

Melinda Katz Borough President

Melva Miller Deputy Borough President

COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, Elmhurst, and Newtown 46-11 104th Street

Corona, New York Telephone: 718-760-3141 e-mail: qn04@cb.nyc.gov

11368-2882

Fax: 718-760-5971

Damian Vargas Chairperson

Christian Cassagnol District Manager

February 13, 2018

COMMUNITY BOARD ATTENDANCE

Board Members Attending:

Damian Vargas Priscilla Carrow Lynda Coral Judith D'Andrea Marialena Giampino Ingrid Gomez Jennifer Gutierrez James Lisa Peter Manganaro Patricia Martin Ruby Muhammad Georgina Oliver Albert Perna

Board Members Absent:

Giancarlo Castano Lucy Cerezo Scully Chaio-Chung Chen Safat Chowdhury Erica Cruz Maria Damico Salvatore Lombardo Debra Clayton Alexa Ponce Ashley Reed Oscar Rios Neil Roman Cristian Romero Clara Salas Gigi Salvador Lucy Schilero Alton Derrick-Smith Marcello Testa Vivian Tseng Louis Walker Rosa Wong Minwen Yang

Rovenia McGowan Edgar Moya Sandra Munoz Gurdip Singh Narula Shwe Zin (Winny) Oo A. Redd Sevilla Malikah Shabazz Gregory Spock Lester Youngblood

ATTENDING:

Christian Cassagnol, CB4 District Manager Christina Long, CB4 Community Assistant Claudia Paguay, CB4 Intern Joe Nocerino, Queens Borough President's Office Barbara Jackson, U. S. Rep. Joseph Crowley's Office Louise Emanuel, Assembly Member Jeffrion Aubry's Office David Burgoa, Senator Jose Peralta's Office Ari Espinal, Council Member Francisco Moya's Office OiBin Ye, Council Member Daniel Dromm's Office Larry Gallegos, Congressman Joseph Crowley's Office Lt. Eric Konoski, Special Operations Unit, 110 Police Precinct Mike Liquori, VFW #150 Debra Hargrove, 96-02 57 Avenue, Corona, NY Robert Grant, 96-04 57 Avenue, Corona, NY Ernestine McKayle, 97-28 57 Avenue, Corona, NY Cristina Gonzalez, Mujeres en Mov, 108-60 41 Avenue, Corona, NY Michelle Davits, 83-60 Vietor Avenue Carlos, Corona EMS, 104-38 47 Avenue, Corona, NY Evelyn C., Corona EMS, 104-38 47 Avenue, Corona, NY Cynthia, Corona EMS, 104-38 47 Avenue, Corona, NY Librada Reyes, Mujeres en Mov, 101-07 39 Avenue Stephanie Roman, Mujeres en Moviemento, 101-07 39 Avenue Dholan Nabi, Corona EMS, 104-38 47 Avenue Mitchell Flax, Valence College Prep. Constantino Mendoza, Queens College Nisha Dhaka, Hunter College Selma Norahs, 97-15 Horace Harding Exp., Corona, NY Manuela Morgan, Corona Vollys, 104-38 47 Avenue, Corona, NY James Apostolatos, PO Box 337939, Elmhurst, NY Jeremy Chan--Krauster, New Visions Dem. Club Phil Wong, Elmhurst United, 51-76 Manilla St. Elmhurst, NY Geisel, Corona EMS, 104-38 47 Avenue, Corona, NY Jorge L. Rodriguez, 98-23 Horace Harding Exp. Corona, NY Michelle Dunsnton, LCTA, 98-15 Horace Harding Exp., Corona, NY Jim Galloway, LCTA Juliane A. Williams, 97-15 Horace Harding Exp., Corona, NY Rosemary Poy, Queens College Patricia Chou C'Ariana Kaufman-Gutierrez

PUBLIC SPEAKER'S LIST

Juliane A. Williams

Meeting streamed live.

COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2018

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

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

I. Chairperson Damian Vargas opened the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

II. The Pledge Of Allegiance was recited by all.

Before the roll call was taken, Chairperson Damian Vargas announced there is a sign-in sheet in the back. Please sign in if any members of the Public plan to speak. Comments are limited to two minutes.

