



Community Board No. 5

Borough of Queens
Ridgewood, Maspeth, Middle Village and Glendale
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Vincent Arcuri, Jr.
Chairperson

Gary Giordano
District Manager

Minutes of Remote Community Board 5 Public Meeting

May 11, 2022

Board Members Present

Bhubaneshor Adhikari; Vincent Arcuri, Jr; Antonetta Binanti; Tobias Sheppard Bloch; Adam Bloom; Jessica Boiardi; Alyssa Bonilla; Eric Butkiewicz; Rachel Caracci; Robert Cermeli; Walter E. Clayton, Jr.; Patricia Crowley; Nickolas Cuttonaro; Brian Dooley; Derek Evers; Dmytro Fedkowskyj; Fred T. Haller; Fred Hoeffler; Richard Huber; Paul A. Kerzner; Maryann Lattanzio; Diego Leclery; Edward Lettau; Patricia Maltezos; Katherine Masi; Eileen Moloney; Marcin Nadgorski; April Narsasian; Margaret O'Kane; Michael O'Kane; Donald Passantino; Michael Porcelli; Melissa Rebecca; Kenneth Rehberger; Theodore Renz; Luis Rodriguez; Lee S. Rottenberg; Walter H. Sanchez; Dennis Stephan; Catherine Sumsy; Gyanal Thapa; Barbara Toscano; Patrick J. Trinchese; Jasmine Valle; Maryanna Zero

Board Members Absent

Maria de la Cruz; Steven Fiedler; Cecilia Guerra; Katarzyna Syta; Michaeline Von Drathen

STAFF

Gary Giordano, District Manager-CB5Q
John Maier, Community Associate-CB5Q

PARTICIPANTS

Katherine Zapata - Community Board Liaison, Queens Borough President's Office
Richard Lobel, PC and Staff - Amanda Iannotti; Robert Thomas, owner of 78-46 Metropolitan Avenue, Middle Village; and Spyridon Bazigos, Architect

Before proceeding, the Board Chairperson welcome everyone to join the meeting remotely, due to the COVID19 pandemic and the recent surge in variant cases, monthly Board Meetings are being conducted remotely and live-streamed on the Zoom platform. Board members, staff and guests were provided a link to participate. Members of the public can view this meeting while in progress, via YouTube, by clicking on this link:

https://youtu.be/sVL_YgAScLU (this link will also be posted on our CB5Q Homepage at www.nyc.gov/qnscb5 where you will be able to access it at your convenience).

Anyone wishing to address the Board during the Public Forum portion of the meeting is asked to submit a typed statement, by email, to our Community Board 5 email address at qn05@cb.nyc.gov no later than 2pm today, so that it could be read into the record of our Board Meeting.

Following the Salute to the Flag led by Donald Passantino at 7:37pm, the Board Chairperson announced the first item on the Board Agenda:

PUBLIC HEARING RE: Rezoning 78-44 and 78-46 Metropolitan Avenue, Block 3776, Lots 30 and 31, in Middle Village, Queens, NY 11379 (ULURP# 220133ZMQ)

Presentation by Sheldon Lobel, P.C., Attorneys at Law

In The Matter Of an Application to the N.Y. City Dept. of City Planning, by Sheldon Lobel, P.C., on behalf of Dr. Robert Thomas for a Zoning Map Amendment (Zoning Map No. 13d) to rezone 78-44 and 78-46 Metropolitan Avenue, Block: 3776; Lots: 30 and 31, in Middle Village, Queens, NY 11379, from an R5 Zoning District to an R5D/C2-3 Zoning District, to allow the alteration and vertical enlargement of an existing one-story building, with 2 additional stories and 2 dwelling units. This is the site of **the Animal Clinic of Queens**.

