



## COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

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**Louis Walker**  
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Deputy Borough President

**Christian Cassagnol**  
District Manager

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February 9, 2016

### COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2016

TIME: 7:30 PM

PLACE: VFW POST #150  
51-11 108 STREET  
CORONA, N. Y.

- I. Chairperson Louis Walker opened the meeting at 7:40 p.m.
- II. Executive Secretary Lucy Schilero took the roll call. A quorum was **not** present.

At this point, Council Member Daniel Dromm addressed the Board.

Council Member Dromm reported on the NYC Department of Transportation's Elmhurst Hospital Safety Improvement Project (SIP) regarding safety concerns on the streets adjacent to Elmhurst Hospital. DOT proposes safety improvements on both Broadway and 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue between 76<sup>th</sup> Street and Baxter Avenue. The proposed changes would improve pedestrian crossings, calm traffic, and clarify vehicular movements. Those changes are desperately needed, and cited an example about two years ago a nurse was leaving Elmhurst Hospital crossing 41 Avenue and 79 Street was killed. Elmhurst Hospital had requested Council Member Dromm to implement a study. The study was performed and DOT has come up with suggestions, which should help with pedestrian safety. DOT will present its plans to the Board at a later date.

Next, he reported on the Queens Blvd. Study. He has not yet seen the actual proposal, but some of the improvements will be similar to those in NYC Council Majority Leader Jimmy Van Bramer's district from 73 Street to the city, which includes narrowing of the side road, inclusion of new islands in some sections, and some bike lanes. The implementation of those suggestions has made that area of Queens Blvd. much safer, he commented.

At this point, Chairperson Louis Walker mentioned heavy vehicular traffic at the intersections of Woodhaven Blvd., Queens Blvd. and the Long Island Expressway with all the buses and trucks. It's a very confusing intersection and questioned how bikes will get in that.

Council Member Dromm responded they (cyclists) are there already. What they are going to try to do is to make it safer for the bikes that are there.

He said whenever he goes to the city, you'll see a lot of people already riding bikes, especially immigrant guys who are going to their jobs in the city.

The idea is how to make it safer and he spoke about a halfway measure where there is not a dedicated bike lane. In Council Member Van Bramer's district, there are green lanes next to the median. However, in some areas it's not a green lane but does provide access, because it is clearly marked, for the bicyclist. It is a shared lane rather than a dedicated bike lane, he added.

Since the Council Member had not seen DOT's plan, he urged the Board to keep an open mind when it is presented. He cited two fatalities which had occurred since he has been serving as Council Member.

Subsequently, he reported on the recent pay raises for the New York City Council. One of the reforms with those pay raises include:

The position of Council Member would become full-time with the elimination of outside income.

Council Member Dromm stated he is has always worked as a full time Council Member (even more so working 24/7) and does not have an outside income. He spoke about his prior employment as a New York City school teacher who earns \$112,000 and mentioned requirements needed to earn over \$100,000. He does take his work very seriously.

For making more money, there are a series of reforms which are:

- Full-time job
- Give up outside income, maximum amount can earn \$7,500 and only in certain areas, for example, writing a book or teaching a course at CUNY
- Financial disclosure forms for elected officials would have to be published in an online database.
- Stipends—known as “lulus” would no longer be awarded to Council Members for serving as committee chairs or in leadership positions.

Many of the changes came about because of what happened in Albany such as the corruption case with Sheldon Silver. The reforms aim to eliminate corruption and bribery in politics. Silver collected millions in referral fees from a law firm after directing clients to the firm.

Also, a chairperson of a committee earns \$8,000 or more. If the Speaker did not like the way a Council Member Chair voted, the committee chairmanship could be taken away losing the stipend. As a result of the legislation, everyone will earn the same salary.

