



COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, Elmhurst, and Newtown

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Donovan Richards
Queens Borough President

Marialena Giampino
Chairperson

Ebony Young
Deputy Borough President

Christian Cassagnol
District Manager

February 8, 2022

COMMUNITY BOARD ATTENDANCE

Board Members Attending:

Marialena Giampino
Lynda Coral
Michelle Dunston
Ari Espinal
Leeanne G. Bowley
Lara Gregory
Deependra Lama
Vincent Laucella
Salvatore Lombardo
Carol Machulski
Sunil Mahat
Pat Martin
Sylvia Martin
Rovenia McGowan
Matthew McElroy
Jose Morillo

Edgar Moya
Sandra Munoz
Gurdip Singh Narula
G. Oliver
Georgina Oliver
Alexandra Owens
Shrima Pandey
Alexa Ponce
Lindsay Quartini
Ashley Reed
Oscar Rios
Cristian Romero
Clara Salas
Alton Derrick Smith
Marcello Testa
Louis Walker
Minwen Yang

Board Members Absent:

Chaio—Chung Chen
Andy Chen
Lorena Diaz
Kristen Gonzalez
James Lisa
Ruby Muhammad
Purushottam Panthee

Brian Ramirez
A. Redd Sevilla
Urgen Sherpa
Gregory Spock
Dewan Tarek
Dechen Tsering
Yilin Wang
May Yu

ATTENDING:

Christian Cassagnol, CB4 District Manager
Margaret Silletti, CB4 Community Coordinator
Christina Long, Community Associate
Council Member Francisco Moya
Council Member Shekar Krishnan
Detective Dave Saponieri, 110 Police Precinct
Kyle Salcido, Congresswoman Grace Meng's Office
Berenice Navarrete-Perez, Council Member Francisco Moya's Office
Michelle Hernandez, Congresswoman Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez's Office
Eugenia Di Girolamo, Deputy Dir., Urban Design, NYC Dept. of City Planning

COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, February 8, 2022

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

PLACE: On Line via Webex

I. Before the opening of the meeting, Board Member Louis Walker inquired about the upcoming Environmental Committee meeting Scheduled for Thursday, February 10 which was postponed. The new meeting date is February 23. Notices will be sent.

Because of the passing of long-time Board Member Lucy Schilero some people thought to postpone this Board meeting. However, Board Chair Marialena Giampino decided to proceed with tonight's meeting because if some people were unaware of Lucy Schilero's passing it is a good way to disseminate the information to all. A memorial session will be held for Lucy Schilero during Open Session #1.

Discussion ensued about why the meeting was not postponed until next week. Board Chair Marialena Giampino responded in this way people are aware of funeral arrangements and the mass service. Services are scheduled for February 10 and 11 and people may miss the information and not get the opportunity to pay their respects. Accordingly, the message will be widespread to the community. Also, the Board Chair explained it was important to hold the Community Board meeting tonight because people may have questions and it was important to address those questions.

At 7:05 p.m., Board Chair Marialena Giampino officially opened the meeting.

Board Chair Marialena Giampino explained tonight's meeting will be conducted to pay tribute to former Board Member Lucy Schilero who passed away this weekend. The sudden passing of Lucy Schilero is very shocking to the Board and the community. Information will be given about the funeral and mass services and to answer any questions.

II. Vote: Minutes January 11, 2022

Health & Human Services Chair Clara Salas made a motion, seconded by Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula, to **approve** the minutes.

Since there were none opposed or abstentions, motion passes

III. Chairperson's Report

Board Chair Marialena Giampino reported our fellow Board Member Lucy Schilero was a community leader, activist, and a friend to all who met her. Lucy Schilero was a long time member of Community Board 4 since 1990, a member of Community Board 4's Executive Committee, Public Safety Committee Chair, CERT, CURSC, COMET and many other groups. Lucy was a wealth of information and always helped the Board move forward. It was an unexpected death and this meeting will be used as a tribute to her. In Open Session #1 Board Members will have the opportunity to reminisce about Lucy Schilero and more than two minutes will be allotted for the tribute.

At this point, a moment of silence was observed for Lucy Schilero.

Chair Marialena Giampino reported a meeting of the Executive Board was held February 2 and discussed the Comptroller's Audit of 2021. If any Board Member would like to see the audit or has questions, please notify the Board office. Also discussed was how to get the public involved in committee and Board meetings and noted committee meetings are not attended well. Committee Chairs expend much time and effort in scheduling a meeting, however, meetings are poorly attended. Ways to improve attendance were brought up.

Since the Board is not expending much money at this time, funds were available for staff raises which were approved by the Executive Board.

Before concluding, Board Chair Marialena Giampino reminded all Board Members up for membership renewal please complete your application. If you have any questions, please call the Board office.

IV. District Manager's Report

District Manager Christian Cassagnol spoke about the Comptroller's audit which was not financial but more so the Board was in compliance with public hearings, minutes, and accessibility to the website etc. The Board scored an average grade, and is working to clarify many of the items. Some items were beyond our control such as the website, translation etc.

Last month, there was a community scoping meeting for William F. Moore Park and another meeting is planned for Josephine Caminiti Playground. He stressed the importance of attending those public meetings. When a park is redesigned, it is a good feeling to see an idea implemented by the Board come to fruition.

At this point, District Manager Cassagnol recalled memories of Board Member Lucy Schilero who he has known for 19 years. She was like his second mom at work and fought with her like he fought with his mom, but there was always a call afterward all was friendly.

District Manager Cassagnol mentioned Consumer Affairs Chair Michelle Dunston had sent him photos of him and Public Safety Chair Lucy Schilero at an event.

He echoed the staff did receive raises. He had not gotten a raise in several years nor did the staffers. Since it was 2/3 years without a raise, he received 2%. Afterwards, Public Safety Chair Lucy Schilero said to him if she could give him 40%, she would. On behalf of himself and the staff, Lucy will be greatly missed. On behalf of the Board, flowers were sent to the funeral home.

As far as the Board office, it is open and the staff is working somewhat remotely. He is working 2/3 days in the office as is Christina. Margaret is in every day.

V. Open Session #1/Board Member Attendance

In this segment Board Chair Marialena Giampino took the attendance and Board Members were able to share thoughts and memories about fellow Board Member and Public Safety Chair Lucy Schilero. The two minute time limitation was lifted.