III. Executive Secretary Marialena Giampino took the roll call. A quorum was not present at this point.

Since the Board did not have a quorum, the Board would delay any votes needed reported Chair Damian Vargas. Once a quorum is present, the votes will be taken.

IV. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

Regarding requests to hold the Board meetings at different locations, the March CB meeting will be held at Elmhurst Hospital. One reason is for variation where meetings are held and for next month's meeting a Public Hearing will be held prior to the regular Board meeting. The Public Hearing will start at 7:00 p.m. The subject matter is the 82 Street Rezoning. Meeting notices will be sent.

On February 8, 2018, a meeting was held with the Board's Committee Chairs to discuss the committees' structure and current and future projects. Most importantly was the response received from the Capital & Expense reports sent out to the city various agencies. Those responses were discussed and at this point, all Committee Chairs had received those reports. He urged the Committee Chairs to please follow up with those responses. If you do need assistance, contact the Board office.

Coming up an Executive Committee meeting is planned, hopefully, before the next Board meeting.

Before concluding his report, he asked Board Members to please contribute to the Sunshine Fund, which pays for our Holiday Party and funeral flowers.

V. REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER

No Report. District Manager Cassagnol was not present because of a death in the family.

VI. PUBLIC FORUM

Board Member Al Perna reported he serves as President of the Corona Community Ambulance Corps. He said Mr. John Wang of the Queens Night Market said he would donate money back into the community. Although Mr. Wang gave donations to FDNY and NYPD, which is noteworthy nothing was given to our community. Mr. Wang did promise the Corona Community Ambulance Corp. a donation if they were present on site from 6:00 p.m. to 12:00 p.m. to protect them. The ambulance corps was promised a donation, however, nothing was received. Although the Queens Night Market was charging \$5 admission, the ambulance corp. anticipated they would receive a donation from that fee.

As a result of the lack of donating, the ambulance corp. stopped attending the Queens Night Market's events. Subsequently, Mr. Wang called the ambulance corps. in Forest Hills who in turn called Mr. Perna. Forest Hills said to Mr. Perna Corona is your community and they would not tread on our community. In turn, it was agreed Corona Community Ambulance would not tread on Forest Hills territory. Mr. Wang had also called the Corona Community Ambulance Corp. incompetent.

Next, Mr. Perna's Chief of Staff and supporting staff was introduced and outlined how they helped out at the Queens Night Market events.

Additionally, Mr. Perna described what his duties were at the Queens Night Market which included a fire that had to be extinguished, noting the Queens Night Market did not have the proper fire extinguisher to extinguish an oil fire.

Moreover, Mr. Perna stated since the Queens Night Market is making money in our community. Money should come back to the community to help our community and residents. Rightfully, the ambulance corps was helping out the Queens Night Market.

Mr. Perna felt Mr. Wang came into the community, which he was not supposed to be on that space, because the space is to be rented for science events. This is a food vending event, which has nothing to do with science. Mr. Perna pointed out Mr. Wang lied to us. No money ever came in that was promised. Calling the ambulance corps incompetent is outrageous. They do approximately 54 calls per month and half of those patients do not have insurance. Those people are never billed by the ambulance corps. Corona Community Ambulance Corps is a volunteer organization and does depend on donations to survive in our community and pay for medical expenses.

It was reported every week a minimum of two to four people from the ambulance corps. were present at the Queens Night Market until the month of August where staff had to attend other events as those patrons had given donations. This was essential so that the ambulance corps could remain operational in our community and purchase supplies.

At this point, Chair Damian Vargas announced a quorum was present. The vote was taken on the minutes.

VII. VOTE: Minutes January 9, 2018

Board Member Clara Salas made a motion, seconded by Board Member Clara Salas, to **approve** the minutes. By a voice vote, the Board voted 27 in favor, 0 opposed, with 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

Next, Lt. Eric Konoski Special Operations Unit, the 110 Precinct reported on the crime stats. He commended the Board on the help they provide to the Precinct.