Council Members will now get an annual salary of \$148,500. By restricting outside income and ending stipends given for chairing committees the new salary would replace some of the outside income lost. Ten years ago was the last time Council Members received their last pay raise. A commission had recommended a pay raise to \$138,000. Citizens Union recommended \$143,000. Taking into consideration the outside income lost, the salary was raised to \$148,000. In the long run, Council Member Dromm voted for the pay raise because people

should be paid well and outside income abolished in order to have good government. Viewing this as good government practice, this legislation will benefit our communities in ways not seen before, said Council Member Dromm.

Conversely, Council Member Dromm reported he serves as the Chair of the Education Committee in the NYC Council and acquiring funding for new schools in our district has been difficult. Together with Council Member Julissa Ferreras-Copeland, Chair of the Finance Committee, they were able to get the Mayor to allocate \$868 million for new schools. A large part of the funding will be for School Districts #24 and #30. He was optimistic new school seats would be created. Class sizes of 34 to 38 children in District 24 were the norm when he was teaching. His objective is to bring the class size down. Education is the Council Member's passion and created his involvement in politics.

Moving into the budget season, he was hopeful even more money can be acquired for schools. He thanked Council Member Julissa Ferreras-Copeland for her work on this issue.

At this point, Council Member Dromm opened the floor to questions.

Board Member Ann Pfoser-Darby commented about the completion date on the Queens Blvd. study for bike lanes, and stated a lot of money can be saved if we wait until the next presidential election.

Board Member Clara Salas said a meeting was held at the school on this issue and it was the opinion of area residents that commercial hubs such as the Queens Center Mall and some sections of Queens Blvd. should not have bike lanes. She cited the buses, subway stations, and heavy traffic. No bike lanes in commercial lanes and some areas on Queens Blvd. was the consensus of the residents. Bike lanes should be implemented in areas that make it safer for the bicyclist, the pedestrian, and traffic she said.

Council Member Dromm responded since people bicycle there already, a plan must be devised that works for as many people as possible. The plan must take in concerns such as bicycle and pedestrian safety. Council Member Dromm had not seen the plan as yet to be presented to the Board. Community input is vitally important to the project he stated. He talked about the transportation study for Jackson Heights. Commenting the plan is always reversible and if it does not work, it can be taken away.

Board Member Pat Martin agreed legislators should be paid adequately, which would eliminate the need for corruption. She also cited the media as a source of the problem and commented about the lack of information by the media. What is the incentive for those in charge of a committee to take on the additional work, she asked.

Council Member Dromm responded if you are not passionate about this type of work, you should not be in the business. And if you do not respond to the community, you should not be in the business. Council Member Dromm never did the job for money. He never made this much money nor did he expect to. But, there are some in the field who would have to give up a lot in order to continue. The reforms implemented were proposed by Citizen Union, stated Council Member Dromm.

He added Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito also made a number of reforms for the Council Members. Sometimes it was very difficult to move legislation forward. Now if 34 Council Members sign on to a Bill, it moves forward automatically. In the past, the Speaker could hold up the vote. As a result of the changes, the Council has been democratized.

It was important to Council Member Dromm for people to understand why he voted the way he did.

Board Member Judy D'Andrea asked what stops the Council from coming in next year and saying we want to increase our salaries to \$175,000.

Council Member Dromm responded they could, but doubted they would because of public pressure. He added before this raise was implemented there was a Quadrennial Commission assigned to review the issue of salaries. Public hearings were held in various locations around the city. The Quadrennial Commission meets every four years. Under Mayor Bloomberg's administration the Commission did not meet since 2006. The Quadrennial Commission was to meet the end of the second year of a mayoral term

Now, the Quadrennial Commission will meet in the third year, so it's closer to the next incoming Council.

Questions were asked about the "transportables" at P. S. 19 and new school sites. Call Council Member Dromm's office if you know of a site for a school. Early childhood sites are urgently needed.

### **III. VOTE: Minutes of January 12 Meeting**

Since a quorum was now present, a vote on the January 12 Minutes was taken.