Chaio-Chung Chen – Absent

Andy Chen – Absent

Lynda Coral – In attendance

She echoed all the sentiments expressed by the Board Members. Lucy was an incredible force and she was very grateful for the friendship and kindness Lucy offered to her as a new Board Member. She never got to thank her and wanted to express how grateful she was for Lucy's friendship and the inspiration that she gave to her as a Board Member.

Lorena Diaz – Absent

Michelle Dunston – In attendance

Since she works with the 110 Precinct, she will miss seeing Lucy regularly. Lucy was very active and helped her so much. Since she is a new Board Member, Lucy had embraced and supported her mentioning becoming Chair of the Consumer Affairs Committee. When she was president of the tenants association, Lucy provided her with much information to get the organization started. Lucy will be deeply missed and losing Lucy is a huge loss. She expressed regret that she had missed Lucy's meeting on Monday as she had to attend another meeting. She expressed sadness because that would have been the last time she would have spoken to Lucy. Lucy had done so much work it would take ten people to do what she did. She touched each and everyone's life.

Ari Espinal – In attendance

Lucy was the greatest of all time when it came to public safety and knowing the community's needs and keeping Corona and Elmhurst safe places to live and work. We must truly admire community leaders such as Lucy. She had also known Lucy for many years and appreciated her work. She will be truly missed.

Leeanne G-Bowley – In attendance

She commented she did not know Lucy as long as the other Board Members, but she was deeply impacted by her presence. Lucy was the first person to speak to her at the first Community Board meeting she had attended where she was talking about the Target being built and no one knew about it. Lucy thanked her and said this is why we need people to come to these meetings. Now, Leeanne is on the Board and when she thinks of a Community Board member, she will always think of Lucy. She is deeply touched by the loss of Lucy.

Marialena Giampino – In attendance

The Board Chair said she first met Lucy when she joined the Board almost eight years ago and Lucy was so welcoming. Actually, Lucy was like the mother hen on the Board. Lucy was very encouraging and helpful giving her expertise and advice. Just talking to Lucy about being on several groups, she knew everyone. Lucy was a regular attendee at every meeting also attending other committee/community meetings especially if it was a controversial issue or a matter she cared deeply about. Everything was done from the goodness of her heart. Lucy did not want money, fame, or awards which is rare to find in someone that just gives of themselves selflessly and truly wanted the best for Elmhurst/Corona and to improve her neighborhood, public safety, and quality of life for its residents was a priority. It's unfathomable we lost someone like Lucy and we will not find anyone to fill her shoes. Words cannot say how much she dedicated herself.

There are so many memories and Lucy will be truly missed. The Board and its residents of Corona/Elmhurst were very fortunate to have known Lucy and worked with her improving our communities. Perhaps, tributes can be made or other community initiatives as a legacy to Lucy. Working together to continue the relationship we had with Lucy and the work we do is a fitting tribute to her remembrance. The loss is irreparable.

Kristen Gonzalez – Not in attendance

Lara Gregory – In attendance

Since she is a newer member of the Board (second year) and learning of Lucy's passing was heartbreaking. Lucy encompassed what one of her favorite authors said that it is not what we think or what we say that matters, it is what we do. Lucy was kind and faithful in her work. She regrets she missed the last Public Safety meeting Lucy held because of a family matter. Lucy was very affirming, welcoming and caring. Lucy loved the service she provided through the Public Safety Committee such as talking to the applicants without showing an ounce of impatience and Lucy was kind to the applicants even if they did not show up or kept the committee waiting, which is valued leadership. It is a learning experience too and that she would learn from most of the people who have served on the Board far longer like Lucy. It's an incredible example of an amazing woman.

Board Member Lara Gregory thanked the Board Chair for providing this segment of the meeting to grieve as a community. To be together and process the loss we all suffer, is a need we have to share with each other.

Deependra Lama – In attendance

He said he was in Nepal visiting his mother who had emergency surgery. Lucy was the first person he had talked to being on the Public Safety Committee. Lucy was a mentor for all and there are no words to express his feelings. Lucy was the best knowing everyone, dealing with members of the public, and community board members. He reminisced about how she would text the committee members to remind them of a meeting and urging them to attend. Lucy was great.

Vincent Laucella

There was an issue with the homeless by the Hall of Science which was spoken about in last week's Parks meeting. Reaching out to Lucy, she said use your resources with Christian and the Community Board, Lucy was like a mother she was very welcoming informative and always called after the Community Board meetings ended and talked on the phone how to work better with the Precinct. Condolences were sent from Al Perna and the 110 Precinct Community Council. Lucy was a fixture in the community and will always be remembered. Lucy was very strong, knowledgeable, and when others asked her advice they knew the advice they were receiving was the best. With any problems, she had the solution or knew how to properly resolve it. That type of maternal instinct will be missed. Lucy was very influential in his life as well as others on the Board and will never be forgotten. Lucy did everything not for fame or awards but for the good of the community and was such an integral part of the community

James Lisa – Not in attendance

Salvatore Lombardo – In attendance

He was very shaken by the loss of Lucy. She's been on the Board for over 30 years and he admired her tireless energy, strength and advocacy.

Carol Machulski – In attendance

Lucy was focused, organized, and willing to share her knowledge. Lucy liked to hear travel stories and she had shared her travel stories with Lucy. Going back to the mid 80's when Carol Machulski was a volunteer on the Youth Services Committee and then on the 110 Precinct Council, Lucy was always committed to this community and her dedication never wavered.

Sunil Mahat – In attendance

He was shocked and saddened by the news. Although blocked by the pandemic for in person meetings, he was glad to have met Lucy and participate in community events and to know each other and learn a bit about each other. Lucy will be missed. It is a great loss not only for the Community Board but also for Queens. Such an active and energetic person is gone too soon and dearly missed.

Patricia Martin – In attendance

This has been very difficult for all of us. To her, this has brought her not feeling like a Community Board tonight, but like we are family and a family that is grieving for our matriarch and thankful we had her. Lucy taught and we listened. She will forever see Lucy's face because she always sat across from her.

