

**Sharon Lee** Acting Borough President

# **COMMUNITY BOARD #4Q**

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, Elmhurst, and Newtown

46-11 104th Street

Corona, New York

11368-2882

Telephone: 718-760-3141 Fax: 718-760-5971

E-mail: qn04@cb.nyc.gov

Louis Walker Chairperson

Christian Cassagnol
District Manager

November 10, 2020

# **PUBLIC HEARING**

# **Board Members Attending:**

Chaio-Chung Chen Georgina Oliver David Chong Alexandra Owens Lynda Coral Alexa Ponce Lorena Diaz Ashley Reed Michelle Dunston Oscar Rios Aridia Espinal Cristian Romero Marialena Giampino Clara Salas Carol Machulski Lucy Schilero Sunil Mahat A. Redd Sevilla Patricia Martin Alton Derrick Smith Matthew McElroy Gregory Spock Rovenia McGowan Marcello Testa Sandra Munoz Minwen Yang

## ATTENDING:

Christian Cassagnol, CB4 District Manager
Margaret Silletti, CB4 Community Coordinator
Christina Long, CB4 Community Assistant
Cristian Romero, Congresswoman Grace Meng's Office
Michelle Hernandez, Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's Office
Alexandra Owens, Assembly Member Catalina Cruz's Office
Jessica Schabowski, NYC Mayor's Office
Berenice Navarrete-Perez, Council Member Francisco Moya's Office
Kelly Wu, Council Member Daniel Dromm's Office
Joe Nocerino, Office of the Queens Borough President
James Mongeluzo, NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer's Office

#### **PUBLIC HEARING**

DATE: Tuesday, November 10, 2020

TIME: 6:30 P.M.

**PLACE: Online Via Webex** 

# <u>Subject:</u> FY2022 Capital and Expense Priorities For Consideration And Approval By The Board For The FY2022 Budget Adoption Process

First Vice Chair Marialena Giampino opened the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Before the start of the meeting, District Manager Christian Cassagnol reported Chair Louis Walker will be present for the second half of the meeting.

During the interval, District Manager Christian Cassagnol thanked the Board's Committee Chairs for their participation in the FY2022 Needs Statement.

Subsequently, District Manager Christian Cassagnol reported not much testimony was received. Although some Board Members had corrections, specifically, Committee Chairs Alton Derrick Smith/ULURP & Zoning, Lucy Schilero/Public Safety and Alexandra Owens/Consumer Affairs. Afterwards, District Manager Cassagnol will read testimony from Board Members and members of the public. He shared his screen/files so that the Board Members could see the Needs Statement.

Correction Item 1: Other expense commercial district revitalization, Item #32 – Expense Priorities

Need: Commercial district revitalization

Economic Development Section was left blank in error. It will now read:

Explanation: As small businesses begin to reopen post COVID, they will need to re-evaluate how to conduct business while adhering to new public health measures. For many of them, converting to digital advertising and shipping will be anything but avoidable. Many of the small businesses in our district have been in existence for decades and were able to survive under the old model, however due to a variety in language barriers and technological competencies, many business owners may need training to learn new marketing techniques in how to continue operating through a second wave and post pandemic.

He further explained other changes/edits requested by the Committee Chairs.

Next, he read the following statement submitted by Board Member Chaio-Chung Chen:

- 1. Based on 110 Precinct's 250 police officers plus civilians, the 40 parking spaces is a minimum. Three shifts, if every shift is 80 persons, half of them driving, then we need 40 spaces for parking, at least, to release neighborhood parking pressures.)
- 2. This 70 years old present building is really quite too small to accommodate so many personnel. Since 1988, NYPD has been looking for land inside Elmhurst to relocate 110 Precinct, but till now, to no avail. Therefore, I suggest we use the same area to build a 10 stories high new one to replace the present.
- 3. Help to release the unlawful commercial parking pressure, we could:
- A. Remove the lax laws with the strict ones by increasing the costs of summons
- B. Rewarding the officers who issued the tickets with certain percentage of fines."

Subsequently, District Manager Christian Cassagnol read testimony from Board Member Dewan Tarek:

Dear Sir/Madam:

"Thank you for taking the time and effort to compose this. I will keep this as brief as possible. I am certain that I do not need to remind our fellow board members and public servants about the budget shortfall Albany is up against for New York State and certainly, the immense decrease in revenues caused by the mass exodus of tax payers from NYC to other states, coupled with loss of revenue from retail and dining out, systematically structured by overzealous city officials and overt violations of our basic constitutional rights by City Hall. In short, public services are exactly at what they would be given the forced decrease in tax revenue. I ask for all of you, specially my fellow Americans, to look deep inside and dig in, it goes without saying, Austerity is ahead of us. The days of unlimited public services, broad social services, welfare, and public benefits are in the rear view mirror.

Perspective, constructive planning, prioritizing of basic safety and maintenance of law and order might be something to think about. I ask that we all think long and hard about what kind of neighborhood we'd like to live in. Either we keep pushing hard working tax payers to flee to the south and mid-west for better tax rates or we continue to raise taxes on the remaining tax payers to subside the lifestyles of a few at the expense of the over taxed. I hope we all get to think about how we wish to proceed. I will pray for good health for all of you and our great nation,

Deepest Regards.