Board Member Priscilla Carrow made a motion, seconded by Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula, to **approve** the minutes.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 25 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

### **IV. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON**

Board Chair Louis Walker reported the Public Safety Committee met on February 2. Chair Walker attended the Committee meeting, noting some changes have been made. Those changes are:

- The Public Safety Committee will only review the no applicants the Police Department has a serious problem with.
- The businesses the Police Department does not have a problem with and have no problems, will be approved by the Committee.
- The approvals will be handled by both the Committee and the Board office.
- Applicants will no longer be required to submit incorporation documents, C of O's, and other forms because the SLA already requires this information. This is an unnecessary duplication of efforts by both the Board and the SLA.
- The 500' rule. The Committee can look at it but cannot enforce it. Because there are loopholes in this rule, the SLA will determine whether or not the establishment meets the 500' rule.

Community Board 4's role is as an advisory board. In the past, many of the liquor licenses disapproved by the Board were approved by the SLA.

### **V. REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER**

No report. District Manager Cassagnol not in attendance.

### **VI. REPORT OF THE LEGISLATORS**

David Burger, representing NYS State Senator Jose Peralta's office, announced the following upcoming events:

*Celebration of African American History and Heritage*

*February 25*

*6:00 PM- 8:00 PM*

*Langston Hughes Community Library*

*& Cultural Center  
100-01 Northern Boulevard  
Corona, NY*

All invited to attend.

*Assemblymember Francisco Moya      State Senator Jose Peralta      Assembly Member Michael DenDekker*

*Town Halls  
On  
Snowstorm Response*

*Wednesday, February 10, 2016  
7:00 PM  
VFW Post 150  
51-11 108 Street  
Corona, NY*

*Thursday, February 11, 2016  
7:00 PM  
Renaissance Charter School  
35-59 81 Street  
Jackson Heights, NY*

Bring your questions about the snowstorm cleanup. Bring your ideas about how the snowstorm response can be improved in the future.

Also, a Town Hall Meeting is planned on student safety responses will be held on March 3 at the Renaissance Charter School at 6:00 p.m. (co-sponsored by Assembly Member Francisco Moya, State Senator Jose Peralta, and Assembly Member Michael DenDekker).

Next, Elyse Nagiel, representing Assembly Member Francisco Moya's office, reported on the upcoming Town Hall meetings on the Snow Response. The purpose of those meetings is to create a dialogue with the agencies. Representatives from the Department of Sanitation, Department of Transportation, and other agencies will be present to answer questions.

Next, Alex Bennett, representing U. S. Rep. Grace Meng's office, reported Congresswoman Meng was the first to introduce legislation to make Lunar New Year a public school holiday. She had introduced a Congressional Resolution which encourages Congress to recognize the cultural and historical significance of Lunar New Year, which is the Year 4714 on the Lunar calendar. It calls upon Congress to nationally recognize the Lunar New Year as a holiday.

Subsequently, he said Ms. Meng introduced legislation to make feminine hygiene products such as tampons and pads more accessible and affordable to women. The measure, entitled the Fund Essential Menstruation Products (FEM) Act, would add feminine hygiene products to the list of items that can be purchased with funds in a Flexible Spending Account. An FSA allows for individuals to place up to \$2,550 of their income in an untaxed account, where the money can be used for certain medical expenses like bandages, crutches, and prescription medications.

Moreover, New York City Council Member Julissa Ferreras-Copeland is pushing to have free feminine hygiene products available in all New York City public school restrooms.

Next, Lillian Zepeder, representing Council Member Julissa Ferreras-Copeland's office, reported on a celebration honoring Black History Month was held on February 3. Joining the Councilwoman was the Finance Commissioner Jacques Jiha who presented a Lefrak City resident with an award.

Throughout the month, free tax preparation will be available at the Councilwoman's office located at 32-33A Junction Blvd.

Also, as of Friday, 104th Street and 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue is officially Edward F. Guida Sr. Way. An unveiling is planned for the warmer months.

