



COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, Elmhurst, and Newtown

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Sharon Lee
Acting Borough President

Louis Walker
Chairperson

Christian Cassagnol
District Manager

COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE; Tuesday, May 19, 2020

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

PLACE: Online Via Webex

BOARD MEMBER ATTENDANCE

Board Members Attending:

Louis Walker
Chaio-Chong Chen
David Chong
Lynda Coral
Vincent Laucella
Matthew McElroy
Edgar Moya
Sandra Munoz
Gurdip Singh Narula
Georgina Oliver
Alexandra Owens

Alexa Ponce
Ashley Reed
Oscar Rios
Cristian Romero
Clara Salas
Lucy Schilero
Gregory Spock
Dewan Tarek
Marcello Texta
Minwen Yang

Board Members Absent:

Karin Abreu
Lucy Cerezo Scully
Erica Cruz
Michelle Dunston
Aridia Espinal
Marialena Giampino
Kristen Gonzalez
Jennifer Gutierrez
James Lisa
Salvatore Lombardo
Patricia Martin

Sylvia Martin
Rovenia McGowan
Ruby Muhammad
Rupinder Raj
Neil Roman
Fernando Ruiz
A. Redd Sevilla
Alton Derrick Smith
Izaida Valcarcel
Rosa Wong

ATTENDING:

Christian Cassagnol, CB4 District Manager

Margaret Silletti, CB4 Community Coordinator

Christina Long, CB4 Community Assistant

Council Member Francisco Moya

NYS Assembly Member Catalina Cruz

Michelle Hernandez, Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's Office

Kelly Wu, Council Member Daniel Dromm's Office

James Mongeluzo, NYC Comptroller's Scott Stringer's Office

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1. Call To Order (7:00 p.m. – 7:05 p.m.)

Chairperson Louis Walker called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m.

2. Chairperson's Report – Moment of silence for those we lost. (7:05 p.m. - 7:10 p.m.)

Chair Louis Walker asked District Manger Christian Cassagnol to read the following statement from John Wang, Queens Night Market:

Dear CB4,

As you probably know the Queens Night Market has been postponed indefinitely until it's safe to open back up again. Last week, we published our cookbook called the **World Eats Here** which features recipes and personal stories from over 50 Queens Night Market vendors representing over 40 countries. The timing was a little ironic and bittersweet.

In addition to that, which we've been keeping busy mostly with our **Fuel The Frontlines** initiative.

Fuel the Frontlines is a collaboration with the Queens Borough President and the Queens Economic Development Corporation. The program hires Queens Night Market vendors and local food businesses to feed healthcare workers on the frontlines, who are risking their lives to keep us safe and healthy. The project started seven weeks ago and has raised \$100,000 and provided nearly 15,000 meals to healthcare workers at all nine Queens's hospitals and seven Queens EMS stations.

Anyone interested in donating to the cause can do so by going to queensny.org or by contacting me directly.

In other news, I've recently joined the **Covid Response Coalition for Corona and Elmhurst** as well as the Steering Committee for **The Coalition for NYC Hospitality & Tourism Recovery**. I'd be happy to discuss those initiatives with anyone who is interested.

I miss you all and hope to see you all again in person soon. Until then, please stay safe and healthy. And let me know if there's anything I can do to help during these trying times.

3. District Manager's Report (7:10 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.)

No report given. Chair Louis Walker proceeded to the next agenda item. The District Manager will report throughout the evening.

4. Open Session #1

At this time, the microphone will be unmuted and only members of the Board may speak. This will be done alphabetically. Members of the public and City Agencies who submitted testimony will have their statements read during the Chairperson's Report. Statement will be limited to two minutes.

Testimony and/or questions may be e-mailed to the Community Board no later than 12 PM on May 19.

Chair Louis Walker stated he did not have Board Members names alphabetically but will call the names as he has listed.

The following Board Members were called or statements/concerns:

Chaio-Chung Chen – In attendance

Board Member Chaio-Chung Chen spoke about beating up the Chinese in Chinatown. On the video, three policemen did not do anything. Was the Board aware of this? What happened with that he questioned.

Michelle Dunston – No response

At this point, District Manager Christian Cassagnol explained if you are a Community Board member and you have dialed in via phone, you will not be able to speak tonight. We will not be unmuted the mike, but you will be able to hear the discussion.