#### God Bless America"

Next, District Manager Cassagnol read the following testimony from Chanel Martinez:

Good evening. I am a constituent of Community Board 4 and a public Health professional. I am here to discuss food insecurity in our community and the need for expanded services. I operate food pantries across cancer clinics in New York City, including the clinic at Elmhurst Hospital. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, New Yorkers already struggled to provide enough food for their families on a consistent basis. 1.4 million New Yorkers frequented food pantries and soup kitchens, and 10.3% of Elmhurst and Corona residents were food insecure.

Throughout this pandemic, I have seen first-hand the rates of food insecurity increase and the lack of resources available to our community members. 74% of pantries have indicated an increase in the overall number of visitors compared to this time last year and many programs struggle to keep up with the demand. So, I was relieved to learn the city quickly recognized the need for food programs at the start of the pandemic and was able to roll out the meal delivery and Grab-and-Go programs.

The Grab-and Go program has been particularly important because when schools close, children, especially food-insecure children, lose access to these vital meals, and are expected to lose at least \$30 worth of food services a week. Families are left with the burden of finding additional food sources for their children, which can cause them to reprioritize other needs like medication, utilities and rent. School meal programs have been shown to effectively reduce rates of food insecurity for young children, improve school attendance rates, academic performance, and a reduction in behavioral issues.

The Statement of Needs put together by Community Board 4 highlights the need for resources for low-income New Yorkers, especially those hit hard by the pandemic. It references the food pantry lines in our community that stretch for blocks. The statement also addresses the need for youth programs, citing the importance as it relates to brain development and the demand for enhanced emergency protocol and funding.

So I am here today to ask the Board to expand their Statement of Needs to include the need for the city to develop a plan to ensure all s students receive meals in the event of school closure. It this is not feasible, I ask the Board to advocate on behalf of Int. 2057-2020. Int 2057-2020 is a Local Law that would require relevant city agencies to develop a plan that will ensure that students will have access to school meals during emergency situations that result in school closure. We need to guarantee that our youngest community members have uninterrupted access to school meals including breakfast, lunch and afterschool meals. Thank you for your time.

At this point, District Manager Cassagnol opened the floor to the Board members to type in questions in the Chat or raise their hand to be acknowledged.

Subsequently, the floor was turned back to First Vice Chair Marialena Giampino to continue the meeting and reiterated Board Members put questions in the chat.

Board Member Lucy Schilero agreed with Chanel Martinez's statement and commented we should do what we can to implement this request. She spoke about a precinct in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park. We do have the mobile unit which will add as many police as possible, however, she did not want the request to detract from our main goal which is to renovate/gut the 110 Police Precinct at its present site.

District Manager Cassagnol reassured Board Member Lucy Schilero that it is not the case if we get one we will not get the other. The Board had been continually requesting renovation of the 110 Police Precinct since 1988.

The Public Hearing was concluded at 6:50 p.m. commence at 7:00 p.m.	A short recess was taken and it was announced the Community Board meeting will

## **COMMUNITY BOARD ATTENDANCE**

Board Members Attending:

Chaio-Chung Chen Georgina Oliver David Chong Alexandra Owens Lynda Coral Alexa Ponce Lorena Diaz Ashley Reed Oscar Rios Michelle Dunston Aridia Espinal Cristian Romero Marialena Giampino Clara Salas Carol Machulski Lucy Schilero Sunil Mahat A. Redd Sevilla Patricia Martin Alton Derrick Smith Gregory Spock Matthew McElroy Rovenia McGowan Marcello Testa Louis Walker Sandra Munoz Minwen Yang

**Board Members Absent:** 

Lucy Cerezo-Scully Ruby Muhammad Gurdip Singh Narula Andy Chen Kristen Gonzalez Rupinder Raj Vincent Laucella Neil Roman James Lisa Fernando Ruiz Salvatore Lombardo Dewan Tarek Sylvia Martin Izaida Valcarcel Edgar Moya Rosa Wong

#### ATTENDING:

Christian Cassagnol, CB4 District Manager
Margaret Silletti, CB4 Community Coordinator
Christina Long, CB4 Community Assistant
Cristian Romero, Congresswoman Grace Meng's Office
Michelle Hernandez. Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's Office
Alexandra Owens, Assembly Member Catalina Cruz's Office
Jessica Schabowski, NYC Mayor's Office
Berenice Navarrete-Perez, Council Member Francisco Moya's Office
Kelly Wu, Council Member Daniel Dromm's Office
Joe Nocerino, Office of the Queens Borough President
James Mongeluzo, NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer's Office

Correction: Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula was present at the October 13, 2020 Board Meeting. He was inadvertently marked absent.

NOTE: During the Board's virtual meetings, it may be difficult to determine Board members or legislator representatives or guests who were present if they were not actively engaged or participating in the dialogue or visually seen. Please notify the Board office if you were an attendee at any meeting and not marked present.

#### COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, November 10, 2020

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

**PLACE: Online Via Webex** 

#### 1. Call To Order

First Vice Chair Marialena Giampino called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

#### 2. Chairperson's Report

First Vice Chair Marialena Giampino reported Chair Louis Walker was not presently in attendance and turned the floor over to the District Manager for his report.

# 3. District Manager's Report

District Manager Christian Cassagnol presented his report via screen share. He read a statement from Sunitra Malhotra, Outreach Coordinator WIC:

WIC is a program of the New York State Dept. of Health funded by the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture. PHS WIC program is the largest in NY State. We have nine conveniently located centers in Queens, Brooklyn, and the Bronx. Our centers are a one stop shop with Food Stamp enroller, and Health Insurance Navigator who are also providing services remotely. I have attached our WIC flyer with locations and contact information.

Our Supplemental Nutrition Program For Women, Infant and Children (WIC) continues to be of service to the families in need, by providing nutritious foods. Breastfeeding support, and critical referrals remotely serving more than 30,000 low-income women, infants and children annually Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For new client's, sites are open 3-4 days a week with appointment.

At WIC visits, participants are screened for a variety of health issues including: obesity, nutrition deficiency, smoking, alcohol use, and intimate partner violence and immunization status.

Neighborhood WIC also has a dedicated breastfeeding support program staffed by full time peer counselors who provide remote support and counseling, free Breastfeeding pumps and breastfeeding aids to moms who need them, and are available by phone for additional care. We are also part of an electronic referral system "Unite NYC" and so can help connect our clients with live low cost or free services through this platform.

The American Journal of Public Health, The Journal of Nutrition and The Journal of the American Medical Association, has found WIC to be a cost effective investment that improves the nutrition and health of low income families.

We are profound to be working with you and other community partners and we ask that you continue to refer your clients to our WIC centers as the best way to reach WIC eligible families is by partnering with Community organizations like yours.

For any questions or for a WIC 101 presentation, please reach Sunita Malhotra, the WIC Outreach Coordinator at 646-619-6648.

Next, he read a statement from Maroua Righi, Outreach Coordinator of the CCRB:

The Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) is a City agency, independent from the New York Police Department that investigates and mediates complaints against NYPD officers in a neutral and unbiased manner. The CCRB investigates allegations of excessive force, abuse of authority, discourtesy and offensive language.

We are excited to announce that the CCRB's Youth Advisory Council application is now open! Youth (10-18) can apply to join the 2021 class

The Youth Advisory Council (YAC) is a group of young New Yorkers who counsel the CCRB and have found innovative ways to bring young New Yorkers into the narrative about civilian oversight of the NYPD. In June, tandem with the agency's release of a report on youth and the NYPD, the CCRB released a youth focused public service announcement. In 2019, the YAC planned, "Speak Up, Speak Out: A Youth Summit on Policing in New York City", the CCRB's first ever full-day conference focused on the relationship between young New Yorkers and the NYPD.

To learn more about YAC visit nyc.gov/ccrbyouthcouncil".

Next, he read a request from George Onuorah former CB4 Board Member and Lefrak City resident. Dear DM Christian and Chairman Walker:

Thank you both for responding back concerning my request Re: Jim Galloway. Chairman Walker I salute you for your decades of service for our community and CB4. Thank you immensely.

The request I wanted to make during the Public Forum is simple. Just a few minutes to request from Members of your Board to join me, many in our community of Lefrak City and Corona in giving due consideration to co-naming 57 Avenue or part of the surrounding street or avenue in honor of Jim Galloway.

As many of us know, Mr. Galloway played many pivotal roles to make our community a better place. His long list of selfless service run an entire gamut. His impact range from organizing children programs, After School Program, Senior Program-Margie Riley Memorial, Children Holiday Toy Drives, Christmas Spectacular Trips to Rockefeller Center with kids, Lefrak City Tenants League, Lefrak City Merchant Association, President LCTA, Member of the 110 Pct. Community Council and attended meetings religiously until his health began to decline.

His presence at Community Board Meetings was undeniable as he sought to lend his voice on conversation to make our community better.

Therefore not surprising, Corona Lions Club bestowed to late Mr. Jim Galloway with Justice Philip J. Chetta Community Service Award last year, a testament to his contribution to this community and Corona.

The Annual Lefrak City Children Halloween Parade which he championed for years did not happen this year because he was not with us to organize it. Unfortunately, my last minute attempt with Ms. Michelle Dunston and Ms. Sylvia Martin to quickly put one together proved abortive. Navigating the challenges of COVID-19 did not make it any easier for us. But God willing, I hope we can activate that wonderful program for the kids in our community next year and moving forward.

Please I plan with your advice and guidance to make this co-naming in memory of Mr. Jim Galloway a reality. Many have approached me asking how we can keep the legacy of this selfless leader and organizer in our community to last through posterity. Now you know why I choose to come before you with this request. With your support, we can give due to this man whose dues are due: Posterity will never forget us for standing up for what is right.