Sylvia Martin – In attendance

The news of Lucy's passing was shocking. Lucy was a great community leader and always made her smile and feel welcomed. Lucy was very knowledgeable and she always would have advice or refer you where to go. Lucy may be gone, but never forgotten.

Matthew McElroy – In attendance

He did work with her for a short time on the parking problem around the 110 Precinct. Lucy was funny, persistent and a great person to work with. It is a great loss.

Rovenia McGowan – In attendance

She was very sorry to hear about Lucy's passing. They were such good friends. You could call on Lucy anytime you needed a friend. Lucy was always there to help. And she was such a wonderful person. She will be so missed. There was never a time that you could ask Lucy to do something for you that she was always available. Always there, she will be greatly missed.

Jose Morillo – In attendance

As a new member of Community Board 4, he did not have the honor to meet Lucy personally, but she is a legend. He heard much about Lucy and discovered how incredible she was. The Board is committed to follow Lucy's footsteps.

Edgar Moya – In attendance

Due to technical difficulties, he was not able to speak.

Ruby Muhammad – Absent

Sandra Munoz – In attendance

When she received the devastating news, the entire day shut down for her. She could not do anything. She curled up on her sofa and mourned. Knowing Lucy for many years she remembers Lucy walking around the streets of Elmhurst organizing, representing, and fighting for the communities of Elmhurst and Corona and always thought to herself she wanted to be like Lucy. But Life got in the way, until she became a Board Member and reconnected with Lucy and it was like they never lost touch. When meetings were in person at the VFW or at Italian Charities Senior Center, she would drive Lucy home after the meetings and it was another hour in the car frequently talking and talking about how to make Elmhurst better and what the communities needed.

If anyone deserves a street co-named in their honor for everyone who walks by will know Lucy was an integral and huge part of our community. For those reasons and in honor of Lucy's memory, she is proposing a street co-naming which will honor Lucy's memory for generations to come. Lucy's life has been this community.

Gurdip Singh Narula – In attendance

He was sorry to hear of Lucy's passing. A meeting was held on February 1 and it was a great shock for the community to hear of Lucy's passing. No words can express his grief and she was a great and honorable lady who had a vast knowledge of our communities. He had worked with Lucy over a decade on the Public Safety Committee. Also, he requested Lucy's memory should be honored with a street co-naming in Lucy Schilero's name. We will never find a person such as Lucy in our Board.

G. Oliver – In attendance

There are no words to say. She had known Lucy since she was a child. Her mom had asked that she not get the email of Lucy's passing because she was so close to Lucy and is still trying to process her feelings. Lucy was always smiling and happy no matter what was going developing. Lucy knew what to say to make her feel better. When she came home from college, she joined the CERT Team and subsequently the Community Board following in Barbara Jackson's footsteps. Lucy is very much missed.

Georgina Oliver – In attendance

She was shaken to her core about Lucy's passing and will write to Lucy in her dreams.

Alexandra Owens

The news of Lucy's passing was shocking. One of her fondest memories, before she became a Board Member, was Lucy's captivating presence at meetings which influenced her to join the Community Board. Over the years, Lucy was there if needed and would rearrange her schedule at the drop of a hat to attend a meeting.

Shrima Pandey – In attendance

As a new Board Member, she did not have the opportunity to work with closely with her. But it is really beautiful to hear of all the lives touched by Lucy. Earlier someone said about following in Lucy's footsteps and she looks forward to learning from those who learned from Lucy.

Purushottam Panthee – Not in attendance

Alexa Ponce – In attendance

Since she was unable to speak due to technical difficulties, the District Manager read a statement on her behalf. "I, as everyone else, was saddened to hear the passing of Lucy who, to me, was not just part of the Community Board but was the Community Board. To me, Lucy stood for everything good about the Community Board and she will not be forgotten. Lucy was a woman with such great energy and a spirit that could not be silenced or ignored. I do agree with naming a street after Lucy".

Lindsay Quartini – In attendance

Sorry to hear the news about Lucy's passing. As a new Board Member she did not have too much overlap but during the meetings in the last nine months, she will remember Lucy's presence and knowing how involved and passionate Lucy was. She stressed the importance of Board membership and said that is the model for how to successfully participate in a community.

Brian Ramirez – Not in attendance

Ashley Reed – In attendance

Lucy was like a legend, which is a good way to describe her because she is one of those people you think will always be there and now that she is gone the weight of her loss is great. No one can say she hasn't impacted them in some way. In 2014 when she was looking for a way to get involved in the community, she had stumbled upon the CERT Team and reached out to the contact person listed and it was Lucy. Lucy responded very quickly. Lucy was very happy and so excited to get a young person involved. Lucy was like a mother figure with her encouragement and always willing to share her knowledge. When Ashley said she would like to join the Board, Lucy said absolutely. I'll write you a letter of recommendation and probably Ashley would not be on the Board if it were not for Lucy. She will miss Lucy's text messages reminding her of something. Lucy was loved and we appreciated everything that she did for us and the community.

Oscar Rios- In attendance

He was lucky that he had the honor to always sit next to her during the meetings and they always exchanged information and just talked. He will really miss her especially when in person meetings start up and will miss her sitting in the chair next to him.

Cristian Romero – In attendance

Everyone has a story about Lucy and their experiences with her. When he had joined the Board, he was very young (18/19) years old eight years ago. Because he was so young and naïve, he knew Lucy attended the meetings regularly and her report took the longest.

He valued her passion and her efforts with public safety in community. It was motivating to hear her reports and Lucy was always willing to lend a hand.

He remembered when he first started working in government, Lucy always complimented him by saying you are going to do great things and I am proud of you. Lucy talked to him as a mother would talk to her son, although he barely knew her. Lucy was really like a mother to all and will be greatly missed by everyone.

Clara Salas – In attendance

She met Lucy through former District Manager Rose Renda-Rothschild, which was over 35 years ago. Clara reminisced about the arguments ex-District Manager Rose Renda Rothschild had with Lucy over many issues. Clara learned so much from Lucy about businesses in the community and liquor licenses. Often wondering where Lucy acquired all her energy while also chairing the Public Safety Committee. She envisioned Lucy walking the streets of Corona and Elmhurst as a 90 year old still working for the community which makes a difference. Lucy's work will continue although she is gone because she had set the foundation for future generations to come. Lucy will not be forgotten.