Lucy Schilero – In attendance

Board Member Lucy Schilero thanked NYS Assembly Member Catalina Cruz, NYS State Senator Jessica Ramos, NYC Council Member Daniel Dromm, and NYC Council Member Francisco Moya for a phenomenal job reaching out to the community and helping our community residents during these challenging times. Also, she noted Assembly Member Catalina Cruz has been distributing good food every day at her office.

A Special Thank You was given to Board Members Dewan Tarek, Michelle Dunston, Alexandra Owens and Vincent Laucella who have been out in the community helping and supporting those in need of assistance and doing great work. She is very proud of the CERT Team for their great efforts in the community.

Representing many homeowners who are not rich that had a difficult time in April paying the real estate tax. She questioned if any of the legislators would offer help to those who are not working and own homes and have tenants not working. Can installment payments be made on the July to October tax bills foregoing the interest, which is 18% compounded daily, with no penalty fee? She was optimistic the economy would improve and not go that way. But if not, would assistance be available to those affected tenants and homeowners.

Before concluding, she thanked District Manager Christian Cassagnol for his great work and support during this crises.

Alexandra Owens – In attendance

Board Member Alexandra Owens reported the Committee has been working hard on food pantry events and on Thursday, May 21, 4 pm – 6pm, at St. James Episcopal Church, 84-07 Broadway Elmhurst, NY about 600 meals with some canned items will be served. This is a pilot program and hopes to continue it moving forward.

At this point, District Manager Cassagnol added not only will volunteers be on hand but Congresswoman Meng will donate PPEs for the volunteers. Any volunteers please register. Let him know in advance if you would like to join. If you are not accepted, please know that if your help is not be needed, your offer is appreciated.

Oscar Rios – In attendance

Board Member Oscar Rios expressed concern about the increased homeless population on Broadway especially on the sidewalk and inquired about a plan to assist the homeless.

Jennifer Gutierrez – No response

Neil Roman – No response

Ashley Reed – In attendance

No questions or comments.

David Chong – In attendance

No questions or comments.

Aridia Espinal – No response

Gregory Spock – In attendance

Board Member Gregory Spock shared his wife's grandmother passed away from COVID-19. He advised all to heed the precautions to stay safe mentioning not to take unnecessary trips and adhere to social distancing. With the warmer weather coming, people are starting to relax and he advised all to be safe and take care each other.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Louis Walker expressed condolences to Board Member Gregory Spock and his family.

Vincent Laucella – In attendance

Board Member Vincent Laucella thanked the Board for its outstanding work, noting the Board is caring and wonderful.

He will be securing approximately 5,000 face masks for distribution at the parks. He was optimistic this would help to de-escalate the situation between the Police Department and the general public.

Also, he reported Al Perna lost his father to COVID-19.

A once per week food pantry will be open at the Corona Ambulance base starting in the next two weeks.

Special thanks were given to Council Member Francisco Moya, Assembly Member Catalina Cruz, and Senator Jessica Ramos for their help and support.

Rosa Wong – No response

Karin Abreu – No response

Ruby Muhammad – No response

Gurdip Sing Narula – In attendance

Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula reported last week more than 300 meals were given to North Shore Hospital, mentioning his foundation is providing donations to churches and others.

Clara Salas – In attendance

Board Member Clara Salas thanked New Life Fellowship Church, Queens Community House, Council Member Francisco Moya, Assembly Member Catalina Cruz, and Senator Jessica Ramos for helping the community with food distribution in the Community Board 4 area.

Dewan Tarek – In attendance

Board Member Dewan Tarek thanked the Board for conducting virtual meetings although noting his preference for in person meetings.

The most recent food bank hosted by Catholic Charities Brooklyn-Queens was Friday, May 15, at St. Bartholomew's Church serving groceries to approximately 1700 people. Unfortunately this Friday no food bank will be held in the CB 4 area due to Memorial Day weekend. However, the two nearest food pantries locations are St Teresa Church, 50-20 45 Avenue, Woodside and St. Mary's Winfield 70-31 48 Avenue, Woodside, NY. An email with this information will be sent to the Board for distribution.