All things being equal, I want to express my profound gratitude to those of you still serving our community. We appreciate you. Serving our community is a civic duty we must embrace and not shrink from it.

Accordingly, District Manager Cassagnol explained the process for a street co-naming. Specifically, a biography of Mr. Galloway is needed and the request sent to the City Council.

Next, District Manager Christian Cassagnol read the following from Janine-Marie Rafio from Share Main Street Relief: Main Street Relief is focused on helping small businesses across the US navigate through uncertain times created by the COVID-19 pandemic. We work to match small businesses in need with qualified volunteers who have marketing, finance, operations, and legal backgrounds to provide free one-on-one on topics such as understanding and applying for federal funding programs, financial planning, business operation pivots, e-commerce campaigns and more.

To find out more information, contact Janine-Marie Rafio at <a href="mailto:jmrafio@gmail.com">jmrafio@gmail.com</a>.

Meanwhile, he reported on upcoming events conducted by NHS. Flyers will be sent out.

Next, he reported the Corona Community Ambulance Corps will honor veterans tomorrow (Veterans Day). All were urged to attend the free community barbeque, between 12 Noon and 2:00 p.m., at the Corona Ambulance site at 104-38 47 Avenue. The event is sponsored by the Al Perna Foundation for Kids, the Corona Community Ambulance Corps., and the 110 Precinct Council.

Finally, he reported the Mural Project had ended. Working with the NYPD to identify locations where graffiti is rampant, a solution was needed. The problem was graffiti is covered by the precinct with paint allocated by local community groups as well as the Community Board. However, this provides a canvas for more graffiti. In an ongoing effort to combat this problem, the Board worked with local businesses and our elected officials to identify locations. We had put out a full casting call to several artists, noting the project would be funded by the Community Board, Council Member Daniel Dromm and Assembly Member Catalina Cruz. After two months, there were three viable entries. Voting was done via Facebook and one winner had been declared. The only requisite for the contest was Elmhurst Strong and established in 1652 had to be included in the entry. Several sites for the mural have been identified, which local businesses had agreed to. Congratulations were sent to the winner Daisy Mendoza for the Elmhurst project.

#### 4. Open Session #1 – Public Forum

First Vice Chair Marialena Giampino explained this segment is for comments, questions and concerns and does not pertain to the Public Hearing on the FY 2022 Capital and Expense Priorities.

The following Board Members were called:

Lucy Cerezo-Scully – Not in attendance

Chaio-Chung Chen – Commented on citizen safety and expressed the need for more plain clothes officers on subway platforms and cited a recent case about a young lady who was raped in public. We are becoming a national disgrace, he said.

Andy Chen – Not in attendance

David Chong - No comment

Lynda Coral - No comment

Lorena Diaz – Spoke about starting a Veteran's Outreach Program.

District Manager Christian Cassagnol pointed out CB4 does not have an actual committee that handles veteran affairs. However, it was discussed about establishing a veterans committee or sub-committee to handle veteran's affairs and noted there are veterans serving on CB4.

Michelle Dunston - Commented it was a good idea to establish a veterans committee and they are appreciated.

Aridia Espinal – No comment

Kristen Gonzalez - Not in attendance

Vincent Laucella - Not in attendance

James Lisa - Not in attendance

Salvatore Lombardo - Not in attendance

Carol Machulski – commented on the 110 Precinct. Instead of an underground parking garage, an overhead garage be constructed. She spoke about the infrastructure and the age of the building and questioned whether it would support an additional floor or two. She inquired if this has ever been recommended.

First Vice Chair Marialena Giampino said this question would be addressed later on in the meeting.

Sunil Mahat – A veteran himself spoke about the many veterans in Queens and CB4 and expressed the need for establishing a veterans committee within Community Board 4. If you see a veteran, thank him/her for their service.

Patricia Martin - Not in attendance

Sylvia Martin – Not in attendance

Matthew McElroy - No Comment

Rovenia McGowan – commented on the underpass at Junction Blvd and the Horace Harding Expressway that the street is filthy and needs to be cleaned.

There is a fruit stand on the underpass of Junction Blvd. and the Horace Harding Expressway and it is filthy.

Rats were seen at the BP gas station across the street on Calloway & 99 Street.

Post Office - When the regular mail carrier is off, mail is strewn all over the mail room and hallway in her building and at times the carrier forgets to close the resident's mailboxes.

Double parking on 57 Avenue & 108 Street e/w in the bike lanes, which are disregarded.

The overpass on 99 Street and the Horace Harding Expressway needs to be cleaned.

Edgar Moya - Not in attendance

Ruby Muhammad - Not in attendance

Sandra Munoz – commented on the issue of domestic violence. Women are being killed by their partners. As an attorney with the Family Justice Center and Safe Horizon, she noted there is an increase in domestic violence cases. If you do not wish to report the case directly to the police, reach out to Family Justice Center or to Safe Horizon. More details were given on how to proceed.