<u>Major Crimes</u>

Murders – None
Robberies – 17 robberies as opposed to 36 last year, down 52%
Rapes – 6 this year (known domestic cases); last year 0
Felony Assaults – Steady to last year – 12 this year; 10 last year
Burglaries – down this year 11-down over 45%; 20 last year
Grand Larcenies – 50 this year; 36 last year (reasoning for increase: a lot of identity theft)
Grand Larceny Auto (stolen vehicles) – 11 this year; 10 last year (reasoning; a lot of people are leaving their keys in the car while it's running). He cautioned not to leave keys in the car while it's running.

At this point, he took questions from the Board.

VIII. REPORT OF THE LEGISLATORS

Chairperson Damian Vargas called on the following legislator representatives to report:

Congressman Joseph Crowley – No report.

Congresswoman Grace Meng

Cristian Romero reported on U.S. Postal Service issues. Many complaints were received about delayed or lost mail. This is a borough-wide problem and members of the Queens Congressional Delegation are addressing USPS about those issues and working to resolve them. He will update the Board on any new information received.

Board Member Lucy Schilero commented the cause of these problems is that all of our mail is being shipped to Brooklyn then back to Queens. The College Point facility needs to process our mail again. She spoke about the many problems people are having with the mail. She noted Maspeth and Middle Village are receiving mail slots for its mailboxes to prevent theft.

NYS Senator Michael Gianaris - No report.

At this point, Larry Gallegos introduced himself as the representative to Congressman Joseph Crowley's office. He also mentioned the problems with the United States Postal Service. Please call him with any issues.

NYS Senator Jose Peralta David Burgoa, representing Senator Jose Peralta's office, reported on the following:

> Dominican Heritage Celebration, February 28 6 PM – 10 PM LaBoom 56-15 Northern Blvd. Woodside, NY

> > Free Tax Return Preparation Wednesdays 12 PM-7 PM Thursdays 10 AM-5 PM 32-37 Junction Boulevard East Elmhurst, NY

Please schedule an appointment for tax preparation.

An immigration attorney present on Tuesdays; Housing attorney present on Fridays at the Senator's office. Call the office to schedule an appointment. Last week, a very successful African-American Heritage event was held. Today, there was a free flu shot clinic at Lefrak City.

Chairperson Vargas continued to call on legislator representatives for reports:

State Senator Toby Ann Stavisky No report

NYS Assembly Brian Barnwell No report

NYS Assembly Michael DenDeckker No report

Council Member Daniel Dromm No report

Council Member Francisco Moya No report

NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer No report

Public Advocate Letitia James No report

Queens Borough President Melinda Katz Joe Nocerino reported the State of the Borough is posted online. Regarding the following: DACA - The Borough President's statement was read to the Board. Willets Point – The Borough President's statement was read to the Board.

At this point, Qi Bin Ye, representing Council Member Daniel Dromm's office, reported on the 8th Annual Lunar New Year Celebration & Community Resource Fair, to be held at St. James Church, 84-07 Broadway, March 3, 11:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. All were invited to attend the cultural performance. And, on March 5 from 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. a housing benefit enrollment event will be held. Joined by the NYC Department of Finance, homeowners can learn about tax exemption requirements.

Following this report, Chairperson Damian Vargas announced the Public Safety Committee would present its report since some Board Members had to leave early.

IX. REPORT AND VOTE: Public Safety Committee SLA Applications

Public Safety Committee Chair Lucy Schilero reported the NYC Fire Department has advised if you see smoke or fire in your room, close the door behind you. In most cases, the fires that have occurred people have left the door open, which causes fires to spread. Close the door, but do not lock it.

Also, she reported people are using the wrong electrical cords for microwaves, toasters, etc. Homeowners should revamp their electrical system, by installing new wiring. Lit candles should not be unattended.

Next, she spoke about the flu epidemic and seniors admitted to the hospitals. The Fire Department has been very successful in helping seniors get to the hospital and no senior citizen has died from the flu. She expressed regret about the children who died from the flu.