A. Redd Sevilla – Not in attendance

Urgen Sherpa – Not in attendance

Alton Derrick Smith – In attendance

Anytime Lucy spoke he felt he was not giving enough community service because she was so passionate and worked so hard and dedicated to the community. The loss is incredible. When he joined the Board in 1990, he first met Lucy although he was not on the Board for long. When he joined later on, he noted her passion had not changed and it was so strong. Lucy gave so much and will be sorely missed and is loved very much.

Gregory Spock – Not in attendance

Dewan Tarek – Not in attendance

Marcelo Testa – In attendance

Expressed his condolences and she will be missed.

Dechen Tsering – Not in attendance

Louis Walker – In attendance

He and Lucy joined the Board at the same time in 1990 each serving 32 years on the Board. Although Lucy and he did not always agree, they could always agree to disagree and still be friends in the end. Lucy will be greatly missed for many reasons. He will especially miss Lucy because she was such a hard worker and such a good person.

Yilin Wang – Not in attendance

Minwen Yang – In attendance

Years ago, she had attended a Public Safety meeting chaired by Lucy and found her very knowledgeable. Lucy's suggestions were always so reasonable as well as she had prepared much information for the meeting. Lucy's knowledge was also trusted and she did not discriminate anyone; she included everyone. Lucy will be greatly missed.

May Yu- Not in attendance

At this point, Board Chair Marialena Giampino announced on Sunday, February 13, at 1:00 p.m., at the Elmhurst Baptist Church an event called Heart Bombing will be held. Heart bombing is used to preserve an historic place. A heart bombing event will be held for the Walentyna-Janta Polczynski House in Elmhurst. Arts and crafts will be on hand and light refreshments will be served.

Afterwards, the group will go to the Walentyna-Janta House and put hearts on the gate. Also, the media was contacted and if anyone would like to attend, please come. Lucy Schilero was happy the Board Chair Marialena Giampino was a part of the Newtown Civic Association and the Elmhurst History group. An email will be sent with details.

Furthermore, a moment of silence was held for fellow Board Member Lucy Schilero.

VI. Report from Elected Officials

Following the moment of silence, Council Member Francisco Moya paid tribute to Lucy Schilero as a great human being. He had known Lucy since he was 14 years old. Lucy helped him begin the civic lessons we all seek in life. Bobby Robinson, a very famous soccer player, said a person only dies when the last person that loves them dies and Lucy will live on forever in all of us. Lucy touched each individual in so many different ways that the tribute tonight is truly her legacy and she had touched so many different generations and had an impact on why we do what we do. All Board members serve on a volunteer basis and Lucy volunteered her life for 30 years for this community and he especially remembered Lucy Schilero's fight for parking by the Precinct. Lucy Schilero believed in making sure she could help our communities and she will never be replaced.

Next, Council Member Moya announced his office is submitting a request to rename Lucy's block as *Lucy Schilero Way*. Every time we pass by, we will remember Lucy as a woman who made a real impact not on just her community but also she changed the lives of so many and will be truly missed. We will continue to honor her legacy by caring for our community.

Following his tribute to Lucy Schilero, Council Member Moya said his staff member will make a report to the Board on the community activities by Council Member's office.

Next, Council Member Shekar Krishnan said he appreciated the Board's tribute to Lucy Schilero because it personified what it meant to live a life of community service and to show what it meant to be a Community Board member who was dedicated and passionate for her community and an inspiration to others. There is no better testament that the impact Lucy Schilero had personally on so many people. Every person who knew Lucy knew the kind of selfless work she had done over the course of her entire life. In continuing the work of the Board, it will be done with her spirit and legacy. May Lucy's memory be a blessing for all of us and for our communities to do the work she did so selflessly for so many years for our communities and the tribute paid to Lucy today reflects who she was as an individual.

Accordingly, Council Member Krishnan said having taken office January 1, he is looking forward to working with the Board on all issues affecting our communities. Much needs to be done. Our communities have endured much and how much weight we carried as the epicenter of the epicenter of the pandemic. The loss that was felt this week and for years starting at the beginning of Covid-19 and the impact it has had on us. In that loss, the community has shown much strength and resilience we have. Our communities were the epicenter of the pandemic and talked about the losses we have suffered in the last two years. Since our communities are most essential in this city it must be made sure that our city continues forward and carries to our resident's essential services. Essential workers have carried this city on their backs through this pandemic. Our city and communities have survived is a testament to the strength and the resilience of our neighborhoods. In sadness, there is much strength and hope we can draw from in the neighborhoods of Elmhurst, Corona, Jackson Heights, and East Elmhurst. The work ahead is to rebuild our city in a way that benefits everyone. More services and resources for our neighborhoods is very much needed.

In the middle of the omicron wave of the pandemic, there were very few testing sites in Elmhurst and overall in District Council 25. Working very closely to put pressure on the city to secure additional testing sites for our community, which is how the testing site at Newtown High School was acquired—an HHC site working with Elmhurst Hospital. There were very few sites testing young children under the age of 4. Elmhurst Hospital made sure to prioritize children and expedite the lines for children when they came in to be tested. This is a testament to Elmhurst Hospital and how heroic they have been during this pandemic. In District 25, the first federal CDC testing site secured in all of New York City was in this district. Much pressure was put on the city by Council Member Krishnan's office to ensure the community had accessible testing sites in our neighborhood.

Next, the Council Member spoke about schools reopening. As a public school parent, it was concerning to send the children back to school at the height of the pandemic. He had advocated for a remote option for those children who were sick and had to quarantine at home or otherwise unable to attend school all while keeping schools open. A meeting was held with the new chancellor to express concerns on these issues and it was a very productive meeting, Soon after, the chancellor and the mayor met with the elected officials to create a remote learning option while school continued to remain open.

Accordingly Council Member Krishnan was appointed as Chair of the Parks Committee in the City Council and commented we have the least amount of park space in all of New York City which is not only a green space issue but also an issue of public health and housing justice. Not only does where we live affects the ability to get resources needed but also services are not received. The Council Member said green spaces in our city needs to be expanded and to ensure our neighborhoods and communities are priorities.

Additionally, Council Member Krishnan recently did a tour with Elmhurst Hospital of the first wellness center in a public hospital system for its employees.