Lastly, the budget process is on its way at City Hall. Councilwoman Julissa Ferreras-Copeland along with the Speaker will issue a response on the Mayor's proposed budget. One of the highlights is the \$800 million allocated to schools. In particular is the allocation of those funds to overcrowding and that it goes to the districts that most need it.

The Councilwoman feels other areas need to be looked at such as investment in youth. During the budget process, she will focus on that area and the Community Board and how it relates to you. Now is the time to schedule meetings with her budget legislative person if you are applying for discretionary funding. More of a holistic approach for youth: jobs, alleviating overcrowding, mental health opportunities and financial literacy are some of the issues the Councilwoman will push for during budget season.

Next, Aliya Latif, representing NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer's office, reported on the following announcements:

*Lunar New Year - An event is scheduled for February 17, 2016*

*African American History Month Trailblazer's Event & Program – February 25, 2016*

All were invited to attend.

Before the presentation by #OneNYC, Chairperson Louis Walker informed the Board the Roosevelt Avenue Taskforce will be reinstated with 16 officers from the 110 Precinct and 16 officers from the 115 Precinct. Coming soon. More details to follow.

## **VI. PRESENTATION**

*#OneNYC*

*Dara Goldberg, Dept. of City Planning/Mayor's Office*

Handouts on the plan were distributed to the Board. Dara Goldberg explained the Mayor's One NYC is a blueprint for the City's future. Every four years the City creates a plan to address some of our biggest challenges and meetings were held with communities to continue dialogue on how to best do so. The plan was released last year on April 22 (Earth Day). Since then, agencies have been in the process of implementing the plan which contains over 200 different initiatives to meet 27 goals. A progress report will be issued April 22 to see how the City has moved on these commitments.

One NYC is a comprehensive plan that seeks to prepare New York City for its fifth century.

The Plan envisions how we want our City to look in ten years, twenty years, and beyond  
We articulate the goals and initiatives designed to achieve that long-term vision  
OneNYC connects with other City efforts, including the Ten-year Capital Strategy, the Executive Budget  
And the Center for Economic Opportunity's Poverty Report  
More than 7,500 New Yorkers took the online public survey  
177 civic organization and over 50 elected officials' offices met about One NYC  
Over 70 city agencies and offices developed One NYC

## Core Challenges and Opportunities

Growing Population, Infrastructure Needs, Evolving Economy, Urban Environmental Conditions & Climate Changes

## One NYC 2015

### Growing Inequality, Importance of the Region, New York Voices

Despite a strong recovery from the economy, we have not kept pace with wage growth to high wage sectors. 21.5% of New Yorkers are below the poverty line and 45% are at or near the poverty level. Almost 56% of renter household pay more than 56% of their income on rent. We acknowledge the importance of region and how inter-connected we are and the plan focuses on broader civic engagement and hearing from traditionally underrepresented residents.

## One NYC:Our Four Visions

This plan is organized across four strategic visions for growth, equity, sustainability, and resiliency.

- New York City will be home to 9 million people by 2040
- Increase median household income
- Create and preserve 200,000 affordable housing units and support creation of 160,000 additional new housing by 2024
- Spur more than 4.9 million jobs by 2040
- Ensure 90 percent of New Yorkers can reach at least 200,000 jobs by transit with 45 minutes by 2040

### *Vision 2: Our Just and Equitable City*

New York City will have an inclusive, equitable economy that offers well-paying jobs and opportunities for all New Yorkers to live with dignity and security

Lift 800,000 New Yorkers out of poverty or near poverty by 2025

Reduce overall premature mortality by 25 percent by 2040 and dramatically decrease racial and ethnic disparities

Increase median household income

The Goals and initiatives to achieve our vision:

- Healthy Neighborhood, Active Living
- Healthcare Access
- Criminal Justice Reform

### *Vision 3: Our Sustainable City*

New York City will be the most sustainable big city in the world and a global leader in the fight against climate change.

New York City will...

- ✓ Reduce the city’s greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by 2050 relative to 200 levels
- ✓ Reduce waste disposal by 90 percent by 2030 relative to 2005 levels
- ✓ Reduce risks of stormwater flooding in most affected communities

New York City will...