The NCO officers held their first civic meetings throughout the month of January. The meetings were very successful; Committee Chair Schilero had received good feedback from the neighbors. Meetings will be held every month for each sector:

Adam, Boy, Charlie and David (A, B, C,D,) Meeting locations will vary. Areas that need help will be targeted. Reach out to 718-476-6725 to find out which officers will help you and when meetings are scheduled.

Next, if there is a driver that speeds in a school zone that driver will be ticketed. If the motorist speeds again in the school zone, the driver's license will be suspended for 60 days. If the driver has a third occurrence for the same offense, the license will be revoked.

Subsequently, the liquor license applications were presented for review.

NEW APPLICANTS

ESTABLISHMENT'S NAME	ADDRESS	COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION		
Don Alex Plex Peru Inc. Wine, Beer & Cider	95-44 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Approved		
	-			
Q Town Asian Cuisine Inc. Wine, Beer & Cider	82-87 Broadway Elmhurst, NY	Denied		
Establishment is still under construction, and they need to show clearance from DOB.				
El Patron Enterprises Inc.	53-09 106 Street	Approved		
Wine, Beer & Cider	Corona, NY			
El Nuevo Caramelo Coffee Shop Inc.	99-27 43 Ave., 1 st Fl.	Approved		
Beer & Cider	Corona, NY			
Prontito Corp. Wine, Beer & Cider	40-25 Forley Street Elmhurst, NY	Denied		
There is concern about the history of noise complaints emanating from this establishment, especially since it is near one and two family homes.				
Los 4 Amores Rest. Corp. Wine, Beer & Cider	93-10 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Approved		
BBQ Chicken Don Alex II, Inc. Wine, Beer & Cider	106-27 Corona Avenue Corona, NY	Approved		
Junction 40 Enterprises Inc.	40-06 Junction Blvd.	Approved		
Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider <i>Pronto</i>	Corona, NY			
Needs to get clearance from FDNY and DOB for work that was done by previous occupants				

Needs to get clearance from FDNY and DOB for work that was done by previous occupants.

92-02 Corona Avenue Corona, NY Approved

RENEWAL APPLICANTS

ESTABLISHMENT'S NAME	ADDRESS	COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION			
El Diamante Boulevard Bar Corp.	42-18 Junction Blvd.	Denied			
Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider	Corona, NY				
Applicant failed to respond to meeting request to discuss their application.					

Brenmac Tavern, Inc.	85-35 Grand Avenue	Approved
Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider	Elmhurst, NY	

A motion was made by Board Member Judy D'Andrea, seconded by Board Member Priscilla Carrow, to approve the Public Safety Committee report as presented.

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

X. SPEAKER: Mitchell Flax, Lead Founder, Valence College Prep

Jose Santiago, Board Member Valence College Prep

Discussion of Valance College Prep, a proposed 5^{th} through 8^{th} grade charter school aiming to open in Fall 2019 in Corona.

Mitch Flax, leader and founder of Valance College Prep. reported the proposed school is 5th through 8th grade hoping to open in Corona Fall 2019 with 112 5th graders, hoping to grow gradually through the years. Jose Santiago was introduced to the Board. Mr. Santiago said he was a Board of Directors and thanked the Community Board for its work. Three points they wished to explain are:

- Needs to address in Corona
- Vision for the school
- Report on community outreach thus far and obtain feedback from the Community Board

Mr. Flax said parents think of where their child will attend middle school and look at the options. There are two options. St. Leo's School, which parents may or may not be able to afford with or without tuition assistance and I. S. 61. Many people know our school district is tremendously overcrowded. I. S. 61 has an enrollment of over 2200 students (built for 2100). It is becoming more overcrowded as each year passes. Valence College Prep. hopes to provide another option.

Mr. Santiago addressed the Board on his experience as a parent. He is the parent of a charter school child. His child is eleven years old and going back about seven years, lived in a neighborhood where there was only one option available. The neighborhood school did not match his son's needs. After researching more schools, he did find one that met his son's needs; however, his son had no chance of admission because he was not zoned for the school. One day he found out about a charter school. His son applied and was admitted to the school. Seven years later he is still attending the school and doing very well because it matched his needs. He asked the Board to accept Valance College Prep. into this community with the hope this school will give our children another option.