On behalf of his client, Dr. Robert Thomas, the owner of record of 78-46 Metropolitan Avenue, in Middle Village, Richard Lobel of Sheldon Lobel, P.C., gave a power point presentation regarding the application to rezone the two contiguous Tax Lots located on Metropolitan Avenue, at the southwest corner of 79th Street, as outlined above. He said that the Animal Clinic of Queens is currently a non-conforming use in this site that's located in an R5 Zoning District. He said that the owner seeks to bring the property into compliance by seeking this zoning change to R5D/C2-3 which would conform to the existing zoning on the adjacent block located on the south side of Metropolitan Avenue, just east of 79 Street.

Mr. Lobel described the property as built lot line to lot line, on a 25' by 105' corner lot. As he spoke, Mr. Lobel displayed a Zoning Map of the R5 District, and pointed out that there's a commercial overlay on all the other blocks on both sides of Metropolitan Avenue, between 73 Place and 80 Street.

Mr. Lobel said that the proposed rezoning would permit the construction of two additional residential floors above the existing one-story structure at 78-46 Metropolitan Avenue, with a vertical enlargement of 2,432 sq. ft. per floor, which falls within the Floor Area Ratio (FAR) that is permitted in an R5D Zoning District.

As he displayed the proposed Floor Plans of 78-46 Metropolitan Avenue, Mr. Lobel pointed out that the plans show a 40' setback from the front façade on the 2nd and 3rd Floors of the proposed vertical addition, and an additional 14' setback from the front façade, along the west side of the building which faces 78-44 Metropolitan Avenue. He said that both residential units would have balconies that face north onto Metropolitan Avenue, and windows that face onto Metropolitan Avenue, as well.

He also pointed out that a five-foot wide walkway separates 78-46 from 78-44 Metropolitan Avenue along the property line, from front to back.

The Board Chairperson opened the floor to questions and comments.

He asked if the rooftop of the existing building is being used as an exercise area for pets. Spyro Bazigos, the architect, replied that, to his knowledge, the rooftop is not currently being used and there are no plans to use it for any other purpose that to provide fresh air and light for the proposed residential units.

Cathie Sumsky, a Board member, asked if animals are permitted to go out onto the roof after surgery is performed. Dr. Thomas replied that animals are not permitted to leave their premises after a surgical procedure is performed, until their owners pick them up, once the anesthesia has worn off.

Walter Sanchez, Chairperson of the Zoning and Land Use Review Committee, said that he appreciated the presentation that was given to Committee members at Monday night's Meeting. He asked if staff of the Animal Clinic would be living in both apartments above the Clinic. Dr. Thomas replied that it would be preferable if staff were tenants in the units above the Clinic because they'd be able to respond to emergency situations and monitor the condition of animals in distress on a continuing basis.

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Mr. Sanchez also asked if the owner of the adjacent property at 78-44 Metropolitan Avenue is in favor of the proposed rezoning and the plans to build another two floors on the corner lot. Dr. Thomas replied that he didn't know the property owner next-door at 78-44 Metropolitan Avenue.

Mr. Sanchez asked if Dr. Thomas would agree to sign an affidavit stating that he does not plan to create additional residential units at this site. The Board Chairperson referred the matter to the Committee for further discussion.

Alyssa Bonilla, a Board member, asked why there's a minimum 40' setback, that increases to a 54' setback above the Ground Floor in the proposed plans. Mr. Lobel replied that this setback allows for light and air to reach the side windows on the 2nd and 3rd floors of residential units in the adjacent property at 78-44 Metropolitan Avenue.

Ms. Bonilla also asked if it would be obligatory for staff to live in the new residential units on the 2nd and 3rd floors. Mr. Lobel replied that to the extent that staff do not live in these residential units, they could be rented to non-staff.

Patrick Trinchese, a Board member, asked if the residential units would have separate electric meters.

Mr. Bazigos, the architect, said that hasn't been decided, as yet.

Michael O'Kane, a Board member, asked if the owner had sought to expand the dimensions of this Clinic prior to this submission. Mr. Lobel replied that any expansion above the Ground Floor would have been denied because in an R5 Zoning District, commercial uses above the 1st Floor are prohibited.