Next, he spoke about decrees imposed by the elected officials on social distancing restrictions. With regard to the crime statistics reported by the 110 Precinct and the increase in domestic violence, child abuse correlating with the increased stay at home orders bordering on house arrest. He mentioned the increase in homicides petty/grand larceny as well as suicide. In addition, he said to take into consideration how much damage is being done short term and how much blowback this will have.

In addition, he spoke about possible exemptions on property taxes. Activists and community groups have proposed rent striking while simultaneously receiving unemployment as well as stimulus money, which is a slap in the face to property owners.

Property owners must continue to pay the property taxes as well as the banks to meet the mortgage and insurance obligations. Balance is needed for all, not just a select few to get through this crises.

Lynda Coral – In attendance

No comments or questions.

James Lisa – No response.

Matthew McElroy – In attendance

Board Member Matthew McElroy noted the challenging times.

Rovenia McGowan – No response

Alton Derrick Smith – No response

Marialena Giampino – No response

Sandra Munoz – In attendance

Board Member Sandra Munoz was in agreement virtual meetings are not the same as meeting in person, but it is second best.

Thanks was given to the Board for continuing to serve the community and thanked the elected officials Senator Jessica Ramos, And Assembly Member Catalina Cruz for outstanding service who are constantly seen on social media with their sleeves rolled up helping our community. Also, Board Member Dewan Tarek was given a Special Thank You for his involvement with Catholic Charities at St. Bartholomew's Church giving to the community. Although the church is empty and parishioners are not there, the Church continues to serve the community.

Next, Elmhurst is the epicenter of the coronavirus pandemic which is a disease of the poor that is killing mostly black and brown Americans. On her block, she has lost many neighbors to this disease. Our community is filled with many immigrants not getting the benefits that documented individuals receive. She teaches Sunday school and has many students whose parents do not have enough

and she would appreciate any information on services available in our community to disseminate to her group. Because they need it the most, parents are referred to community food pantries and other services.

A. Redd Sevilla – No response

Minwen Yang – In attendance

Every day, her office receives many calls about unemployment insurance application. They do assist many people on these applications. If you need help and live in the district, please contact Senator Toby Ann Stavisky's office. Also, she explained how the office works with the Department of Labor (DOL) addressing constituent issues.

If it's been a long time since you completed the application and it's still pending or denied and you have questions, contact Senator Stavisky's office if you live in the district.

Assistance will be provided. Leave a voicemail and your call will be returned.

Alexa Ponce – In attendance

No Report

Kristen Gonzalez – No response

Sylvia Martin – No response

Pat Martin – No response

Cristian Romero – In attendance

Board Member Cristian Romero will give his report under the Legislator's segment for Congresswoman Grace Meng.

Marcello Testa – In attendance

No report

Lucy Cerezo-Scully – No response

Edgar Moya – In attendance

No report

Rupinder Raj – No response

Fernando Ruiz – No response

Salvador Lombardo – No response

Georgina Oliver – In attendance

No report

5. Report from Elected Officials

Chairperson Louis Walker called on the Legislators/Representatives for reports.

Senate

Charles E. Schumer

No report. Representative not present.

Kristen Gilibrand

No Report. Representative not present.

House of Representatives

Grace Meng

Board Member Cristian Romero reported the Congresswoman hopes everyone and their families are safe during the pandemic.

For homeowners, Congresswoman Meng completely agrees and on Thursday she voted on The Heroes Act, which includes, among other things, about \$200 million for Renters and Homeowners Assistance, Hazard Pay for frontline workers, funding for New York State, Protection for federal elections and the U. S. Postal Service. The Bill is now at the Senate, which they have to pass. The immigrant black/ brown communities are most affected by the virus, noting the virus affects anyone regardless of class, creed, color, religion, however, the minority communities was hit very hard.

Next, he reported the office receives many calls about unemployment insurance, however, since Congresswoman Meng serves at the Federal level this is not directly under her jurisdiction. Usually calls are referred to your State Senator, noting recently Congresswoman Meng put out a press release that the Internal Revenue Service established a special telephone number for taxpayers who have questions about their Coronavirus relief payments. If you have not received your Stimulus check/Economic Impact payment, call 800-919-9835. Mentioning there is a second round of payments included in the Heroes Act Bill that has passed the House, but waiting for Senate approval. Or call Board Member Cristian Romero at the Congresswoman's office for assistance.