Mr. Flax said their promise to the families in this community is that when your child attends Valance College Prep. they will do everything in their power to ensure when they leave, they are college ready. Their scholars will be the college class of 2031.

The mission of the school is to equip 5th through 8th graders with the academic skills, professional habits, and strength of character to be able to graduate from college and live a life of opportunity. This is a promise delivered to the families who will send their children to their school.

Valance College is potential. It is their belief every family should have the opportunity to send their child to a school that increases their potential, and it does that by preparing them for a college education.

Next, he spoke about the key design elements of the school. They want to create a school that is structured and safe. If a child is sent to their school, you will have clear expectations of what they do every day in the building. They will do truly challenging college prep work. Work that challenges them at their grade level every day and they will be held accountable to the progress. Support will be given.

A strong focus is placed on reading and writing. Scholars will have 135 minutes of literacy instruction per day Monday through Thursday which is differentiated by reading and writing and independent reading time and small group instruction. Every scholar will get what they need to be on grade level in reading and writing. Scholars also need to be creative problem solvers. To do that, double instruction is given in math and a computer science curriculum is given.

Lastly, he spoke about the outreach they have done in the community. To build a school that is right for the scholars and families in Corona they need to speak to as many people as possible in Corona. Tables were set up at various locations in the community and asked people to stop and talk. Also, four community information sessions were held—two at Lefrak City Library and two at the Corona Library. They have also tried to speak to as many community organizations as possible.

Feedback from families spoken to include:

75% of the families canvassed said they want their child to read, write and do math. Specifically, their child to know English well. Parents want their child to be excellent communicators, excellent learners, and excellent problem solvers. The mission of the school is for every child to graduate from college and lead a life of opportunity.

What parents liked about their current school and what they think is important in a school. The parents like the abundance of programs offered in their elementary school. At full growth Valence College Prep will have an enrollment of 448 students, which is about the same size as some of the smaller elementary schools in the neighborhood and will not necessarily provide the full breadth of programs. They will try to create as many partnerships with community organizations so that they can pipe line scholars into programs that exist elsewhere in the community.

Valence College Prep believes it is very important to assess their scholars understand where they are academically and give them the exact support they need.

Board Members asked questions at this point. Some of the questions included:

A Board Member asked where the school is.

Mr. Flax replied they do not have a location yet, but the target area is South Corona. Conversations were held with multiple landlords; however, there is a possible space in Lefrak City and a possible space at Junction Boulevard. There is no fee to attend the school, it is a free school.

Board Member Judy D'Andrea brought about the statement made about the two middle schools--St. Leo's and I.S. 61 in the district She commented there were two new schools built on 43 and 44 Avenues.

Board Member Judy D'Andrea asked if there is a Board of Directors for Valence College Prep.

Mr., Flax responded yes. In fact, Mr. Santiago is one of the trustees and further explained there is a Board of nine trustees.

Board Member Clara Salas asked if Valence Prep School would be offering preparation for specialized high schools.

Mr. Flax responded by explaining the courses scholars would need to take to meet the criteria.

Other questions ranged from funding to culturally responsible teaching to curriculum to another charter school located on Junction Blvd.

Next, he spoke about admissions criteria.

More questions were asked by the Board members.

XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Consumer Affairs

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

Environmental

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

Health

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

Parks

Committee Chair Al Perna reported a meeting is planned for February with the Parks Department. Next month he will give the Board a full report on the mentioned meeting.

Transportation

Committee Chair Lou Walker reported on January 17 Community Boards 3 & 4 held a joint meeting. At that meeting, DOT's Clear Curbs New Initiative was discussed from Broadway on Roosevelt Avenue to 108 Street during the hours of 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.; and 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. No Parking is allowed on both sides of the street.