Gurdip Singh Narula – Not In attendance

Georgina Oliver – No comment

Alexandra Owens – No comment

Alexa Ponce – Not in attendance

Rupinder Raj – Not in attendance

Ashley Reed - No comment

Oscar Rios - No comment

Neil Roman – Not in attendance

Cristian Romero – No comment

Fernando Ruiz – Not in attendance

Clara Salas - No comment

Lucy Schilero – No comment

A. Redd Sevilla – expressed appreciation to District Manager Christian Cassagnol for his work with the mural in obtaining public art for Elmhurst.

Thank You to Parks Chair Gregory Spock for his update on Flushing Meadows-Corona Park. A Special Thank You to the poll workers in Elmhurst and Corona. With all the controversy, nothing was said about the long shifts put in by the poll workers. Lastly, please do not forget the homeless in our community on Thanksgiving citing the number of encampments that have risen in the neighborhood.

Alton Derrick Smith – Recognized the Veterans for their service.

Gregory Spock – reported he and the District Manager will conduct a walk-thru tomorrow with Breaking Ground to understand the needs of the homeless and to start addressing it. This situation has been ignored by city officials and chastised by people who do not understand what it means to be homeless.

He mentioned three street locations where recently there was a scope meeting for one on the redesign. Locations were brought to the attention of the Transportation Committee:

The Manuel de Dios Triangle on Baxter Avenue – He explained the plan does not address the jaywalking across Baxter Avenue and provided details. The whole intersection needs to be redesigned.

41 Avenue behind Elmhurst Hospital – More urgency is needed as it is a problematic location and provided details.

Judge Street & Whitney Avenue – With the park and school, safer crosswalks/traffic light are needed.

Dewan Tarek - Not in attendance

Marcello Testa - No comment

Izaida Valcarcel - Not in attendance

Rosa Wong – Not in attendance

Minwen Yang – No response

#### 5. Reports from Elected Officials

First Vice Chair Marialena Giampino called for Senate legislator reports. Since there were none, she called for legislator reports from the House of Representatives:

#### **Grace Meng**

Board Member Cristian Romero reported the House of Representatives passed the Heroes 2.0 packet which included \$2.2 trillion in support for American families and businesses. It included: a second stimulus check, restoring the pandemic unemployment benefits for the \$600 per week, and increase SNAP benefits by 15% and relief for restaurants etc. Unfortunately, the Bill is stalled in the Senate which has not made any progress to pass it.

Next, he reported on the food pantries in the community citing they were cut off from their funding. It happened because a critical U.S. Department of Agriculture program that had been providing food from farms to pantries during COVID due to an unexplained program change vendors that supplied food to Queens were cut out, leaving community pantries without food. Also kosher pantries could no longer use these programs.

Congresswoman Meng worked closely with the city. Earlier this month, the USDA started a new round of their program and reversed their policy that cut off the food pantries because of Congresswoman Meng's efforts. The Congresswoman will continue to work and monitor the situation to ensure that it does not occur again.

#### Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

Michelle Hernandez reported the Congresswoman is hosting a virtual Town Hall meeting Thursday, November 12, at 6:30 p.m. The registration link will be in the chat box and the meeting will also be on YouTube which she will share the link. If you would like to receive notifications of upcoming events, she will share links to sign up for the Newsletter in English and Spanish.

There was no legislative update on a new public stimulus package, however, Senator Charles Schumer is working on a deal before the end of the year.

Next, she reported on the public Banking Bill which would provide Federal charters for public lending banks to provide public banks a pathway to membership at the Federal Reserve. This would allow public banks more access to capital and loans.

Lastly, the office is handling Federal casework. Please phone the office or go on the website for assistance. Upcoming events will be shared in the chat box.

Contact the office with any questions or concerns.

#### 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.

#### Catalina Cruz

Board Member Alexandra Owens reported on their food distributions since March and ended a couple of weeks ago and cited how there were large number of donations in the beginning but during the pandemic those donation operations had decreased and operations had to wind down. Solutions are being sought to continue the donations in the neighborhood.

Over the past month, three community cleanups were held in Jackson Heights, Corona, and Elmhurst and noted Community Board 4 was a partner in those cleanups. A second series will be held sometime in the next month.

In the next couple of weeks, the Assemblywoman will be preparing for Thanksgiving activities. Look to social media for details. If anyone has any issues such as housing, unemployment, immigration etc. contact the office, by appointment only, call 718-458-5367.

Before concluding, she announced the Assemblywoman's office held a second immigration citizenship drive, which will be finished at the end of the week.

#### **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

#### **NYC Mayor's Office**

Jessica Schabowski reported on the opt in period for families to go from remote learning to blended learning is taking place now to November 15. Families can access schools.nyc.gov/returntoschool2020 which is the only opt-in period offered at this time in order to provide greater stability and programming for the school experience.

Next, she announced the Open Storefronts Initiative. Stores can use a portion of the sidewalk in front of their stores to display merchandise, sell goods, and complete transactions. The program began October 30 and will run until December 31. New Yorkers are encouraged to shop locally this holiday season and support small businesses.

Subsequently, she reported on the Vision Zero initiative. The city launched the fifth annual Dusk and Darkness Safety Campaign reminding motorists how dangerous fall and winter evenings are for pedestrians and cyclists.

Accordingly, motor vehicle passengers are required to wear seat belts regardless of their age if they are riding in the back seat. Lastly, she noted the COVID-19 case numbers are increasing, therefore, all were reminded to get a COVID-19 test, Go to nyc.gov/covidtest for nearby testing sites. Continue wearing masks and practice social distancing and do not travel outside of the state, if possible.

#### **NYC Council**

# Francisco Moya

Berenice Navarrete-Perez, Constituent Services Liaison, reported on a fall cleanup November 8 in collaboration with the Department of Sanitation, ACE, and the NYPD including neighboring community groups for a local triangle.

November 2 Council Member Moya hosted a food box distribution outside his office with the Met Council and distributed 400 food boxes to community members.

Upcoming events will be put in the chat.

She reported on Shred Day, Saturday, November 14, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Hinton Park - 34-02 114 Street. The event is free to the public. Five boxes minimum.

Plans are being finalized for an upcoming flu shot. Check social media for details and the Council Member's flyers.

Next she reported on the Sunday night movie series. A free screening presented by the Council Member, The Night Before Christmas playing on Sunday, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Visit rooftopfilms.com for more information.

Subsequently, she announced Council Member Moya has been distributing hot food to seniors with Kiesha's Catering along with Board Member Michelle Dunston and announced other food distributions this month partnering with local restaurants.

Throughout the month of November food will be distributed at Plaza del Sol.

Lastly, turkeys will be given out. More information to follow.

#### **Daniel Dromm**

Kelly Wu reported the Council Member's office is working remotely. If you have any questions or concerns, call or email the district office. Also, the office continues to provide legal services for general housing and immigration twice a month with a free 30 minute legal consultation. Call the office for an appointment. Immigration appointments will be taken for the upcoming Thursday, November 12; general appointments on November 19.

#### Office of the Queens Borough President

Joe Nocerino reported the Borough President is holding a virtual Diwali event with District Attorney Melinda Katz on November 12 at 6:00 p.m. Log onto the Borough President's website to access.

The previous Recruitment Fairs were very successful; another one will be held on November 18 at 2:00 p.m. Log on to the Borough President's website to participate.

Meanwhile, he has been looking into the mobile van, noting the van is funded by Queens DA Melinda Katz. An arrival time will be arranged.

#### **NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer**

James Mongeluzo presented the following updates:

The Comptroller's Office is calling for a restart of lagging capital improvement projects which means they are looking at many projects that have stopped due to the pandemic and should be restarted. In this way, it will help the city's overall economy during the pandemic. He will put the link into the chat.

Next, he spoke about the fiscal economic Newsletter which has been published since the early part of the pandemic. He will put the link into the chat. Click on the link and read the Newsletter mentioning on the right side there is a button titled subscribe. Click on it and enter your email to receive weekly updates on the economic fiscal conditions of the city. Every week a different topic is highlighted such as subway and bus ridership or the infection rate. Also economic and health indicators are listed.

Lastly, the Comptroller's Office is conducting a survey on work and family. Many people with children have to go back to work. There are some deadlines around the DOE whether to opt in or out of in person learning. This presents difficulty for those people who do not know their work situation yet. He urged all to complete the survey so that it can be as representative as possible. Random samplings are not being done. Complete the survey and send it to your network that the Board represents. Currently, responses are tilted toward the wealthier parts of the city, especially in Manhattan and the adjacent parts of the East River in Brooklyn. More representation in communities is needed away from the downtown and midtown parts of the city. Further understanding is needed for those who have to balance work and family in very uncertain times.

# **NYC Public Advocate Jumaane Williams**

No Report. Representative not in attendance.

At this point, Chairperson Louis Walker entered the meeting and announced the results of the Community Board 4 election:

Chairperson - Marialena Giampino

First Vice Chairperson - Ashley Reed

Second Vice Chairperson - Cristian Romero

Secretary – Dewan Tarek

Treasurer - Lucy Schilero

At Large Directors: Lynda Coral Gregory Spock Alexa Ponce Kristen Gonzalez

Before concluding, he noted he will chair the December 2020 Board meeting.

# 6. Committee Reports

#### Census

No Report. Committee Chair not in attendance.

#### Consumer Affairs

Committee Chair Alexandra Owens reported the Committee met last month on the Needs Statement and thanked the committee for their participation.

A marketing workshop on social media was held for small businesses and going forward to request funding in the Needs Statement. If funding is not granted, to have it as a project to work on to conduct a business needs assessment in the community board area. As COVID-19 has devastated many small businesses the committee wants to know how to best support those businesses and one of the best ways is through a needs assessment including what their needs are and how they can be successful and a thriving business.

#### Environmental

Committee Chair Oscar Rios will present a report at the next meeting.

#### Health

Committee Chair Ashley Reed thanked the committee for their participation in the Needs Statement. A meeting is planned the latter part of this month.