In response to a question from Nick Cuttanaro, a Board member, regarding whether the existing one-story structure is strong enough to support the weight of two additional stories above the Ground Floor, Mr. Bazigos replied that additional steel support columns may be required.

As there were no further questions or comments on the matter, the Board Chairperson closed the public hearing and referred the matter to the Zoning and Land Use Review Committee for their consideration.

PUBLIC FORUM

The District Manager Gary Giordano read aloud the following statement from a local resident:

1) Statement from Sarah Feldman, resident of Ridgewood

"Suad Sports Cafe is located at 70-20 60th Lane, in Ridgewood NY 11385. I am reporting illegal parking. Their customers are illegally parking on the crosswalks on a daily basis. I report this establishment all the time. I have SR#s from last year. I know other residents nearby have reported the cafe to 311 as well as the local community board. I do not think their license plates are valid.

I would also like to add another incident. Last week, I reported to 311 the shocking experience of seeing one of the customers with their genitalia exposed right outside the establishment. (SR# 311-10146561). I am a resident of Ridgewood, Queens on 71st Avenue 11385. Some recent 311 Service Request numbers are: 311-10210828; 311-10146565; and 311-10146561.

Let me know if you need prior complaints to 311 from last year as well, including prior emails to the community board.

I see Council Member Bob Holden now has a dedicated Tow Truck. Can we please use it for this situation? It would be most appreciated. This illegal parking needs to stop. It has become a nightmare. Here's a link to a recent news article about it: <https://ridgewoodpost.com/dedicated-tow-truck-to-remove-illegally-parked-vehicles-in-council-member-holdens-district>.

Thank you, I look forward to hearing from you, Sarah Feldman"

Margaret O'Kane, a Board member, said that she's been informed that women have felt threatened by patrons of this Café. Derek Evers, a Board member, said that he recalls seeing illegally parked cars at this intersection last year and is surprised that this condition still exists.

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As there were no other statements to be read aloud during the Public Forum, the Board Chairperson announced the next item on the Meeting Agenda.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Vincent Arcuri

The Board Chairperson requested that the District Manager, Gary Giordano, read the following statements from local Elected Officials into the record:

Statement from Council Member Robert Holden, 30th CD – submitted by Daniel Kurzyna

"Hello neighbors, Community Board 5 Members, and fellow Elected Officials.

I hope you are staying safe and healthy, and I thank you for your continued work and volunteerism. We have the following events coming up this Spring:

- Plant the Seeds of Kindness, Thursday May 12th at 4:00 pm in "Uncle" Vito Maranzano Glendale Playground at 70 Street.
- Carotid Artery (Stroke Risk) Screening, Wednesday May 18th, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm, appointment only.
- Recycling E-Waste Collection, May 22nd, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm, Forest Park Bandshell parking Lot.
- Thyroid Screening, June 9th, 10:00am – 1:30 pm, at I.S. 119 on 78 Avenue at 74 Street, Glendale
- Water Day at the Park, June 18th, 12:00 Noon – 3:00 pm, Juniper Valley Park

Movies in Local Parks:

- Movie Night – June 3rd, 7:30 pm, Uncle Vito Maranzano Playground at 70 Street, in Glendale
- Movie Night - June 10th, 7:30 pm Juniper Valley Park, in Middle Village
- Movie Night – June 17th, 7:30 pm, Reiff Park in Maspeth.

Concerts in Juniper Valley Park:

- Disney Sing Along - June 16th, 7:00 pm
- Strawberry Fields - June 23th, 7:00 pm
- 80s Tribute - July 7th, 7:00 pm
- Satisfaction - July 14th, 7:00 pm

As the weather gets warmer, we are working with city agencies to address potential noise, transportation, crime and other quality of life issues. Thank you for your public service as Community Board Members. Please reach out to my office for assistance any time. Sincerely, Robert Holden, Council Member – 30th CD"

Statement from State Senator Joseph Addabbo, 15th SD, submitted by John D'Angelo

"State Senator Addabbo sends his regards to everyone at Community Board 5.