PS 13 a part of the CASA Program that provides after school, cultural and arts programming for public schools was mentioned.

This Saturday, a Lunar New Year celebration will be held at CC Moore Park. All were invited to attend. A flyer will be sent with details.

Meanwhile, for the Walentyna-Janta Home it's been a fight to preserve this special place and stop the historic destruction of Elmhurst and its history to prevent its demolition by a developer. A letter will be submitted by the Council Member to the Landmarks Preservation Commission and also he is working closely with Board Chair Marialena Giampino to strongly oppose demolition efforts and ensure the house is landmarked.

Before concluding, Council Member Krishnan spoke on eviction attempts by landlords as the eviction moratorium had ended and gave an example of a constituent in Elmhurst who had called his office and was on the verge of eviction, however, the Council Member's office was able to stop the eviction.

Next, Assembly Member Brian Barnwell expressed condolences on the passing of Lucy Schilero. Although he did not know Lucy too well, he senses the pain of everyone present and conveyed his sympathy to the Board and Lucy's family.

Assembly Member Barnwell reported under the redistricting, he will gain more of Community Board 4. Please call his office anytime about any issue. He is ready to help and to be involved in problems his constituency is dealing with and to assist in resolving those problems.

The Assembly Member realizes how frustrating it is to deal with city agencies since agencies do not want to take the lead on solving problems. Assembly Member Barnwell is here to help whether it is for illegal dumping or graffiti or evictions. Always reach out to his office if you are experiencing a problem. Before concluding, he noted the office speaks 30 languages.

At this point, Detective Dave Saponieri from the 110 Precinct offered condolences on the loss of Lucy Schilero. He had known Lucy personally for close to 15 years. She was so involved and did care so much about the community, not just her block. Lucy was a huge asset and will be very much missed and the Precinct does want to be involved in the services and will give a tribute in her memory.

Detective Saponieri reported presently there is a huge Department of Labor scam involving people who were not able to receive benefits due to Covid-19, but were able to apply for a pre-loaded card with up to \$15,000 and those cards are being scammed. Whether it be by a skimming device at an ATM or their card was compromised in the mail which is why grand larcenies are so high. Up nearly 400 percent. 116 reports were recorded in the last 28 days and dating back three months ago, there were over 400 reports. It is widespread and for your own personal spending, monitor your behaviors and change passwords frequently.

Also, people are leaving car keys in the ignition, running out for a cup of coffee. Your car is unattended and can be driven away even if you have the key fob. There were a number of stolen vehicles reported in the last 28-day period.

In conclusion, Detective Saponieri spoke about a major increase in police presence in the transit system hubs.

At this point, Chair Marialena Giampino continued with the Report of the Legislators and called on the representative from Congresswoman Grace Meng's Office.

Kyle Salcido offered condolences on the passing of Lucy Schilero. He reported two pieces of legislation Congress woman Meng has been working on is the introduction of legislation to make the Lunar New Year a federal holiday, which would add to the list of 11 already recognized federal holidays. The Congresswoman also re-introduced a House resolution to recognize the cultural and historical significance of the Lunar New Year.

Additionally, the Congresswoman is co-sponsoring Covid-19 Price Gouging Prevention Act which would protect consumers against unreasonable price hikes in the Covid-19 pandemic since there are supply chain issues which would include supplies such as food, water, personal protective equipment like masks, medical supplies etc.

Next, he reported the Congresswoman is hosting an annual non-profit security grant program workshop on February 15, 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The workshop helps houses of worship as well as other non-profit organizations to obtain funds that provide organizations who face a high risk of threat from terrorist attacks or other security threats with funding to bolster their security enhancements and provide for better security systems in meeting places as well as staff and safety and funding. If you know of anyone who is Chair of a non-profit organization or a House of Worship, please contact him. He will enter his email into the chat.

Succeeding this presentation, Berenice Navarrete-Perez from Council Member Francisco Moya's office expressed condolences on the passing of Lucy Schilero.

The following updates were given:

During January, there were multiple distributions such as giving out KN95s as well as Covid-19 test kits, surgical masks and hand sanitizers. Tomorrow a mask distribution will be held with the Lefrak Tenants Association at 57th Avenue/Junction Blvd at 4 p.m. This is part of the Council Member's efforts to ensure our communities continue to have access to resources to protect themselves and others from Covid-19. The masks, hand sanitizers and home test kits will be distributed on a first-come first-serve basis while supplies last.

Last month, Parks coordinated a community input meeting for Park of the America's reconstruction of the basketball courts and comfort stations via zoom. You can share your ideas until February 9. The link will be posted in the chat.

As New York City makes its way to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic, the new mayoral administration invites you to help shape its priorities and policies with the survey New York City Speaks as a city-wide engagement initiative to ensure New Yorkers are heard. Link will also be posted.

In conclusion, applications for fiscal year 2023 discretionary funding are still available. The deadline is Tuesday, February 22. Please know there is a supplementary form that has to be filled out before February 22. Additional information for testing and vaccination sites will be posted in the chat.

Please call the Council Member's office at 718-651-1917 with any questions.

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

Michelle Hernandez expressed condolences on the passing of Lucy Schilero. On January 26, the Congresswoman's office hosted a Town Hall with New York City Health Commissioner Dr. Dave Chokshi. Watch a recording of the event on the Congresswoman's YouTube page. The link will be posted in the chat. The next Town Hall is February 15 at 5:30 p.m., Link in the chat to register. Last week, the America Competes Act in the House was passed with one of the Congresswoman's amendments that prevents companies from using any of the \$52 billion allocated under creating helpful incentives to produce semiconductors fund from being used on stock buybacks or the payment of dividends to shareholders. The Congresswoman's Bill support for debt for developing countries was also included in the Act.

Also, tax season is here and the IRS is encouraging people to file early. Eligible New Yorkers can use New York City free tax prep services including in-person tax prep, drop-off service for tax prep, and assisted self-prep to file taxes for free. Information in the chat.

Lastly, the Congresswoman is hoping to rename the Corona Post Office located at 103 Street/Roosevelt Avenue. Community members are being asked for suggestions. A link and a very brief survey will be in the chat. Also, please call Congresswoman Meng's office with suggestions.

VII. Speaker: Eugenia Di Girolamo, Deputy Director, Urban Design Office, NYC Dept. of City Planning

--Discussion and Presentation on Principles of Good Urban Design

Board Chair Marialena Giampino reported she had heard the presentation at the Boro Board meeting last month and when she heard there was a cut off for the survey at the end of February, it was important to give the presentation to the Board. Elmhurst and Corona should take the Dept. of City Planning's survey because urban design is an important part of any community. In New York City there is a lack of urban design.

Eugenia Di Girolamo expressed condolences on the loss of Lucy Schilero. At this point, Ms. Di Girolamo shared her screen with the Board. The website was shared also and will be in the chat. Go to www.goodurbandesign.nyc. The goal of the site is to hear from New Yorkers about the built environments. The buildings, streets, parks and land uses in your community affect your experience of the city and quality of life. The video is only four minutes long and found on YouTube. It explains what is urban design and to understand more of the technical concepts used by the planning department and the urban designers. The video is in English but can be seen in Spanish and is close captioned in any language through YouTube. Moreover, a language can be selected from the drop down menu and translated.

Every New Yorker has a role to play in shaping their city. This is the heart of the site. She explained every New Yorker has a role to play in shaping their city and it's very important to hear feedback but also to provide the tools with the language that is needed to engage with the city and developers and property owners in having a conversation and sharing ideas and also ensuring your ideas are heard and implemented. Three main activities were displayed on the screen. The first one is to tell the Dept. of City Planning what matters in your neighborhood and where you will be linked to a survey. The survey is available in different languages which asks what neighborhood you live in and for how long. The principles were created about 4/5 years ago and are the principles of good urban design, which the city follows. This was created with architects and designers and they felt the language needed to be changed because it was not accessible by everyone and also they were not created by everyone in the community and New York City. That's why they were shared publicly and people asked to comment which is why people are requested to rank them. Priorities are what is more important and the four principles as they are now: buildings and public spaces should reinforce the surrounding neighborhood as a sense of place or the unique way it looks and feels. The city should be accessible and easy to move around and public spaces should feel comfortable welcoming and safe to all buildings and all public spaces should be designed with attention to detail. In different parts of the city what is your highest interest and what is it you're looking for in urban design of your city and what is missed. There may be a principle missed or should be added or changed. Each principle asks for more detail and additional comments are requested and a bit of personal detail if interested in providing that information.

The survey has been opened since mid-September and outreach has been extended to Community Boards and the Borough Board because the survey will close the first week of March. Please share the site with friends and colleagues and constituents. Feedback is needed.

Next, Ms. Di Girolamo reviewed the Share a Story about Their Neighborhood. People have submitted ideas on how it feels to be in their neighborhood, which can be shared by anyone regarding neighborhoods and people can interact with each other not only to share what's not working but also to share what is great about your neighborhood and what you want others to know about your neighborhood. Accordingly she clarified this is not ideas for projects but more so about quality of life and how does it feel to live in

your neighborhood. This is the place to publicly share that information. This effort does not highlight projects to do in the city but really to start a conversation around design and quality of life in the city and to create principles that are shared by everyone and to use in conversations as projects are evaluated in the city.

Give Your Feedback on the Principles of Good Urban Design, which gives your feedback on the principles of the urban design. You can read them and read a brief description of what they mean by discussion or a quick reply. You can give your thoughts and ideas if the concept should be changed.

Lastly, *how will your feedback be used?* A community planning guide is included and by clicking on it you will be rerouted to the pdf which is how to engage in the public process. Just asking the question how would you like to shape your neighborhood such as to make an improvement like a request for a tree or a street light or to give feedback on existing projects? This is explained how to do it in the video where you will be redirected to a resources page where you will be informed how to participate in ULURP process or request a street tree or bike rack. More details were given on the use of the principles and projects including topics and concepts that are used in planning design. Although the survey will be closing soon, the site will stay open and all of the tools, resources and links will still be available.

At this point, Chair Marialena Giampino opened the floor for questions.

Transportation chair Matt McElroy asked is this primarily directed to the built environment: buildings/structures etc.

Ms. Di Girolamo responded anything that is the public realm which is buildings, streets, parks open spaces, for example, waterfront in principle everything that was built.

Board Chair Marialena Giampino inquired is the history of the neighborhood, such as more preservation, how would that be put into zoning as it is a NYC Landmark Preservation Commission (LPC) issue. The Dept. of City Planning oversees any issues warranted for that property and works together with LPC. It would be great to create more historic landmarks and districts but also with the design aspect.

For example, if blocks of row houses or historic houses are knocked down and puts development in completely out of character with the neighborhood, will there be design codes.

Ms. Di Girolamo asked the Chair's comment be included in the survey so there is a record of it. There is a need to create principles that are shared among all the New Yorkers and the Community Boards to determine what the product will be such as Principle 1 which talks about sense of place within a community and includes landmarks, historic fabric of the community, should be kept in mind when new proposals are evaluated.

Continuing Board Chair Marialena Giampino said Corona and Elmhurst have been contextually rezoned and can this be added.

Ms. Di Girolamo was unclear if zoning terms would be mentioned. More so to keep it with design and the field and a look at the neighborhood.

Lastly, Board Chair Marialena Giampino inquired about trees and community gardens and cited when a new building/structure is contracted, tree plantings can be off site instead of onsite. In her opinion, this is not beneficial to the community because the community is losing and not gaining trees.

Ms. Di Girolamo replied the Board Chair's remarks about trees would be shared and it is a great point.

Ms. Di Girolamo said the deadline for the survey is March 4.

ULURP/Zoning Chair Alton Derrick Smith said if it is presented at a ULURP meeting it would have to be presented to the Board pointing out the Board meets the second Tuesday.

Board Chair Marialena Giampino reiterated Ms. Di Girolamo could return to answer any further questions. It could be discussed in committee and she could return to answer any questions or clarify information.

Once the survey is received and some type of foundation is established is it applied by district or by all communities or is it what Queens or New York City is looking for or is it categorized for a particular district, asked ULURP Chair Alton Derrick Smith?