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

Michelle Hernandez reported the next monthly Town Hall meeting is Thursday, May 21, 6:05 p.m., share a link in the chat box with the Zoom registration. The virtual Town Hall meeting will be via Zoom and will be joined by Assistant Commissioner at the Mayor's Office To End Domestic and Gender Based Violence as well as the Commissioner of the NYC Department of Sanitation and the COVID-19 food czar. There will be an opportunity for a Q & A during the Town Hall.

Next, she reported this past Friday the House voted on the Heroes Act, a \$30 trillion legislative package designed to provide financial relief to communities and families and includes \$175 billion geared toward renting and housing assistance, and funds to reduce incarceration and financial relief for immigrant communities.

The Congresswoman sends weekly COVID-19 newsletters, which are sent in English and Spanish, and includes resources and frequently asked questions and answers.

Next, she reported on the 2020 Census. East Elmhurst and Corona are reporting at 30% which is almost 30 points below the national average recognizing this is where the hardest hit neighborhoods are. She encouraged all to participate in the census. It is important to our communities. The census will play a huge role as we think about recovery and relief and resiliency plans moving forward.

The Congresswoman's office is open and tele-working receiving, accepting, and processing cases online via website or phone.

NYS Assembly

Brian Barnwell

No Report. Representative not in attendance.

Michael DenDekkar

No Report. Representative not in attendance.

Jeffrion Aubry

No Report. Representative not in attendance.

NYS Senate

Michael Gianaris

No Report. Representative not in attendance.

Jessica Ramos

No Report. Representative not in attendance.

Toby Ann Stavisky

No Report. Representative not in attendance.

Office of the Mayor

No Report. Representative not in attendance.

Daniel Dromm

Kelly Wu reported the Council Member sent his regards and hope everyone is well and staying healthy. If you have any questions or concerns call the district office at 718-803-1917. The office is offering legal services for general matters and immigration issues. Flexible hours are available until mid-June. Call the office for an appointment. Appointment hours are from Monday to Friday.

Also, the office receives many calls about unemployment insurance and those inquiries are sent directly to the Department of Labor.

Office of the Queens Borough President

No Report. Representative not in attendance.

NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer

James Mongeluzo reported all information presented will be put in the chat and requested the Board office disseminate information to Board Members and constituents.

The *COVID-19 Resource Guide* contains much information for homeowners, independent contractors, non-profits, seniors and small businesses. For tenants, there is specific information.

New updates have been added and it is available in traditional Chinese and Spanish as well as Bengali and French.

Furthermore, the Comptroller's Office announced a Newsletter which contains a message from the Comptroller as well as addressing other issues such as economic concerns New York City and the national economy will face. It also discusses revenue New York City will not collect compared to previous income. Summer youth programs were also included noting that Community Boards are concerned about the potential loss of the program and why it needs to be protected.

Next, he spoke about an initiative to get unclaimed wages to those that deserve them. Workers were cheated out of their pay because contractors on city funded projects did not pay the correct wages. Go to the Comptroller's website and search for your name. A link will be provided. \$2.5 million is available in unclaimed wages.

Moreover, the Comptroller's Office issued a Special Report on operations at the NYC Board of Elections. He noted the findings were not ideal.

The Board of Elections generally did not comply with Federal and State election laws on Election Day procedures. The report outlines those issues found.

District Manager Christian Cassagnol stated all reports and flyers will be distributed to Board Members and constituents.

NYC Public Advocate Jumaane Williams

No Report.

Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz

No Report. Representative not in attendance.

At this point, Chair Louis Walker read the following excerpts from a statement received from the Queens Borough President's office:

- Virtual Queens Job Recruitment Fair, Wednesday, May 13
- Fresh Direct Operation 5-Borough Food Drive Continues Through July
- Queens Continues To Help Fuel The Frontlines
- IKEA donated thousands of household products to Queens's families distributing personal protective equipment across Queens
- Get Out The Count and Get Out The Vote Drive sponsored by the Queens Borough President's office regarding the Census and upcoming election.
- Community Board appointments will be made at the end of May.