Legislation

The Senator co-sponsored a Bill (**S.3483**) to prevent seniors from losing eligibility for prescription drug benefits. Senior citizens who receive a small increase in pension or social security benefits would be protected from losing their eligibility for New York's Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) program. Having passed the Senate, this Bill is now under consideration by the Assembly Ways and Means Committee.

The Senator introduced legislation (**S.3459**) mandating life imprisonment without parole when the victim is a police officer. This legislation seeks to close the loophole that allows parole for the murderers of police officers by requiring that mandatory life sentences without parole be imposed for these circumstances, without exception.

The Senator co-sponsored a Bill (**S.6828A**) to help speed state unemployment benefits determinations. This Bill will require the NY State Dept. of Labor to notify applicants within 30 days of whether their initial claims for joblessness benefits have been accepted or denied. Now that the Bill has passed the Senate, it is under review by the Assembly Committee on Labor.

Events

Paper Shredding & Donation Event at Atlas Park - Saturday, May 21st, from 10 AM to 1 PM.

Located at the Forever 21 parking lot, inside the Shops at Atlas Park. Visitors are requested to enter the mall at the 82nd Street entrance. Limit of five boxes or bags per person. The Salvation Army will be accepting clothing, footwear, and personal hygiene donations. Used eyeglasses and American Flag donations will also be accepted,

Veterans Information Fair at Atlas Park - Saturday, May 21st, from 12 PM to 2 PM. Groups that will provide information and how they can help veterans include: Operation Warrior Shield, South Hampton Animal Shelter Foundation, The David Lynch Foundation, NYC Dept. of Veterans' Services, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 32, NYPD, and Grunt Style.

E-Waste Recycling Event - Sunday, May 22nd, from 10 AM to 2 PM at the Forest Park Bandshell. Co-sponsored by Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar and Councilman Robert Holden. You can call our office at 718 497-1630 for a list of acceptable and non-acceptable items.

In closing, the Senator wanted to say he had a great time meeting constituents at his Mobile Office Hours at the Middle Village Library on April 28th."

Statement from Assembly Member Andrew Hevesi, 28th AD submitted by Kevin Wisniewski

"Good evening, hope everyone is staying safe and well. Assemblyman Hevesi has been up in Albany working to pass some final bills before the end of this legislative session. Yesterday, his Bill, **A9080** passed the Assembly unanimously with 146 votes and no opposition. This Bill would create a statewide study to record the number of kids in the foster care system who have developmental disabilities, which will dictate further state policy to ensure it adequately accounts for and makes services available for these kids.

Locally, we held a very successful Rain Barrel Distribution this weekend with Senator Addabbo's office, where 50 households were able to secure barrels to store water and maintain their gardens. We thank DEP for their partnership, as well as Dorie Opitz Figliola, for helping to organize the event. Also locally, the Assemblyman is continuing his parks cleanup series, and will soon be announcing an effort in Maspeth, which we'll keep the Board updated on. Students have been collecting volunteer service hours and remain eligible to do so. If anyone is interested, they can contact our office.

If anyone has any constituent-related concern or legislative request, we welcome calls to our office at (718) 263-5595, or by email at: Hevesia@nyassembly.gov. Thanks, and stay safe and well."

Statement from Assembly Member Jenifer Rajkumar, 38th AD, submitted by Vjola Isufaj

"Dear Community Board 5, Thank you so much for your tireless work for our community. We are all aware of the shooting that took place on Monday near Fresh Pond Road and Palmetto Street, in Ridgewood, with two women shot, one fatally. This shooting is part of a disturbing trend of rising gun violence and overall crime in New York City. As your Assemblywoman, it is my number one job to make sure our streets are safe for our children, our families, and all New Yorkers. That is why I fought for changes to the bail law this session. I fought for common sense changes to keep repeat offenders and clearly dangerous criminals off the streets. I was successful in helping to secure some of these changes and am continuing to work with the police and Mayor to bring down crime.