- ✓ Reduce the city’s greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by 2050 relative to 2005 levels
  - ✓ Reduce waste disposal by 90 percent by 2030 relative to 2005 levels
  - ✓ Reduce risks of stormwater flooding in most affected communities

*Vision 4: Our Resilient City*

Our neighborhoods, economy, and public services will be ready to withstand and emerge stronger from the impacts of climate change and other 21<sup>st</sup> century threats.

In 2025, New York City will celebrate its 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

At this point, Ms. Goldberg took questions from the Board.

Board Member Helen Artega-Landeverde asked about the water management. What’s happening in other states regarding too much lead?

Ms. Goldberg was unclear what progress had been made in the regional coordination efforts on the water issues. She would follow up.

**VII. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE – Report and Vote**

Before Committee Chair Lucy Schilero presented the Committee’s report, she informed the Board about a new community policing program. Years ago, Community Policing Officers patrolled the neighborhoods. Now, Neighborhood Community Officers (NCO) will be assigned to neighborhoods in Community Board 4. She was uncertain when the program would be implemented.

**NYS LIQUOR AUTHORITY LICENSES**

**NEW APPLICANTS**

<b><u>Establishment’s Name</u></b>	<b><u>Establishment’s Address</u></b>	<b><u>Recommendation</u></b>
Kendrick 93 Inc. Liquor, Wine and Beer Applicant did not respond to our request to meet.	40-15 Junction Blvd. Corona, NY	Denied
Polleria Riva Restaurant Corp. Wine & Beer Only	40-32 National Street Corona, NY	Approved
Ping’s House Inc. Wine & Beer Only	83-02 Queens Blvd. Elmhurst, NY	Approved



## RENEWAL APPLICANTS

<u>Establishment's Name</u>	<u>Establishment's Address</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
Tempo Libero Bar Corp. Liquor, Wine and Beer	88-08 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Approved
Editas Bar & Restaurant <i>Flamingo</i> Liquor, Wine and Beer	85-10/12 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Approved

Board Member Priscilla Carrow made a motion, seconded by Board Member Ashley Reed, to **accept** the Committee's report as presented.

By a voice vote, the Board voted 25 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

### **VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### ***Consumer Affairs***

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

#### ***Environmental/Parks***

Environmental Chair Giancarlo Castano reported the Committee did not meet.

Parks Committee Chair Al Perna reported the Committee met on January 20 on the redesign of Moore Homestead Playground. Also, a run is planned for Saturday, February 13 at Flushing Meadows-Corona Park by the Unisphere. All were invited to attend.

#### **Health**

No report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

#### **ULURP/Zoning**

No report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

#### **Transportation**

No report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

At this point, Board Member Judy D'Andrea brought up the dilapidated condition of the 111 Street train station. She had read train stations would be refurbished, but this one was not on the published list. She had been requesting for a long time that this station be rehabilitated. She also noted the pigeon poop and the train station is not handicapped accessible.

Board Chairperson Louis Walker responded in New York City's history there will never be a situation where all train stations are ADA accessible. Some of them are impossible to access that's why there is Access-A-Ride.

Board Chairperson Louis Walker said it would be looked into.

#### **Postal**

Committee Chair Gigi Salvador read a letter written by the Board sent to the Postmaster General regarding poor mail delivery service in the Board area. Complaints range from missed and mixed up mail deliveries, and mail delivered to the wrong address.

Also, a copy of the Board's letter was sent to the Postmaster General in Washington D.C.

Subsequently, Committee Chair Gigi Salvador reported on the opening of postal jobs for 2016. Flyers were on hand.

### Youth

Committee Chair Cristian Romero reported a meeting is planned for February 24. Meeting notices will be sent and all were invited to attend.

Before proceeding to the Public Forum segment, Board Chair Louis Walker reminded the Board members if you no longer can serve on the Board, please resign your position so that other people who wish to serve can do so.