6. Committee Reports

Census

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

Consumer Affairs

Committee Chair Alexandra Owens reported the next Consumer Affairs meeting date had not been set. However, on Thursday, May 21, 2020, the first food pantry will be held to benefit local community members who've lost their jobs. Ramadan Halal Meal and Food Distribution will start at 4 p.m. -- 6 p.m.

At this point, District Manager Christian Cassagnol reported the Board is conducting virtual committee meetings and still doing all we would normally do.

Also, it was brought to his attention about a month ago there are not enough Halal meals being distributed in observance of Ramadan. Assembly Member Catalina Cruz will distribute Halal meals and it is important to also distribute meals in our area. Food distribution will be at St. James Episcopal Church, 84-07 Broadway, Elmhurst, NY from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Since this is the Board's first time doing an event such as this, we are seeking volunteers. If all goes well, we may continue this on a more permanent basis. Six hundred canned goods will also be given out. If you are a community board member or anyone from the public would like to volunteer, join us. Please e-mail the Board office at qn04@cb.nyc.gov immediately.

Before the event, there is a half an hour of breakdown as well as an hour before starting. Please call before you come because there may be too many volunteers on hand. The NYPD will be present and social distancing rules will be observed. A copy of not only this flyer but also other materials that was discussed at this meeting will be sent.

Committee Chair Alexandra Owens added this area is the most diverse in the country and there are many unique challenges. Between the multiple religions such as Buddhist, Muslim, and Christian this is an opportunity to meet those needs when it comes to food pantries because those needs are not being addressed. Not only does this provide a unique opportunity to serve that population but also to ensure that population is taken care of.

District Manager Cassagnol added while we will be providing our own PPEs, Congresswoman Grace Meng also will be donating PPEs for the volunteers. Special Thank You was extended to Congresswoman Meng.

Before concluding, he asked volunteers to please pre-register if you would like to join. The event will be about four hours and if you get turned down it does not mean that your help is not wanted. It's just that it is not needed because it is a pretty small operation. But please know we do appreciate your offer to help.

Environmental

Committee Chair Oscar Rios reported we made great strides with the City's ban on plastic bags starting in March. Unfortunately, COVID-19 hit and everything was pushed back, possibly to May 16. We were fighting hard for a long time to ban plastic bags and when it became effective in March, everything was put on hold.

Health

Committee Chair Ashley Reed reported a meeting is scheduled and thanked all the Board Members who have been out and active. There is a lot of mutual aid supports happening right now. She encouraged all to continue to reach out and check on your neighbors because people are suffering in silence. Please continue to be vigilant.

Parks

Committee Chair Gregory Spock reported Thursday, May 21, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. a Virtual Memorial Day Observance Ceremony will be held. Since we are actively involved in the Veterans Memorial in Elmhurst Park, he asked the District Manager for more details on this event.

Also, he is Vice Chair of the Flushing Meadows-Corona Park Community Advisory Board and they will meet on Wednesday, May 27 at 7:00 p.m. All were urged to attend.

Next, He spoke about the cuts in city's budget for parks, which are so vital. As the weather is getting nicer, new ways need to be created for social distancing. Flushing Meadows-Corona Park is one of the parks we need to conserve and to assist the Alliance in fundraising to serve the community and its needs.

Transportation
No Report.

Public Safety & Homeland Security

Committee Chair Lucy Schilero reported a quorum was present at the May 12 committee meeting via phone conference. She explained the CERT Team volunteers their time and does not receive compensation for all the work they do. When the shutdown occurred in March, they were distributing boxes weighing 25 to 30 pounds from large delivery trucks or airports going into other vehicles spread out throughout Queens. She was very proud of the team as it was a very big and heavy job.

For those over ages 55-60, the NYPD provided a number to call or do a survey online to reach out to hotels and hostels for housing the homeless as they may have to be quarantined because of exposure to COVID-19.

Next, she spoke about the Buddy system which is reaching out to neighbors and neighbors reaching out to neighbors, Family and friends. Many people are very proud and do not want to ask for help even if they have no food, but it is imperative they stay healthy.

The whole purpose of this is to stay connected adding the practice has been very successful.

Public Safety Chair Lucy Schilero had been referring people to Assembly Member Catalina Cruz's office for help.