My office has continued its nonstop work in the district. Just this Monday, I was happy to host free mammogram screenings at my office in partnership with Mount Sinai Health. These screenings are vital to protect women from breast cancer and can save lives. Mark your calendars for our **Annual E-Waste Recycling Event** that I am hosting in Forest Park on Sunday May 22nd, together with Senator Joe Addabbo and Council Member Bob Holden. The Glendale Civilian Observation Patrol (GCOP) is always so helpful at our events, and I thank them for their wonderful work.

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Last month I was successful in helping to elevate the State Division of Veterans Affairs to a full Cabinet Level Department. This is a major victory that will help veterans by creating a one stop shop where they can receive benefits and services.

For the past few months, I fought tirelessly to ensure that funding will flow to our district. I am happy to report that I was successful in securing funding for the Glendale Civilian Observation Patrol (GCOP), as well as for our veterans, seniors, and youth.

I am passionate about ensuring quality of life in our community. I attend regular meetings on the Cooper Avenue Shelter to monitor the shelter's operations and ensure public safety in our neighborhood. It is a pleasure to work with the Liberty Park Homeowners Association and the Ridgewood Property Owners Association as well. Queens has a thriving Nepali-American community, including in Ridgewood. This month, I have created the first ever Nepal Day in the State of New York, to take place May 28th, Nepal's Republic Day. I am also proclaiming May 29th as the first ever Mt. Everest Day in the State of New York, in honor of Nepal's Sherpa community of elite mountaineers that regularly climb Mt. Everest. Congratulations to Ridgewood's Nepali-American community on all their achievements and contributions to New York.

I am very proud of the robust Internship Program at my office, in which local students learn about government and build future leadership skills. If you know any young people that would like to join our office this summer, please send them to me. It would be a joy to have them. With Memorial Day approaching at the end of the month, let us pause to honor those who made the greatest sacrifice of all for our country. We owe these heroes a debt that can never be repaid. Very Truly Yours, Jenifer Rajkumar, Assembly District 38"

The Board Chairperson invited the Queens Borough President's representative to address the Board. Katherine Zapata introduced herself as the Borough President's Transportation and Parks Policy Advisor. With respect to last week's MTA workshop for the Proposed Queens Bus Redesign Plan, as it affects the Community Board 5 area, she welcomed calls from constituents with suggestions and feedback to her office at (718) 286-2668. She said that the Borough President plans to provide the MTA-NYC Transit with lots of feedback on their proposed plan to redesign Queens Bus Routes before the final draft is adopted.

The Board Chairperson requested that John Maier, a staff member, take attendance of Board Members.

The Board Chairperson requested that Mr. Maier read aloud the following Liquor License notifications that were received at the Board office since last month's Board Meeting:

Liquor, Wine & Beer License Applications and Renewals

New Liquor Licenses

- 1) GBT NY Corp d/b/a **Klandestino** 74-17 Metropolitan Ave., Middle Village, NY 11379
- 2) Suaitat Ety & Ruhul Khan LLC d/b/a **Spice Kitchen** 71-04 Grand Ave., Maspeth, NY 11378

Liquor License Renewals

- 1) **California Pizza Kitchen**, Inc. 8000 Cooper Ave., Glendale, NY 11385
- 2) Nostro Joe's Inc. d/b/a **Joe's Restaurant** 66-11 Forest Ave., Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 3) **4 Caminos Mexican Restaurant Corp** 67-22 Fresh Pond Rd., Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 4) Cozy Corner Corp. d/b/a **Cozy Corner** 60-01 70th Ave., Ridgewood, NY 11385
- 5) Night Restaurants LLC d/b/a **Cream Ridgewood** 59-09 71st Ave., Ridgewood, NY 11385

New Wine, Beer & Cider Licenses

None Reported

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Wine, Beer & Cider Renewals

1) Sale Fresh Inc d/b/a **Antica Trattoria** 68-10 Fresh Pond Rd., Ridgewood, NY 11385

***Temporary Retail Permit**

1) **Fontana Pizzeria Inc.** 65-26 Metropolitan Ave., Middle Village, NY 11379 (LWB&C)

Other Notifications

1)** Taj Village Inc. d/b/a **Ten-42 Lounge** 79-28 & 79-32 Metropolitan Ave., Middle Village, NY 11379 (LWB&C)

* Information about the **Temporary Retail Permits** can be found on the SLA Website.