Ms. Di Girolamo said the goal is to have principles that apply city-wide, but information is being gathered by borough, district, and neighborhood. In this way, information would be provided specific to the Board area/neighborhood if requested. From the information received, it would be made available to the Boards publicly. She stressed the importance for more people to participate so that more feedback can be given what is needed in each community.

Next, Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula commented went to the Richmond Hill area and other areas where the city created new greenery areas in certain streets but people are throwing garbage in those areas. The city installed fencing but people still use it to throw garbage in. The city is wasting money.

Ms. Di Girolamo did not know the specific project he was referring to. She suggested he share his thoughts on cleanliness in our neighborhoods and public spaces and how we should be stewards of public spaces and we should ensure maintenance.

Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula said the city created some areas where a small garden was created with fencing and people are throwing garbage in it.

Board Chair Marialena Giampino said he may be referring to the rain gardens/bioswales.

Discussion ensued.

Board Chair Marialena Giampino asked can community centers, museums, cultural centers, and community gardens be added?

Ms. Di Girolamo responded absolutely as they are part of the fabric that makes the social life of our neighborhoods. They are a key aspect of our communities and it should be accounted for in the principles.

Board Chair Marialena Giampino encouraged all to fill out the survey and answer the questions, put in your ideas, and spread the word to your friends, neighbors, and family because this survey should definitely be filled out.

Consumer Affairs Chair Michelle Dunston commented it is a great program and informed the Board NYC Speaks does almost the same and also has a the survey with the 11th as the deadline. It's an epic effort to bring together tens of thousands of New Yorkers with ideas to the Mayor.

Board Chair Marialena Giampino clarified NYC Speaks is for any issue for all of New York City. This survey is geared more toward city planning, urban design, and our built environment. Both are good surveys and you could write similar descriptions talked about here in the New York City Speaks survey, but this study is geared toward our environment, quality of life, neighborhoods and design. The Board Chair encouraged all to fill out both surveys.

VIII. Report & Vote – Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee

--State Liquor Authority Applications

Staff Member Christina Long, Community Associate, presented the liquor license applications to the Board and gave the denials:

- Antoineta's Restaurant - 98-53 Corona Avenue. No representative attended the meeting. Application denied.
- K263-3 Corp. – Application was withdrawn as they were not ready yet.
- 104Street Restaurant Inc. (Tony's Pizzeria) – 45-18 104 Street – A number of complaints recorded on this location. The owner has been renting it out and there has been many noise issues, fights and other complaints.
- Coatzingo Enterprises Inc. – California Sports Bar – 82-18 Roosevelt Avenue – Many criminal complaints and also SLA summonses.
- Temezkal NY Corp. – 88-08 Roosevelt Avenue – Did not appear. Application denied.

NYS LIQUOR AUTHORITY LICENSES

February 2022

NEW APPLICANTS

<u>Establishment's Name</u>	<u>Establishment's Address</u>	<u>License Type</u>
Antoineta's Restaurant Corp. <i>Sabor Peruano</i>	98-53 Corona Avenue Corona, NY	Wine, Beer & Cider
Florence Culinary Associates LLC	40-13 82 Street Elmhurst, NY	Wine, Beer & Cider

Rumba Latina Inc.	102-30 43 Avenue Corona, NY	Wine, Beer & Cider
82-63 Bakery Corp.	82-63 Broadway Elmhurst, NY	Liquor, Wine Beer & Cider

RENEWAL APPLICANTS

<u>Establishment's Name</u>	<u>Establishment's Address</u>	<u>License Type</u>
104 TH Street Restaurant Inc. Tony's Pizzeria Restaurant	45-18 104 Street Corona, NY	Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider
Coatzingo Enterprises Inc. <i>California Sports Bar</i>	82-18 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

ALTERATION

<u>Establishment's Name</u>	<u>Establishment's Address</u>	<u>License Type</u>
Temezkal NY Corp.	88-08 Roosevelt Avenue Jackson Heights, NY	Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

Before the Board vote was taken, District Manager Christian Cassagnol reported on a technicality regarding Tony's Pizzeria and informed the Board although the committee chose to deny the license, it was approved in advance of the Board being able to review it due to a small time frame issue. A few days ago, Council Member Moya attended the Public Safety meeting with concerns. Tony's Pizzeria is being managed by someone and is still retaining the umbrella of Tony Pizzeria but nonetheless many violations exist. He was working on a letter with Lucy solidifying what Council Member Moya had brought up. Although Tony's Pizzeria was granted a license, the Board will work with the SLA to get the hours cut back not necessarily to have the license pulled, but to work with them closely.

Tony's Pizzeria was granted the license before the Board vote.

At this point, Board member Gurdip Singh Narula made a motion, seconded by Board Member Vincent Laucella, to **approve** the Committee's report as presented. Since none were opposed or abstentions, the motion passed.

Board Member Vincent Laucella commented Tony's Pizzeria is very disrespectful to the neighborhood. There's knife fights, blood on Sunday mornings. Mama's Backyard is on the block and women are going to church.

District Manager Christian Cassagnol provided more information. Tony's Pizzeria never closed. It is still owned by Ernesto and it was never sublet or passed over to a new applicant. It was the existing license that continues to be active. The people working there are managing the business. For that reason, Tony's Pizzeria can continue to have their renewed over and over so long as he doesn't actually sell the business and keeps the name Tony's Pizzeria. It has not been transferred to a new entity and is still under Tony's Pizzeria, nothing has changed. He also mentioned the Pizzeria was looking to extend their hours to 2 a.m. weekdays and 4 a.m. weekends. This request was denied by the District Manager. A letter will be written to the SLA about this establishment.

IX. Committee Reports

Consumer Affairs

Committee Chair Michelle Dunston reported a meeting date has not been set but will be held sometime next week. The meeting will be for committee members only, not for the public. More details will follow next month.

Environmental

Environmental Chair Carol Machulski reported the last meeting of QSWAB was January 26, but the minutes were not available yet. As he had promised Kevin O'Sullivan of DSNY attended the meeting to discuss smart composting, which is not a program to replace the curbside composting. It looks like a big mailbox and people have to apply to use it. They get a key and when they have enough food scraps, they open the box and put the food scraps in. When DSNY is aware the box is full, they come and empty it. She commented it is not a very good program because it is a lot of work. First, you have to get the key and not lose it and then make time

to wherever the box is located to deposit food scraps. There are 16 boxes around Astoria. At this point, it is a pilot program, and she is unsure how well it is working.