#### **Parks**

Committee Chair Gregory Spock thanked the committee for their participation in the Needs Statement and congratulated public members involved also. He stated the future of the Board is through its public members in our community. Commitment from Board Members is needed on committees but also committee members help is needed to recruit other people to get involved. The strength on what we can do for the parks is related to people using the parks.

This has been seen in larger parks such as Flushing Meadows-Corona Park to smaller parks like CC Moore Park.

The park on Broadway/81<sup>st</sup> /82 Street will be open Thursday, November 12. Through the constant efforts of himself and District Manager Christian Cassagnol information was obtained about the opening. However, there must be more transparency by the Parks officials to the Community Board.

A Community Advisory Board meeting for Flushing Meadows-Corona Park via Zoom is scheduled for Wednesday, November 18 at 7:00 p.m. All were encouraged to attend.

Lastly, he spoke about his follow-up letter and commented more transparency is needed from the Alliance. The Alliance is trying to distance itself from the community level. They want the Community Advisory Board not be advisory but more as a community

council, which is not acceptable. The public uses the park and should be telling the Alliance how to fund raise and what to fund raise for.

#### **Transportation**

Committee Chair Lynda Coral reported the committee met with DOT to discuss the proposed changes on Baxter Avenue and 82 Street through Gleane Street and shared a document in the chat. The document in the chat has a survey link which was sent out with the agenda. In the link, it is asked to review the documents from DOT regarding the proposed changes and to provide feedback. The feedback will be compiled and shared with DOT. She explained these are proposed changes and are still in the study phase and have not been finalized.

Committee Chair Lynda Coral explained the changes proposed in the documents. Most notably, traffic will no longer be able to make left turn from Roosevelt Avenue onto Gleane Street. Mailings were sent from the Board office to the residents on Gleane Street for feedback on the proposed changes since they will be the most impacted.

Next, she reported on the area around Elmhurst Hospital and 41 Avenue. The committee brought up 78/79/80 Streets on 41 Avenue to DOT and provided a small map when the committee met with representatives last month. The concerns were explained and although they were not ready to have the discussion, they would review it. The committee will monitor it and bring it up to the agency again. Updates have not been received on permits for the casino buses around Moore Park.

#### Public Safety

Committee Chair Lucy Schilero reported the committee met on November 4 on the 2022 Needs Statement followed by the monthly

The CERT Teams is on standby in light of a second wave of the coronavirus. Team members went to Brooklyn where an uptick was reported to distribute PPEs.

The Fire Department is concerned about the extended restaurants on Roosevelt Avenue and throughout the area who are placing plastic to get more people to come to the restaurant. During the winter, electric heaters are of interest because they can cause a fire.

This weekend is daylight savings time. When turning clocks back, remember to change the batteries in smoke detectors/carbon monoxide devices, noting there was an increase in carbon monoxide deaths in the city.

For the police report, she read two incidences that happened in the area.

Drugs and prostitution have risen during COVID-19 at Corona Plaza, 108 Street and at 41 Avenue & Junction Blvd. The Commander and the NCO officers are investigating and looking into how to combat the situation.

Non-compliance was a major problem: noise, no masks, and social distancing with the restaurants. A swing will be done to talk to the restaurants about following the guidelines. Summonses have been issued. Police will let her know how may summonses were issued.

Graffiti – most of it was gang related. She spoke about a \$500 reward given to those who report the graffiti, however, there is a long legal process involved and noted it would take some time for it to go into effect.

Illegal Vendors – 111 Street & 45 Avenue to 56 Avenue- Most have licenses to be vendors, but for health reasons they do not have the Department of Health licenses updated.

New Seat Belt Law - It is imperative that passengers wear seatbelts when riding in the backseat of a TLC car. Summonses will be issued.

At this point, Committee Chair Lucy Schilero presented the liquor license applications and noted all the applicants did attend the meeting. She conveyed to the applicants noise must be kept down, masks worn, and customers social distance. Applicants agreed. Strong letters will be sent to those applicants who do not follow the rules and are non-compliant.

The following liquor licenses were presented at the Public Safety committee meeting:

# NYS LIQUOR AUTHORITY LICENSES **NOVEMBER 2020**

# **NEW APPLICANTS**

**Establishment's Address Establishment's Name** License Type 76-02 Roosevelt Avenue Los Arrieros LLC Wine, Beer & Cider Jackson Heights, NY 11372

Ka Nom Wan Inc. 42-08 77 Street Wine, Beer & Cider

Elmhurst, NY

Spicy Tibet Inc. 75-04 Roosevelt Avenue Wine, Beer & Cider

Jackson Heights, NY

RENEWAL APPLICANTS

Establishment's Name Establishment's Address License Type\_\_\_\_

12 Corazones Restaurant Bar Corp. 86-22 Roosevelt Avenue Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

Jackson Heights, NY

**RENEWAL APPLICANTS (cont'd)** 

Establishment's Name Establishment's Address License Type

Pata Pa Plean Corp. 76-21 Woodside Avenue Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

Elmhurst, NY

**METHOD OF OPERATION CHANGE** 

Establishment's NameEstablishment's AddressLicense TypePico de Gallo Inc.82-12 Roosevelt AvenueLiquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

Jackson Heights, NY

**ALTERATION** 

Establishment's Name Establishment's Address License Type

Pico de Gallo Inc. 82-12 Roosevelt Avenue Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

Jackson Heights, NY

**CORPORATE CHANGE** 

Establishment's Name Establishment's Address License Type

Mexican Junction Restaurant Corp. 96-06 Roosevelt Avenue Beer & Cider

Corona, NY.