** **Alteration** – Establishment proposes to expand into the adjacent property at 79-32 Metropolitan Avenue

(B&C): Beer & Cider – (WB&C): Wine, Beer & Cider – (LWB&C): Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

The Board Chairperson asked everyone to contact the staff in the Board office if they have any questions or concerns about any of the above-mentioned locations.

Edward Lettau, a Board member, reported that a new bar has opened in place of Abby's Bar on Seneca Avenue, which shut its doors over a year ago. He asked about the status of the new bar at this same address. The Chairperson replied that information about the Seneca Bar was announced at a recent Board Meeting. He explained that it's our Board's policy to request that applicants sign a stipulation agreement whenever a bar owner applies for a new liquor license and/or liquor license renewal in our Board area. The District Manager also said that if the new bar at this address creates a public nuisance, our Board will work with the 104th Police Precinct to shut it down.

Mr. Maier informed everyone that there are no **Demolition and/or New Construction Notices** to report this month.

MINUTES

The Board Chairperson asked Board members to review the minutes of last month's remote Board Meeting which was conducted on April 13, 2022. The Chairperson accepted a motion from Margaret O'Kane, and seconded by Robert Cermeli, to approve the minutes as submitted. The minutes were adopted by acclamation.

As there were no other questions or comments from the floor, the Board Chairperson gave the floor to the District Manager to deliver his report.

District Manager's Report

Gary Giordano

The District Manager announced that memorial ceremonies will be held on Memorial Day Weekend this year to commemorate the lives of members of the American Armed Forces who fought and died for our freedom. He welcomed Board members to participate in both Parades that are scheduled in our Board area this year. He said that on Sunday, May 29th, the Maspeth Memorial Day kicks off at 1pm on 69 Street and Grand Avenue where marchers will be restricted to a very abbreviated marching route, due to the sewer project that is currently underway on Grand Avenue this year. In Ridgewood, he said that he plans to march in the Allied Veterans Memorial Day Parade on Myrtle Avenue, that starts at 11am at the Ridgewood Memorial Plaza on Cypress Avenue and proceeds down Myrtle Avenue to the Glendale Memorial Triangle at Cooper Avenue/70 Street. He invited Board members to join with him in marching down Myrtle Avenue during the Parade.

Cathie Sumsky, a Board member, asked if there will be a parade on Metropolitan Avenue in Middle Village. The District Manager replied that there's no parade in Middle Village this year.

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Regarding the latest incidents that involve gun violence in the 104th Precinct, the District Manager informed everyone about a shooting incident that took place this week, inside a residential unit on Fresh Pond Road, just east of Palmetto Street. He said that the former boyfriend of a tenant in the building shot and killed her, and critically wounded a neighboring tenant in the same building. He said that the suspect has eluded capture, so far.

In another incident that took place at around 1:40pm today, he said that a 17-year old student in Maspeth High School was shot outside the school by two assailants, who are reportedly members of a gang in that area. He said that this incident is the third shooting to take place in the 104th Precinct in the past 28 days.

The District Manager reported that DI Louron Hall was recently transferred to the 109th Precinct, in Flushing, and Executive Officer Benjamin Cui is Acting Commanding Officer, under the oversight of Inspector John Mastronardi, who was the Commanding Officer of the 104th Police Precinct, prior to DI Louron Hall.

He said that it could take a month before they replace the Precinct's Commanding Officer, considering the time-consuming process that the Police Department has adopted, including reviewing resumes and performance evaluations, and selecting qualified candidates to be interviewed by community members, and so forth.

He said that historically, most criminal activity has occurred after 12 Midnight in the 104th Precinct. He said that in reviewing crime statistics reported for the 104th Precinct, he noticed that the number of felony crimes have declined 80% over the past 29 years, but only 6.5% over the last 12 years, and 1% from what it was 2 years ago.