## **IX. PUBLIC FORUM**

Board Member Alirio Orduna reported he is also serves as the Commander and Founder of the NY Military Youth Cadets based at P. S. 19.

Their goal is to protect youth in the communities from getting involved with drugs and gangs. Speakers talk to the cadets about the consequences of drug addiction and gang related activities. The organization strives to prevent criminal activities in their community and schools. Photos were on hand of cadets who had entered various branches of the armed forces. Although they work very hard, more support is needed.

Council Members Julissa Ferreras-Copeland and Daniel Dromm were thanked for their assistance. He urged more elected officials to support the cadets.

Next, Mr. John Wang, Queens International Night Market, reported opening night is scheduled for April 23 at the Hall of Science. He said all visitors attending the event are encouraged to use mass transit. Vendor applications were opened two weeks ago. The festival offers diverse food, art, merchandise and performers.

Other announcements include:

- Operate a beer garden at the event
- Co-sponsor free series of small business seminars
- Volunteers are organizing a large Flushing Meadows-Corona Park clean-up day on April 17

Next, Pat Lowenhaupt, Six Annual Queens World Film Festival, reported on the films that will be shown from March 15-20, 2016 at MoMI, Secret Theater, PS 69Q. Based the days of the festival, the Queens World Film Festival hosts many other events throughout the year. Many take place during the spring and summer. Free public events are sponsored by different organizations and hosted by the Queens World Film Festival. She is also a mentor and part of the Queens World Film Festival's youth program. Fifth graders are given the experience of making videos. She also assists with their script writing and video-taping. Films are edited and shown at P.S. 69. Log on to [www.queensworldfilmfestival.com](http://www.queensworldfilmfestival.com) and click on 2016 films for more information. She reported twenty-nine filmmakers live in Queens. Anyone interested in films, this organization is a really great place and a fabulous cultural event.

Next, Chen Chaio-Chung, EHC CAB, reported on community problems and overall crime including the recent slashing's in the news.

Next, Martin Luna, an area resident, reported on bicycle riding in the community. There are six persons in his family on bicycles. While he and his family are avid bicycle riders, cars pass by very fast. It is very dangerous. They do not feel safe in the area. He spoke about the proposed bike lanes on 111 Street and felt it would make bicycle riding safer. Crossing 111 Street is very dangerous because there are no Walk/Don't Walk signs. He asked the Board to consider the DOT proposal.

Next, Christina an area resident read a statement about 111 Street. She mentioned the pigeon poop at the 111 Street train station and the deplorable condition of the station, which lacks access to people with strollers and the handicapped. She and her family bike around the community. The New York Hall of Science has a neighborhood program for students that live in the neighborhood. It's a half priced membership for families. They also offer free after-school programs to children in the area public schools and the children do attend. Dodging speeding cars and the lack of crosswalks make it extremely difficult for the children to get to the Hall of Science. Drivers disregard every stop sign and every crosswalk the whole length of 111 Street. She had witnessed many traffic disasters at school dismissal and seeing where children have no park space to call their own in almost the entirety of this community board—except for Flushing Meadows-Corona Park and Elmhurst Park.

The option to bike must be considered. The option to walk safely must be considered. Priority should be given to the thousands of community members who raise families here to have safe access to the parks. She had called DOT and was sent numerous plans. Pedestrian safety must be made a priority. She also urged the Board to consider the 111 Street proposal with families and children in mind.

Before adjourning, Chairperson Louis Walker said we have heard statements about 111 Street. But, the latest official plans have not been presented to the Board and no vote has been taken. There is much to consider on 111 Street. The previous speaker mentioned Elmhurst Park that is not near us. 111 Street has nothing to do with Elmhurst Park. Let's keep the safety of the different parks separately.

When it is presented, we will see what is presented and debate it at that time, said Chair Louis Walker.

Since there was no further business, Board Member Priscilla Carrow made a motion, seconded by Board Member Judy D'Andrea, to adjourn. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.