During 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., there will be truck delivery zones. Instead of a parked car on Roosevelt Avenue, traffic will be coming at a normal speed. To shop at the local stores, people will now use the side streets to park which will take up resident parking. Committee Chair Lou Walker did not think it was a good idea, but is taking the wait and see approach. As yet, merchants in the area have not been approached at the date of the meeting. The plan is expected to be in effect by March 21, 2018.

ULURP/Zoning

Committee Chair Alton Derrick Smith reported a meeting is scheduled on Tuesday, February 27 on the 82 Street Rezoning proposal. All were urged to attend.

The floor was turned over to Board Member Marialena Giampino who reported Elmhurst was selected as one of the six neighborhoods for 2018 for a program called Six to Celebrate which annually identifies six historic NYC neighborhoods that merit preservation. The Elmhurst History and Cemeteries Preservation Society, Inc. a civic organization in Elmhurst which she is a member, is working to document the neighborhood's landmarks and is working to preserve those sites. Flyers were available. She thanked the Board for its support and reported as a result, the old St. James Church was landmarked. The Church dates back to 1735 and is the second oldest church in New York City. Also, he gave an update on CC Moore and Newtown Playground.

At this point, Board Chairperson Damian Vargas urged Board Members and the general public to attend the ULUP/Zoning meeting on February 27, 6:30 p.m., at the Queens Center Mall. This is not just a ULURP issue, but a major development in progress which will affect public safety transportation, and consumer affairs.

Next, Board Member Judy D'Andrea brought up a parking issue on 111 Street on the side of the Park. Because there is no curb there and no cars parked there, why is there alternate side parking (Friday) she questioned.

Board Member James Lisa commented Alternate Side Parking does not exist and motorists will be ticketed. The whole thing is a total disgrace and a nightmare what the City did to this community.

Board Member Judy D'Andrea brought up the problem involved with the cleaning the street because the cars do not move.

Transportation Chair Lou Walker commented the committee will try to meet with the NYC Department of Transportation at the end of the month.

Discussion ensued about the problems on 111 Street and the accidents that occurred there, including the blind spots.

Committee reports resumed at the point.

Youth

Committee Chair Ingrid Gomez reported a meeting is scheduled for March 15 at 7:00 p.m.

At this time, Juliane Williams addressed the Board. She has been living in Lefrak City for 24 years. Her beloved daughter, Doniqueca Cooke, was tragically killed by a car that jumped the curb at the intersection of Junction Blvd. and the Horace Harding Expressway, on June 30, 2016. Since her death vigils were held and much support was given. At the time of her death both Ms. Williams and her daughter were college students. Doniqueca was pursuing her degree as an occupational therapist and Ms. William was enrolled to start the Bachelor's Program as a registered nurse.

She was requesting at the intersection of Junction Boulevard and the Horace Harding Expressway the street is co-named for her daughter, Doniqueca Cooke. She was here to ask for the Board's support in this effort. Her daughter was well loved, a friend, a beautiful granddaughter, a sister, an aunt and a person who had exceptional qualities. She wants to continue her memory and Ms. William is in the process of starting a foundation for her daughter. The second anniversary of her death will be on June 30. Can the process be expedited she asked.

Chairperson Vargas explained Ms. Williams is looking for Community Board support to move forward this request. The District Manager will be in contact with Ms. Williams to let her know how to proceed forward. It was suggested the Council Member's office be contacted first because he is the one that must bring it forward to the full City Council to be voted on.

Chairperson Vargas called out if a vote was needed on this request. The general consensus of the Board was no.

Board Member Al Perna offered Zumba classes, Monday from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., and calisthenics, Saturday 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., *Free* at the Corona Community Ambulance base through Shape Up New York City.

Before adjourning, Youth Committee Chair Ingrid Gomez spoke about the Governor Cuomo's proposed cuts. The Governor is proposing to cut \$129 million from ACS, which is the welfare system in New York City. The cut would drastically hurt services in our community and elsewhere. Social workers and case workers who visit with families offer resources such as mental health or drug use resources would be eliminated. She encouraged everyone to call your state legislator and let them know there should be no cuts to ACS Preventive Services.

There being no further business, Board Member Judy D'Andrea made a motion, seconded by Board Member James Lisa, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.