He cited the following statistics that show the historical trend in crimes reported in the 104th Precinct:

- 19 Murders in 1993, compared to 2 Murders in 2021, for an 89% decline.
- 21 Rapes in 1993, compared to 19 in 2021, which has remained fairly constant.

He said that, according to police reports, the rapist is usually known to the victim in these cases.

- 1307 Robberies in 1990, as compared to 142 in 2021, for an 89% decline.

He said that Year-to-Date figures for this year show an increase from 37 to 54 Robberies reported, which represents a 46% jump in that category over the same time period last year.

- 279 Felonious Assaults in 1990, as compared to 259 in 2021, which is fairly constant.
- 2,562 Burglaries in 1990, as compared to 245 in 2021, which is a 90% decline in cases.
- 884 Grand Larceny crimes in 1990, as compared to 592 in 2021, shows a 33% decline.
- 4,443 Grand Larceny Auto crimes, as compared to 214 in 2021, which is 95% less.

He pointed out that more recently, for the week of May 2nd through May 8th, there were 25 Felonies in 2021, as compared to 35 Felonies for the same period this year. Year-to-Date, he said that 90 Felonies were reported in 2021, as compared to 119 Felonies during the same period last year, which is a 32% increase in major crimes reported in the 104th Precinct. He said that most of these major crimes are Robbery and Grand Larceny Auto crimes.

Regarding the recent uptick in violent crimes in the 104th Precinct, the District Manager said that there have been three shooting incidents in the past week, with two murders reported Year-to-Date. He said that this growing trend in violent incidents throughout the City may be due, in part, to the effects that COVID19 has had on the community, as well as the Bail Reform package of legislation that was adopted in Albany last year.

In light of the shooting that took place outside Maspeth High School today, Dmytro Fedkowskyj, a Board member, asked the Education Committee to schedule a meeting with representatives of the NYC Dept. of Education and members of our Education and Youth Committees to discuss whatever additional school safety measures may be needed at Public High Schools in our Board area. Kathy Masi, co-chair of the Education Committee, said that Committee members would have to speak with the Superintendent

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of High Schools to request a meeting with him and his staff. The Board Chairperson referred the matter to the Education Committee for further discussion and recommendation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Zoning and Land Use Review Committee

Walter Sanchez

Walter Sanchez reported that the Committee members met in person last Monday night, on May 2nd, in the Board 5 Office to review the power point presentation that was given by Richard Lobel's staff via Webex, regarding the proposed rezoning of 78-44 and 78-46 Metropolitan Avenue, in Middle Village, as presented during tonight's Public Hearing. He said that the Committee will meet to consider this matter at their next Meeting on Monday, June 6, and present their recommendation to the full Board for a vote at next month's Board Meeting.

Mr. Sanchez said that the Committee also discussed the Landmarks Preservation Commission's practice of requesting the Board's review of Building Alteration Plans for any buildings that are located in Landmarked Districts in our Board area. He said that Committee members expressed objections to duplicating the work of the Landmarks Preservation staff in these cases and requested that the District Manager send a letter to that effect to the City's Landmarks Preservation Commission.

Transportation and Public Transit Committees

Vincent Arcuri

Toby Bloch, Co-Chairperson of the Transportation Committee, reported that their most recent Remote Committee Meeting, which was scheduled for Tuesday, April 26th, was postponed due to an areawide internet service outage. He said that the Committee Meeting has been rescheduled for next Tuesday, May 17th, at 7:30pm. At the Committee Meeting, several representatives from the Dept. of Transportation will give two traffic safety presentations via the internet, he said.

The District Manager reminded Committee members to RSVP if they're available to meet remotely with representatives of the NYC Division of Bridges, at 6PM on Monday, May 23rd, regarding plans to replace the Grand Street Bridge over the Newtown Creek, in Maspeth. He said that it's an important bridge project to improve traffic flow between Brooklyn and Queens, which is estimated to cost \$200 Million.