Next, for those who are victims she reported Safe Horizon spoke to the Committee about human trafficking. Much was brought up at the meeting about domestic violence.

Committee Chair Lucy Schilero had reached out to Ladder Company 138 on 97 Street & 43 Avenue to find out how they were coping with the COVID-19 pandemic. The fire company reported 15 members came down with the virus and they are all back working at the fire house.

Also she reported the Fire Dept. is busy with overloaded power surges and people leaving things on top of the stove causing fires.

The 110 Precinct had in late March 30 officers out sick and 12 were diagnosed with COVID-19 who have since recovered and are back at the Precinct. At this time, they have enough PPE's, but if you would like to donate more they would be grateful. The Board was thanked by the 110 Precinct for the paint supplied to keep up with the graffiti cleanup.

Public Safety Chair Lucy Schilero had asked about the new guidelines under the shutdown for nightclubs, restaurants, grocery stores, and parks. No summonses were given out. The majority of our businesses and parks have been 100% compliant to the shutdown rules.

Furthermore, officers are educating people on the street and by train stops about social distancing and wearing face masks. The 110 Precinct is also looking into 311 calls for non-compliance especially overcrowding.

In conclusion, stores that are closed for a long time have been burglarized as well as homes, trucks and vans. The anti-crime unit is working the early morning shift, from 1 a.m. to 5 a.m., and is very active. In regard to the homeless, there was a meeting with the MTA, Breaking Ground, and St. James Church to come up with a plan to assist the homeless, specifically looking at the areas of Roosevelt Avenue and Broadway.

As far as liquor license applications, Vanity located at 77-14 Queens Blvd., had problems in the past, but much less than they usually had. A letter was sent to the SLA that they are working on those problems and hopefully will resolve them.

ULURP & Zoning

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

Youth Services

Chair Alexa Ponce reported CB4's Youth Fair has been officially cancelled because of the pandemic.

At this time, another date has not been planned. An e-mail was sent to the Board members for suggestions or concerns on any future projects.

At this point, Council Member Francisco Moya thanked the Board for its work during these difficult times and reported zip codes 11368 and 11369 have the most COVID-19 deaths, which shows the economic disparity in our community. All have been impacted by the pandemic. To see the suffering, it is critical we get the Administration to see the inequality that we face. Zip codes in the financial district or Battery Park had zero deaths, showing a big racial disparity. Ours is a working class community with many undocumented immigrants and small business owners who are suffering. For the Latino and African Americans percentages of people that could actually stay home and telecommute were: Latinos .16% and African Americans 24%. The majority of those work in the hospitality or service industry. They are the ones delivering food to our homes, manning the cash registers, and stocking the aisles in our supermarkets.

An emergency burial fund would alleviate much of the pain families are going through. The program through HRA provides \$900 burial assistance and does not provide for cremation. Also, a social security number is needed. The cost for a funeral is more than \$900.

If you are not working and cannot pay rent, how can one afford funeral expenses and wait for the reimbursement later, he questioned.

Speaking with the Mayor on the need to expand, he and Speaker Corey Johnson said legislation was needed to meet the hardship. Over \$25 million of emergency funding is now open to all New Yorkers that have suffered from COVID-19 deaths, no matter your status you can apply.

There will be a list of community based organizations that will help administer the applications for the fund not only for burial costs but also for cremation. The allotment is now up to \$3,500 which would help any family in need of assistance. We are very excited this is about to roll out. In addition, those having trouble paying their rent can reach out and assistance will be given through this fund.

For restaurants and small business owners, legislation was passed regarding the third party apps such as Grub Hub that were charging up to 30% for their services. They were charging for delivery when they did not have anyone delivering the food. The restaurant was giving the service.

Other expenses charged were processing fees and telephone calls. \$9 was charged for a phone call that was less than two minutes. This is outrageous that a provider can do this during emergency times when small businesses are suffering. Now, fees are capped so that restaurants cannot be charged more than 15% and they cannot be charged for phone calls if an order is not placed.

Furthermore, loans are also being offered to small businesses with zero interest.

Next, Council Member Moya commented on the long lines at the food pantries. He noted six food pantries in his council district. The need to expand the food pantries in this district is essential. He and Speaker Corey Johnson announced \$25 million in emergency food relief to all City food pantries geared to our community. Food banks were completely overrun and shipments were not coming in.

Anyone interested in delivering food, please contact Council Member Moya's office.

Pallets for boxed meals are on hand especially for seniors. Many seniors cannot leave their homes. One box of food is enough for three days and will the program continue.

The Council Member's office is operating remotely. A virtual Town Hall is scheduled for tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. with the Commissioner of Consumer Affairs.

Likewise, seniors have been receiving scam phone calls about COVID-19 and price gouging in our community which cannot be tolerated.

All were urged to join tomorrow's virtual Town Hall meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Council Member Moya spoke about a live TeleMundo Town Hall that dealt with mental health issues. Many people in our community, especially in the Latino community do not have access to mental health services. Now there is the capacity to reach a broader audience in our community who need help.

In conclusion, he reported criminal activity does not stop. He noted the gang activity in the district, especially gang tags citing the underpass of the Long Island Railroad. We want our streets clean and to protect our community, he stated. We will fight to maintain our community and to keep it safe from being defaced.

At this point, Assembly Member Catalina Cruz reported from the first day the Governor declared an emergency, Assembly Member Cruz's office was turned into a food pantry where approximately 2,000 meals were served per day, equaling 70,000 meals acquired through donations and partnerships with non-profits. Neighborhood restaurants have also helped out.

Assembly Member Cruz spoke about an event outside the district where 250 Muslim families were provided with food. Vegetarian meals were given out to ensure all residents' needs were met during Ramadan. One more event is planned.

Donations were received from around the country which were given to nonprofits as well as hospitals that included not only facemasks but also shields and other items.

Next, Assembly Member Cruz spoke about the Dignified Burial Act which provides people with burial money regardless of immigration status.

Reporting on tax incentives for businesses, she stated money is available to those who have lost their jobs. Her office has helped many constituents apply for unemployment insurance which is a very difficult process. So far, 200 people have been helped and there are many local businesses who could use tax incentives to hire local people.

Another piece of legislation that was introduced would give up to two years of tax credits for businesses to hire workers who have lost their jobs because of COVID-19. Hired workers must live within 50 miles of the location to keep the process local.

Additionally, legislation was introduced that would help small businesses who have had a difficult time during COVID-19 renegotiate or end their lease and do business elsewhere.

Assembly Member Cruz was optimistic the legislative process would reopen in the next week or two. But in the meantime, virtual meetings are held.

A Special Thank You was given to the 110 Precinct who has done a fantastic job responding to emergencies, crowd control and donating food to the Assembly Member's office. Twice a week the Precinct has delivered baby products as well as food to her office.

The new Commanding Officer as well as the community officers were also thanked.

Moreover, Assembly Member Cruz spoke about a series of Town Hall meetings, usually about an hour, to provide information on specific issues related to COVID-19. Last week, health care was presented where a representative from Elmhurst Hospital was a guest. Another one had a representative speak on landlord/tenant issues and guests from NHS and legal services were available. An upcoming meeting will talk about workplace issues and the Commissioner of Small Business Services will talk about small businesses and the issues they face.

Assembly Member Cruz's phone lines are open and they have helped hundreds of constituents with their concerns and needs. Open Monday through Saturday from 12:30 – 3:30 p.m. If anyone needs assistance, even living outside the district, call the Assembly Member's office.

Healthy meals are provided every day along with other donations such as rice, beans, and canned foods. Every Wednesday, there is a farmer's market truck providing healthy vegetables. By appointment only, food deliveries can be arranged mentioning emergency deliveries to homebound seniors.

Assembly Member Catalina Cruz urged all to call her office for assistance, they are there to help. Working very closely with the parents and the community to ensure everyone's requirements are met whether it's a computer, or a laptop. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic struck, her office was open distributing food before the schools to give out food and they will continue to be open as long as people need it.

Call the Assemblywoman Cruz's office if you have any concerns and her team will assist.

Before concluding, Assembly Member Catalina Cruz expressed condolences to those who lost friends and loved ones during the pandemic.

6. Open Session #2 (Community Board Member Only Comment Period)

Chairperson Walker felt this segment was redundant of Open Session #1 and did not open the floor.

There being no further Board business, Board Chair Louis Walker adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.