#### **ULURP & Zoning**

Committee Chair Alton Derrick Smith reported on a BSA application filed with the Board of Standards and Appeals regarding proposed changes to gas sale located at 82-11 Queens Boulevard for renewal of variance given in

1947. Since it was not extended in time, the BSA is requiring a new application. The owners of the gas station are looking to change it, not substantially, but to bring it up to date. More details will be presented next month. Application in the chat.

He commented it is an improvement because the gas station has been there for years

Committee Chair Alton Derrick Smith commented on efforts in progress to preserve the house at 88-28 43 Avenue, Elmhurst, and the African American burial ground.

#### Youth

Committee Chair Alexa Ponce reported a committee is scheduled Tuesday, November 17 at 7:00 p.m.

At this point, District Manager Christian Cassagnol explained to the Board the one change made to the FY2022 Needs Statement. He will announce the change and if any Board Members wants to comment on that change or any item you want to question, please do so. In the meantime, he shared his screen and showed the change that was requested by a member of the public. Board Members were asked to comment during Open Session #2 on the edit and if there are additional edits.

Proposed Edit: "Expand the Statement of Needs to include the city to develop a plan to ensure all students receive meals in the event of school closure."

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

First Vice Chair Marialena Giampino called on the following Board Members:

Chaio-Chung Chen – No comment. In favor of adding proposed amendment to the FY2022 budget.

David Chong – Inquired if the street co-naming for Jim Galloway would be voted on.

District Manager Christian Cassagnol suggested when the Board Member is called on he/she can comment on the budget in addition to the street co-naming. Although some Board members agreed to the street co-naming as the meeting progressed, it was determined that the street co-naming should go through committee first and brought to the Board again at the December meeting. And if the Board requests a biography of Mr. Galloway it would be provided beforehand. City Council street co-naming's are done at a specific time during the year and mentioned it would not be urgent if it was voted on this month or the following month. For those Board Members polled, the general consensus was for a biography of Mr. Galloway.

Board Member David Chong asked for more clarification on the vote.

District Manager Cassagnol explained the amendment has not been accepted and the vote taken is to add the amendment to the Needs Statement.

David Chong - In favor of adding the proposed amendment to the FY2022 Needs Statement.

Lynda Coral - In favor of adding the proposed amendment to the FY2022 Needs Statement

Lorena Diaz – In favor of adding the proposed amendment to the FY2022 Needs Statement

Michelle Dunston - In favor of adding the proposed amendment to the FY2022 Needs Statement

Aridia Espinal - In favor of adding the proposed amendment to the FY2022 Needs Statement

Marialena Giampino - In favor of adding the proposed amendment to the FY2022 Needs Statement

Salvatore Lombardo - Not in attendance

Carol Machulski – In favor of adding the proposed amendment to the FY2022 Needs Statement

Sunil Mahat - In favor of adding the proposed amendment to the FY2022 Needs Statement

Patricia Martin - Will comment in the chat

Matthew McElroy - In favor of adding the proposed amendment to the FY2022 Needs Statement

Rovenia McGowan – No response

Sandra Munoz – In favor of adding the proposed amendment to the FY2022 Needs Statement

Georgina Oliver - No response

Alexandra Owens - In favor of adding the proposed amendment to the FY2022 Needs Statement

Alex Ponce - In favor of adding the proposed amendment to the FY2022 Needs Statement

At this point, District Manager Christian Cassagnol announced after review of the Board's bylaws, it was announced that the street conaming would proceed through committee and brought up at the December Community Board meeting.

Ashley Reed – In favor of adding the proposed amendment to the FY2022 Needs Statement

Oscar Rios - In favor of adding the proposed amendment to the FY2022 Needs Statement

Cristian Romero - In favor of adding the proposed amendment to the FY2022 Needs Statement

Clara Salas - In favor or adding the proposed amendment to the FY2022 Needs Statement

Lucy Schilero – In favor of adding the proposed amendment to the FY2022 Needs Statement She also reported on building up for the 110 Precinct. This idea was discussed years ago and the Precinct would have to be gutted and built up. If funding is obtained, it is open for discussion.

A. Redd Sevilla – In favor of proposed amendment to the FY2022 Needs Statement

Alton Derrick Smith - In favor of proposed amendment to the FY2022 Needs Statement

Gregory Spock – In favor of proposed amendment to the FY2022 Needs Statement

Marcello Testa - In favor of proposed amendment to the FY2022 Needs Statement

Minwen Yang – In favor of proposed amendment to the FY2022 Needs Statement

There being no further business, First Vice Chair Marialena Giampino adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.