QSWAB had decided to support two organizations involved in cleaning up neighborhoods—Abuela Neighborhood Maintenance, which is a grassroots organization combining art and stewardship in areas: Queens Village and Hollis. The other organization is Eastern Queens Alliance, which is a federation of ten southeast Queens’s civic organizations. Both organizations have websites. Log onto their websites for more information.

Lastly, in the November minutes there was a definition of what the role of Community Boards is in QSWAB and the Committee Chair found it somewhat ambiguous, but it does let us know our role in QSAB.

A Committee meeting was planned for Thursday, February 10, with Con Edison’s team to discuss Con Edison’s Reliable Clean City Project, however, the meeting was postponed because of the viewing for Lucy Schilero. The new meeting date is February 23. Log on to Con Edison’s website to review the Reliable Clean City Project.

Health & Human Services

Committee Chair Clara Salas reported last month’s meeting was very productive and another one is planned for February 28. All Committee members were urged to attend. The last meeting was well attended and expressed thanks to members of the Community Board and Elmhurst Hospital who were guest speakers. She noted, however, only one committee member had attended. If you are not interested in being a member of the committee, please inform her. On the agenda for February 28, is a new and exciting organization with a new concept based in Long Island City in reference to organ donations.

Parks, Cultural Affairs and Historical Preservation

Committee Chair Ashley Reed reported the Queens Night Market season is approaching and read a statement from John Wang, Founder of the Queens Night Market:

Dear CB4:

Happy Lunar New Year. I hope you are well. I had hope to announce plans for this year’s Queens Night Market at the meeting, but the truth is we have run into some roadblocks the last few months. In order to make the Queens Night Market happen this year we are exploring some potential changes which are caught up in red tape at the moment. The next two weeks will be critical for us. I hope to have more updates for you by next month’s meeting although I may speak to some of your committees before then. We also might be asking for your support in the near future so please don’t hesitate to reach out to me or ask me any questions in the meantime. I’m always available.

Thank you and please stay safe and healthy until next time.

Sincerely,

John Wang

Committee Chair Ashley Reed reported the Committee met January 25 where a quorum was present. Representatives from the Parks Dept. were present with two public members. A very robust discussion ensued on the bocce ball courts at William F. Moore Park. Ultimately, it was decided to see safety improvements made to the Park including lighting and fences. Also, it was expressed to see the bocce ball courts preserved and improved so that they are more durable and safer for everyone to enjoy.

Moreover, Park of the Americas was discussed. A scoping meeting was held to see what they would like to see improved in the Park of the Americas. Some suggestions given were new signage, new seating options, new plantings and trees, re-establishment of the lawns, and managing storm water.

Transportation

Committee Chair Matthew McElroy reported the Committee met January 18 to have an internal conversation among the members about the Committee’s priorities. A quorum was present. The discussion included the new proposed inter-borough express which would operate on the west side of District 4.

The electric signs at bus stops which would announce when business would arrive. The Long Island Railroad station and discussing platform subway safety and the open street program. As a result of the discussion, the MTA was invited to attend an upcoming meeting (New York City Transit representatives as well as the Buses and Subway representatives) will be in attendance at the February meeting Tuesday, February 15 at 6 p.m. All were invited to attend. Issues to be discussed will be the proposed new bus plan, which has not been released yet, subway safety, station rehabs along Roosevelt Avenue and an ADA elevator at Woodhaven Blvd. Those issues were held up because of the pandemic. An update will be given on those projects.

Also, a resident of Reeder Street, near Queens Blvd. and Broadway, had requested Reeder Street which is two-way street to be one-way. The resident has been invited to the meeting to give details.

ULURP/Zoning

Committee Chair Alton Derrick Smith reported the Committee met January 27 and on the agenda was Community Land Trusts. The presentation was given by Will Spisak New Economy NYC organization and Farzana Linda from Chhaya a nonprofit housing

organization. It was an incredible presentation discussing community land trusts and how it could be used in our community. It was so incredible that we could not formulate anything to present to the Board at this time, therefore, ongoing meetings will be scheduled with the New Economy Project. Eventually, it will be presented to the Board on how community land trusts can be used in our community to build up vacant areas and dilapidated housing.

Youth Services

Committee Chair Sylvia Martin reported a meeting was held January 27 where a quorum was present. Guest Speakers from the Youth Power Coalition and Leadership on the Move and a sophomore at Hunter College were interested in how the youth could join Community Boards. For example, Board Member Cristian Romero was mentioned since he was the youngest youth to join Board 4. Discussion was on how they could get involved in projects such as clean ups, painting, and other community projects. An update will be given at the next meeting.

At this point, District Manager Cassagnol met last night with the Youth Power Coalition who did a small panel. He explained they want to bring a full project to the entire Board and are looking how to get youth more involved, and the role of Community Boards. Working on formulating a survey/questionnaire to send out to the full community such as what do you know about Community Boards or have you joined your Community Board, if so how etc. If all goes well, they will present to the Youth Committee and perhaps as guest speakers at the next Community Board meeting. They are partnered with Woodside on the Move among several other youth organizations and doing strength in numbers. There are many youths trying to get involved with the local communities.

Next, Transportation Chair Matthew McElroy pointed out the City Charter states under age 16 cannot be members and 16 and 17 year olds are allowed a maximum of two people.

X. Open Session #2

Board Chair Marialena Giampino called out if any member of the Board would like to speak.

Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula brought up the Community Board application process. He had tried to fill out the application on line and tried to add his driver's license, but he received a message you need a CV. Why add this when it was a simple application before and he does not have a CV.

District Manager Christian Cassagnol provided an explanation to Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula.

Discussion ensued.

Next, Board Member Lara Gregory put a link in the chat for the Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes which has an ongoing campaign for young people to join in the hard work against hate. Click on the link and see details.

Next, Board Member Vincent Laucella thanked the District Manager for his help with the homeless and also the Parks Department for cleaning up the Hall of Science parking lot and the two homeless camps mentioning it was taken care of in less than 24 hours.

Since there were no further issues, Board Member Gurdip Singh Narula made a motion, seconded by Board Member Sandra Munoz, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:36 p.m.