Education Committee

Katherine Masi

Kathy Masi, Co-Chairperson of the Education Committee, reported that Madelene Chan, who has served us well as Community School District 24 Superintendent for the past five years, might possibly be replaced by NYC Schools Chancellor David Banks. She said that on behalf of the entire Board, she'd like to send a letter of support to retain the current CSD24 Superintendent because she's been a great Superintendent for our School District. The Board Chairperson stated that the District Manager could draft a letter of support for the Education Committee's consideration.

NOMINATIONS OF CB5Q EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POSITIONS

The Board Chairperson gave the floor to the District Manager to conduct nominations for Executive Committee members in annual elections that are scheduled to take place during next month's Board Meeting.

Mr. Giordano cautioned that while he expects the suspension of the Open Meetings Law to be rescinded in June, the current rate of COVID19 infections in New York may dictate otherwise.

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The District Manager opened the floor to nominations and asked if there were any nominations for the position of Chairperson which is currently filled by Vincent Arcuri. Walter Clayton nominated Mr. Arcuri for the position of Chairperson, and he accepted.

As there were no other nominations, the District Manager asked if there were any nominations for the position of First Vice-Chairperson, which is currently filled by Walter Sanchez. Dmytro Fedkowskyj nominated Mr. Sanchez for the position of First Vice Chairperson, and he accepted.

As there were no other nominations for this position, the District Manager asked if there were any nominations for the position of Second Vice Chairperson, which is currently filled by Dmytro Fedkowskyj. Margaret O’Kane nominated Mr. Fedkowskyj to serve as Second Vice Chairperson, and he accepted.

As there were no further nominations for this position, the District Manager asked if there were any nominations for the position of Treasurer, which is currently filled by Kathy Masi. Walter Sanchez nominated Ms. Masi to serve as Treasurer, and she accepted.

As there were no other nominations for this position, the District Manager asked if there were any nominations for the position of Secretary, which is currently filled by Margaret O’Kane. Maryann Lattanzio nominated Ms. O’Kane for this position, and she accepted.

Regarding nominations for four At-Large Members of the Executive Committee, the District Manager named the current At-Large Members: Fred Haller, Paul Kerzner, Theodore Renz, and one position that’s been vacant since Edgar Mantel decided not to renew his Board membership last month.

The District Manager opened nominations from the floor for At-Large Members of the Executive Committee. Kathy Masi nominated Fred Haller; Margaret O’Kane nominated Paul Kerzner; Walter Sanchez nominated Walter Clayton; Kathy Masi nominated Maryann Lattanzio; and Fred Haller nominated Theodore Renz. All of the candidates accepted their nominations.

As there were no further nominations from the floor, the District Manager closed nominations, and announced that nominations from the floor would be reopened for all Executive Committee positions at next month’s Board Meeting.

New Business

Theodore Renz, a Board member, said that the MTA plans to submit a grant proposal to support further study of the Interboro Express Project. He asked if the Transportation Committee has considered their request for a letter of support. Toby Bloch, Vice-Chairperson of the Transportation Committee, replied that the Committee hasn’t met since March, but they could take it up for discussion at next Tuesday’s meeting on May 17th.

Fred Haller, a Board member, welcomed everyone to the annual Glendale Kiwanis Club’s Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, May 22nd, on the ground floor of Sacred Heart School, on 78 Avenue at 84 Street. He also announced that the annual Relay for Life will be held in Juniper Valley Park on the last Saturday in June. All proceeds from this event support research efforts to find a cure for cancer, he said.

Jasmine Valle, a Board member, asked when new Board members would be appointed to Committees. The District Manager replied that he expects that the Executive Committee will review Committee assignments at their next Meeting, which will take place soon after the annual Executive Committee elections to be conducted at next month’s Board Meeting, on June 8th.

As there was no further business to come before the Board, the Board Chairperson announced that our next Board Meeting is scheduled for 7:30pm on Wednesday, June 8th, and will likely be conducted in person, but the site is still undetermined. He entertained a motion to adjourn, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm.