with in the CB 4 area to distribute free tickets. Historically, tickets were distributed through the Borough President's office, but this year organizations were given tickets directly. Recommendations on distribution were enlisted from the Board office as well as other organizations, which will now serve as a data base to reach out to more groups.

Disappointingly, there were a very low percentage of people who turned out with physical fitness. X number of tickets was distributed but only 30-35% of those tickets were used. Tickets are scanned at the turnstiles to see how many people show up. More work will be done to implement ways to get people to attend this spectacular event.

Tickets were distributed through the libraries, and a writing contest was held for the kids to get free tickets to this event.

Activities on the grounds are from 9 a.m. to 12:00 Noon:

The show starts about 12:30 p.m., when people are moved in. Since the First Lady was attending, people were moved in earlier because of security measures. 19,000+ people turned out for Arthur Ashe Kids Day, which was a record turnout and broadcast on CBS the following day.

Arthur Ashe Kids Day led into the U. S. Open, which boasted a turnout of 714,000 people over the two weeks of the event—the fourth highest attendance in the history of the U. S. Open. The event ran a total of 15 days which will be that way until 2014, then shift to a 14 day tournament in 2015. The only time it would extend beyond that timeframe would be due to rain.

More slides were shown of the tennis center and crowds of people.

Next, statistics were given about the economy and the impact the event has on the New York City area. Over \$750 million in economic impact to the City was generated by the National Tennis Center. A fair share of the money goes into Queens, coming from hotels, restaurants and all activity in the local shops as well as the airports. This year, 84% of the people came from the U.S. to the event, meaning 16% or over 700,000 people planned a lengthy stay in the Queens/New York City area, which means people are spending a lot of money.

Percentage-wise the tri-state area make up the bulk of attendees: 41% come from New York, 12% New Jersey, and 4% Connecticut total 60% and 40% of the people come to the event are not from the surrounding area, meaning people are staying here for a longer period of time staying in hotels, eating in restaurants, and shopping in city stores. We do continue to see a large influx of people coming from outside the tri-state area to attend the U. S. Open, which is incredibly successful.

The Queens Economic Development Corporation and the Chamber of Commerce reached out to legislators on the City and State level, along the Roosevelt Avenue corridor, to select establishments to promote during the

U. S. Open. Kiosks were in the Times Square area (the epicenter of all activity), staffed full time throughout the tournament with volunteers from QEDC and the Chamber of Commerce. I-pads were used to give information to tourists about area restaurants, hotels, and directions to businesses.

Summer Camp Activities

Mr. Zausner explained over 500 children a week attend the camps. Free programs are operated where people can work with their local schools. Third and fourth graders can play in the program for a day, go back and write about their experience and then enter a contest to win a free scholarship for two weeks at the summer camps. Most schools participate and 20-30 scholarships were issued this year, including children from CB 4. It's not just tennis—trips are planned to the Hall of Science, Skating Rink, Mets games, golf instruction, and swimming at the Aquatic Center, the zoo and much more. Corona Ice King Day is every Friday.

Summer Camps-Deck Zone

There is a roof on the indoor building, where the Quick Start courts are located that are much smaller courts. The Tennis Center tries to use every inch of real estate to get more kids playing in the programs.

The Tennis Center is open 6 a.m. to midnight 11 months out of the year. Programs are either free or for a charge. Free wheelchair programs are implemented every Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. During July, a Family Day was in effect. \$10 was charged for the whole group, no matter how many people in the group. Instruction was also given on the courts.

Also mentioned was the autistic children's program. The sport is very affordable. More details were given on the tennis programming.

Host Your Birthday Party

Another initiative at the Tennis Center, which is very affordable. Fun for kids aged ten and under.

Behind the scenes tours at the National Tennis Center are conducted. October through July. See all the inner workings of what goes on in a Grand Slam Tournament.

Field Trips

Are geared toward third and fourth graders. Schools just need to provide transportation. Schools come in by subway or walking. Thousands of kids come out each year for half a day. The program starts again in October when buses are available. This is the best tour the schools do all year long for third and fourth graders. Kids are on the tennis courts getting instruction.

Tennis pros at the Tennis Center work with the school instructors to advise them on how to continue this in addition to what they can do by participating in the programs at the Tennis Center.

Upcoming tournaments are a great opportunity to come out and watch free tennis. Women's College Invitational Tournament is planned for this weekend--Best college tennis players in the world. Open to the public. Come on out and enjoy some incredible tennis.

October 16 District 21 is an event started last year with Council Member Julissa Ferreras' office. Four or five public schools are brought in. This year two schools are from Community Board 4. It's made up of CB 3 and CB 4 schools. Last year, 1100 kids participated.

Kids learn about health and fitness and how critically important it is for the youth.

In upcoming weeks, many colleges and high schools are playing their quarter finals and semi-finals. Fantastic tennis. Come out and see for free.

November 6 -10 Indoor Championships, and between Christmas and New Year's another indoor tournament is hosted. Lots of fun.

2013/2014 Tennis Center Construction

Mr. Zausner described upcoming construction and design of the Grand Stand, replacement of tournament courts, the roof over Arthur Ashe Stadium, and the parking lot in Parking Lot A. Much work needs to be done from the design prospective before the approval process can begin. More details were given.

Mr. Zausner reported the Tennis Center has been in existence for 35 years. He urged all to come out and use the facilities. Participate in the programs and see some incredible Amazing tennis. Bring the kids and share in affordable and free tennis.

At this point, Board Member Judy D'Andrea asked if questions would be taken. Board Chairperson Walker replied No.

Subsequently, Mrs. D'Andrea commented more is done for the inside of the Park, but no improvements were implemented on the outside. This issue was not addressed.

As a result, the Chair of the Board directed Board Member D'Andrea to address her question to Mr. Zausner. Board Member D'Andrea wanted to know within the fund that was developed, how much money is in the fund and what improvements the USTA is planning for the outside the Park?

Mr. Zausner replied an eight figure sum of money was donated to the Parks Department for upgrades to the Park, which is not at the USTA's discretion on how the money is spent. Details were provided. He added there is a large upfront sum of money and also a Flushing Meadows-Corona Park Alliance formed, which USTA will be a member as well as the Council Members. USTA will make annual contributions, which will supplement the funds the Parks Dept. has in its budget. Council Member Julissa Ferreras supports the creation of an alliance.

Next, Board Member Roseann Geiger asked if the funds are earmarked for this Park.

Mr. Zausner replied absolutely—100%.

At this point, questions were taken from the audience.

B. Presentations (cont'd)

**Helen Artega-Landaverde, Director
Plaza Del Sol Family Health Center
Urban Health Plan**

--Discussion and explanation of Affordable Care Act

Board Member and Director of Plaza Del Sol Family Health Center, Helen Artega-Landaverde. She introduced Samantha Paz, Director of Health Advocacy, Hispanic Federation, and Yokasta Bouwer, Urban Health Plan, who will explain the Affordable Care Act.

With the aid of a power point presentation, Ms. Paz explained there is much information about the Affordable Care Act. Part of the goal at the Hispanic Federation, partnering with Urban Health Plan, is to dispel the myths, provide information, add some clarity to the health reform conversation, and to increase enrollment in qualified health plans to get our community members insured.

The Affordable Care Act

AKA: ObamaCare

A United States federal statute signed into law on March 23, 2010 that affects our healthcare system. Aims to increase the quality and affordability of health insurance, lower the uninsured rate by expanding public and private insurance coverage, and reduce the costs of health care for individuals and the government.

As of October 1, 2013 the health insurance enrollment marketplace is open.

Why do We Need The ACA?

Nearly 51 million Americans, including 7 million children, are uninsured

An estimated 18,000-22,000 Americans die each year because they don't have health coverage

In 2012, 80 million people reported that, during the past year, they did not go to the doctor while ill because they could not afford it. This is a substantial issue.

In a country considerably wealthy such as ours, 80 million people cannot afford to go to the doctor when ill. Change is necessary.

What Does ObamaCare Mean For Me?

Individuals that do not comply with the law will have to pay a fine when they file their taxes every year.

There are exceptions to the rule. For example, if your income is too low, you do not have to pay for health insurance.

Next, she spoke about the financial subsidiaries. For long-time people who were not eligible for Medicaid, had no other options referred to as the working poor there is now a safety net for those people to help them not only buy their own insurance but also to provide a financial cushion.

Individuals and families with income up to four times the federal poverty level will be eligible for financial assistance.

Income Eligibility

Pointing to an income eligibility chart, it was explained the difference between the Medicaid population and the financial incentive population. For a family of four with an annual income of \$94,200, they will receive a small incentive to help pay their monthly insurance premium. About 600,000 New Yorkers will be able to receive that assistance.

10 Benefits to be included in ALL Health Plans

Ambulatory patient services

Emergency services

Hospitalization

Maternity and newborn care

Mental health and substance abuse services
Prescription drugs
Rehabilitative services and devices
Laboratory services
Preventative wellness services and chronic disease management
Pediatric services, including oral and vision care

Regardless of how much you pay, these benefits will be included in the basic plan. But there will be different deductibles, emphasizing these benefits are standard.

Patient's Bill of Rights Under ACA

Provides coverage to adults & children with pre-existing conditions
Protects your choice of doctors
Keeps young adults covered
Ends lifetime limits on coverage
Ends pre-existing condition exclusions for children
Ends arbitrary cancellation of insurance coverage

What Are Health Insurance Exchanges?

Exchanges are insurance supermarkets

Help to compare the costs and benefits of several plans side by side.

There Are Four Standard Plans:

Platinum Plan: Highest premiums offered on the Insurance Exchange. Although coverage is more expensive up front, 90% of medical costs will be covered

Gold Plan: Second most expensive plan, which will cover 80% of medical costs

Silver Plan: Covers 70% of medical expenses. In order to qualify for a tax credit, you must choose a silver plan (or higher)

Bronze Plan: Lowest cost plan available. 60% of medical costs paid for by the insurance company, the individual pay for the other 40%.

The major difference in the plans is the deductible. There is no 100% plan to purchase.

At the time you are buying you plan, you must see compare and see what networks you are looking at. In New York City, the average difference for the same person between a Platinum Plan and a Bronze Plan is about \$45/month.

Medicaid Under The ACA

Medicaid is a government health insurance program for low-income people that include:

Children and their parents
Pregnant women
Adults up to 64 years old
Disabled persons

Beginning in 2014, the new health care law would add about 20 million people to the program, including several people who have never received health insurance.

For the first time ever, single, childless adults will be eligible for Medicaid. Previously, a young working poor man, no children, you would not receive Medicaid.

Medicare Under ACA

Medicare is for people age 65+ or people with certain disabilities, and people who suffer from end stage renal disease.

Medicare helps with the cost of health care, but does not cover all medical expenses or the cost of most long term care.

Medicare recipients will not be using the Marketplace or shopping online. Medicare stays the same.

Medicare Under the ACA

You get more preventative services for less

You can save money on brand name drugs

The donut hole will be closed completely by 2020.

Medicare coverage is protected

Now when seniors are in the donut hole, the Federal government will step in and pay 50% of brand name drugs and 20% of the generic drug costs, up until the year 2020 when the donut hole is eliminated.

Application for Health Coverage:

Individuals and families can obtain coverage in multiple ways:

Online

In person

By Mail

By Telephone

It was noted the application process take about an hour to complete. At the Urban Health Plan, there are nine navigators to help you apply in person.

It was also pointed out scammers who prey on people for their confidential information.

What Information Do I Need To Apply?

The number and relationship of household members

Federal income tax filing

Disability

Citizenship/Residency

Income for the Year

Average number of hours worked each week

Federal income tax deductions

Existing health coverage

Undocumented people cannot buy health insurance through the Marketplace. There are sliding fees at Urban Health Plan where those people can receive low-cost services. In NYS an undocumented person can go directly to a health insurance carrier, and buy a policy.

The floor was turned over to Yokasta Bouwer from the Urban Health Plan who explained the organization is a community based facility. Besides Plaza del Sol, there are several facilities located in the Bronx.

Please contact her if you need more information.

Board Member Georgina Oliver brought up the coverage requirements for young adults.

Ms. Paz replied coverage is determined by the terms of the policy.

Discussion ensued.

C. Jose Pelaez, President

Corona Community Ambulance Corps

Discussion about the state of the Corps.

Mr. Pelaez spoke about the recent investigation of the Corona Community Ambulance Corps. and the arrest of three individuals. Corona Ambulance Corps. is still in operation and those individuals are no longer in charge of the organization. Changes were made to the governing Board, and different individuals are now serving on the Board.

However, there are limited funds available to EMS. A petition is being circulated to show support for the Corona Ambulance Corps. And a statement released to the press was also on hand.

The Corona Community Ambulance continued to help out during Hurricane Sandy, obligation to staff Citi field up until last year. During blackouts and blizzards Corona Community Ambulance provided assistance and also helps the 911 system, which they are not a part of. He reported the FDNY no longer includes the ambulance system. There is a means to communicate with them, but there is no official link between the FDNY and the volunteer ambulance corps. in New York City.

During Hurricane Irene, the ambulance corps. was staffed and all four units were running 24/hrs. a day, and also helping out with the evacuation at hospitals and nursing home transfers to safe locations.

There is a prevalent misconception that volunteer EMS personnel are hobbyists. Members are professional EMS personnel giving back to the communities. There are a large proportion of EMS personnel that work in the 911 system as their full time or part time employment. Some of the members are NYS DOH certified EMS instructors. Many of the members are Fire Department employees working as paramedics or work for the hospitals or for a private company.

Next, he spoke about the liabilities against the ambulance corps. He mentioned the differences in fund raising. Much of it was donations, but as times changed donations was not as prevalent. Also grants and funds are available but there are restrictions.

Presently, the ambulance corps is allowed to bill, and they do get some reimbursement from the billing company. Some people feel that the ambulance corps. should not bill for its services.

But many of the people that volunteer to do this work are professional EMS workers. Some reimbursement comes from insurance companies, which is a primary resource. The group's income through insurance reimbursements is reduced by operating costs.

However, with added liabilities they are facing the possibility of losing the building and a shutdown.

At this point, Chairperson Walker opened the floor to questions.

Board Member James Lisa asked who owns the property.

Mr. Pelaez responded the Board owns the property. They are the titleholder on the deed and also added they are a not-for profit corporation and tax exempt.

Board Member Lucy Schilero inquired if Medicare is accepted.

Mr. Pelaez responded all insurances are accepted. A further explanation was given about insurance practices.

A Board Member asked if the community ambulance corps. would service Elmhurst.

Mr. Pelaez responded the ambulance corps. is based primarily in Corona, but they do go into Elmhurst as well as Jackson Heights, but it is not the norm. The ambulance would like to expand its services to other areas. Most of the staff is Hispanic descent and do speak Spanish and can translate additionally there are Russian and Chinese members too. The easiest way to do an expansion is to have evidence of being dispatched by a public safety answering corps, which is the Police Department in New York City.

Board Member Al Perna asked how the property fell into default.

Mr. Pelaez responded because of the reconstruction of the building in 2008. The building was in dire need of repair. It was not a mortgage on the building, but due to the instances New York State wants to collect from the organization on the loan. The loan was acquired from NYS Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services revolving funds. The corps. is three years behind on the loan reported Mr. Pelaez.

Board Member Al Perna inquired the amount of the loan. Mr. Pelaez responded the corps owes \$350,000 and \$45,000 on separate mortgages.

Mr. Pelaez said one of those directors arrested from the ambulance corps. was alleged to have taken \$300,000, but that individual was not part of the organization at the time.

The corps. needs \$50,000 by the end of January to continue to operate.

Board Member Roseann Geiger asked why over the past three years no payment was made on the construction loan. Were you led to believe that person was paying the loan, she asked.

Mr. Pelaez said information was provided to the Attorney General, which is part of the investigation. The next court hearing is November 19 for those individuals.

First Vice Chair Patricia Terranova asked about existing mortgages on the building.

Mr. Pelaez responded there are two mortgages and a state liability the mortgages are held by different people. There is a \$50,000 line of credit and a private lender for \$300,000. A fundraiser for \$2 apiece would not do anything for the ambulance corps. Mr. Pelaez agreed and provided more details.

More discussion on the funding, staff, and operation of the Corona Ambulance Corps. In order to cut costs, the corps. only renewed insurance on two ambulances instead of the four in its fleet.

In the past years, the ambulance held the METS contract, which took care of operational funding, but they do not have it any more.

There is a foreclosure action on the property, however, the organization still owns the property, said Mr. Pelaez.

Board Member Roseann Geiger made a suggestion to partner with another private ambulance corps.

Mr. Pelaez provided parameters on partnering with another ambulance corps.

At this point, District Manager Cassagnol spoke about the petition being circulated to Save The Community Ambulance Corps!

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Transportation

Committee Chair Joseph DiMartino reported a committee meeting is planned for next month.

Transportation Committee Member Jim Lisa added on October 29 a meeting will be held at the VFW Post #150 to discuss the Maker's Faire and the problems the community had with parking. Meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. All invited to attend. Petitions are being circulate to change the venue of the event because we are losing our community to outside cars.

Health

Committee Chair Clara Salas reported she brought and distributed information from Elmhurst Hospital on the Affordable Care Act. It is a 7-page handout, which is very helpful.

Also, there will be a workshop on Thursday, November 7, at Elmhurst Hospital Center, from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., at Elmhurst Hospital Center, Auditorium – A1-22. Seats are limited so please register. Flyers were distributed with more information.

Moreover, picture cards were distributed about Elmhurst Hospital. Information about the Hospital is on the back.

Since this is flu season, she encouraged all to get the flu shot and protect yourself, your family and the community.

Youth

Since the Committee Chair was not in attendance, District Manager Cassagnol said the Committee did meet earlier in the month with the Environmental Committee (Joint Meeting). There were a couple of common points both committees could work on such as community gardens, planting of trees, etc.

At this point, Board Member Clara Salas mentioned the Queens Borough Parent Conference on November 23, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at the Sheraton LaGuardia East Hotel, 135-20 39th Avenue, Flushing, NY. Flyers were distributed.

ULURP/Zoning

Committee Chair Miriam Levenson reported the Committee did not meet.

Environmental

Committee Chair Giancarlo Castano reported the Committee met on September 16. Members were given a chance to introduce themselves. He is confident the Committees will work well together. The Environmental Committee discussed its objective and identified issues. The Committee has not yet voted on those issues, but they will be presented at the next Board meeting.

A discussion was held with the Youth Committee on projects both committees can work on such as community gardens and inviting the youth from our district to do volunteer work. The Environmental Committee will make it a habit to meet with all the committees over time for the benefit of the district as a whole. Any suggestions give to the District Manager who will forward them to Committee Chair Castano.

Postal

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

Parks

Committee Chair Al Perna reported on *It's My Park Day*. Flyers were on hand with more details. Committee Chair Perna reported on a meeting with District Manager Cassagnol and the Parks Dept. In three weeks a meeting will be held with the Parks Dept. directors on the Capital/Expense items. Next, District Manager Cassagnol reported on the budget priorities for the Parks Department for the Capital/Expense Priorities.

At this point, Chairperson Louis Walker commented on the funds provided by the USTA. Those funds are allocated for certain things usually controlled by the elected officials at that time. The elected officials of today may not be in office when the funds are dispersed. Those of us in the community must keep an eye on those funds, but realistically what could happen in the city budget when those funds are fully implemented New York City might decide Queens no longer needs the Parks money and funding could be used somewhere else because of the large amount. In fact, we do not get ahead but we are still where we were before it even started.

The Committee reports were resumed.

Consumer Affairs

No Report.

XI. PUBLIC FORUM

New owner Ms. Ruth Morales addressed the Board regarding a liquor license application for RMA – Pro LLC, at 79-51 Albion Avenue, Elmhurst, NY (formerly Glazz). She is a new owner that has not officially taken over the establishment. She had attended a Public Safety Committee meeting. The application was denied because the location has a history of 311 noise complaints and has had numerous grand petit larcenies. When asked how they intended to change the environment to prevent, crime, noise and other issues, new owner could not provide a response. No corporation papers.

Ms. Morales presented letters to the Board attesting to her character from organizations and legislators. She owns a business in Manhattan (Washington Heights) with no problems and felt she was being penalized for someone else's actions.

She does promote safety at her establishment in Manhattan. Ms. Morales encouraged the Board to call the Community Board in her area for a reference. She felt she was not given the opportunity to conduct a business in the Board 4 area and provide an opportunity to who she is to this community.

Board Chair Louis Walker asked Public Safety Committee Chair Lucy Schilero why Ms. Morales was denied. Committee Chair Lucy Schilero reported Ms. Morales attended a committee meeting months ago and currently this is a partnership. However, Ms. Morales had decided to buy the corporation, and still has ties to the establishment. Whoever the main party is had gotten into more trouble with a contractor. The community circulated a petition they had enough and does not want the night club to be expanded. Residents have had enough of nightclubs in the area. (Exotics was just closed down) .

The application submitted by Ms. Morales was discussed by the Committee and the Committee voted no.

Ms. Morales also provided an unsigned contract to the Board.

Discussion ensued.

At this point, Chairperson Walker said since she is a brand new applicant, she will probably be approved over the Board's objection.

Committee Chair Lucy Schilero explained there were problems with businesses grandfathered in. Finally, we can say no. If we say no to a group of homeowners and businesses, we are just contradicting ourselves. Let the process go through. We kept our promise to the community. There had been many problems at the establishment such as assaults, which Ms. Morales is aware of.

More discussion followed.

Next, Board Member Georgina Oliver invited all to attend a Breast Cancer Walk on October 20 at Flushing Meadows Corona Park. Come out and support the cause!

There being no further business Board Member Georgina Oliver made a motion, seconded by Board Member Giancarlo Castano, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.